

**DAY 30.     *I hope that you all have your states down pretty well by now. Tour The States***

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= E2CNZIIIVig](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2CNZIIIVig)     If you don't have access to the interweb, try to remember the song from class and hum along... Try and name the states on Seterra <https://online.seterra.com/en>

**Challenge someone at home to see who can label the states fastest at 100% accuracy!**

**So**, the world was a different place after WWII. Much of the world was tore up! Much of Europe and Asia was broken. Roads and bridges were destroyed, cities were crushed and burned. More than 50 million people were killed and more wounded. The two countries that were left in good shape were “The Soviet Union”, USSR + Russia and the United States.     USSR had a type of government and economic system called Communism. In communism, the leaders are chosen by the government, that was headed by a dictator and everything, including people's homes, businesses, farms and other ways of making a living, were owned and controlled by the government.     This way of life was contrary to the democratic form of government that the U.S. has, where the people choose their leaders and our Capitalistic form of economic system where people can own and run their own businesses and property.     After the war, the U.S. and western allies didn't want to take any other countries. The Soviet Union wanted to keep the countries that they freed from the Nazi & Japan, take over Europe and spread communism. The “Cold War” was 50 years of the U.S. trying to stop the USSR from spreading Communism throughout the world.

**The Origins of the Cold War**

During World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union were Allies united in the common goal to defeat Germany. After the war, tensions arose between these two superpowers and lasted for more than 40 years. This period of history was called the **Cold War**. The Cold War was a state of tension that did not involve actual fighting and divided the world into two camps.

As the United States and Soviet Union emerged from World War II, their goals and ideologies, or beliefs differed greatly. The United States was a **democratic nation with a capitalist economic system**. The capitalist economic system rewarded individual achievement and competition. On the other hand, the Soviet Union was a **dictatorial and communist state** where the government owned all land, industries, and businesses and people had few rights or freedoms.

The two superpowers also had different goals after World War II. The Soviet Union claimed the countries and territories that it had liberated from Germany during the war. This area of **Soviet domination**, or control, included many of the nations of Eastern Europe including East Germany.

The United States was concerned by the spread of Soviet influence and communism in post-war Europe. As a result, America established a **policy of containment** to stop the spread of communism. Under the Truman Doctrine, the U.S. was prepared to send money, equipment, or military force to any country threatened by a

communist government. U.S. policy would stop at containment. It would not attempt to liberate, or free countries under communist control.

Fueled by European fears of Soviet aggression, the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO**, was formed in 1949. The United States and eleven Western European countries formed the peacetime alliance to protect member nations from communist aggression. These twelve countries agreed to come to the aid of any member nation that was attacked.

The Soviet Union responded to America's foreign policy of containment by testing its first nuclear weapon in 1949. That event started an "arms race" between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Americans became extremely concerned about a possible nuclear war. Many feared that communists might even gain access to the U.S. Government. The Soviet Union also formed the **Warsaw Pact** in 1955. Most of the [communist states](#) of Central and Eastern Europe signed and pledged to defend each other if one or more members were attacked.

*After WWII Germany was divided into two, with the USSR taking the eastern half and the US, France and Great Britain taking the western half. They did the same to Berlin, the capital city of Germany, which was in the Communist side (USSR) of the divided Germany.. Half (eastern) of the city was controlled by USSR and the other half (western) controlled by U.S., France and Great Britain. One road connected the free half (non-communist, to the free half of Germany.*

*Russia/USSR did not treat the Germans well. They hated them for what they did under Hitler. The German people who lived in the eastern half wanted freedom, and often tried to go to the western half of the country or in Berlin, the western side of Berlin. This embarrassed the communists, so they sealed the country off and built a large wall completely around the city of Berlin. That didn't stop people from wanting freedom; they dug tunnels, used ladders, tried to crash through with trucks and even tried long zip lines to get to West Berlin. The Communists then tore down close buildings, set up blockades, land mines and guard towers with machineguns and snipers to stop them.*

*The communists even closed the single road and wouldn't let food and supplies get to the people of West Berlin. No one wanted to start World War III. To support democracy (West Berlin – the "free side.") the U.S. and allies flew cargo planes to West Berlin to supply them with needed food and supplies. They kept this up for longer than a year. It was known as **The Berlin Airlift:***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVAaVEoxqmg>

