

EISENHOWER'S PRESIDENCY AND THE 1950s

Election of 1952

- A. Truman did not seek reelection in the face of
 - a. military deadlock in Korea
 - b. war-induced inflation
- B. Democrats nominated Adlai E. Stevenson of Illinois
- C. Republicans nominated Dwight D. Eisenhower
 - a. Eisenhower extremely popular hero of World War II (grandfatherly image)
 - b. Richard Nixon nominated for Vice President
- D. Eisenhower won by a landslide: 442-89
- E. First time since 1928 the Republicans won some Southern states

Eisenhower Republicanism at Home – “Dynamic Conservatism”

- A. In effect, Ike maintained New Deal programs
 - a. Social Security benefits extended and minimum wage raised to \$1.00/hr
 - b. Sought middle-of-the-road approach to gov't policy in the face of the New Deal, WWII, & Fair Deal.
 - c. Interstate Highway system (1954) created modern interstate freeway system
 - i. \$27 billion plan built 42,000 miles of freeways.
 - ii. Countless jobs on construction speeded suburbanization of America.
 - iii. Federal gov't paid 90% of cost and states 10%
 - iv. The railroad industry suffered significantly in the face of increased competition from automobiles and better transportation by airplane.
 - v. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare created in 1953 to oversee some of FDR's New Deal programs.
- B. Strove to balance the federal budget; succeeded only 3 times in 8 years.
 - a. Ike aimed to guard against "creeping socialism"
 - b. Reduced defense spending down to 10% of GNP from 13%
 - c. Ike administration tried unsuccessfully to reduce price supports to farmers
 - d. ended up spending more money than any previous sec. of agriculture.
 - e. By 1959, Ike accrued the highest peacetime deficit in US History.
 - f. 1954, Ike lowered tax rates for corps & individuals with high incomes.
- C. Favored privatizing large government holdings
 - a. Supported transfer of offshore oilfields from federal gov't to states
 - b. Encouraged private power companies to compete with TVA
- D. Labor Unions grow in power
 - a. AFL and CIO merged in 1955
 - i. in the wake of unemployment jitters
 - ii. due to several business recessions in the 1950s
 - b. AFL-CIO expelled Teamster union
 - i. late 1950s

- ii. high Teamster officials resorted to gangsterism to achieve their political ends.
- c. Jimmy Hoffa
 - i. head of the Teamsters
 - ii. became one of the most powerful union bosses in US history
 - iii. influenced politicians with hard-ball tactics.
- d. Hoffa's ascension triggered the split of the Teamsters and the AFL-CIO
- e. Landrum-Griffin Act of 1959 (further buttressed the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947)
 - i. Ike's response to Jimmy Hoffa threatening to defeat for reelection any Congressman who supported a tough labor bill.
 - ii. Bill designed to
 - 1. clamp down on illegal financial activities by unions
 - 2. to prevent union strong-arm tactics by imposing penalties
- E. Republican lost both houses in 1954 due to economic troubles at home
- F. Alaska admitted as 49th state in 1958
- G. Hawaii becomes 50th state in 1959

Civil Rights during the 1950s – NAACP achieves desegregation

- A. Eisenhower did not intend to be a "civil rights" president.
 - a. Yet he was president during some of the most significant civil rights gains in US history.
- B. 1940s – NAACP began to attack "separate but equal"
 - a. sued segregated colleges and universities
 - b. African Americans gained entrance into Southern universities.
 - c. Elementary and secondary schools remained segregated.
- C. Earl Warren appointed by Ike as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in 1953
 - a. viewed as a conservative
 - b. Warren would become most significant Chief Justice of the 20th century
 - c. led most liberal court of the 20th century
- D. *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, 1954
 - a. NAACP filed suit on behalf of Linda Brown, a black elementary school student.
 - b. Topeka school board had denied Brown admission to an all-white school.
 - c. Case reached Supreme Court in 1954
 - d. Thurgood Marshall represented Linda Brown
 - e. Charged that public school segregation violated the "equal protection" clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.
 - f. Segregation deprived blacks an equal educational opportunity.
 - g. Separate could not be equal because segregation in itself lowered the morale and motivation of black students.
 - h. Chief Justice Earl Warren persuaded fellow justices to overturn *Plessy v. Ferguson*.
 - i. "Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. It has no place in public education."
 - j. 1 year later, Court ordered school integration "with all deliberate speed."

