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Chapter 30

**Directions**: answer the following questions completely. No answer should be one word or sentence. Use the who, what, when, where, why, and how as a guide to answering the questions.

1. **What were the main reasons for suburban growth in this period?** For a variety of causes, there was a lot of suburban development during this time period. One of the reasons was a housing shortage in cities; in 1945, 98 percent of cities reported housing shortages. Another factor was that a large number of individuals began to leave rural America. Many individuals relocated to the sunbelt states of California, Florida, Arizona, and Texas in the United States. Part of this was due to the invention of air conditioning, which made living in a hotter climate more appealing. Also. By meeting an acute need for affordable housing, suburbia fulfilled a traditional notion of personal freedom and familial security within commuting distance of cities. In the 1950s, suburbs grew six times faster than cities. By 1970, the suburbs had surpassed the cities in terms of population. Governments backed and even subsidized the suburban revolution. Local governments provided funding for the infrastructure that new subdivisions required, such as roads, water and sewer lines, and fire and police protection, and they favored homeowners over renters. City residents unsatisfied with urban housing shortages, limited public facilities, and mediocre inner-city schools quickly filled the new subdivisions constructed out of forests and farmland. All of this explained why the suburbs were so popular and flourished so quickly.
2. **What was the image of the family in this period, and what was the reality?** There was a fairly traditional view of a family during this time. There was the father, who went to work to support the family, the mother, who stayed at home to care for the children and the house, and the children themselves. Conformity in the workplace was replicated in the homes of the middle class. Life magazine published an article in 1956 about the "perfect" middle-class lady, a 32-year-old "beautiful and popular" white suburban housewife, mother of four, who had married at the age of sixteen. She was praised for being a fantastic wife, mother, volunteer, and "house manager" who prioritized marriage and childrearing above a profession outside the home. She sewed her own clothes, threw hundreds of dinner parties every year, performed in her church choir, and was absolutely dedicated to her husband. "She goes to club or charity meetings, delivers the kids to school, does the weekly grocery shopping, crafts ceramics, and hopes to study French," according to Life. The reality is that following WWII, women were obliged to return to their responsibilities as housewives and child care providers.
3. **Discuss the emergence of the civil rights movement in the 1950s.** Rosa Parks started the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which sparked the civil rights movement. Parks had had enough of being a victim of white bigotry. She answered with quiet confidence and gentle dignity when the bus driver informed her that "\*\*\*\*\* must move back" and that if she didn't, he would arrest her. Police then took her into custody. The following night, black community leaders gathered in the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church near the State Capitol, including the Women's Political Council, a group of middle-class black women, to arrange a long-planned boycott of the city's bus system, which was used by 75 percent of black people. Student and faculty volunteers from Alabama State University stayed up all night distributing 35,000 posters criticizing Rosa Parks' arrest and demanding support for the boycott. Martin Luther King Jr. began the civil rights movement with a forceful appeal for peaceful resistance based on his reading of the Gospels, Henry David Thoreau's writings, and Mahatma Gandhi's heroic example in India. He became a fearless and charismatic leader for the boycott movement, whose solitary voice became a trumpet for an entire town.
4. **What shaped American foreign policy in the 1950s?**

The determination of the Truman administration to "contain" communism was focused on the Soviet threat to Western Europe. During Eisenhower's presidency, America's focus moved from defending a divided Europe to combating Communist tyranny around the globe. In his inaugural address in 1953, Eisenhower stated, "Freedom is set against enslavement; lightness against darkness." For the Eisenhower administration, simply "containing" communism was no longer adequate; the official goal became a "policy of daring" aimed at "rolling back" communist around the world. Unfortunately, the confrontational rhetoric about "rolling back" communism led US policy to a global commitment to oppose all Soviet endeavors in regions where communists had geopolitical advantages, no matter how small. In private, Eisenhower recognized that world communism was not the monolithic force that the Soviets customarily controlled, but in public, he came out as harsh, partially to match the expectations of right-wing Republicans who needed his support. As a result, muddled diplomacy with bellicose tone and cautious action was common. The complexities of world affairs, as well as the realities of Soviet and Communist Chinese power, made Eisenhower's commitment to steer the world's fate unrealistic—and costly.

