# The Korean War (1950-1953)

After WWI, Korea was divided into 2 parts. The North was backed by the communists, the South was backed by the West. North Korea invaded South Korea. Allies and South Korea were driven back into the Pusan Perimeter in South Korea. NATO responds. General Douglas MacArthur decides to land behind enemy lines in Inchon. Landing succeeded, and the North Korean forces were surrounded and pulled back to North Korea. MacArthur requested to keep going and conquer North Korea, Truman signed off on it. They invade to almost the northern border of North Korea up to the Yalu River.

## Red China Counterattacks

In the North, communist Chinese crossed the border and fought back against the NATO forces. NATO forces perform a fighting retreat. 1st Marines fight out of the Chosin Reservoir, known as the “Frozen Chosin”.

## Truman and MacArthur Disagree

Truman is trying to make this a limited war, MacArthur wants to get more involved. MacArthur sends a private letter to a congressman disagreeing with Truman. Letter goes public and Truman has to remove MacArthur.

Ridgway replaced MacArthur in Korea. He helps South Korea retake Seoul. Korean war ended in 1953, both sides signed an armistice. Both sides are still on guard, with a DMZ in between.

# The 1950s

## Election of 1952

Eisenhower (with Nixon) v Stevenson. Eisenhower wins handily. Johnson’s take on Eisenhower: a very capable and savvy political leader. Eisenhower won both elections and was president from 1952-1960.

## McCarthyism

Sen. McCarthy thinks there are many soviet spies and communists in the US government and military. McCarthyism is basically paranoia. He has friends and enemies on both sides of the isle.

## Brown v. Board of Education (1954)

(Oliver Brown, at al. v. Board of Education of Topeka, et al)

Has to do with segregation. Most southern states had required segregation in schools. Many northern states banned segregation or had no legislation on it. Oliver Brown had to transport his daughter to a further school because the one near him was whites-only. Class action lawsuit but he’s the headliner. The Supreme Court ruled 9-0 that segregation is inherently unconstitutional.

## Rosa Parks & the Montgomery Bus Boycott

Montgomery, Alabama. Buses had dividers that the driver could move. Black people went to the back, and white people were in the front. Rosa Parks paid money at the front of the bus, and on her way to the back the driver leaves. Later she gets on the same bus. She is ordered to the back to make room for white passengers and she refuses. Driver calls the cops and she was arrested. NAACP boycotts the city bus system. It works and the city changes legislation.

## The Little Rock Nine

Segregation is now illegal, and schools have to integrate. There are 9 black students that are going to be the vanguard of black students integrating into Little Rock Central High School. Governor Faubus put the Arkansas National Guard outside the school to prevent the students from getting in. Eisenhower didn’t like this, so he gave a federal order to the troops to stand down. Also sends the 101st Airborne to escort the students.

## The Baby Boom

After WWII, all the men came back and everybody had babies. Huge spike in births in the 50s and 60s. Very optimistic generation, strong family values and everything.

### Growth of the Suburbs

Many Baby Boomer families wanted to live in suburbs to avoid the pitfalls of the city. Suburbs got big.

### Eisenhower and the Interstate System

Eisenhower approached this as a military man. He saw it was a logistical problem to transport troops and civilians across the US. Congress proposed an interstate highway system and Eisenhower was a vocal proponent.

### American Life

Americans love cars at this time, and many Americans travel across the country. Route 66 is very popular, taking you from LA to Illinois.

TV and toys became popular in the 1950s.

Rock and Roll got big with teenagers in the 50s and 60s.