- E. Response to Brown v. Board of Education
 - a. Southern officials considered ruling a threat to state and local authority.
 - b. Eisenhower felt gov't should not try to force segregation.
 - c. Called appointment of Warren "my biggest mistake."
 - d. 80% of southern whites opposed Brown decision.
 - e. Some white students, encouraged by parents, refused to attend integrated schools.
 - f. KKK reemerged in a much more violent incarnation than in 1920s.
 - g. Southern state legislatures passed more than 450 laws and resolutions aimed at preventing enforcement of Brown decision.
 - h. "Massive Resistance" – 1956, Virginia state legislature passed a massive resistance measure cutting off state aid to desegregated schools.
 - i. By 1962, only one-half of one percent of non-white school children in the South were in integrated schools.
 - j. Crisis in Little Rock, Arkansas, 1957
 - i. Gov. Orval Faubus ordered National Guard to surround Central High School to prevent nine black students ("Little Rock Nine") from entering the school.
 - ii. Federal court ordered removal of National Guard and allowed students to enter.
 - iii. Riots erupted and forced Eisenhower to act.
 - iv. Eisenhower reluctantly ordered 1000 federal troops into Little Rock and nationalized the Arkansas National Guard, this time protecting students.
 - v. First time since Reconstruction a president had sent federal troops into South to enforce the Constitution.
 - vi. Next year, Little Rock public schools closed entirely.
 - vii. White attended private schools or outside city schools.
 - viii. Most blacks had no school to attend.
 - ix. August 1959, Little Rock school board gave in to integration after another Supreme Court ruling.
- F. Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955-56)
 - a. December 11, 1955, Rosa Parks arrested in Montgomery, Alabama
 - i. refused to give her bus seat to a white man
 - ii. she was ordered to sit at the back of the bus.
 - iii. Found guilty and fined \$14
 - iv. over 150 others arrested and charged as well for boycotting buses during the following months.
 - b. Immediate calls for boycott ensued
 - c. nearly 80% of bus users were African Americans.
 - d. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - i. leader of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church
 - ii. became a leader of the boycott
 - iii. emerged as leader of civil rights movement.
 - e. Montgomery bus boycott lasted nearly 400 days.
 - f. King's house was bombed.

- g. 88 other African American leaders were arrested and fined for conspiring to boycott.
- h. Supreme Court ruled that segregation on Montgomery buses was unconstitutional.
- i. On December 20, 1956, segregationists gave up.
- G. Martin Luther King, Jr. & the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)
 - a. SCLC – King president in Jan. 1957
 - i. Nonviolent resistance
 - ii. King urged followers not to fight with authorities even if provoked.
 - b. King's nonviolent tactics similar to Mohandas Gandhi (both were inspired by Henry David Thoreau's *On Civil Disobedience*)
 - i. Use of moral arguments to changed minds of oppressors.
 - ii. King linked nonviolence to Christianity: "Love one's enemy."
 - c. Sit-ins became effective new strategy of nonviolence.
 - d. Students in universities and colleges all over US vowed to integrate lunch counters, hotels, and entertainment facilities.
 - e. Greensboro sit-in (Feb. 1960):
 - i. First sit-in by 4 North Carolina college freshmen at a Woolworth lunch counter for student being refused service.
 - ii. After thousands participated in the sit-in merchants in Greensboro gave in 6 months later
 - f. A wave of sit-ins occurred throughout the country.
 - g. Targets were southern stores of national chains.
 - h. Variations of sit-ins emerged
 - i. "kneel-ins" for churches
 - ii. "read-ins" in libraries
 - iii. "wade-ins" at beaches
 - iv. "sleep-ins" in motel lobbies
 - i. Student movement
 - i. Nonviolence of students provoked increasingly hostile actions from those who opposed them
 - ii. Some blacks were beaten, and harassed by white teen-agers.
 - iii. Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee created by SCLC to better organize the movement. (SNCC pronounced "snick")
 - iv. "Jail not Bail" became the popular slogan.
 - v. Students adopted civil disobedience when confronted with jail.
 - j. End of "Massive Resistance" – 1959
 - i. federal and state courts nullified Virginia laws
 - ii. laws had prevented state funds from going to integrated schools