*One pilot of these airlift planes did something special for city's children:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVAaVEoxqmg>

**The Berlin Wall became a symbol of Communism vs. Democracy and a symbol of the Cold War.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXzODWITWgk>

**Day 31** *The U.S. was dedicated to stopping the spread of Communism! So when USSR tried to take all of Germany, we stepped in. When they tried to spread Communism and take all of Korea, we stepped in. And in Cuba, Vietnam and anywhere else.* Cold War in 9 Minutes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVqziNV7dGY>

**Major Conflicts in the Post-World War II Era** Since World War II, the United States had been directly involved in a number of conflicts. Many of them were the result of divisions created by the **Cold War**. The Cold War didn't involve actual fighting. It was a state of tension between the United States and the Soviet Union that forced the rest of the world to take sides.

During World War II, the **country of Korea** was invaded and occupied by Japan. At the close of the war it was divided into two sections like Germany. **North Korea** formed a communist government and was supported by the Soviet Union and China. **South Korea** formed a republic and was supported by the United States.

In 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea. With China's help, they hoped to create a communist government in South Korea. President Truman and the United Nations sent troops to stop the North Korean aggression in what was called the **Korean War**.

The conflict ended three years later in a **stalemate**. With approximately 33,000 U.S. soldiers killed and over 100,000 injured, neither side could take any further worthwhile action. The high number of American casualties made it a very unpopular war and President Truman decided not to run for re-election. Dwight D. Eisenhower became the next president of the United States. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxaegqvl4aE>

Less than 10 years later, the U.S. became involved in another dispute called the **Cuban Missile Crisis**. In 1962 the Soviet Union shipped nuclear missiles to Cuba and built launching sites aimed at the United States. With the communist island country of Cuba only 90 miles south of the tip of Florida, President John F. Kennedy was very concerned. He was afraid that Cuba might use the missiles to attack the United States.

President Kennedy decided to order a **blockade**. On national TV, he announced that the U.S. Navy would set up a blockade around Cuba to stop all Soviet ships carrying missile site materials from reaching the island. President Kennedy also demanded that the missile sites be dismantled. The nations of the world held their breath and hoped that they would not be pulled into a third world war. After four long days, the Soviets agreed to remove the missiles if the U.S. ended the blockade, removed U.S. missiles in Turkey, and promised not to invade Cuba.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwWW3sbk4EU>

Another conflict started during Kennedy's presidency. This time it was in **Vietnam**. Formerly a French colony, Vietnam had been divided into two parts after World War II. Communists controlled North Vietnam. South Vietnam was a republic. In the late 1950s, North Vietnam and communists from South Vietnam, called the Viet Cong, tried to take over the South Vietnamese government. Mr. Betts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uE6EJuFHizc>

U.S. political leaders were afraid that if South Vietnam fell to communism, the rest of Southeast Asia would eventually follow and become communist. This was called the **Domino Theory**:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_NCNem1xFXU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_NCNem1xFXU)

. As a result, the United States intervened to **stop the spread of communism into South Vietnam**. At first, during the 1950s, the U.S. sent military advisors to assist the South Vietnamese army. Finally, in the early to mid-1960s, the U.S. sent combat troops to South Vietnam. The **Vietnam War** had begun.

The fighting in Vietnam was very different from previous wars. The U.S. had experience fighting conventional wars with tanks, air strikes, and big battles. It was not prepared to fight a guerrilla war in dense jungle terrain. To make matters worse, U.S. soldiers had trouble identifying the enemy. South Vietnamese, who were sympathetic to the communists, would appear to be civilians, yet attack U.S. troops.

As the Vietnam War continued, people in the United States began to question why U.S. troops were there. This rising opposition caused some Americans to protest the war. Protests took the form of marches, sit-ins, and the burning of draft cards. America became divided over whether the United States should continue to be involved militarily in Vietnam.

The Vietnam War continued through the presidencies of Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon. The U.S. involvement in this conflict ended in January of 1973, when President Nixon agreed to a **cease-fire** and withdrew U.S. troops. Without the support of the United States, the government of South Vietnam was forced to surrender to the forces of North Vietnam in April of 1975.

