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REVIEW

1950s TO TODAY

MAIN IDEAS OF THE 1950s

◎ Affluence

- ◎ Consumerism

◎ Cold War

◎ Corporations

◎ Conservative Values

◎ Conformity

- ◎ Rebellion

AFFLUENCE

- ◎ Pent up savings from WW2 and ready availability of consumer goods.
 - ◎ Consumerism
 - ◎ Credit
 - ◎ Keeping up with the Joneses
- ◎ Cars and drive-in culture
- ◎ Michael Harrington's ***The Other America***

COLD WAR

- ◎ “duck and cover”
- ◎ Sputnik
 - ◎ NASA was established in 1958
- ◎ Korean War
- ◎ Massive Retaliation
- ◎ Containment
- ◎ Hungarian Revolution
- ◎ 1959 → Nixon-Khrushchev “Kitchen Debate”

CORPORATIONS

- ◎ Growth of Business
 - ◎ Computer Age
 - ◎ More white collar than blue collar
 - ◎ Formation of AFL-CIO
- ◎ Research and development- new chemicals, drugs, products, tech

CONSERVATIVE VALUES

- ◎ In God we Trust
- ◎ Little room for rebellion
- ◎ Married younger with bigger families
- ◎ Eisenhower
 - ◎ Grandpa for president

CONFORMITY

- ◎ Conformity
 - ◎ The “American Dream”
 - ◎ Levittowns
 - ◎ Baby Boom
 - ◎ “teenagers”
- ◎ Hollywood portrays Americans as middle-class whites
- ◎ Non-Conformists
 - ◎ Rock and Roll
 - ◎ Beat Writers

THE START OF CIVIL RIGHTS

- ◎ The 1946 lynching of black soldiers spurs, Truman to desegregate the armed forces by executive order 9981.
- ◎ Eisenhower failed to support laws or suggest legislation to improve civil rights.
- ◎ The **judicial branch** was left to improve black civil rights, Chief Justice Earl Warren
 - ◎ **1954- Brown v. Board of Education**
 - ◎ September 1957- Little Rock's **Central High School**
- ◎ Martin Luther King, Jr. formed the **Southern Christian Leadership Conference**

CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE 1960s

- ◎ “Sit-in” movement in Greensboro
- ◎ April 1960- **Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee**
- ◎ ***Boynton v. Virginia***, 1960, → led to the Freedom Rides.
- ◎ October 1962 the courts ordered U. Mississippi to allow 29 year-old James Meredith to enroll
- ◎ In spring of 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. launched a peaceful campaign against discrimination in Birmingham, Alabama
 - ⊙ Police (Commissioner Bull Connor) and authorities responded viciously –The American public watched in horror as the black protesters were treated with such contempt.
- ◎ Alabama’s Gov. Wallace had vowed earlier that year: “segregation now, segregation tomorrow and segregation forever”

CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE 1960s

- ⊙ August 1963- March on Washington, D.C. – King gave “I Have a Dream” speech
- ⊙ Sept 1963- Birmingham church bombing, killing 4 girls
 - ⊙ Civil Rights Act of 1964
- ⊙ The 24th Amendment eliminated poll taxes
- ⊙ The “freedom summer” of 1964- register voters in MS
 - ⊙ In June of 1964, a black and two white civil rights workers were found murdered by the KKK, the all-white jury refused to convict the suspects.
- ⊙ In 1965, King resumed voter-registration in Selma, Alabama- (Bloody Sunday)
 - ⊙ This gave LBJ the needed clout to push the Voting Rights Act of 1965 through Congress.

CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE 1960s

- ◎ de facto segregation vs. de jure segregation
- ◎ 1965 began a period of violent black protests
 - ◎ Watts riots
- ◎ A new interpretation of the Civil Rights Movement
 - ◎ Malcolm X, Nation of Islam, Elijah Muhammed.
 - ◎ “by any means necessary.”
 - ◎ Malcolm X was killed in 1965 by an assassin.
 - ◎ The Black Panthers
- ◎ King's assassinated on April 4, 1968
 - ◎ Kerner Commission on Civil Disorders "Our nation is moving towards two societies, black and white, separate and unequal."
- ◎ Affirmative action programs, reverse discrimination

EXTENDING CIVIL RIGHTS

- ◎ AIM- American Indian Movement
- ◎ Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers
- ◎ Feminist Movement
- ◎ Gay Rights Movement
- ◎ No more melting pot

1960s

- ◎ Kennedy and the New Frontier
- ◎ Vietnam War
- ◎ The emergence of a “youth culture”
- ◎ The beginnings of a feminist revolution.