1950s Culture

The 1950s are often represented by symbols:

1. The "American Dream"

- a. a home in the suburbs
 - b. job security in a large corporation
 - c. a new car every few years
2. Cultural Success:
- a. Rock & Roll
 - b. Marilyn Monroe
 - c. Television

‘Swords into Frisbees:’ The Military-Industrial Complex

1. The "American Dream" was supported by the rapidly expanding military-industrial complex.
2. Defense spending was increased as a means of standing up to Communism after the "fall" of China and the Korean War.
 - a. By the mid-1950s, there were over 40,000 defense contractors working for the government.
 - b. By the 1960s more than half of all government expenditures would go to the military.
 - c. By the 1970s, the Department of Defense had more economic assets than the 75 largest corporations in America.
3. social critics charged the U.S. was geared up to be a permanent wartime economy.
4. Recession struck in 1956-57
5. President Eisenhower responded by
 - a. allocating more money to defense
 - b. not by supporting public works projects as Roosevelt had done.
6. At the end of his term, Eisenhower himself warned that the growing relationship between defense contractors and the federal government actually posed a threat.
7. 1961 farewell address, Ike coined the term "military-industrial complex."
8. However, the warnings of the outgoing President were lost on many.
 - a. Why worry when the economy was going full blast?
 - b. Americans:
 - i. made up only 6% of the world population
 - ii. Produced and consumed 1/3 of the world's goods and services.
9. During the 1950s, America's GNP increased 51%.
 - a. growth was caused in part by defense spending
 - b. also because of a much larger home market for consumer goods
 - c. GIs returning from World War II and then Korea were eager to spend money and have children.
10. During the 1950s, 29 million new Americans were born
11. American industry expanded at an amazing pace, turning out:
 - a. new cars
 - b. clothing
 - c. frisbees,
 - d. a host of other consumer items

Meeting the Demand

1. "Automation"
 - a. the use of self-regulating electronic mechanisms to run complex industrial operations.
 - b. Nothing did more to increase productivity
2. made its greatest long-term impact with the introduction of the computer.
3. Many blue-collar workers feared they would lose their jobs to machinery
4. White-collar professionals, on the other hand, stood to gain from automation
5. Job growth was chiefly for college graduates
6. Much of the new technology owed its rise to "R&D"
7. They existed not only in big corps like IBM, but increasingly at universities
8. Connections of modern research universities to the military-industrial complex made campuses a strategic place of protest in the 1960s

Growth of the Middle Class

1. During the 1950s, the real weekly earnings of factory workers increased 50%
2. burgeoning middle class
3. Based on a purely economic definition, if an annual income of \$10,000 is considered middle-class, then
 - a. in the 1940s, 9% of families were middle class
 - b. By 1960, more than 30% of the population was middle class
4. The growth of the middle class could be seen in things like education and housing.
 - a. 1960 marked the first time in U.S. history that a majority of high-school aged people actually graduated from high school.
 - b. Aided by the GI Bill, college enrollments also increased
 - c. Owning one's own home also became a reality, as the availability of housing increased and veterans could secure low-interest mortgages
 - d. By 1960, 25% of all housing available had been built in the prior decade.

