




# The Development of the USA 1929-2000









*This booklet contains:*




- *An outline of what is needed for the exam*
- *Revision notes*

## Changing life in the USA, 1929-2000 : Check list













How well do I understand the following topics:	 <b>Good</b>	 <b>Not sure on some areas</b>	 <b>Missed this topic -need to catch up</b>
<b>Economic downturn and recovery</b> <b>How was the USA affected by the Great Depression between 1929 and 1945?</b>			
<i>The impact of the Wall Street Crash</i>			
<i>Republican attempts to deal with the crisis</i>			
<i>life during the Depression</i>			
<i>Roosevelt and the New Deal</i>			
<b>The economic impact of the Second World War and post-war developments</b> <b>How had the economy of the USA changed by the 1960s?</b>			
<i>Industrial output</i>			
<i>Post-war affluence</i>			
<i>Consumerism and suburbanization</i>			
<i>'Poverty amidst plenty'</i>			
<b>The issue of Civil Rights 1941 - 1970</b> <b>Why was it difficult for black Americans to gain equal rights between 1941 and 1970?</b>			
<i>The contribution of black Americans to the war effort</i>			
<i>The issue of education</i>			
<i>Brown vs Topeka</i>			
<i>Little Rock High</i>			
<i>Montgomery Bus Boycott</i>			
<i>The roles of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X</i>			
<i>Civil Rights legislation</i>			

How well do I understand the following topics:	 Good	 Not sure on some areas	 Missed this topic -need to catch up
<b><u>Social change 1950-2000- How did American society change between 1950 and 2000?</u></b>			
<i>Changes in music</i>			
<i>Changes in entertainment</i>			
<i>Changes in media and literature</i>			
<i>Changes in youth culture and student protest</i>			
<i>The changing role of women</i>			

How well do I understand the following topics:	 Good	 Not sure on some areas	 Missed this topic -need to catch up
<b><u>Cold War rivalry-Why did relations between the USA and the USSR deteriorate between 1945 and 1973?</u></b>			
<i>The Truman Doctrine and containment of Communism</i>			
<i>Berlin Crisis 1948-49</i>			
<i>Cuban Missile Crisis</i>			
<i>US involvement in Vietnam</i>			

How well do I understand the following topics:	 Good	 Not sure on some areas	 Missed this topic -need to catch up
<b>Political change 1960-2000</b> <b>What were the main political developments in the USA between 1960 and 2000?</b>			
<i>The domestic policies of Kennedy;</i>			
<i>Nixon and Watergate</i>			
<i>the Reagan Years</i>			
<i>changes under Bush Senior and Clinton</i>			
<b>The search or world peace since 1970</b> <b>What has been the USA`s role in the search for peace since 1970?</b>			
<i>Détente and attempts to limit arms;</i>			
<i>Changing relations with China</i>			
<i>Changing US relations with the USSR;</i>			
<i>The fall of Communism and the end of the Cold War</i>			
<i>Involvement in Iran</i>			
<i>Iraq and the Gulf War</i>			

