**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Topic 15: Postwar America (1945-1975)**

**15.1: The Beginning of the Cold War**

I. The U.S. and Soviet Union competed for power and influence around the world.

A. Cold War- pitted the West (U.S and its allies) against the East (Soviet Union and its allies)

B. Global conflicts- not actual armed conflict between the US and Soviet Union

C. US attempted to stop the spread of communism

D. US and Soviet Union (USSR) built up their military and arms

II. US and Britain disliked communist ideals - rejection of religion and private property.

Soviet Union distrusted the Western Powers as much as the Western Powers distrust it.

III. Soviets drove out German armies in Eastern Europe to make their way to Germany

and meet the Allies in Berlin.

A. The Soviet Union wouldn’t leave Eastern Europe. Changed governments to

communism- no free elections- became Soviet satellite countries. Protesters were

imprisoned or killed.

B. Communist rebellions in Europe- Greece and Turkey. Communists won elections

in some governments.

IV. Harry Truman- containment- keep communism contained to its existing boundaries

A. Truman Doctrine- Congress agreed to pay for military and economic aid to

any country combating communism

B. Marshall Plan- give aid and money to help build war torn countries (hopefully

these countries won’t turn to communism with the US’s aid)

V. Berlin, Germany- is in Soviet controlled East Germany- 4 zones in Berlin- Soviet, British,

U.S. and French.

A. Berlin blockade by the Soviets to cut off supplies to West Berlin.

B. Berlin Airlift- British and US planes carried tons of food, fuel, and supplies to

West Berliners for almost a year

C. East Germany poor- many people crossed to West Berlin from East Berlin

D. 1961- East German government built the Berlin Wall and topped it with barbed wire,

border guards, people trying to cross were shot.

VI. 1949 NATO formed- North Atlantic Treaty Organization- US and Western European allies

1955 Warsaw Pact formed- Soviet Union and its Eastern European allies

VII. United Nations- October 1945 - 51 members- with 5 countries in Security Council-

US, Soviet Union, Britain, France, and China (WWII winners) – **goal- bring disputes**

**to a peaceful settlement**. Today fights hunger, disease, improved education, relief programs provide food, medicine, supplies, helps with natural disasters etc…

VIII. Sept. 1949- Soviets successfully test the Atomic Bomb

IX. Communist forces led by Mao Zedong gain power in China after a long civil war ousting

Chiang Kai-shek. October 1949 Mao set up the People’s Republic of China.

Now communist governments in Soviet Union and China which controlled about ¼ of the globe.

**15.2 Korea and Other Postwar Conflicts**

I. Korea at end of WWII- divided at the 38th parallel- US backed the noncommunist South Korea,

Soviet Union backed the communist North Korea

A. June 1950- N. Korea goes into S. Korea- passed the 38th parallel- occupies Seoul

B. United Nations (UN), set up troops under General Douglas MacArthur- 80% US troops

C. N. Korea pushes south with Soviet tanks and weapons, Macarthur pushes N. Korea

back up to 38th parallel and heads into N. Korea pushing up to China

D. China sends troops into N. Korea to help N. Koreans push the UN back to 38th parallel

E. MacArthur wants to drop the Atomic Bomb on China, Truman says NO! MacArthur publicly

embarrass Truman, so Truman fires MacArthur. MacArthur gets a heroes welcome in US.

F. Dwight Eisenhower wins the 1952 election and visits Korea

G. July 1953- armistice signed- new border near the 38th parallel with a demilitarized zone

H. 30,000 Americans lost their lives in the war, 2 million Koreans and Chinese were killed

I. Korea is still divided with poor relations between the North and South

II. Rivalries sprung up around the globe with the US supporting one side and the Soviets the other.

A. Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet leader after Stalin’s death, spoke in New York at the UN

B. Colonies in Asia and Africa wanted independence, some peacefully, some not

Soviets would support rebels giving economic and military aid

C. The US gave aid and supported the colonial governments just to oppose communism and

the Soviets.

III. In 1946, the US withdrew from the Philippines, it suffered through poverty, local uprisings and dictatorships, Ferdinand Marcos who was in power from 1965-1986.

IV. 1950’s-1960’s many African colonies won independence- the new nations faced civil wars for power.

The superpowers (US and Soviet Union) backed opposing sides.

V. In 1947, India won independence from Britain- it was divided into India and Pakistan

VI. France fought in Indochina to keep its colonies of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.

VII. In the U.S., many worried about communism worrying communist may try to take over the U.S.

There was a hunt for communists in the U.S. People were registered to vote as communists.

A. Between 1946-1950, people in the US, Canada, and Britain were arrested as Soviet spies.

B. Ethel and Julius Rosenberg – found guilty of passing atomic secrets to the Soviets and

sentenced to death.

C. Alger Hiss, who worked for the State Department was imprisoned for perjury, lying under oath. Later evidence suggested he and others were passing secrets to the Soviets.

D. Truman ordered investigations of government workers. Thousands were questioned.

E. In 1950, Senator Joseph McCarthy from Wisconsin claimed to have a list of 250

Stated Department workers who were communists. He never proved his claims,

but won national attention. McCarthy spread suspicion and fear through the US.

People were interrogated with no evidence, many lost their jobs, family etc… innocent

people were accused of being communists or communist sympathizers. Trials

were televised and people realized no evidence. He was censured in the Senate.