The "Kitchen Debate"

1. The American consumer economy became the focus of the so-called "Kitchen Debate" between Vice President Richard Nixon and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev
2. In 1959, an international exhibition was held in Moscow.
3. The U.S. delegation, led by Nixon, displayed a modern, fully-stocked American kitchen in order to demonstrate America's success in providing its people with consumer goods.
4. At this exhibition, Nixon and Khrushchev got into a debate, with each side swearing that his form of government would outlast the other's.

Consumer Culture: The Rise of the Teenager

1. In the past, Americans had longed for long-lasting things like houses and cars

2. Now, there seemed to be an obsession with collecting stuff
3. This is best demonstrated in the growing youth culture
4. Older people also began to emulate their teen-aged sons and daughters, trying out jeans, hula hoops, and surfboards
5. For the first time, teenagers became major consumers.
6. They supported the popular music industry, especially the new "rock and roll."
7. New industries were geared essentially at youth
8. By 1960, America's teenagers spent \$22 billion a year on consumer items.
9. \$22 billion a year was twice the gross national product of Austria.

The Televised Society

1. The biggest consumer revolution was the growth of the television industry
2. The technology for television had existed since the late 1920s
3. TVs weren't mass produced until after World War II
4. In 1946, there were 17,000 television sets in the nation, mostly in the East.
5. By 1949, 250,000 sets were purchased every month
6. By 1953, two-thirds of American homes had at least one TV
7. TV & Politics
 - a. TV had a great influence on how political campaigns were run.
 - b. The presidential election of 1952 was the first time that a candidate for president made use of television advertising
 - c. Eisenhower used 15- and 30-second spots
 - d. TV had become so central to people's lives that by the 1960 presidential campaign, many would blame TV for Nixon's loss to JFK
 - i. Nixon looked sickly, "resembled a 'sinister chipmunk'"
 - ii. JFK looked cool, collected, presidential

TV + Youth Culture + Suburbs = Homogenization

1. America was becoming "homogenized" - a conformist society
2. Homogenization evident in the growth of non-denominational churches
3. real spirituality seemed to be disappearing from American society
4. By 1960, about 30.5% of Americans, or 55 million out of 180 million, lived in suburbs.
5. Stereotypical images of suburbia supported the view that America was becoming homogenized:
 - a. Levittown
 - b. Housewives
 - c. Corporate slaves
 - d. Backyard barbecues
6. perfect politician for this time: President Dwight D. Eisenhower
7. He came to practice "the politics of tranquility" -- a new style that was quite different from the social activism of Roosevelt and Truman
8. This decade of tranquility would be succeeded by the presidency of John F. Kennedy, ushering in a decade of confrontation

Cold War Politics

- A. Sec. of State John Foster Dulles initiates new policy
 - a. Two major principals:
 - i. Encourage liberation of the captive peoples in E. Europe
 - 1. by widespread use of political pressure and propaganda
 - 2. Radio broadcasts to E. European countries urged people to overthrow gov't
 - 3. the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe
 - ii. Massive retaliation
 - 1. Soviet or Chinese aggression would be countered with nuclear weapons directly on USSR and China.
 - 2. Brinkmanship – the art of never backing down from a crisis, even if it meant pushing the nation to the brink of war.
 - b. Rejects containment policy
 - i. it tolerated Soviet power where it already existed
 - ii. US foreign policy should be to destroy communism
 - iii. communism was "immoral"
 - c. US & USSR begin arms race to accumulate sophisticated nuclear arsenals.
 - i. preemptive strike capabilities emphasized
 - ii. destroy the other side before they can destroy you
 - d. Eisenhower was able to appear as a moderate when compared to Dulles
 - i. Dulles was a mechanism to deter Soviets
 - ii. Dulles deflected attention from Ike
 - e. Americans began preparing for the contingencies in case of nuclear war.
- B. "New Look Military"
 - a. Eisenhower sought to reduce the military budget
 - i. scaled back the army and navy
 - ii. built up an air fleet of superbombers with nuclear weapons.
 - b. Nuclear force would cost less than huge conventional force – "more bang for the buck."
 - c. Nuclear force = "overkill"
 - d. US unable to respond to minor crisis (e.g. Hungary)
 - e. In reality, military costs soared due to
 - i. aerial hardware
 - ii. expensive atomic hardware
 - f. Eisenhower's "Farewell Address" (1961)
 - i. warned Americans
 - ii. dangerous growth of the Military-Industrial Complex
 - iii. Vast, interwoven military establishment and arms industry
 - iv. Power was enormous (largely in National Security Council)
 - v. had potential to effect democracy itself
 - vi. His own policies had nurtured its growth
 - vii. "In the councils of gov't we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence...by the military-industrial-complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will

persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes.”

C. Vietnam

- a. Ho Chi Minh
 - i. Communist
 - ii. began fighting for the liberation of Indochina from French colonial rule days after the end of World War II.
- b. Communists defeated French
 - i. Dien Bien Phu in March 1954
 - ii. last major outpost
- c. US had given much aid to France to prevent communist expansion.
- d. Dulles wanted US bombers to aid French (use of nuclear weapons)
- e. Eisenhower refused fearing British non-support
- f. Geneva
 - i. Multinational conference
 - ii. split Vietnam in half at the 17th parallel
- g. Ho Chin Minh accepted based on assurance that Vietnam-wide elections would occur within two years.
- h. In the south
 - i. pro-western gov't
 - ii. Ngo Dinh Diem
 - iii. Capital: Saigon.
- i. Diem
 - i. failed to hold elections
 - ii. seriously divided the country
- j. Communist guerrillas in the south increased campaign against Diem.
- k. China continued to support North Vietnam
- l. Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO)
 - i. Dulles created
 - ii. in order to prop up Diem's regime
 - iii. Britain & France included.
 - iv. Supposed to be a "NATO" in Southeast Asia.
 - v. Only Philippine Republic, Thailand, and Pakistan
 - vi. signed in Sept. 1954
- m. US pledged to prevent communist expansion in Asia (Vietnam and China)
- n. Sent in military advisors to train S. Vietnamese forces
- o. Domino Theory –
 - i. If one country becomes communist, neighboring countries will also fall like dominoes
 - ii. included Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Burma, maybe India
- p. This idea got US involved in Vietnam War in 1960s

D. Warsaw Pact

- a. West Germany welcomed into NATO in 1955 with half million troops
- b. 1955, Soviets sign Warsaw Pact in response new NATO strength in west
- c. Includes all the E. European satellite countries controlled by Moscow

