Cold War- the state of hostility, without direct military conflict, that developed between the US and the USSR.
Iron Curtain- term created by Winston Churchill to describe the divide between western European democracies, and eastern European communists
Winston Churchill- British Prime Minister during WWII, and the early Cold War
Satellite Nations- nations in eastern Europe under the influence of the USSR
Purges- USSR elimination of people who opposed communism or ideas that were in conflict with Soviet leadership
Containment- the policy used by the US to stop the growth of communism
George Kenan- American diplomat to the USSR who came up with the policy of containment
Truman Doctrine- Truman’s response to Soviet aggression and expansion- US will aid democratic nations who were opposing internal or external forces
Marshall Plan- American aid to rebuild Europe- to avoid another great depression and to stop the spread of communism- those who took the aid had to trade with the other nations who took aid
Berlin Airlift- US planes bringing in supplies to West Berlin who was cut off from the West by the Soviets
National Security Act- passed in 1947 in response to the Cold War restructured the Cabinet, creating the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff- Military advisors to the president, and the Air Force
CIA- Central Intelligence Agency-a US agency created to gather secret information about foreign governments
NATO- North Atlantic Treaty Organization- a military alliance created after WWII in response to the Cold War, consisting mainly of the US and western European democracies
Warsaw Pact - created by the Soviets in response to NATO-military alliance between USSR and its satellite nations
Chiang Kai-shek - corrupt Nationalist leader of China supported by the US because he opposed communism
Mao Zedong- leader of the communist party in China that took control after their civil war
Korean ‘war’- a military conflict between communist North Korea and democratic South Korea, fought under the direction of the United Nations- goal push communists out of South Korea
38th Parallel- dividing line between North and South Korea
Police Action- what the military conflict in Korea was termed
Douglas MacArthur- Held of United Nations military forces in Korea
Inchon- site of a large battle
Harry Truman- President after FDR’s death and then elected in 1948
Loyalty Board- Truman created Loyalty Boards to investigate government employees and fire them if they were found to be ‘disloyal’
HUAC- House Un-American Activities Committee, led by Senator Richard Nixon, investigated accused communists starting in Hollywood
Hollywood Ten- 10 men who worked in the film industry who were found guilty by the HUAC
Blacklisting- Hollywood executives named all people thought to be communists on a list and they weren’t able to get jobs
Alger Hiss- an accused spy for the soviet Union who was brought in front of the HUAC and they convicted him of perjury
Rosenbergs- Ethel and Julius, Jewish members of the American Communist Party convicted of spying and executed, this trial was more about prejudice, stereotypes, and the Red Scare
Joseph McCarthy- Senator from WI who needed an issue to spur his reelection campaign, so he began to accuse people of being communists, his actions were compared to the Salem Witch Trials of the 1600s
GI Bill- Servicemen’s Readjustment Act, gave benefits to veterans
suburbia - the movement of people out of the central cities, into newly built areas outside the city
Levittowns- suburbs built by the Levitt brothers after WWII
Taft-Hartley Act- this bill overturned many of the rights union members won during the New Deal- a sign of conservativism
Dixiecrats- Southern Democrats who broke away from the national Democratic party because Truman was supporting civil rights
Strom Thurmond- Gov of SC who became the presidential candidate for the Dixiecrats in 1948
Fair Deal- Truman’s domestic policy- similar to the New Deal
“I Like Ike”- Eisenhower’s campaign slogan in the 1952 presidential election
Richard Nixon- Eisenhower’s vice president- known as a strong anti-communist
“Checkers Speech” - speech made on TV by Richard Nixon apologizing for some campaign funding mistakes he made. To win the Americans sympathy he talks about his dog Checkers in the speech. Sort of a foreshadowing of campaign issues to come.
Middle Road Policies- refers to Eisenhower’s domestic policy choices- conservative with money, liberal with civil rights- in reality Eisenhower really did the opposite
H-Bomb- the next generation of weapons after the atomic bomb
Brinkmanship- the competition in weapons capability between the US and USSR- pushing the world to the brink of nuclear way and the end of the world
John Foster Dulles- Secretary of State for Eisenhower, willing to use nuclear weapons to stop communism
Duck and Cover- school children would duck under their desks and cover their heads in nuclear fallout drills
Massive retaliation- Eisenhower and Dulles strategy for dealing with the Soviet Union by developing bigger weapons of mass destruction to intimidate them. Eisenhower had cut the regular military budget to balance the national budget.
ICBM- Inter-continental ballistic missile- nuclear missiles that could go very far distances, space programs focused on this technology, and used getting into outer space or to the moon as a cover story
Sputnik- the first satellite ever, Soviets were now ahead of the US
NASA- National Aeronautics and Space Administration, formed in response to Sputnik so that the US would keep up with the Soviet’s technology development
U-2 An American spy plane shot down over the Soviet Union, Eisenhower takes the blame for our being caught spying on the USSR and the Soviets seeing him as a weak leader.
