Learning from the mistakes of the past, the United States accepted its role as a world superpower, helping to rebuild Europe and Japan and taking a leading role in establishing the United Nations.

George Catlett Marshall, Jr. was an American soldier and statesman famous for his leadership roles during World War II and after. He was Chief of Staff of the Army, Secretary of State, and the third Secretary of Defense.

The United States instituted George C. Marshall's plan to rebuild Europe, which provided massive financial aid to rebuild European economies and prevent the spread of communism.

Germany was partitioned (divided) into East and West Germany. West Germany became democratic and resumed self government after a few years of American, British, and French occupation.

East Germany remained under the domination of the Soviet Union and did not adopt democratic institutions.

Japan was occupied by American forces. It soon adopted a democratic form of government, resumed self government, and became a strong ally of the United States.

General McArthur reshaped Japan's economy by introducing capitalism and a new constitution.

The United Nations was formed near the end of World War II to create a body for the nations of the world to try to prevent future global wars.

How did the United States help rebuild postwar Europe and Japan?
Immediately following WWII, the work force shifted back to men, and most women returned full time to family responsibilities.

Labor Unions merged and became more powerful; workers gained new benefits and higher salaries.

As the economic prosperity continued and technology boomed, the next generation of women entered the labor force in large numbers.

**Reasons for Rapid Growth of the American Economy:**

*Consumerism* (buying material goods) came to be equated with success and status.

The *advertising* industry took advantage of runaway consumerism by encouraging more spending.

**Increased Consumerism**

What contributed to the prosperity of Americans following World War II?
Changing patterns in American society since the end of WWII changed the way most Americans lived and worked.

### Factors Leading to Changing Patterns in United States' Society

- **Strong economy**
- Greater investment in education
- The "Baby Boom". "Baby Boomers" are the largest generation in the nations' history
- Interstate highway system (*Interstate* Highway Act of 1956)

### 1950s and 1960s Pop Culture

Television became a household product.

"Rock n Roll"

The Elvis Presley, The Beatles, and more

### Evolving role of women

(expected to play a supporting role in the family while increasingly working outside the home)

### African Americans' aspirations for equal opportunities.

Martin Luther King and other Civil Right leaders led sit-ins and non-violent protests.

Eleanor Roosevelt (1884 - 1963)

Helped expand women's and workers rights.

Wanted equal rights for African Americans and other minorities

Served as a delegate to the United Nations

### Policies/Programs Expanding Education and Employment Opportunities

- G.I. Bill of Rights gave *educational*, housing, and employment benefits to *veterans*.
- Truman *desegregated* the armed forces.
- Civil Rights legislation led to increased educational, economic, and political opportunities for women and minorities.

### What factors led to changing patterns of society in post-WWII era?

What policies and programs expanded educational and employment opportunities for the military, women, and minorities?
The United States and the Soviet Union emerged from World War II as world powers triggering a rivalry over ideology and national security. Since World War II, the United States has been directly involved in various conflicts that reflected the divisions created by Cold War tensions and hostilities. The tensions between the free world and the communist world caused divisiveness at home and abroad. The Cold War was the central organizing principle in foreign affairs for 40 years.

The Cold War

The state of tension without actual fighting between the United States and the Soviet Union, which divided the world into two camps.

Despite being Allies in WWII, the US and the USSR (Soviet Union) plunged into a climate of icy tension and rivalry.

Origins of the Cold War

- Difference in goals and ideologies between the US and USSR
- US: democratic & capitalist
- Soviet Union: Dictatorial & communist
- Soviet Union's domination over Eastern European countries
- American policy of containment (stop the spread of communism). The US would prevent any further extension of communist rule.
- The Iron Curtain

The Truman Doctrine

The Truman Doctrine vowed to provide money and military supplies to support "free people who are resisting outside pressures."
### NATO vs. The Warsaw Pact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April 4, 1949 - 10 western <strong>European</strong> nations joined the United States and Canada to form a coalition: North Atlantic Treaty Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1955 - The Soviets created their own coalition consisting of 8 Eastern European countries: Warsaw Pact</td>
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### Arms Race

<table>
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<tr>
<th>After WWII, the US and USSR competed in developing more advanced bombs.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Soviets tested their first <strong>atomic</strong> bomb in 1949</td>
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### The Space Race

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Initially dominated by the Soviets.</th>
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<td>October 4, 1957 - USSR launched</td>
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### Crisis over Berlin & the Berlin Wall

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<th>By 1961, almost 3 million East Germans had escaped to West Berlin to flee communist rule.</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 13, 1961, the Soviet began construction of a wall separating East and West Berlin</td>
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### Domino Theory: the fear that once one country fell to communism, the surrounding countries would also fall. America was stunned and fear of communism grew |

### The Korean Conflict/War

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<tr>
<th>June 25, 1950 North Korean forces led a surprise attack on South Korea</th>
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<tr>
<td>At first, North Korea seemed unstoppable, however <strong>General Douglas MacArthur</strong> led a strong counterattack</td>
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<tr>
<td>China then sends 300,000 soldiers to join North Korean war efforts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July, 1953: an agreement was signed that ended the war in a <strong>stalemate</strong> (no winner or loser). The land would be divided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land north of the 38th parallel would be <strong>communist</strong>; land south of the 38th parallel would be <strong>democratic</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>
**The Cuban Missile Crisis Oct. 14-28 1962 (13 Days)**

Occurred when the Soviet Union placed missiles in Cuba

Cuba is 90 miles off the coast of Florida and openly Communist. Led by Fidel Castro who welcomed aid from the USSR and its leader, Nikita Khrushchev

Khrushchev promised to defend Cuba with Soviet weapons

When surveillance photos revealed nuclear weapons ready to launch, JFK said he would respond with all out nuclear retaliation

JFK then orders a blockade of Cuba.

Khrushchev agrees to remove weapons from Cuba in exchange for U.S. promise not to invade Cuba

**The Vietnam War Dec. 1956 - April 30, 1975**

United States intervened to stop the spread of communism into South Vietnam (Domino Theory)

Americans were divided over whether the United States should be involved in Vietnam.

The War ended in a Cease-fire agreement with the U.S. withdrawing from Vietnam

**Distrcution of the Berlin Wall**

November 9, 1989

**The Fall of the Soviet Union**

December, 1991