Good review: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pm5UFp5ENZ8>

### **The Collapse of Communism in Europe**

For more than four decades, the tensions of the **Cold War** influenced the world. Everything from education to medicine to sporting events seemed to be driven by the conflicts between the Free World and the Communists. However, events began to change in the 1980s.

In 1985 Mikhail Gorbachev became the new leader of the Soviet Union. He met with President Ronald Reagan to discuss better relations between the two nations. A "thaw" in the Cold War had begun. Treaties were signed limiting nuclear missiles, and by the early 1990s, **the Soviet Union had begun to break apart into independent countries**. In addition, a number of Soviet-dominated governments in Eastern Europe began to be replaced by more democratic governments.

In 1989 the communist government of East Germany removed their guards from the wall that had separated the citizens of East and West Germany since 1945. Within weeks **the German people tore down the Berlin Wall**, and in 1990 they reunited their country.

## The Cold War

Match each event to its description by writing the letter of the description in the blank before the word.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. _____ Korean War                          | 4. _____ Vietnam War                    |
| 2. _____ Soviet domination of Eastern Europe | 5. _____ collapse of communism          |
| 3. _____ Cuban Missile Crisis                | 6. _____ destruction of the Wall Berlin |

- this symbolic act happened after the split up of the Soviet Union and the end of its influence on East Germany's communist government; the East German government collapsed and the country of Germany was reunified
- United States intervened to stop the spread of communism into South Vietnam; conflict ended in a cease-fire agreement in which U.S. troops withdrew
- South Korea and the United States resisted Chinese and North Korean aggression; conflict ended in a stalemate.
- Soviet Union liberated the countries of Eastern Europe from the Nazis and then placed them under the control of communist governments the Soviets dominated
- the Soviet Union placed missiles in Cuba and the U.S. responded with a blockade of Cuba; the Soviets removed the missiles in response to the blockade
- the breakup of the Soviet Union into independent countries after its communist government was overthrown by the Russian people

**Self-Check Answer Key: 1. C 2. D 3. E 4. B 5 6. A**

## Day 32

**Changing Patterns in American Society after WWII** *After WWII Millions of Americans returned home. This generation of Americans had grown up suffering through the Great Depression then helped win WWII. They wanted to have stability and prosperity and enjoy their lives. The economy was booming – "Booming" means to grow rapidly.*

At the end of World War II, changing patterns in American life began to affect the way Americans lived and worked. There were many **factors, policies, and programs that transformed, or changed, American life**. Good Overview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oa2UgA-2FhE>

One factor that led to this change was a **strong economy**. Boosted by a billion dollar tax cut and war bond savings, Americans had plenty of money to spend after World War II. As a result of this spending, the production and demand for consumer goods increased dramatically. With increased production, factories needed workers. The result: plenty of jobs for returning servicemen.

There was also a **greater investment in education** after World War II. In 1944, Congress passed the G.I. Bill of Rights. The G.I. Bill gave educational, housing, and employment benefits to veterans. In particular it provided \$13 billion to be used for college tuition, vocational training programs, and the opening of new businesses. Great Review: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4PhwkuRD-Es&t=26s>

Fourteen years later the **National Defense Education Act, or NDEA**, was passed. The National Defense Education Act **provided aid to education in the United States at all levels, public and private**. Much of the focus on education during the Cold War era was done in an effort to make sure the United States could compete with the communist countries in the areas of science, math, and technology. Funds were also directed to educate children living in poverty and those with physical and learning disabilities. Another factor that changed American society was the **Baby Boom** generation. This factor led to changing **demographics**. Demographics have to do with the average age, income, and educational levels of a population. As young soldiers returned from the war, many of them felt they needed to make up for lost time. People married, hurried off to college, and started families. During the 1950s the population of the United States grew by 30 million people. Those persons born between 1946 and 1960 became known as the **baby boomers**.

The **interstate highway system** was another factor that transformed, or changed the lives of Americans. Authorized by the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 and supported by President Eisenhower, this system of highways served all major U.S. cities and sparked the growth of suburban living after the war. People began to move out of cities and into the suburbs. After World War II, the demand for suburban housing was so high that planned suburban housing developments were built in quickly and efficiently.

