

## STUDY GUIDE – CONTAINMENT, COLD WAR, AND CONSUMERISM: THE TRUMAN-EISENHOWER ERA

### THE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- To what extent did the policies of the U.S. government successfully address the communist threat, both foreign and domestic?
- Was McCarthyism primarily a product of demagoguery or a real domestic communist threat?
- To what extent was the 1950s an age of conformity in regard to politics, society, and culture?

### IN A NUTSHELL:

- The Cold War began after World War II with a disagreement between the US and the USSR over self-determination in Eastern Europe.
- The American struggle against communism spread to Asia after Communist forces took over China and after N. Korea invaded S. Korea.
- The struggle against communism overseas led some Americans to believe there were communists in the US government threatening the security of the US.
- Although President Eisenhower continued President Truman's policy of containment of communism, his presidency also saw an expansion of the arms race, the beginning of covert operations by the CIA, and the beginning of the space race.
- Heavy consumer spending and increased productivity gave Americans the highest standard of living the world had ever known. However, some groups did not share in the prosperity, and social critics attacked American materialism and conformity.

## KEY TERMS

### EVENTS

Serviceman's Readjustment Act (GI Bill), 1944  
FDR died, April, 1945  
United Nations established, 1945  
Churchill's Iron Curtain speech, 1946  
Truman Doctrine, 1947  
Marshall Plan, 1947  
Taft-Hartley Act, 1947  
Berlin airlift, 1948  
Creation of Israel, 1948  
Alger Hiss case, 1948  
NATO created, 1949  
Soviet Union tested 1<sup>st</sup> atomic bomb, 1949  
Communists gained control of China, 1949  
Joseph McCarthy accused the State Department of employing communists, 1950  
McCarran Security Act passed over Truman's veto, 1950  
Korean War, 1950-1953  
22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment passed, 1951  
US tested the 1<sup>st</sup> H-bomb, 1952  
Julius & Ethel Rosenberg executed, 1953  
Army-McCarthy hearings  
Joseph McCarthy censured, 1954  
Eisenhower Doctrine, 1957  
Sputnik launched by the Soviet Union, 1957  
U-2 shot down over the Soviet Union, 1960  
Eisenhower's Farewell Address

### PEOPLE

Harry Truman  
Dwight D. Eisenhower  
George Kennan (Mr. X)  
George C. Marshall  
Thomas Dewey  
Strom Thurmond  
Douglas MacArthur  
Chiang Kai-shek  
Mao Tse-tung  
Whittaker Chambers  
Joseph McCarthy  
Julius and Ethel Rosenberg  
Elvis Presley  
John Foster Dulles  
Nikita Khrushchev  
Francis Gary Powers  
Richard Nixon

### OTHER TERMS

baby boom  
Cold War  
iron curtain  
U.N. General Assembly  
U.N. Security Council  
policy of containment  
Dixiecrats  
Fair Deal  
NSC-68  
HUAC  
Hollywood Ten  
blacklist  
McCarthyism  
Sunbelt  
Levittown  
"white flight"  
beatniks  
rock'n'roll  
"dynamic conservatism"  
brinkmanship  
massive retaliation  
peaceful coexistence  
military-industrial complex