The communist scare was over in 1954.

**15.3: Eisenhower and Postwar America**

I. Postwar Prosperity

A. GI Bill of Rights- helped veterans set up farms and businesses, gave college and home loans

B. Inflation on the rise, workers on strike

II. 1948 Election- Truman wins with the slogan- Everyone deserves a Fair Deal

III. Dwight Eisenhower wins the 1952 and 1956 election- television spots before election

IV. Baby boom in the 1950’s after the war- US population 29 million, better nutrition and health care

V. Economic boom in the 1950’s- federal projects increased factory production, the government

built roads, houses, and schools- high productivity and job growth through the 1950’s

VI. High standard of living in the 50’s- citizens bought washing machines, vacuums, televisions,

autos, and consumer goods.

A. people bought homes in the suburbs- tract housing – Levittown

B. people moving to the Sunbelt- Florida to Texas to California

C. by 1960, 9 out of 10 families owned cars- highways were built, which boosted the economy

D. by 1960, 9 out of 10 families had a television- news, entertainment, commercials-

middle class values- loving supportive parents with obedient children

VII. Rock n Roll appeared in the 50’s- adults worried it was too wild

A. Teenagers liked rock n roll

B. Elvis is King of Rock n Roll

C. writers and artists criticized the materialism in America- called beatniks

**15.4: Civil Rights**

I. Racial discrimination in the U.S.

A. Segregation in the South and qualified African Am. couldn’t find good jobs or housing

B. Segregation in Southwest against Mexican Americans

C. NAACP membership from 50,000 to 500,000

D. 1947, Jackie Robinson broke MLB color barrier- not since 1884- Moses Fleetwood

E. In 1948, Truman integrated armed forces

II. 1950’s Civil Rights Movement

A. *Plessy v. Ferguson* said “separate but equal”

B. *Brown v. Board of Ed. of Topeka*- Thurgood Marshall NAACP lawyer-

Supreme Court- “Separate educational facilities are always unequal.” All schools

were to integrate with deliberate speed.

C. Little Rock Nine- 9 blacks to integrate in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957 at all white

Central High School. President Eisenhower had to send 101st Army in to escort

the students- protests, riots, mistreatment by other students, teachers, and citizens

D. American GI Forum organization for Mexican Americans- *Hernandez v. Texas*- Supreme

Court agreed Mexicans were denied equal rights because they cold serve as jurors.

E. Montgomery Bus Boycott- Rosa Parks arrested for refusing to move to the back of the city

bus. She was arrested. African Americans boycotted the buses in Montgomery.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led the boycott.

F. King insisted that actions be nonviolent- civil disobedience- meetings were held at churches.

The Supreme Court ruled that segregation on Montgomery busses was unconstitutional.

G. King admired Mohandas Gandhi of India and his nonviolent methods.

H. Southern Christian Leadership Conference carried on the crusade of civil rights.

I. Sit ins in Jackson, Mississippi and Greensboro, NC to allow blacks to integrate public places-

lunch counters, restrooms etc… sit ins continued all over the South with blacks and whites J. Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)- organized protests, marches, freedom rides-

all peaceful nonviolent protests some met with attack dogs and fire hoses

K. In 1963, 200,000 Americans marched on Washington DC wanting Congress to end discrimination

L. Presidents Kennedy and Johnson worked for federal civil rights. Civil Rights Act of 1964,

Voting Rights Act of 1965- allowed federal officials to register voters in states

practicing discrimination

III. The Black Panthers and other radical groups told blacks to arm themselves.

A. Black Muslins- Malcolm X- blacks and whites could live separately and peacefully

After visiting Mecca, he spoke of living together peacefully, but was assassinated.

B. Common ground in Black Power and Black Pride- achieve economic independence

C. Race riots in 1965 over discrimination, poverty, and lack of jobs- riots in Los Angeles,

Detroit, Chicago, and other cities

D. Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. April 4, 1968 in Memphis, TN where

he was supporting a black sanitation workers strike. James Earl Ray jailed.

E. More African Americans began to win public offices in the 1970’s.

F. Affirmative action programs sought to hire and promote minorities who faced discrimination.

IV. Latinos fight for equality- faced discrimination in US

A. Mexican migrant workers- looked for low paying farm work- moved often

B. Puerto Ricans total low paying factory jobs in East

C. Cubans migrating to US in 50’s-60’s then again in 80’s- struggled to make a living

D. Cesar Chavez- formed the United Farm Workers- boycott farm products for increased wages

E. Voting Rights Act of 1975- bilingual elections- other bilingual education laws and programs

V. Asian American Political Alliance- promoted rights and culture of Asian Americans- college programs

VI. National Congress of American Indians sent delegates to Wash. D.C. to defend Indian rights

American Indian Movement (AIM)- protests and court cases have won Indian’s rights

VII. Women work for equality- not paid the same as men and fired before men

A. Betty Friedan helped organize National Organization for Women (NOW).

B. Court cases helped with maternity leave, child care- protests, marches etc… Equal Pay

Act 1963= equal pay for equal work and Civil Rights Act outlawed hiring discrimination based on gender

C. The Equal Rights Amendment from the 1970’s has never been passed.

VIII. Society for Human Rights founded for gay rights. Gay and lesbian discrimination- continue to

fight for rights- marches, riots, protests.