Gary Francis Powers- the pilot of the U2 that was shot down
Interstates- set of highways built in the 1950s to connect America, but mostly to be able to move men and machines from military bases to ports to fight the Cold War.
Baby Boom - the large increase in birth rate after WWII
Jonas Salk: inventor of the polio vaccine
Dr. Spock- new expert on raising children
“I Love Lucy” popular TV show, first show with a multiracial racial couple, and 1st time showing a pregnancy on TV
Beatniks- young, educated people from the middle to upper class who opposed the Conformity, Conservatism, and Consumerism of the 1950s.
Rock-n-Roll- new form of music in the 1950s that came out of the black community
Elvis - singer, actor, and veteran of the 1950s became the male sex symbol of that time
Other America- the ¼ of America who still lived in poverty in spite of the increased standard of living in the US
White Flight - the movement of whites from the city to the suburbs and taking their money with them, leaving the inner city without money.
Urban Renewal- the recreation of the inner city by Yuppies in the 1980s
Betty Freidan—feminist and early Women’s Rights’ movement leader, wrote the “Feminine Mystique
Feminine Mystique- see above
Election of 1960- Presidential election between Nixon-Republican and Kennedy-Democrat. First televised debates
Richard Nixon- loser of 1960 election, was VP, Senator from CA
Televised debates first occurred during the election of 1960. Those who watched the debates thought Kennedy won because he looked at the camera and talked to the people on television. Those who listened on the radio thought Nixon won because he gave better answers to the questions. He lost the TV viewers support because he looked at the audience in the place and not at the TV camera. This showed the importance of TV as a campaign tool.
Fidel Castro- communist leader of Cuba supported by the Soviets
Bay of Pigs - an attempted overthrow of Castro supported by the US, developed under the Eisenhower Administration, along with Cuban exiles who wanted to make Cuba a democracy - total failure for the US made Kennedy and the US look stupid.
Berlin Wall- built by the communists in East Berlin to keep people from escaping to West Berlin and from communist East Germany- became the symbol of communism
Cuban Missile Crisis - the 1st possibility for nuclear war - Soviets were trying to put Nuclear weapons in Cuba and America stopped them.
Test Ban Treaty- first attempt to limit the development of nuclear weapons
Camelot- referring to the mystical era of King Arthur, term used to describe the Kennedy White House
Jackie Kennedy- First Lady, fashion icon, redecorated the White House
Best and the Brightest-Kennedy’s young and well-educated advisors
Peace Corp- Formed during the Kennedy administration, encouraged young, idealistic college grads to go to 3rd world countries and help improve their primitive ways of life.
Alliance for Progress- US foreign aid program of the 1960s, providing economic and technical assistance for Latin America (If we didn’t help the Soviets would have)
Alan Shephard- 1st American to travel in space
John Glenn- 1st astronaut to orbit the earth
Neil Armstrong- 1st astronaut to walk on the moon
Lyndon Johnson- became president with the assassination of Kennedy
Lee Harvey Oswald - person who assassinated Kennedy
Jack Ruby- Killed Lee Harvey Oswald
Bullet Theory- conspiracy theory about the assassination of Kennedy
Grassy Knoll- part of the conspiracy theory location of the second shooter of Kennedy
Warren Commission - the presidential commission that investigated Kennedy’s death
LBJ- Lyndon Baines Johnson
Civil rights Act of 1964 - Prohibited discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, and gender and allowed the federal government power to enforce its provisions
War on Poverty- part of Johnson’s Great Society domestic policy plan- created New Deal type agencies to help the poor
Head Start- federal preschool program for poor kids
Vista- Volunteers in Service to America, another Great Society program
Great Society- Johnson’s domestic policy program
Medicare- 1965 provides health insurance and medical care for people over 65
Medicaid- 1965 provides health insurance to welfare recipients
HUD- Housing and Urban Development- helping to provide fair treatment in housing and help with housing for low-income families
Immigration Act 1965- opened the door of immigration for non-European immigrants and ended the immigration quota system set up in the 1920s.
DOT- Department of Transportation-1966 this Cabinet level agency was created to deal with national air, rail, and highway issues
Rachel Carson - wrote “Silent Spring” exposed the dangers of pesticides to the environment and resulted in the Water Quality Act of 1965
Silent Spring - see above
Clean Air Act - 1965 federal government set emissions standards for new motor vehicles
Ralph Nader - lawyer who pushed for government intervention in areas of safety, many time 3rd party candidate for president
Warren Court- Supreme Court led by Chief Justice Earl Warren- took an activist stance on social issues
Brown v Board - Supreme Court case involving 5 cases arguing that separate facilities for blacks were not equal to those for whites, unintended outcome was integration
Mapp v Ohio- Supreme Court ruled that illegally seized items could not be used in court
Gideon v Wainwright- all people have the right to counsel and if they can’t afford it the government will provide it
Miranda v Arizona- Court said that all suspects must be told their rights before being questioned