KENNEDY

- ◎ Youngest, Catholic and relatively inexperienced
- ◎ Idealistic
- ◎ New Frontier- social program
 - Bills were stalled in Congress
- ◎ Peace Corps
- ◎ Flexible Response, i.e. Green Berets
- ◎ Bay of Pigs Invasion
- ◎ Berlin Wall
- ◎ The Cuban Missile Crisis lasted 13 days and put the U.S. & the U.S.S.R. at the brink of nuclear war

JOHNSON

- ◎ LBJ gain enormous political momentum as America mourns Kennedy and supports Johnson
 - ◎ The “Great Society” was inspired by the New Deal
 - ◎ After 1964 Congress was Democratic, so there was support for the Great Society
 - Head Start programs
 - Food Stamps
 - VISTA (now AmeriCorps)
 - Nat’l Endowment for the Humanities
 - Medicare & Medicaid
 - Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965

VIETNAM

- ◎ **1945** -Ho Chi Minh Becomes Communist leader of North Vietnam
- ◎ **1954**- Vietminh forces defeat the French at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu
- ◎ **1955**- Diem Rejects Conditions of Geneva Accords, Refuses to Participate in Nationwide Elections
- ◎ 1955- Diem Becomes President of Republic of Vietnam
- ◎ **1956**- Eisenhower sends “advisors” to help train South Vietnamese forces
- ◎ **1963**- Green berets are sent to Vietnam as part of McNamara’s “flexible response”
- ◎ 1963- Diem overthrown by generals of the Southern Vietnamese Army.
- ◎ **1964**- Gulf of Tonkin Incident and GULF OF TONKIN RESOLUTION PASSED

VIETNAM

- ◎ **1965-** Operation "Rolling Thunder" Deployed
- ◎ **1968-** Tet Offensive: Nationwide anti-war protests start
- ◎ **1969-** My Lai Massacre is made public; "Vietnamization" Announced; Extensive Use of Ho Chi Minh Trail
- ◎ **1969-1970-** Nixon Begins Secret Bombing of Cambodia
- ◎ **1970-** Kent State Incident
- ◎ **1971-** Pentagon Papers Published
- ◎ **1972-** B-52s Bomb Hanoi and Haiphong to force North Vietnamese to the Peace talks
- ◎ **1973-** Cease-fire Signed in Paris; End of Draft Announced; Last American Troops Leave Vietnam
- ◎ **1975-** Last Americans Evacuate, Saigon Falls to Communists
- ◎ **1977-** Carter Issues Pardon to Draft Evaders

COUNTERCULTURE

- ◎ Counterculture
 - ◎ Openly scornful of middle class values
 - ◎ Increased and public use of hallucinogenic drugs
 - ◎ Rise of hippies
- ◎ New Left Movement
- ◎ Port Huron Statement
- ◎ Free Speech Movement (1964)
- ◎ Anti-war protests from 1967-69
- ◎ Draft dodgers
- ◎ Beginnings of Sexual Revolution
- ◎ Rock and folk music

NIXON

- ◎ Nixon wins in '68 by calling on the Silent Majority for support
- ◎ Worried about inflation, Nixon also imposed a 90-day wage freeze in the early 70s
- ◎ **Arab Oil Embargo and the Energy Crisis**
- ◎ After Vietnam a “New Isolationism” that discouraged the use of U.S. troops
- ◎ Détente with Beijing and Moscow
- ◎ SALT I (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks)
- ◎ **Watergate- CRP**
 - ◎ **US v. Nixon**
 - ◎ **Resignation in 1974**

FORD AND CARTER

- ◎ Ford
 - ◎ Helsinki Accords
 - ◎ Pardoned Nixon and the draft dodgers
- ◎ Carter- Washington outsider
 - ◎ Carter lost public support because of economy- Malaise Speech, 13% inflation- blamed on dependence on foreign oil
 - ◎ Camp David Accord
 - ◎ Panama Canal
 - ◎ SALT II -real reductions in missiles adopted, but not ratified
 - ◎ **Iranian Hostage Crisis**

REAGAN

- ◎ Supported by the “new right” movement and Moral Majority
- ◎ Strong anti-Communist
- ◎ Reagan’s budget was \$695 B - \$38 B deficit.
 - ⊙ Budget
- ◎ “supply side economics” or “Reaganomics” cuts of social programs, not defense
- ◎ Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)
- ◎ Reagan Doctrine- aid to countries to overthrow communist gov’ts
 - ⊙ Iran-Contra scandal

BUSH - CLINTON - BUSH

- ◎ George Bush Sr.
 - ◎ The end of the Cold War
 - ◎ 1st Persian Gulf War
 - ◎ “Read my lips, no new taxes”
- ◎ Bill Clinton
 - ◎ Promised to balance the budget
 - ◎ Reform healthcare
 - ◎ "don't ask, don't tell" policy
 - ◎ North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
 - ◎ Lewinskygate
- ◎ George Bush Jr.
 - ◎ Gore v. U.S.
 - ◎ September 11, 2001
 - ◎ War on Terrorism