### The American Presidents - 1929 - 2000

<b>1929 - 1933 - Herbert Hoover</b> Republican	Took over from Calvin Coolidge - announced America near to ending poverty not long before Wall Street Crash happened. Did little to help Depression - believing in laissez-faire.	
<b>1933-1945 - FD Roosevelt (FDR)</b> Democrat	Elected four times, New Deal, involved USA in World War II, died in Office in 1945.	
<b>1945 - 1953 Harry S Truman</b> Democrat	FDR's Vice President took over when he died. Re-elected for second term: bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki to end WWII, Truman Doctrine to contain communism and Marshall Plan to rebuild Eastern Europe to stop communism spreading. Berlin Blockade.	
<b>1953 - 1961 Dwight Eisenhower (Ike)</b> Republican	Two terms of office, worried about communism, domino theory, some help to Vietnam given. McCarthy Communist Witch-hunts, ordered desegregation of schools in Arkansas, signed Civil Rights Acts of 1957 and 1960.	
<b>1961-1963 John F Kennedy (JFK)</b> Democrat	Youngest President, assassinated in 1963, supported civil rights, space race, New Frontier ideas. Cuban Missile Crisis, send troops into Vietnam as advisors.	
<b>1963-1969 Lyndon B Johnson (LBJ)</b> Democrat	JFK's Vice President took over as President after he was assassinated. Great Society programme for America, Escalates American involvement in Vietnam.	
<b>1969-1974 Richard Nixon</b> Republican	Defeated by JFK in 1961 election. Very anti-communist but ended war in Vietnam for America and started Détente of Cold War, visited China. Watergate Scandal forced him to resign.	
<b>1974-1977 Gerald Ford</b> Republican	Took over after Nixon's resignation and carried on his policies.	
<b>1977-1981 James (Jimmy) Carter</b> Democrat	Surprise winner, son of a peanut farmer! Seen as weak after seizing of embassy in Tehran by terrorists. Cold war restarts due to Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.	
<b>1981-1989 Ronald Reagan</b> Republican	Former movie star and so v. good at manipulating media. Anti-Communist - pursues second Cold War - Star Wars. Ends Cold war by meeting with Soviet leader Gorbachev	
<b>1989-1993 George Bush Snr</b> Republican	Was Reagan's vice President, Gulf War. Continued Ragan's policies	
<b>1993 - 2000 Bill Clinton</b> Democrat	<b>Job before election:</b> lawyer, politician Monica Lewinsky scandal	

## What were the main influences on American life between 1929-1945?

### **Economic Downturn**

#### The Wall Street Crash and the New Deal

##### **Wall Street Crash**

On 24<sup>th</sup> October 1929 (Black Thursday) the price of stocks and shares in America "crashed" which meant they were no longer worth any money.

##### **Why did it happen?**

In the 1920s the people of America were confident that the Economic Boom would go on forever. They spent money they didn't have, borrowed more than they could pay back and bought lots of stocks and shares. BUT... there was a big problem. The factories were making too many goods. Poorly paid workers couldn't afford to buy them and so the companies were in trouble. To save money they sacked people which meant even fewer people could afford their products. It was like a vicious circle and in 1929 it collapsed.

##### **What were the consequences?**

Millions of people lost their jobs and savings overnight. Even rich businessmen lost everything and were reduced to begging on the streets. Many people lost their homes and were forced to live in "Hoovervilles". People begged for food and money and were forced to rely on charity. Farmers were very badly hit because they had to cope with the effects of the "Dustbowl" as well. Many of them had to leave their farms and go and find work as fruit pickers in states like California.

##### **The Great Depression**

- Americans lost everything in the Crash - 9 million lost savings, 5000 banks went bankrupt, 13 million unemployed, homelessness - people lived in Hoovervilles - makeshift shanty towns (Named after Hoover because he didn't do anything to unemployment).
- People have to rely on handouts from private charities or beg and scavenge from rubbish tips as there was no social security.
- 1932 "Bonus Army" of unemployed war veterans marched on Washington to demand early payment of bonuses of about \$500 scheduled to be paid in 1945. Set up huge Hooverville outside the White House, Hoover ordered troops to drive them out and burn down shanty towns.
- Hooverville - shanty towns
- Hoover blankets - layers of newspapers
- Hoover flags - men's trouser pockets turned inside out to show they had no money
- Hoover wagons - cars with horses tied to them because they could not afford petrol
- Agricultural Depression - countryside ruined, farmers bankrupt and evicted from properties. Soil infertility, dust bowl, thousand farmers migrated across USA.
- Arkies from Arkansas and Okies from Oklahoma packed up their homes and families in cars and wagons and went to look for work in the fruit growing west - accepted less money than the locals so got some work
- Hobos - caught freight trains across the USA in search of work - approx 2 million hobos by 1933
- Family life affected - fall in marriages, birth rate; suicides increased; schools closed

### **Hoover's attempts to deal with the Depression**

President Hoover and the Republicans thought that the Depression caused by the crash would soon end so they initially did little and carried on laissez-faire and rugged individualism policies.