1. **Identify each of the following and their significance:**
   1. **Baby boom** - The Baby Boom was an increase in the population caused by 16 million servicemen returning home after fighting in World War II. Many young married couples trying to make up for lost time due to the Depression or WWII were keen to start a family. 76 million people were born in the United States between 1946 and 1964, reversing a century-long decline in the country's birth rate and generating a demographic change that is still felt today. The baby boom peaked in 1957, with 4.3 million births, or one every seven seconds, setting a new record. The Baby Boom was crucial because it shaped America into the country it is now.
   2. **Levittown’s** - Levittowns were planned communities with similar mass-produced dwellings created by William Levitt. The master-planned communities included schools, swimming pools, shopping malls, and sports fields. In Levittown, uniformity was promoted and even enforced. The homes were all sold for the same price, $6,900, with no down payment required for veterans, and they all had the same floor plan and accessories. There was a picture window in each room, as well as a living room, bathroom, kitchen, and two bedrooms. Every twenty-eight feet, trees were planted. Homeowners had to mow their lawns once a week, fences were forbidden, and laundry could not be hung outside on weekends. Levittown’s were significant because they were affordable housing for the average American family.
   3. ***Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*** - Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas – Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas was a court case in which it was ruled that segregated schools were not in fact, separate but equal. The court case was significant because it ended the segregation of public schools.
   4. **Rosa Parks** - Rosa Parks was a 42-year-old black seamstress and department store employee who was a long-time critic of segregation and secretary of the local NAACP chapter, who bravely refused to give up her city bus seat to a white man. Rosa Parks was significant because she inspired the Montgomery Bus Boycott.
   5. **Martin Luther King Jr.** - Martin Luther King Jr. who became a leader for the boycott movement and his singular voice became a trumpet for an entire community. King inspired the civil rights movement with a compelling call for nonviolent disobedience based on his reading of the Gospels, Henry David Thoreau's writings, and the heroic example of Indian pacifist leader Mahatma Gandhi. Martin Luther King Jr. was significant because he played an active role in the civil rights movement.
   6. **John Foster Dulles** - John Foster Dulles was the Secretary of State for Eisenhower and was behind his administration’s efforts to roll back socialism. Dulles was an arrogant, self-righteous, belligerent, and humorless leader who believed the United States was "born with a sense of destiny and mission" to rule the globe. Because he assisted Eisenhower with his presidential duties, John Foster Dulles was significant.
   7. **Massive retaliation** - Massive retaliation was a nuclear-weapons-based strategy. Dulles and Eisenhower recognized that the United States could not win a land combat against the Soviet Union or Communist China, both of whose red armies had millions of more troops than the United States. In addition, the administration couldn't afford to keep military spending at the levels required during the Korean War. As a result, Dulles and Eisenhower designed a new diplomatic/military strategy that allowed them to reduce military spending. They were as anxious to defeat socialism as they were to balance the budget. And the only way to balance the budget was to severely cut the Defense Department's budget. The massive counterattack was crucial because it revealed the US's current status.
   8. **Brinkmanship (use the cartoon on p. 1284)** - Brinkmanship was a policy that John Foster Dulles was in charge of. As depicted in the cartoon on p.1284, John Foster Dulles led America to the brink of war. The prospect of America being pushed to the brink of war alarmed even Winston Churchill. The importance of brinkmanship can be shown in the fact that it led America to the brink of war.
   9. **Servicemen’s Readjustment Act** - The Servicemen's Readjustment Act was passed by Congress in response to concerns that a significant reduction in military spending and an influx of veterans entering the workforce would harm the economy and result in widespread unemployment. The Act created the Veterans Administration, which included provisions such as one-year unemployment benefits for veterans, preference for veterans applying for government jobs, low-interest loans for veterans buying homes, access to government hospitals, and generous subsidies for on-the-job training and postsecondary education. The Act was noteworthy because it provided assistance to veterans who were having financial difficulties and allowed them to purchase homes.
2. **Describe the growth in the postwar American economy. What factors might account for this growth?** The postwar rise of the American economy was influenced by a number of causes. Automobiles, houses, and increased Cold War spending are just a few examples. Teenagers also contributed significantly to the American economy. Unemployment rates were also extraordinarily low, which aided the American economy's rise. Consumer demand for previously unavailable homes, vehicles, and household items propelled the economy, and unemployment was almost non-existent. Many teens grew up around this time as a result of the baby boom, allowing them to be carefree and spend their money on whatever they wanted because they were not experiencing an economic downturn and the government was assisting their parents in paying for their children's future, so the teens didn't have to worry about anything.