
History 1302
U.S. From 1877

Unit 4 Lecture 3

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**Conflict and Deadlock:
The Eisenhower Years**

Eisenhower Republicanism:

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- **President Above Party:**
 - Business with a conscience:
 - Cab officers went to big corp. execs
 - Modest, gradualist reform based on consensus and law
 - Worked well with Democrats (LBJ)
 - International peace-keeping and Cold War containment
 - Respect for Keynesian Welfare state of New Deal
 - Limit role of government and encourage private enterprise
 - Reduce Gov't and military spending
 - Healthy, strong maintainable economy was first priority

Eisenhower Accomplishments:

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 - Edward R Morrow
 - 1954 Republicans back “In God We Trust” and “Under God” inclusions
 - Senate condemned him 1954
- Korea:
 - War and Negotiations stalemate on 38th Parallel
 - Eisenhower increases pressure
 - N. Korea bombing
 - Tells China that he’d use Nuclear weapons
 - Stalin’s death unsettles communist world
 - July 26, 1953 war concludes
- Federal Highway Act of 1956:
 - Massive Gov’t works program
 - Interstate highway under guise as “defense”

Eisenhower’s foreign policy:

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 - Covert Operations – CIA
 - Communism will wither if contained
 - Hungary 1956 showed restraint
 - Support of Europe first
 - Continuation of Marshall Plan
 - Supported France in Viet Nam
 - Retracted support of Ho Chi Minh
 - Money not men after 1954 – Dien Bien Phu / France’s failure
 - Ignored the Geneva Accords of 1954
 - Established Ngo Dinh Diem – with American Advisors 1957
 - Middle East
 - 1948 independence of Israel
 - 1953 CIA coup for Shah of Iran
 - 1956 – Aswan Dam /Suez crisis
 - Restrained Israel/UK/France

Eisenhower's foreign policy: (p2)

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 - US owned 80% of utilities, 50% of sugar
 - 1960 – Bay of Pigs incursion
- Khrushchev – 1959 visit / 1960 Vienna
 - Stalin's death in 1952 diminishes risk
 - Francis Gary Powers – U2 spying / lying
- The other America: Domestic Policy
 - 20% of US was at or below poverty level
 - 50% of elderly were below poverty
 - Top 20% took 43% / Low 20% 4%
 - Rural / Southern / People of color
 - Inner Cities – without work, skills or hope
- Civil Rights:
 - Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka – 1954 desegregation of schools – overturned separate but equal
 - Brown II – 1955 – all due speed

Civil Rights Movement:

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- Federal Intervention:
 - Slow due to Southern political strength
 - 1957 Central High School – Little Rock
 - Forbus refused to enforce Federal Court Order
 - Eisenhower nationalized the National Guard to enforce ruling
- Montgomery Alabama Public Bus System
 - Rosa Parks 1955 / African-American Boycott
 - Supreme Court 1956 – Public Transportation segregation illegal
 - Non-Violence through Martin Luther King Jr. – SCLC / NAACP
- Civil Rights Act of 1957:
 - Fed Commission to prevent interference with Right to Vote

Civil Rights Movement: (p2)

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 - Voted Democrat
 - Television / Bad Local PR and economics
 - Cold War disgrace
 - Cracks in the Wall:
 - 1954 US was an Oil importing nation
 - Russian space success shook America's faith in itself
 - Cities were highly segregated and losing Middle Class residents / businesses
- Eisenhower's final words – warning of the
“unwarranted influence of the Military-
Industrial Complex”