When things did not improve Hoover did start to make some changes  
Met business leaders and asked them not to cut production or wages

- Increased import duties on foreign goods - Hawley-Smoot Tariff Act 1930
- Lent money to farmers
- Set up relief agencies to co-ordinate local relief efforts
- Cut taxes
- Got approval from Congress for \$1.8 billion for new construction and repairs to roads and dams across USA
- Persuaded state and local governments to expand public works programmes

Approx 25% population in 1932 had no income - relied on charitable agencies for help

### **1932 Presidential Election**

Franklin D Roosevelt won a landslide victory - overcame polio, offered hope, Fireside chats, offered a New Deal for the American people, optimistic, not Hoover and Republicans who were blamed for the Crash and the Depression.

### **Economic & Social Recovery**

#### **Roosevelt and the New Deal**

FDR believed the Americans need a fairer deal after the long depression. He called for "emergency" presidential powers, similar to those used in a war situation, in order to deal with the problem. He was criticised for this, but served 4 terms of office and was extremely popular.

#### **Aims of the New Deal = Relief, Recovery and Reform**

#### **The New Deal**

In contrast to Hoover and the Republicans, Franklin Roosevelt (FDR) and the democrats thought it was the government's job to sort it out which is why they won the 1932 election.

#### **Roosevelt's Hundred Days**

Roosevelt said in his first speech as President: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." In other words, if they could encourage Americans to feel confident again, the economy would improve. If people were optimistic about the future, they would take on more workers, spend money on goods, and get the economy going again. He got his message across in a series of "Fireside Chats" on the radio.

He was worried that more banks would collapse if people continued to take out their savings. To stop this and save the banks, he closed all banks (temporarily) in March 1933.

In the first Hundred Days as President, Roosevelt and Congress passed a large number of laws to tackle the depression.

### How did it work?

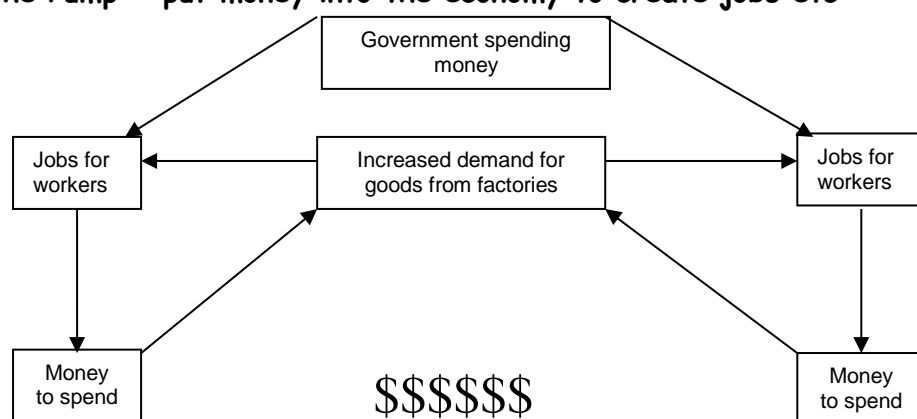
The basic idea behind the New Deal was that the government would spend its way out of trouble (see diagram) by investing in companies and projects to create jobs. The plan was carried out by Alphabet Agencies. Here are some of the most important ones:

- AAA (Agricultural Adjustment Act ) government paid farmers to produce less.
- TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority) - This gave money to develop poor agricultural (farming) regions.
- CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) - This gave jobs to young unemployed men.
- NRA (National Recovery Administration) - This tried to improve workers pay and conditions. (Look this up in detail.)
- Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) - temporary measure providing \$500 million for relief

**The Second New Deal (1935)** - carried on the work of the first New Deal - set up more agencies based on programme of reform to help farmers, workers, the poor and unemployed

- WPA - Works Progress Administration - funded building programmes eg. Schools, hospitals and organised relief programme, created community service schemes to employ actors, writers etc
- Wagner Act ( National Labour Relations Act) - upheld right of workers to organise and enter into collective bargaining - helped workers and led to increase in Union membership
- Fair Labours Standards Act - established minimum wages and maximum hours, some workers got higher wages
- Social Security Act - pension benefits for elderly, orphaned and those injured at work. Unemployment benefits funded by tax on payrolls of employers.

