

AP US History Chapter 25 Notes

How big was the Soviet arsenal, relative to the thousands of atomic bombs that the US had?

- With Eisenhower, little changed internally, as the citizens were complacent with a war hero as president. With respect to foreign policy, however, great strides were made to prevent spread of the red enemy to the east. Eisenhower wanted to minimize military spending, all the while keeping the citizens of the US safe. His plan was comprised of two key parts: first was **massive retaliation** (announced by John Foster Dulles^a), and second was to expand the **Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)**, created by Truman and formerly known as the Office of Strategic Services (OSS).
- The CIA was in charge of covert operations in countries under threat of communism, as well as gathering intelligence to provide to those in high government positions. Several coups were organized by the CIA, including Iran in summer of 1953 (for nationalizing oil interests), Guatemala in June of 1954 (due to Jacobo Arbenz Guzman's treatment of the United Fruit Company), unsuccessfully in Indonesia in 1958, and Laos in 1959.
- Other issues, though, had to be handled in different ways. Following the war, France wanted to reclaim its colonies in French Indochina. Many countries, most importantly Vietnam, resisted. Initially, Vietnam held US support, but the US would quickly switch to backing France. The events in Vietnam prompted the creation of the unsuccessful South East Asian Treaty Organization (SEATO).
- Khrushchev's speech about de-Stalinization somewhat shocked the world, as many hoped for peace with the Soviet Union. The Suez Canal Crisis (1956) would see a unique event in which the United States and Soviet Union teamed up against Britain, France, and Israel. When Gamal Abdel Nasser requested loans from the Soviet Union and the United States, both sides realized what he was doing and refused. Because of this, he cut off the Suez Canal to earn money through the route. Frightened by this, France and Britain pushed Israel to invade Egypt. Both the US and USSR publicly denounced France, Britain, and Israel's actions, eventually arranging a cease fire, and giving control of the Canal to Egypt.
- Additionally, Hungary was not happy under Soviet control. When more and more people were protesting and asking for freedom, the Soviet Union sent in 200,000 troops and 4,000 tanks, resulting in roughly 40,000 Hungarian deaths. The United States did little more than call the Soviet Union tyrannical for its actions.

^aBrother of Allen Dulles

At the time of the NDEA and rising graduation rates, were AP tests a thing, or were they not yet implemented?

Also, it's surprising how the book didn't mention the numerous failed flights with dogs launched into space forever, never to return.

Was Eisenhower given bad press over the U-2 incident? If not, who was blamed by the journalists?

- As it seemed the Cold War was becoming cooler, the Soviet Union launched *Sputnik*, a space satellite, and, a month later, *Sputnik II*, which actually had a dog inside. The US responded by creating the **National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA)**. Additionally, to stimulate advancement, Eisenhower passed the **National Defense Education Act (NDEA)**. Graduation rates rose from 57.4% in the 50s to 75.6% in 1970.
- Still, some attempts at peace were made. In July 1955, a conference at Geneva was held, though it was pretty much useless. It did, however, promote the “**Spirit of Geneva**”, for those who wanted peace, such as Eisenhower. In 1959, the US and USSR were able to calmly resolve an issue in Berlin, and Eisenhower and Khrushchev decided to invite each other to their respective countries to promote peace. On May 1, 1960, however, things would change, as an American U-2 spy plane was shot down over the Soviet Union. The USSR was outraged, and they stated that they captured the pilot, Francis Gary Powers. Khrushchev withdrew his invitation to Eisenhower, and little peace talks occurred for roughly 2 years.

- Although Eisenhower had the popularity to win again, he did not run because of the two-term limit which had been imposed in response to the Roosevelt administration. Instead, Richard Nixon, Eisenhower's vice president, ran, against the Catholic John F. Kennedy. Remembering back to Al Smith, many wondered whether JFK had a chance to be successful.
- One major reason for JFK's victory (with a popular vote of 49.7% to 49.6%) was his essentially unlimited funds provided by his father. For the first time, television played a major role, as debates were now widely televised. Those who listened on radio tended to agree with Nixon's arguments, while those who watched on television saw JFK looking younger and more charismatic, which made them side with JFK. Overall, this would be an election with one of the smallest margins, though it did replace the (at the time) oldest president with the youngest.

Were the initially developed highways only one lane, or did they start with multiple?

- Not only was television important in the election, as it was becoming part of daily life. Families would now sit down to watch full movies or programs such as comedies, soap operas, and dramas, as well as a lot of westerns. Television stations began to understand that more sponsors meant more money, so advertisements began to become popular as well, though they would pander to white families. Game shows, namely *The \$64,000 Question* was found out to be rigged. In any case, the popularity of the television meant that it was here to stay, as it is obvious to this day.
- Another invention, the automobile became widely popular during the 50s and 60s. Although many had owned cars in the 1920s, they would only become widely popular around the 60s, as over eighty percent of families owned one. Cars meant a need for roads, and so Eisenhower proposed the **Interstate Highway System**, widely used to this day. Additionally, many gas stations began to pop up. In this manner, the automobile brought about more interconnectedness and independence for the citizens of the United States.