The **evolving role of women** was also a factor that changed American society. Although many women left their wartime jobs and returned to their homes, many others remained on the job after the war. **Eleanor Roosevelt** played an important part in expanding the rights of American women. As first lady, she worked with women's groups around the nation, encouraged their participation in American politics, and championed the rights of working women, defended a fair wage for women workers, and supported their inclusion in labor

unions. In addition, she also promoted the employment of women in the defense industries, the military, and supported legislation to establish on-site day care for defense workers.

Not only was Eleanor Roosevelt an advocate, or supporter of women's right, she was deeply concerned about human rights and freedoms for everyone around the world. She worked hard to improve the lives of children, unemployed workers, poor people, and minority groups, especially African Americans who were struggling for equal rights. During the world wars, African Americans had served in the armed forces. Most were assigned to service and supply units but some served in segregated fighting units. Eleanor Roosevelt recognized that African Americans had growing aspirations for equal opportunities, also.

On July 26, 1948, in an effort to desegregate the armed forces, **President Harry S. Truman** issued an order establishing equality of treatment and opportunity in the Armed Services for people of all races. This was known as Executive Order 9981. For the next 20 years, Civil Rights legislation led to increased educational, economic, and political opportunities for minorities and women.

**Match the following Changes in the American Society terms to their correct description.**

- |                        |                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. _____ productivity  | 6. _____ G.I. Bill of Rights      |
| 2. _____ the Baby Boom | 7. _____ veterans                 |
| 3. _____ demographics  | 8. _____ desegregation            |
| 4. _____ interstate    | 9. _____ civil rights legislation |
| 5. _____ aspirations   | 10. _____ minorities              |

- a. people who at one time served the country by being in the military
- b. between states; having to do with more than one state
- c. law that gave educational, housing, and employment benefits to World War II veterans
- d. to put an end to the forced separation of ethnic or racial groups
- e. the degree to which resources are being used efficiently to produce goods and services
- f. the science of the vital statistics of populations, such as births, deaths, and marriages
- g. laws ensuring the rights that all citizens are supposed to have such as guarantees against abuse of government power and discriminatory acts
- h. hopes
- i. racial, religious, national, or political groups smaller than and differing from the larger controlling group of which it is a part
- j. the name given to the generation born between 1946 and 1961, when the U.S. birthrate sharply increased following World War II

- 1-E
- 2-J
- 3-F
- 4-B
- 5-H
- 6-C
- 7-A
- 8-D
- 9-G
- 10-I

**Day 33** Here we look at how America changed from making most of everything we need here in the U.S. to trading across the world.

### **This is where we look at how THE Impact of Globalization and International Trade on American Life**

Since the end of World War II to the present, the world continues to see a huge increase in **interdependence** and **globalization**. *Interdependence* means that individual nations are dependent upon other nations to help them provide for their citizens. This help could be in the form of capital or goods. Globalization is the linking of nations through **trade, information, technologies, and communication**.

**International trade** means more foreign products are available for consumers and companies as the exchange of goods and capital (*money*) move between or within countries of the world. For instance, international trade in manufactured goods increased more than 100 times in the fifty years from 1955 to 2005! That was the result of globalization and interdependence! (*The world traded more goods & \$*)

**The flow of information** across borders connects people, business, and cultures, and it can even reach the most geographically remote locations. This technological change is due to the introduction of fiber optic communications, satellites, and increased availability of telephone and the Internet.

**Technology and communication**, such as computers, the Internet, satellites, and cell phones, have significantly increased globalization and *interdependence* (*Companies/countries depending upon other companies/countries*). People in one nation can buy goods or experience the culture of another nation just by sitting in front of their computer or by dialing a number.

**Globalization** since World War II has had an impact on life in America. Some of these effects have benefited Americans. For instance, communication technologies such as travel, telecommunications, and the Internet, have dramatically improved the lives of many Americans. These are technologies and services that are important to the way Americans do business. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtmvksvSvtc>

However, globalization has also benefited other countries or nations through the **outsourcing of jobs**. This means, for instance, American companies can transfer many manufacturing jobs to foreign countries where it is cheaper to do business. Many foreign companies or individuals will accept lower wages due to a lower standard of living in their country.

It is globalization and interdependence that make it possible for a computer company in America to have a call center in India to deal with customers in America, or for a sportswear manufacturer to design their merchandise in the United States, manufacture their goods in Asia, and sell their products across the globe.