**'Priming the Pump' - put money into the economy to create jobs etc**



The New Deal also did things like offer low interest loans and mortgages so that people could get their home and land. (HOLC)



### **Success:**

- People trusted businesses again and so started investing again.
- Old people and disabled people got pensions.
- People's ideas about the role of the government had changed.
- Workers had better wages and more rights.
- Millions of Jobs created.
- Industry and Agriculture began to recover.
- FDR won the 1936 election easily
- Roosevelt was very popular
- America remained a Democracy.
- Strengthened the Unions
- Created semi-welfare state - pensions for elderly, widows and help for sick & disabled

### **Criticisms & Opposition**

- Blacks and women did not have equal rights.
- Many small farmers and city workers, especially blacks, remained out of work.
- In 1939 there were 9 million unemployed in America.
- The Depression did not end until WWII
- Not really help Black Americans
- Too many taxes
- Some people said it gave FDR too much power - Republicans
- Republicans said it would make things worse.
- Southerners said it interfered too much in local government.
- Businessmen said it was an attack on 'Free Enterprise' and made it too hard to make profits.
- Didn't do enough - Father Charles McCoughlan and Huey Long, Dr Frances Townsend
- The Supreme Court said some bits of it were UNCONSTITUTIONAL eg. AAA, NRA

### **What were the main political and economic developments in the USA after 1945?**

### **The impact of WWII**

#### **WWII**

America entered the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War in December 1940 after the Japanese Air force attacked American war ships at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii. They fought alongside Britain and France against Nazi Germany and her allies.

#### **How did the War affect America?**

Although many American soldiers were injured and killed in the war, the impact on Americans back home was generally positive, as the US was too far away from Europe to suffer from bombing etc. America was far better off after the war than it had been before:

## America after the War



America was richer then before the war.

The US lent money to help other nations.

US farming was back on its feet.



America was a SUPERPOWER

America helped set up the UN

She had army bases all over the world



America businesses became multinational

America led the world in technology

Only USA had Atomic bomb



US films and music were everywhere

People all over the world tried to copy the US way of life

People like Elvis were international stars.

## US Society and WWII

### Women during war

- Propaganda images from WWI (Rosie the Riveter) showed how during the war women adapted.
- One third of all industrial workers were women by 1945 (compared to one quarter before).

### Women after war

- Any real change?
- Women saw higher, but not equal pay.
- Sexist attitudes still existed.
- After the war many women left their wartime jobs - lost their salary and related independence.

### Japanese Americans

- Obvious aftermath of Pearl Harbor.
- 100,000 Japanese Americans 'enemy aliens' and were interned.
- Fear of enemy agents saw many Japanese Americans sent to relocations camps.
- Property confiscated or forcibly sold.

What was the impact of World War II on US society?

### Black Americans

- War acted as a catalyst for change in attitude, but how much really changed?
- Blacks joined army, but segregation still existed.
- Only 12 black officers were appointed. All blacks served in segregated units.
- Black women became nurses, but could only treat black

### Some Change

- Situation improved as war progressed - e.g. black people allowed to give blood, mixed race combat units formed in late 1944.
- 'Double V' campaign - black leaders such as Randolph took opportunity to highlight plight of black Americans. Victory at home and abroad.

### Raised Awareness

- Roosevelt set up FEPC - investigating & discouraging discrimination within companies.
- NAACP made racial equality a domestic issue.
- Many blacks had migrated north to work industries - increase racial tension. Some serious riots e.g. Harlem

## The Development of the Affluent Society

### Life in suburbia

1. Middle-class families moved out of city centres into newly built suburbs.
2. Suburbs were self-contained areas with their own shopping and leisure facilities.
3. In the Suburbs ownership of the latest consumer product became a status symbol.
4. Many women felt isolated and bored there.
5. Churches provided a focus for community life. In 1960 church attendance was 15% higher than in 1940.
6. The 'American dream' - post war couples wanted their own home where they could raise their children safely away from the 'horrors' of the city

### 1950s America is often called the Affluent Society, but was it really?

#### Yes...

- There were lots more jobs available with higher wages.
- Lots of people enjoyed a higher standard of living than ever before, with big houses in the suburbs and lots of 'Luxury' consumer goods. (Washing machines, cars, TV's etc)

#### No....

- 22% of the population still lived in poverty, particularly Black Americans, old people and Southerners.