E. Easing of the Cold War tensions occurred after Stalin's death in 1953

- a. 2 year power struggle
 - i. Stalin is succeeded by Nikita Khrushchev in 1955
 - ii. New leadership offered opportunity to reduce tension.
 - iii. Publicly denounced bloody excesses of the Stalin regime
 - iv. Set out to improve living conditions in USSR
- b. "Peaceful coexistence" with the western democracies
- c. Khrushchev hoped to impress nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America with superiority of communism as an economic system
 - i. To the West: "We will bury you" (economically)
 - ii. War between USSR & West now seen as unnecessary
 - iii. Peaceful competition will demonstrate superiority of Soviet system
- d. USSR agrees to leave Austria in May 1955
- e. Eisenhower moves to relax tensions
- f. Geneva Summit -- 1955 (July)
 - i. US meets with USSR, Britain, & France to begin discussions on European security and disarmament
 - ii. No agreements made
 - iii. USSR resists idea of reunited Germany, especially West's ally
 - iv. Both sides agreed to necessity of nuclear disarmament
- g. US & USSR voluntarily suspend atmospheric testing in October, 1958
- F. Souring of relations occurred in the wake of Hungarian Uprising
 - a. Europeans begin to seek more freedom in 1956
 - b. inspired by Khrushchev's words
 - c. Polish workers riot against Soviets – gain greater control over own gov't
 - d. Hungarian Uprising – 1956
 - i. Hungarian nationalists staged huge demonstrations
 - ii. demanded democracy and independence
 - iii. Hungarians inspired by US position to free people from communist control
 - iv. Soviet tanks & soldiers quickly moved in to crush uprising
 - v. Americans never showed up
 - vi. Ike didn't want a world war over Hungary
 - vii. World watched as Budapest became a slaughterhouse
 - viii. US unable to help – nuclear force too much "overkill"
 - ix. US-Soviet relations sour again
 - x. Many see Dulles' "liberation" of E. Europe as impractical
 - xi. Eisenhower unwilling to use "massive retaliation" over Hungary
 - xii. Proved Eisenhower was more moderate vis-à-vis the Cold War
- G. Sputnik, 1957
 - a. Soviets launch first ever unmanned artificial satellite in orbit
 - b. Americans are horrified at the thought of Soviet technology being capable of transporting nuclear weapons
 - c. Public demands "missile gap" be eliminated
 - d. America's manned bombers still a powerful deterrent
- H. National Defense Education Act (NDEA)

- a. Eisenhower orders rigorous education program to match Soviet technology
- b. 1/3 of all University scientists & engineers went into full-time weapons research
- c. Special emphasis placed on math, science, & foreign languages
- I. 1958, US successfully launches its satellite into orbit, Explorer I
- J. 1958, NASA (National Aeronautics Space Agency) is launched by Ike
- K. US conducts massive arms buildup in Europe:
 - i. B-52's
 - ii. nuclear subs
 - iii. short range missiles
- b. Khrushchev issues ultimatum on Berlin in November 1958
 - i. Gave Western powers 6 months to vacate West Berlin
 - ii. Eisenhower and Dulles refused to yield
 - iii. world held its breath
 - iv. Visitations ease the conflict
- c. "Kitchen Debates"
 - i. Vice president Nixon visited the Soviet Union in 1959
 - ii. entered debate with Khrushchev
 - iii. debate over which economic system was better
- d. Sept. 1959, Khrushchev makes two-week trip to US
- e. Ike and Khrushchev agree to hold summit next year
- f. Khrushchev states Berlin ultimatum extended indefinitely
- g. U-2 Incident – May 1, 1960
 - i. results in worst US-Soviet relations since Stalin
 - ii. U-2 spy plane shot down deep in Soviet territory
 - iii. Pilot Francis Gary Powers captured by Soviets
 - iv. Incident occurred 10 days before planned Paris Summit
 - v. Eisenhower admits he authorized U-2 flights for national security
 - vi. Ike suspends further flights
 - vii. Khrushchev demands an apology at Paris
 - viii. Ike refuses
 - ix. Khrushchev angrily calls off Paris summit conference

Other foreign policy challenges in the 1950s

- A. Middle East
 - a. Iran
 - i. CIA engineered coup in 1953
 - ii. installed the Shah as dictator
 - iii. Nationalist leader Moussadegh
 - iv. Moussadegh wanted foreign oil holdings turned over to Iran's gov't
 - v. US felt Moussadegh was dangerous to its interests
 - vi. In 1979, the Iranian Revolution overthrew the Shah
 - 1. exacted revenge against the US
 - 2. held 50 Americans hostage for 444 days
 - b. Suez Crisis

