Aditya Patel

APUSH

Period 4

03/22/2021

CH 27-28 Test

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Key Developments per Chapter:

1. Chapter 27

After the decisive victory for the Allies during the Second World War and differences and arguments between the Soviet Union and the United States during the war, tensions were bound to pursue. The first major incident between the two powers occurred at the Yalta Conference, where they discussed postwar plans for the Axis powers. Agreements were reached on Germany’s division between the western Allies and the Soviets, Poland’s “free and fair” elections, and the creation of the United Nations. However, all these agreements were interpreted differently on either side and led to conflicts later. The United States was dealt a serious blow when Communists finally won the war and controlled China, spreading fear about the expansion of Communism into America. After rebuilding Japan and Europe with democratic, Capitalistic, and American interests in mind, the United States was ready to begin its new Containment Doctrine. After this anti-communist commitment, the United States greatly increased military spending, and continued to boost the economy. Alongside this, the wartime boom continued with the GI Bill, providing education and loans for veterans, and the great increase in consumer spending after years of saving. This allowed the economy to boom for years after the war and avoided a recession. Even better for the economy, America intervened in Korea after a Communist attack from North Korea with the rest of the United Nations, pushing back North Korean forces in the Korean War. However, this war ended up in a stalemate, as Chinese forces moved in from the north and repelled the UN Forces. As this occurred, the Red Scare was occurring at home, as Kevin McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee investigated and persecuted many Americans without due process or cause over suspected Communist Connections. McCarthy briefly became a very powerful man in America, who even the President wasn’t able to criticize. This reign ended just as quick as it appeared, as he was ousted after attacking the military. Throughout the rest of the 50s and much of the century, the fear of Communism and the Soviet Union continued to drive American policy.

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1. Chapter 28

After the Second World War, America was the richest and most prosperous country in the world, and this continued for the following years. Government Spending, most prominent during the World War, continued to stimulate the economy afterwards, and continued, trusted after the development of Keynesian Economics. As this growth continued, the New Deal mindset of redistributing wealth was replaced by a mindset of a successful society achieved through unlimited growth. The Labor movement faltered after years of growth, as the Taft-Hartley Act was put in place by conservatives and was a major turning point in political control. At the same time, some problems of the past were being solved. Penicillin and the Salk Vaccine were the first of a series of medical breakthroughs that greatly increased the health of the nation and saved countless lives across the world. Competition between the Soviet Union and the United States led to a groundbreaking space race to the moon, won by the United States in a comeback. Competition between the great powers also lead to the terrible Hydrogen Bomb and widespread fear of nuclear war. A massive cultural change also took place at the same time, as the advent and popularization of the personal television took place, uniting the country. Consumer Culture became a staple of American life, uniting the country, and with television, created a homogenizing atmosphere in the 50s. Rock and Roll became symbol of American culture and dominance, popular across the world with icons such as Elvis Presley. A more concrete cultural shift also occurred, as a massive federal highways program led to the rise of Suburban America and changed the American Dream to one with a lawn and white picket fence. This also reinforced gender roles of the past. Seeds of a widespread and popular Civil Rights movement were also planted in this era, as the Supreme Court made changes to start the end of segregation. The black urban middle class was able to peacefully demand changes, led by the powerful orator Martin Luther King Jr. These significant cultural changes dominated American life during this period.

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