### There was a Religious Revival in the 1950s. i.e. more people went to Church .... Why?



- The government encouraged religion as a defence against Communism.
- People who had moved to the suburbs went to Church to meet new friends. It gave them a sense of Community and belonging.

### Kennedy

#### Fact File

- **Name** - John Francis Kennedy
- **Political Party** - Democrat
- **Dates of Presidency** - Nov 1960 - Nov 1963
- **Key Idea** - The New Frontier..."Ask not what you country can do for you but rather what you can do for your country." Kennedy inspired lots of young Americans to go out and help others by joining groups like the Peace Corps.
- **Achievements** - A very popular President, passed laws to help Black Americans. Stood up to the Communists
- **Death** - Assassinated in November 1963 in Dallas, Texas



## **Kennedy & the New Frontier and Johnson and the Great Society**

### **Social Reform**

Both Kennedy and Johnsons:

1. Recognised that serious problems existed alongside the USA's overall prosperity.
2. Inspired faith in the idea that governments could improve people's lives.

### **The 'New Frontier' and the 'Great Society'**

Kennedy offered Americans a 'New Frontier'. After Kennedy's assassination in 1963, his successor Lyndon Johnson, spoke of the 'Great Society'. The social problems which both Presidents aimed to solve were:

1. Civil rights
2. Poverty, poor housing, and unemployment especially in the inner cities.
3. Inadequate medical care.

### **What did Kennedy & Johnson Achieve?**

Kennedy was hampered by the Republican majority in Congress. Johnson was able to carry out and get many of Kennedy's and his own policies passed by Congress.

#### **Unemployment**

The period for which unemployment benefit could be paid was increased.

#### **Health**

Congress rejected a scheme to provide healthcare for the elderly.

#### **Civil rights**

JFK Introduced Civil Rights Bill and supported the movement. Johnson passed the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act.

#### **Poverty**

The minimum wage was increased.

#### **Education**

Congress rejected plans to give federal money to State schools.

#### **Housing**

Some money was spent to improve housing in poor areas.

Congress rejected a housing bill aimed at slum clearance.

### **Developments from the 1970s**

#### **Nixon and Watergate**

Richard Nixon became President of America in 1968 following a narrow Republican Election Victory. He made himself a very popular President by working very hard to ease the tension of the Cold War. He was re-elected easily in 1972 but after a scandal known as 'Watergate' he was forced to resign August 1974.



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#### **What was Watergate?**

On 17<sup>th</sup> June 1972, 5 men broke into the Democratic Part HQ at the 'Watergate' Building in Washington DC. They were caught trying to 'bug' the phones and to take pictures of important documents. During the trial the men admitted that they had been paid to do it by the Republican Party to help them win the election.

### **How were the Media Involved?**

Once the burglars admitted that they had been paid by the Republican Party, there had to be an investigation. The official investigation turned up nothing but 2 Journalists from the Washington Post, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein

Were convinced that there was a 'Cover-up' going on and conducted their own investigation. They kept digging until they found out the truth.

### **How did it lead to Nixon's Resignation?**

Nixon went on TV and told the American people that he knew nothing about the 'Watergate' affair and promised them that there was no 'Cover-up' going on. However, all Nixon's phone calls from his office had been taped and when they were played they proved Nixon was lying and that he did know about 'Watergate'. As a result he was forced to resign as President because nobody trusted him anymore.

### **The impact of Watergate**

1. Americans' respect for their political system was severely damaged. For years to come they distrusted politicians.
2. There were moves to restrict the growing power of the President. A strengthened Freedom of information Act made it easier for citizens to obtain official documents and find out about government activities.
3. Americans took some comfort from the fact that the President's wrongdoings had been exposed by other elements in the political system which had functioned well: the newspapers, the law courts and Congress itself.
4. In 1976 the relatively unknown Democratic candidate, Jimmy Carter, was elected President. Americans hoped that a newcomer to national affairs might 'clean up' politics and restore their faith in the Presidency. He failed because of
  - a. Economic Downturn
  - b. Misjudgements in foreign affairs
  - c. His failure to secure the release of American hostages held in Iran.

