Aditya Patel

APUSH

Period 4

03/12/2021

CH 27 Focus Qs 3,5; DTP #1 p 737; DTP #1 p 751

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3.

The war was one of the best times for the labor movement, as Union membership rapidly grew and the labor movement flourished, making huge deals with the Federal Government. However, this was not destined to last, as many of the deals made with the federal government were only for during the war. The deal of having no strikes was over with the war, and as strikes began to reoccur with the postwar labor unrest. This was due to the rise in inflation after the destruction of regulatory agencies by the new Republican Legislatures. After half a decade of abstinence from strikes, these likely came as great surprises, especially after the Railroad Industry suffered from a complete shutdown due to strikes. This combined with the often-socialist influences and control of labor groups, which were hated as America went through McCarthyism, resulted in a massive growth in anti-Labor sentiment. This animosity resulted in the Taft Hartley Act, a major legislation repudiating many of the union gains during the New Deal (Taft-Hartley Bill, pg 221). Unions were much harder to form and organize, as closed shops were outlawed. Republicans championed this bill as a bill to bring back rights to businesses, but many opponents called it a new form of industrial slavery (Taft-Hartley Bill, pg 222). However, despite opposition from Truman and a veto, this bill was pushed through and passed. This was the case of many of Truman’s objectives after the war, as his “Fair Deal” failed to gain any speed in the Republican Congress during his first term, as civil rights efforts fell prey to the filibuster, social security and minimum wage increases also were stalled, and efforts to create a national healthcare system failed. Many of these likely failed due to the increase fear of the Soviet Union and its system of government, and many Americans might want to separate themselves from it.

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5.

After most wars, even successful countries often suffer a recession, but America didn’t after the Second World War for a variety of reasons. The economic boom during the war mainly occurred due to massively increased federal military spending. This spending was mainly wealth transferred to the people, and as anti-inflationary agencies stayed controlling, inflation stayed low. This lead to many people having plenty of money, and they weren’t able to spend it due to lack of a consumer market during the war, and instead saved it. After the war, as military production switched back to consumer, the American people had money to buy goods, fueling the economy. Another major reason for economic growth was the GI Bill, passed by Congress in order to give war veterans economic and educational services, and its side effect was a massive boost in spending. It allotted huge sums of money, in the billions of dollars, to provide healthcare and education for veterans (GI Bill, pg 1). This is also the same bill that created the Selective Service, which boosted the armed forces of the United States and created a permanent ready armed force, an increase in funding for military than before the war (GI Bill, pg 1). Despite Truman being stymied by Republicans in Congress to pass further legislation to improve the economy, there was no crash, as the transition from the War to regular economy occurred. During the First World War, foreign powers were crushed and eventually, they brought their issues to America, and this was prevented after the Second World War with the Marshall Plan, which rebuild critical American allies and trading partners for the next few decades. This massive expenditure by the United States government once again boosted spending in and around the United States, stopping a global catastrophe. The occupation of Japan and the new nation created after also set up an economy that would greatly benefit the United States.

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1.

The Cold War is one of the most debated topics of the United States, as it was so incredibly vague. It wasn’t an actual war with soldiers on the ground, but more of an ideological conflict, so there is no precise date that it started. During the cold war, in the 1950s, many scholars took a traditional view, that the Cold war was just a way that Americans responded to the threat to the free market way of life. America’s Restoration of Japan might be an example of this way of the Cold War. It created capitalism that would greatly benefit America at the border of Russia, pushing back against Communism. These traditionalists, led by William Williams, believed that all that was at stake was American trade in international markets. They believed that Russian aggression had little to do in this, and that American Capitalist expansion was the cause. This might’ve been a case in the Korean War, where Americans and United Nations forces intervened in order to stop the spread of Communism, despite the lack of Russian aggression in the area. After this stage, revisionists popularized the beliefs that the failure of postwar diplomacy was the main cause of the Cold War, as Truman and his “Get Tough” policy threatened the Soviet Union, forcing its actions into a Cold War. Some revisionists came to the conclusion that no side was to blame, and that the American public forced the government’s hand, as did Stalin’s dictatorship. More recently, after the fall of the Soviet Union, ideas that animosity between the world’s two greatest powers was inevitable had emerged, which was reasonable, given past hostilities between great powers. However, bold actions such as the Truman Doctrine required a more ideological differences between the powers, rather than the nationalistic hatred of past, and blocking expansion of an ideology is much newer than past rivalries.

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McCarthyism was the postwar period in American history, as an anti-communist fervor swept the nation, destroying the lives of many and pushing some into political stardom. The causes behind McCarthyism are widely debated, especially viewed through the lens of the anti-communist fever. Some argue that this fear was justified, and that the anti-Communism was necessary to stop Soviet espionage and interference. The House Un-American Activities Committee was created in order to investigate such espionage and disloyalty to the country, but they ended up finding Hollywood executives guilty, and investigated and convicted respected State Department diplomat Alger Hiss, one of the first casualties of the Red Scare. Other arguments say that there was no reason for such hysteria, and that the fear of communism was rooted into American society and became a paranoia during the time. After the decline of McCarthyism believed that the red scare was partisan battling done to the breaking point, as Republicans investigated Democrats and vice versa. The investigation of Alger Hiss was definitely a case of this, as Republicans recently gained control of Congress and were eager to convict a high-ranking Democrat of such high crimes, cementing their power in congress. Others say that the red scare was orchestrated by the liberals to prove that they weren’t a Communist Party in the United States. This seemed backed up by the McCarran Internal Security Act, which had the support of a supermajority in Congress, and was created with the support of both parties. The republicans hoped to gain politically from becoming the anti-communist party, and the Democrats hoped to also paint themselves as harsh on Communism. All of these were reasons for some and many to act out the collective anti-Communist Hysteria during the Red Scare, and all of them provide enough incentive to do so, but the damage that occurred to some people is regrettable.