## Day 34 USII.9a But First, A Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeWBq4T5qy0>

### **The Civil Rights Movement**

The Civil War put an end to slavery but the problems of **African Americans** continued. White citizens were concerned by the new freedoms given to African Americans during Reconstruction. As a result, the freedoms and rights promised to African Americans were slowly taken away. Once again, African Americans began to experience **discrimination** (the unfair treatment of people based on their race, religion or culture).

By the late 1800s and early 1900s, this discrimination took the form of Jim Crow laws and **segregation** (the separation of people, usually based on race or religion). Jim Crow laws were passed by southern legislatures and legalized racial segregation practices in many communities and states. Separate schools, educational resources, and public facilities such as restrooms, drinking fountains, and theaters were established to **socially isolate the races**.

In 1896, Jim Crow laws were upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States. The court decided in ***Plessy v. Ferguson*** that states could legally segregate public facilities as long as the facilities were kept “**separate but equal**.” This resulted in the legalization of segregation – the separation of African Americans and whites.

Tired of decades of discrimination and segregation, African Americans began to call for equality in the 1950s. In 1954, a landmark ruling by the Supreme Court ushered in a time of change and struggle known as the **Civil Rights Movement**. In the case of ***Brown v. Board of Education***, the court handed down a unanimous decision stating that the segregation of public schools by the state was a violation of the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment and therefore unconstitutional. This decision ended the practice of “separate but equal” and led to the **desegregation of public schools. Mr. Betts**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sJeMtyY9co>

The impact of this decision was felt across the country and led to another historic event. In December of 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, an African American woman by the name of **Rosa Parks** broke the law by refusing to give up her bus seat to a white man. Her arrest angered the African American community, which decided to boycott the public transportation system.

This damaging boycott, known as the **Montgomery bus boycott**, continued for 13 months under the leadership of a young Montgomery minister, **Martin Luther King, Jr.** Within months, the Supreme Court ruled that segregation on public transportation was unconstitutional.

## **Day 35**      The **Civil Rights Movement**

King believed that **passive, or nonviolent, resistance** against segregated facilities was the most effective way to change the system. King, and those who agreed with his nonviolent methods, led organized protests, sit-ins, and marches to protest segregation. Bio: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ank52Zi\\_S0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ank52Zi_S0)

One such march occurred in Washington D.C. in 1963. The marchers, numbering 250,000, gathered in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial to show their support for a new civil rights law that was before Congress. During this march, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered a **speech** that would be a landmark for civil rights in the United States. It would become known by the phrase that is repeated nine times: **"I have a dream..."**

In addition to protests, sit-ins, and marches, African American and white activists joined together to ride public interstate transportation in the early 1960s. These **Freedom Riders** rode together into the deep South to test local segregation laws. Although many were met with violence, the Freedom Riders succeeded in catching the attention of a national audience. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xbbcjn4d1cE>

The **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)** expanded during the second half of the twentieth century. Following World War II, membership in the organization grew from 50,000 to 400,000. Today it has over 2000 local chapters across the country, hundreds of college and youth chapters, and over 500,000 members. Formed in 1909, it is the *oldest civil rights organization* in the United States. During the 1950s and 1960s it pressed for desegregation of public facilities and transportation and played an important role in organizing the Montgomery bus boycott and the march on Washington in 1963.

In 1963 President John F. Kennedy proposed a civil rights bill that ended discrimination and segregation in the United States. After his assassination later that year, Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson took the oath of office to become the 36<sup>th</sup> president of the United States. In 1964 he took up Kennedy's efforts and pushed the civil rights bill through Congress. The resulting **Civil Rights Act of 1964** prohibited discrimination in public facilities, employment, and government.

The next year the **Voting Rights Act of 1965** was passed. It prohibited discrimination in voting practices. Some of these practices included the use of poll taxes and literacy tests, which were used to prevent African Americans from voting. As a result of this legislation, the NAACP registered over 80,000 new voters in the South.

## Day 36

### The Changing Role of Women

As the Civil Rights Movement began to gain equality for African Americans, women all across the country began to take action to gain **equality** for themselves.

Although more and more women were working outside the home in the second half of the twentieth century, they still had not achieved full economic equality with men. Many **workplace disadvantages** still existed. Discrimination in hiring practices was common. Businesses wrote separate help wanted ads for men and women and many jobs were not open to women. When women were hired, they were often paid a lower wage than men holding the same position.