### **Ronald Reagan**

#### **Fact File**

- **Name** - Ronald Reagan
- **Born** - Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 1911
- **Party** - Republican
- **Time in Office** - 1981-9
- **Previous Job** - Actor
- **Favourite Saying** - "Government is the Problem"



### **Why was Ronald Reagan a popular President?**

#### **Background and personal qualities**

- Humble (poor) background
- Very sporty ... esp. American Football
- Well Spoken... Calming voice
- Radio and TV personality
- Movie Star
- 'All American Hero' Image

- V. Good at PR
- Glamorous

### Ideas and Policies

- Elected in 1980 - Republican Party defeated Carter at time of high inflation and unemployment.
- Very positive about American people and the future..."we can do anything!"
- Government should do what the people want not the other way round.
- Low spending and taxation
- Tough lines against communism
- Spent lots on defence... made people feel safe.
- Reduced income taxes and social welfare.
- Reintroduced beliefs of 'Rugged individualism'
- 1981 Economic Recovery Tax Act. Reduced individual and business taxes by about \$33 billion.
- Mid -1980's recession - tax increased total \$91 billion
- Late 1982 - unemployment highest since 1941
- By 1984 economy recovering - Reagan's economic policy called Reagonomics.
- Second term of office 1984 - more tax cuts. \$26 billion research programme into feasibility of space-based defence system. (Star wars) to protect USA from nuclear attack.

### **The effects of Reagonomics**

- The government was forced to borrow money each year until the national debt rose to its highest level at almost \$1 trillion.
- There was a severe stock market crash in 1987
- The economy began to slow down as industry moved into recession
- Government national debt increased

### **The space programme**

1986 was a disastrous year for America's space programme.

- In January the space shuttle 'Challenger' exploded only seconds after lift-off.
- In May a Delta rocket failed
- The development of the 'Star Wars' programme proved very expensive putting a further drain on the economy

### George Bush Snr

Reagan's Vice President George Bush Snr succeeded Reagan as President. Bush signed two significant pieces of domestic legislation during his tenure:

- The Americans with Disabilities Act - this is considered to be the most important anti-discrimination legislation since the Civil Rights Act of the 60s
- The Clean Air Act which focused on reducing urban smog, curbing acid rain and eliminating industrial emissions of toxic chemicals

End of Presidency in 1984 interest and inflation rates were lowest in years and unemployment reached 7.8%

### **Change under Clinton**

- Clinton was determined to reduce the budget deficit left by his predecessors whilst, at the same time, increasing federal government spending and investment in education and welfare
- By 1996 he managed to reduce the budget deficit to \$107 billion and by 1998 the budget was balanced for the first time since 1969
- The value of the stock market tripled and unemployment was the lowest for 30 years

- The North American Free Trade Agreement was signed with Canada and Mexico, setting up a free area between the three states
- President during longest period of sustained economic growth in the history of USA
- 1996 increased minimum wage but failed to introduce universal health insurance
- Second term of office 1984 - more tax cuts. \$26 billion research

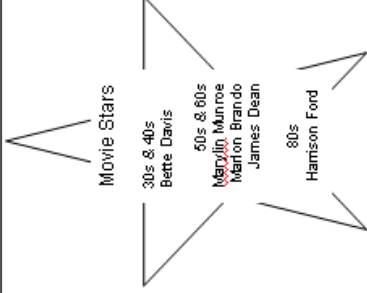
### **Scandal**

Whitewater Scandal 1996 - 2 former business associates convicted of multiple fraud over a housing development in the Whitewater area of Arkansas

Monica Lewinsky - Clinton had an affair at first denied it, proof found and forced to make public apology, threatened with impeachment by House of Representatives but Senate found him not guilty in 1999