Were there any religions that did not have any sort of revival? What were these religions?

- During the 50s and 60s, a religious revival hit America. Leaders such as Billy Graham, Richard Cardinal Cushing, Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen, Abraham Joshua Herschel, and Elijah Muhammad led their respective religions. Some of these religions included:
 - All Protestant Sects
 - Catholics
 - Jewish
 - African (Baptist, Methodist Episcopal, & Methodist Episcopal Zion)
 - Islam (**Nation of Islam**)
 - Hinduism
 - Buddhism
 - Bahá'í
- Throughout the Cold War, American politicians tried to use the religious revival in order to resist spread of the atheistic Communism. The lines “one nation, under god” and the “in god we trust” were added as a result of.

Were the “facts” in Kinsey’s books true, or were they just meant to sell copies?

- Although Eisenhower’s terms were known as a conforming age, many did not conform. For example, Dorothy Day, Peter Maurin, and Myles Horton joined socialist groups, though they were religious. Additionally, they created means of media to propagate their beliefs. At the same time, Elvis Presley was becoming a sensation to some, but a pillar of sin for others. His music was seen as raucous and his movements revealing by older generations, but this appealed to the new generations. Elvis, along with Chubby Checker, Chuck Berry, and Fats Domino shocked the music industry.
- Alfred Kinsey shocked the world by publishing *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* in 1948, and *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female* in 1953. Hugh Hefner created *Playboy Magazine*. Vladimir Nabokov published *Lolita*. Many others made shocking movements as well, which made this a non-conforming age for the younger generations.

What was the average view of the result of *Brown v. Board of Education*, excluding the South?

- In a case known as *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court unanimously decided to declare racially segregated schools unconstitutional, stating that it violated the fourteenth amendment. Starting with smaller NAACP feats, people from five states banded together to challenge the “separate but equal” condition of the African-American population.
- Although many were happy with the result of the appeal, and were expecting little and decreasing resistance, even in the South. This was not the case though, as nine black students were attacked in Little Rock, Arkansas, soon after the act was passed.
- In 1955, Rosa Parks refused to move from a bus seat that was proclaimed to be for whites only. This created a chain of events in which a year long bus boycott was held. After a year, the government of Montgomery, Alabama relented and recreated the bus system, now with drivers that were supposed to be polite to all. This year long protest would not have been possible without many organizers, including Martin Luther King Jr., who used the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) to aid Parks. In 1957, King, along with many others, created the **Southern Christian Leadership Conference**, which was meant to replace the MIA.
- On February 1, 1960, a few black students ordered coffees at an all-white counter at a store in Greensboro, North Carolina. Although they waited all day, they did not receive their orders. More and more people began to sit in on these “sit-ins”. It quickly spread from city to city, with over 30 other cities experiencing similar events. In Nashville, Tennessee, students were able to desegregate many stores.
- The decision in *Boynton v. Virginia* banned any segregation in interstate transport. Many “freedom riders” began to ride such transports to check whether they were safe, but they were met with violent beatings and attacks. In the summer of 1961, 328 freedom riders were arrested. In 1963, King started campaigning in Birmingham, Alabama, to desegregate the area. He was promptly arrested along with some 3,000 protesting children. During his time in jail, King wrote *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, and would soon march to the Lincoln Memorial. This event was highly televised, as he said his famous “I have a dream” speech.

Although it was created by Baker because Baker did not like the messages of the NAACP and SCLC, did the SNCC get along with these other organizations?

- Led by Ella Baker, the **Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)** was created. When students, namely Ella Baker, did not want to side with the NAACP or SCLC (mostly because of their male dominance), they created the SNCC as their own organization. Some of the focuses of the organization included registering black voters and spreading the message that change comes from the people.
- In addition to this, the **Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP)** was created as a response to the white-dominated Democratic party. 68 delegates were elected to the convention, and the MFDP succeeded in their goals such as raising the issue of denial of voting rights.
- At the same time, Malcolm Little (later Malcolm X) was becoming a prominent minister of the Nation of Islam. Unhappy with the NOI, he went on a Hajj to Mecca, where he returned as El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, now a traditional Muslim. Unlike King, Malcolm did not support nonviolence, though he did limit his calls to violence. He created the Muslim Mosque Incorporated to preach a truer version of Islam. To aid in his political goals, he created the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU).

Summary

As Eisenhower entered his presidency, a period of relative stability within the US took place. With respect to international relations, though, tensions were high. Eisenhower used a two part plan, which involved the idea of massive retaliation, and the expansion of the civilian intelligence company created by Truman, and known as CIA. CIA would sponsor coups in areas of potential Soviet influence. Domestically, the younger generations were listening to radically new music that was seen as raucous by the older generations. Artists, especially Elvis Presley, were seen as provocative. The Civil Rights movement would grow to levels it had never before reached, as events became televised. Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., and many other leaders would aid in establishing a solid base for African-American Civil Rights. Malcolm X would promote the black community through other way, such as spreading Islam. Overall, the 50s and 60s saw relative domestic peace and growth, though much political tension.