Women became more and more resentful of the barriers, or obstacles, facing them and began to take action to gain equality. In 1966, the **National Organization for Women (NOW)** was created to end gender discrimination in employment. As the largest women's rights group in the country, it organized demonstrations, supported the election of women to public office, and fought court battles for equal pay for equal work. Today it has more than 250,000 members.

In the area of education, federal legislation was enacted to force colleges to give women **equal athletic opportunities**. The Equal Opportunity in Education Act, formerly known as Title IX, stated that discrimination on the basis of gender is illegal in educational institutions receiving federal funding. It called for an increase in the number of college athletic scholarships given to women and was instrumental in the development of women's sports in the United States. Good Title 9 Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KymR6N1HT88>

The **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)** was also instrumental in advancing women's causes. Its purpose was to guarantee equal rights under the law for all Americans regardless of gender. Although it was first proposed in 1923 and passed by Congress in 1972, it was never ratified (or approved). In spite of this failure, the focus on equal opportunity employment gave women in business and public service more options and opportunities for advancement. Today, employers must treat men and women equally in the workplace. As a result, women are lawyers, construction workers, doctors, firefighters, scientists, astronauts, and even Supreme Court Justices.

*Recently Virginia's State Government passed a bill to approve the ERA, which gave the Amendment enough states for it to be ratified. It was sent to Congress and it is still being reviewed.*

## Day 37

In these pandemic times you may get a bit stressed out, so this song is for you: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moSFlvxnbGk>

### **Development of New Technologies and Their Impact on American Life**

#### **Industries Benefiting From New Technologies**

After World War II, Americans began to turn their energies from defense industry (*Military*) production to the development of **peacetime technologies**. Many industries benefited from these new technologies in communication, entertainment and business. These industries had an impact on American Life.

*A lot of things developed and improved to help win WWII were adapted to regular life, like Radar to track enemy airplanes was used to control the huge amount of commercial flights. Jets were developed instead of airplanes. Radar also led to microwave cooking. Computers developed to break enemy secret codes were developed into the computers we use today.*

One of the first industries to benefit from new technologies during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the **airline industry**. Although the first airlines began to appear in the 1920s, the industry really expanded after World War II. This was due in large part to advances in jet engines made during the war. In addition to higher speeds, better performance, and the development of radar, jet powered aircraft made it possible to transport larger numbers of passengers in shorter times.

The **automobile industry** and **interstate highway system** also benefited from new technologies. After World War II, factories switched to peacetime production, resulting in plenty of jobs and plenty of money. As hundreds of thousands of men returned from the war, they took jobs, got married, and bought cars. This new kind of mobility resulted in many people moving to the suburbs. Owning a car meant that Americans could live farther away from their jobs. It also meant they could come and go as they pleased. As a result, a system of interstate highways was needed. This system of highways served all major U.S. cities. Passenger car production took off.

The **entertainment and news media industry** also benefited from new technologies during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Before World War II, the radio dominated the entertainment and news media scene. By the 1930s over 12 million American families were entertained and informed by their radio set. After World War II, however, a new form of communication took the lead: television. Five years after the end of the war, approximately 3 million Americans owned a TV. Ten years later this number jumped to 55 million. Americans could now watch political races; comedy shows, sporting events, news programs, and even wars from the comfort of their living rooms.

The **computer industry** also benefited from new technologies. During World War II, the military needed tracking and aiming devices for anti-aircraft guns as well as a means of breaking Japanese and German codes quickly. These breakthrough technologies resulted in the development of the modern computer. In 1975 the personal computer became available. By 1983, there were approximately 2 million computers in American homes and businesses. Today, four out of five Americans own a computer.

Day 38

## **Development of New Technologies and Their Impact on American Life** (cont'd)

### **Industries Benefiting From New Technologies**

As the computer industry expanded, so did the technology. In 1969 a new development, called the **Internet**, allowed computers at different locations to communicate and transmit data. The Internet brought with it a communications revolution and gave birth to the World Wide Web. Suddenly people and businesses from around the globe were instantly connected.