- i. Egypt – Gamal Abdel Nasser becomes president (Arab nationalist)
- ii. Opposed existence of Israel
- iii. US had supported Israel’s creation in 1948
- iv. Sought funding for Aswan Dam on upper Nile for irrigation & power.
 - v. US agreed to lend money to Egypt
 - vi. US refused to give arms to Egypt
 - vii. Nasser seemed to court Russia
 - viii. Nasser established diplomatic relations with the “Red China”
 - ix. US withdrew financial aid offer
 - x. Nasser seized & nationalized the Suez Canal
 - xi. Canal was owned mostly by British and French stockholders
 - xii. October 1956, France, Britain & Israel attacked Egypt in an attempt to internationalize the canal
 - xiii. World seemed on brink of WWII
 - xiv. Eisenhower honored the UN charter's nonaggression commitment
 - xv. Ike reluctantly denounced the attack on Egypt
 - xvi. Siding with the US, the Soviets threatened to send troops to Egypt
 - xvii. Britain, France and Israel withdrew their troops
 - xviii. UN force was sent to keep order
 - xix. Nasser gained control of Suez
 - xx. Britain & France Angry at US for siding against a NATO ally
 - xxi. Eisenhower Doctrine
 - 1. Empowered the president to extend economic and military aid to nations of the Middle East if threatened by a Communist controlled country.
 - 2. 1958, Marines entered Lebanon to promote political stability during a change of governments

B. Quemoy & Matsu

- a. 1955, Chinese Communists began to shell tiny Nationalist Island Jiang Jieshi had committed 1/3 of his Taiwanese army.
- b. People’s Republic of China claimed the two tiny islands
- c. Eisenhower received Congressional approval to use force
- d. Ike sent the Seventh Fleet to aid Jiang
- e. Dulles convinced Jiang to renounce force in regaining Chinese mainland
- f. quieted Communist fears

C. Cuba

- a. US companies active in Cuba prior to 1959
 - i. Owned 90% of Cuban mines
 - ii. 40% of Cuban sugar operations
- b. Cuba had 2nd highest standard of living in Latin America
- c. Cuba among highest literacy
- d. New Years Day, 1959
 - i. Fidel Castro takes control of Cuba,
 - ii. Fulgencio Batista, oppressive leader since 1951, fled
- e. Castro visits US but Ike refuses to see him

- f. US unsure if Castro is communist
- g. Castro eventually confiscated American-owned property.
- h. September 1959, Khrushchev decides to aid Cuba
- i. Deteriorating Cuban relations with US leads Castro to seek alliance with USSR
- j. US began plotting against Castro
- k. July 9, 1960
 - i. Khrushchev publicly extends Soviet nuclear umbrella to Cuba
 - ii. Khrushchev proclaimed Monroe Doctrine was dead
 - iii. stated he would shower missiles on the US if it attacked Cuba
- l. Sept 1960—CIA opens talks with mafia to arrange a "hit" on Castro
- m. US breaks diplomatic relations in January, 1961
- n. Castro encourages revolution in other parts of Latin America
- o. US now sees Castro as a serious threat to national security
- p. US persuades the Organization of American States (OAS) to condemn Communist infiltration into the Americas
- q. Latin American "Marshall Plan"
 - i. Congress responded to Ike's recommendation for \$500 million in aid for Latin America
 - ii. Overthrow of Guatemala
 - 1. US supported the overthrow of President Jacobo Arbenz Guzman in 1954
 - 2. Guzman began accepting arms from the USSR
 - 3. VP Nixon had to call off an eight nation good-will tour of Latin America
 - 4. VP met hostile mobs in Venezuela and Peru in 1958

Eisenhower evaluated

- A. America incredibly prosperous during the Eisenhower years
- B. Ike showed more skilled leadership during his last 2 years than at any time before
 - a. For six years, Democrats controlled Congress
 - b. Ike use the veto power 169 times and was overridden only twice
- C. Public works projects revitalized certain areas of the country
 - a. St. Lawrence waterway project, constructed with Canada, turned cities in the Great Lakes into bustling seaports
 - b. Federal Highway Project created nations modern interstate freeways system
- D. Eisenhower's greatest failing was his anemic stance on civil rights
- E. Exercised restraint in military affairs despite being a general
- F. Furthered the cause of the New Deal and Fair Deal in numerous ways and further imbedded them in American life