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# From Cold War to Vietnam

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1946 - 1975

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# Truman Doctrine Enacted

- OAS – function? Cuba suspended on 31 January 1962;
  - 1954 - The Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, or SEATO, in an effort to prevent the spread of communism in Southeast Asia (where Vietnam is located); included the United States, Great Britain, France, Thailand, Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand, the Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Pitcairn Island, Tristan de Cunha, and the Philippines.
  - Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy – “Red Witchhunt” - exposing communists in key government jobs;
  - "McCarthyism," overzealous use of innuendo, rumor and guilt-by-association to destroy someone's reputation (?)
  - 1950 Congress - The McCarran Internal Security Act : communist organization registered with the Attorney General, no national defense-related job for “Commies”; authorized use of internment camps
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# "Eisenhower Doctrine"

- 1957 : use of armed force to oppose communist aggression in Middle East.
- "Domino Theory"



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# "Sputnik"

- 1957, the U.S.S.R. (Soviet Union) launched an unmanned rocket into outer space: result -panic caused a panic ; "wild goose chase" communist ploy theory
  - National Aeronautics and Space Administration ("NASA") in 1958. In 1961, President Kennedy started "Project Apollo" with the goal of beating the Soviet Union to the Moon. As it turned out ...
  - On July 20, 1969, a simulated (?) broadcast of American Neil Armstrong stepping foot on the Moon was broadcast to a record television audience, with Armstrong's words, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."
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# Cuban Revolution

- in 1959 the communists moved in with a revolution led by Fidel Castro. “The Soviet Union communist dictator Nikita Khrushchev threatened to drop an atomic bomb on us if we intervened. Castro has ruled Cuba as a brutal dictator ever since...” (from a schoolbook)
  - in 1961 "Cuban exiles"
  - 1962 the "Cuban Missile Crisis" (?)
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# Spying

- 1960, while Eisenhower was still president, one of "U-2" (not the rock group!) planes crashed and an American pilot was captured. This caused an international uproar and hurt ongoing attempts at reconciliation (rapprochement). The pilot was later traded in exchange for a Soviet spy held by the United States, but the cause of the crash of the U-2 plane remains a mystery (???)
  - President Kennedy - assassinated in 1963 in Dallas by a communist sympathizer, Lee Harvey Oswald (?), who had once tried to become a citizen of the Soviet Union and who supported Castro. An official commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren later concluded that Oswald acted alone, but independent poll conducted in 2003 (by ABC) showed that 68% of Americans believed that ...
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# “Arms race”

- In 1972, the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty ("SALT") was ratified by the U.S. Senate and contained promises to reduce these "arms" or weapons pointed at the enemy
  - Conservatives opposed this treaty because it embraced the approach of "Mutual Assured Destruction" "MAD", from the 1950s to the 1980s, when conservative President Ronald Reagan urged a shift to a more defensive military approach (the Strategic Defense Initiative, or Star Wars)
  - Democratic President Jimmy Carter agreed with the Soviet Union to reduce "arms" further by signing "SALT-II" in 1979. This time conservatives were successful in defeating it in the U.S. Senate (because the treaty was better for the Soviet Union than the U.S.), and it was never ratified to become law.
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# Communism in American Schoolbooks

“The Cold War lasted until the early 1990s, when communism was overthrown in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. But communism continues to this day in China (the world's most populated country), Cuba, Venezuela (with oil, one of the most powerful countries in South America), Vietnam and North Korea. Some view communism as being good in theory, but bad in practice as it requires suppressing freedom of speech, religion, the press, and even education in order to survive. But others view communism as evil in theory, as it imposes material equality on all with complete disregard for God's different gifts and purposes for different people”

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# The 80th Congress

1947 - the most productive and influential session of Congress in American history

The 22nd Amendment - shifts power from the presidency to the other branches of government;

**The Republicans passed, over President Truman's veto, the Taft-Hartley Act to limit the power of unions.**

- established the right of employees NOT to join unions in states that also supported this right
  - a union could represent all employees only if state law permitted it and a majority of workers voted for it
  - unions must give 60 days notice before striking
  - the federal government could prohibit a strike for 80 days if it endangered national health or safety
- cut taxes, balanced the federal budget for the first time in years  
+the joint income tax return for married couples
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# Immigration – Mexes or Greasers

- 1946, immigration from India allowed up to an annual quota, in 1952 immigration from Asia allowed again for the first time since 1917.
- In 1965 the Immigration and Nationality Act abolished quotas for each foreign country and instead established an overall limit on visas
- Illegal immigration from Mexico grew in the early 1980s and the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 allowed most illegal aliens who resided in the U.S. continuously since 1982 to apply for legal status. Employers were prohibited from hiring illegal **aliens**, in order to discourage future illegal immigration.
- difficult or impossible for States to deny government benefits (such as free public education) to illegal immigrants: 10-20 million people now live in the United States illegally, most having arrived by crossing the United States-Mexico border . Congress -bitterly divided about how to address this; some propose building a wall along that border.