Advancements in rocket technology after World War II led to **space explorations** in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. With the development of long-range missiles during World War II and intercontinental ballistic missiles during the Cold War, machines were soon developed that could break out of Earth's gravitational pull and travel into the solar system and beyond. 1957 marked the beginning of the Space Age with the launch of the Russian satellite Sputnik 1. The following year, the U.S. launched four satellites of its own as the Space Race got underway. For the next 50 years, hundreds of satellites filled the sky, 12 men walked on the Moon, 100 human space flights were completed with over 400 total crew members, automated machines landed on planets in our solar system, and an international space station orbited 250 miles above the Earth.

With the launching of Sputnik in 1957, **satellite systems and telecommunication industries** have emerged and flourished. Although satellites serve many purposes such as navigation, weather, defense, and scientific research, communications satellites have had an incredible impact on the life of the average American. Today, Americans from all walks of life can thank hundreds of communication satellites for providing voice, data, and visual communications for their pagers, cell phones, and televisions each day. The satellite communications industry is big business. It generates billions of dollars in sales of products and services each year.

### **Impact of New Technologies on American Life**

These **new technologies have impacted American life** in significant ways. With the growing airline and automobile industries, **more and more Americans travel at home and overseas for business and pleasure**. They also found that they could communicate with people all over the world thanks to computers, the Internet, and satellite technology. **Communication has become cheaper and more convenient than ever before**. This growth in telecommunications also gives Americans more access to news and information. National television, radio programming, internet services and computer games **have decreased regional differences in the country** by giving Americans nationwide access to entertainment and information. In addition, **the availability of heating and air-conditioning** have made the lives of Americans more comfortable and convenient and has encouraged population growth in certain parts of the country.

Its Amazing how tech has changed the U.S. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXz4SQ\\_lfNM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXz4SQ_lfNM)

*Deeper Thinking: With the virus impacting the world in many ways, what types of technology will be the most important? What new tech. will be needed or adapted to help in our situation?*

## Day 39

### **Key and International Issues during the 20<sup>th</sup> & early 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

America is the world's only superpower. Because of America's size and importance internationally, its **foreign policy, immigration policies, energy policies** and **environmental policies** affect not only Americans but people from many other countries as well.

#### **Foreign Policy** (*How our country interacts with other countries*)

The world has seen an increase in **terrorist activities** around the world in places such as India, Spain, Pakistan, and the Philippines, as well in the United States and other countries. American **foreign policy decisions** are made by government in an attempt to prevent future attacks or to limit their effects on the population.

For most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and now into the 21<sup>st</sup>, **foreign policy** has played a part in the **conflicts in the Middle East**. Foreign policy decisions have a direct impact on the war in Iraq and Afghanistan; the conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis; convincing Iran not to build nuclear weapons; getting countries to improve human rights including the rights of women. We can read the newspaper or listen to the news to find many other examples of nations in conflict around the globe and how foreign policy plays a very important part.

Another aspect of foreign policy involves **changing the relationships** between nations. Those relationships might promote American values of democracy, human rights, and free trade, or changing the relationship might simply mean to improve the way nations interact with each other.

#### **Immigration**

America's **immigration policies** are very difficult but they are so important to the well-being of the nation. The *patterns of immigration* have changed dramatically over the past 60 years. We now see many more Hispanic Americans and Asian Americans immigrating to America. There are far fewer European immigrants today than there were before World War II.

One very real challenge our nation faces is the *number of people* who would like to **immigrate to the United States** in order to have a better life. As the United States has laws that govern the number of immigrants allowed into the country each year, many are denied access to the United States. As a result, many immigrants may resort to entering the United States illegally.

**Global Environment** Global warming, or climate change, is an issue of concern for many people today. Global warming will have a large impact on the global environment. The government passes laws and policies in order to protect the environment for future generations. Some policies are crafted to address possible effects to the environment due to climate change. For instance, one policy is designed to limit the amount of contaminants, such as carbon dioxide, that are being released into the atmosphere from industrial

plants. Conservation of water and other natural resources is another critical concern for the American government. Laws and policies are required to preserve these resources for future generations.

**World Health Issues** *It is strange that we should end on this topic*

Globalization has also required nations to recognize the importance of **world health issues** and their possible effect on populations. Some of the major diseases or **global pandemics** include AIDS, malaria, H1N1 (swine flu), H5N1 (avian flu), and tuberculosis. –*And Now Covid-19.* Due to a shared concern, many countries and health organizations are working together and sharing information on world health issues.

Have a good, safe summer break!