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# The Korean War

- June 25, 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea;
  - General MacArthur : a plan to bait and trap the North Koreans in the southern peninsula;
  - by September 28th Seoul liberated; freedom for South Korea restored to where it was before the war started: up to the 38th parallel;
  - 54,000 Americans died in this war
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# Post World War II Culture – Conservative?

- A culture of conformity ;
  - Credit cards available;
  - "baby boom" (1946 to 1964)
  - the tax rates (they were much higher in the 1950s), restrictions on freedoms (interest rates for savings were fixed by the government rather than by the free market today), the draft (it was required of young men then, while enlistment is voluntary today), and unions (less of a problem today);
  - the Full Employment Act of 1946, which tried to guarantee employment for every citizen, seems like silly socialism today.
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# 60s - the "Beat Generation"

- advocated freedom, drugs, and being different simply for the sake of being different;
  - Young people grew their hair?, ? laws, ? parents, ? Church, ? jobs, and basically did whatever they felt like doing. Every form of authority was rejected by the "hippies". Many of the leaders died of drug overdoses or other lifestyle illnesses. Others ended up in jail. They had slogans like "Don't trust anyone over 30" and sold books with titles like "Steal this Book." Rock music started to advocate drug use. Movies changed for the worse.
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# If you like Police Sagas...

The Warren Court restricting the power of law enforcement in dealing with crime.

- *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963), requiring States to provide and pay for a defense attorney for any defendant charged with a felony
  - *Escobedo v. Illinois* (1964): requiring police to provide a suspect with a lawyer, at taxpayer expense, during police interrogation, if the suspect requests one.
  - *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966), establishing strict standards for how police may ask questions of suspects, requiring the police first to recite this "Miranda warning": you have the right to remain silent, anything you say can and will be held against you, you have a right to an attorney, and an attorney will be appointed for you if you cannot afford one
  - banning official school prayer in public; “school public schools have been declining ever since...”
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# Civil Rights

## “second-class citizenship”

- Jackie Robinson - the first black player in the Major Leagues and thereby broke the "color barrier" by playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers (baseball);
  - In 1954, in a case brought by the National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that segregation of blacks and whites in public schools is unconstitutional. This decision, named *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), overturned the "separate but equal" decision of *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)
  - In 1955 - Rosa Parks; the Montgomery Bus Boycott that lasted over a year from 1955 into 1956, until the Supreme Court ended this segregation on buses;
  - In 1957, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference - the Civil Rights Movement; advocated nonviolent resistance by African Americans, culminating in a speech to a massive crowd of 250,000 that marched on Washington for civil rights in 1963. Rev. King's speech - "I Have a Dream," Rev. King was tragically assassinated in Memphis in 1968;
  - In 1962, James Meredith became the first African American to attend the University of Mississippi;
  - the Black Panthers (Angela Davis) (?)
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# The "Great Society"

- Office of Economic Opportunity: a program consisting of President Johnson giving \$1 billion for poverty relief
  - Medicare and Medicaid (1965): establishing almost free medical care (at taxpayer expense) for everyone over 65 (Medicare) and for the poor (Medicaid)
  - Elementary and Secondary Education and Higher Education Acts (1965): establishing federal funding for public school districts, and also the "Head Start" preschool program for the poor
  - Department of Housing and Urban Development (1965): establishing housing for the poor in cities
  - Argued 'contrary to Jesus' - an incentive *not* to work and even for mothers to divorce so they could claim welfare ; Bill Clinton - the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996; "Let's be the generation that ends poverty in America" (Barak Obama)
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# The Vietnam War

- the American destroyer USS Maddox attacked three North Vietnamese P-4 torpedo boats; days later a completely false report of an attack on the Maddox by the North Vietnamese was publicized; Congress granted Johnson the power to assist South Vietnam against communist aggression. Johnson used it to support injecting the United States into the Vietnam War and to win reelection in 1964 in a landslide
  - “Vietnam is a huge country: 81 million people also a jungle” A substantial percentage of our casualties in the Vietnam War were from stepping on land mines. Between 1964 and 1975, 58,000 (mandatory draft);
  - Nixon: "Vietnamization", "My Lai Massacre."
  - disruption at colleges; the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in 1968, hippies caused massive riots that were brutally suppressed by the tough Chicago Democratic Mayor Richard Daley - a political disaster for the Democratic Party. The "Chicago Seven," the hippie ringleaders of the riots, were convicted for disrupting the convention ; convictions overturned on appeal; Muhammad Ali; "conscientious objection".
  - “the South Vietnamese clung to the wheels or landing gear of the last airplanes and helicopters, begging to leave with us” Congress passed the War Powers Act in 1973. approval of Congress within 60 days of using troops in battle in a foreign conflict.
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# ERA and Abortion

Equal Rights Amendment :

- Section 1. Equality of Rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex.
  - Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article  
The ERA would have required drafting women just like men; forcing taxpayer-funded abortion just like medical care for men; mandating same-sex marriage; ending special Social Security benefits enjoyed by widows; would shift the entire field of family law and marriage from state and local levels to the federal government; would prohibit single-sex programs and classes, particularly in public schools.
  - Theme of the only debate between Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter ; failed in 1980 (?)
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*Thank you for Your Attention!*

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