**What were the main social developments in the USA from 1945 - 2000?**



<b>USA 1929 – 1990 Pop Culture</b> Music was at the heart of the youth 'rebellion' from the political protest songs of Bob Dylan to the rock festival at Woodstock in 1969.	Rock music became a symbol of youth rebellion and new attitudes to sex and personal freedoms	<b>Causes</b> Many young people rejected their parents' values and lifestyles. They were angry about: 1. The Vietnam War 2. Racism	3. the contrast between prosperity and poverty in the USA 4. the contrast between prosperity and poverty in the USA 5. what they saw as the hypocrisy of politicians.
<b>Music</b> 1920s & 30s – Jazz and Country music became popular... New Dances like the 'Black Bottom' 1940s – Musicals were popular especially those written by Rogers & Hammerstein e.g. 'Oklahoma' 1950s – This was when Rock 'n' Roll was born with singers like Elvis Presley 1960s – Bands like the 'Beach Boys' were popular... a bit like today's Boy Bands ... 1960s – Folk singers like Bob Dylan used music to protest about the Vietnam War. 1970s – Disco is born! 1980s – Rap & Hip Hop comes from the Black ghettos like Harlem	<b>STUDENT PROTEST</b> <i>In the 60s and 70s students held protests against the Vietnam War. At Kent State University, Ohio in May 1970 4 students were shot and killed by the soldiers.</i>	<b>Movies</b> The Cinema was very popular... about 80 million people went weekly by 1930! 1920s – The first 'Talkie' came out in 1927 called 'The Jazz Singer'. In 1928 Mickey Mouse appeared in 'Steamboat Willy'. 1930s & 40s – The cinema offered escapism from The Depression & WWII. 1950s & 60s – Cinema declined as people got TVs. 1970s & 80s – Directors like Steven Spielberg used media hype and Special Effects to win back audiences	
<b>Youth Culture</b> The 'Teenager' didn't really exist in the 30s and 40s, you just went from childhood to adulthood overnight. Then the 50s came and young people had more money and free time than ever before. They developed their own fashions and styles of music and dance. Some also rebelled against authority like their parents and teachers... Nothing changes eh!	<b>The Hippy Movement</b> Some young people rejected their parents' lifestyle and became Hippies instead. 'Hippies' believed in peace not war, took drugs, grew their hair long and followed mystical religions. They also believed in 'free love' (lots of sex!) and campaigned against war. FLOWER POWER		

## Changes in popular culture

### What were the key developments in popular culture?

#### The Cinema

- The first drive-in cinema opened in the 1930s
- The first multiplex movie theatre opened in 1963 in Kansas City
- After WWII people wanted to see new and exciting symbols of rebellion and Hollywood responded with the rise of the anti-hero with qualities such as idealism and courage. Actors like Paul Newman and James Dean replaced more traditional actors.

- The 1970s saw the emergence of the blockbuster film like Jaws and Star Wars
- The 1990s was the decade of the mega-paid movie star like Arnold Schwarzenegger, Tom Cruise, Sylvester Stallone and Jim Carey
- By 1997, the first DVD went on sale featuring sharper resolution and better quality pictures.

### **The motor car**

- Car ownership increased from 25 million in 1945 to 60 million by 1960. The number of two-car families doubled in the 1950s. Pontiac a popular car in 1950s
- First McDonalds & Disneyland opened in California in 1955; 40 percent of its visitors came from outside California and mainly by car
- 1956 Interstate Highways Act - started construction of 41,000 miles of new highways
- Cars encouraged the growth of the drive-in movie
- In 1960 approximately one in three people owned a car and this increased to one in two by 1970
- Motor car made USA a more uniform society

### **Television**

1940s - few televisions, by 1960 increased to 50 million, by 1970 96% households had TV, 1980s subscription tv (cable, satellite) popular

Game shows and comedy shows popular - Ed Sullivan show; Westerns - The Lone Ranger, Bonanza; I love Lucy - early tv created image of America as white middle class - ideal family. People tended to accept TV image as reality

Soap operas - Dallas, Dynasty, Beverly Hills 90210

Chat shows - Phil Donahue, Jerry Springer, Oprah Winfrey

### **Information Technology**

Microsoft - Bill Gates - set up 1975 - Microsoft windows

Apple Computer, Inc - set up California 1976

Internet - faster information

Computer Games - Nintendo 1980s, Sega, Sony Playstation etc

Technology transforms American society - instant information - text, email etc

More leisure time for younger people led to social networking.

Concern less active lifestyle among children

### **Changes in youth culture**

#### **The Emergence of the teenager & the generation gap**

**The 1950s saw the growth of a separate "Youth Culture".... The teenager was invented!!**



- For the first time teenagers had fashions of their own.
- More money than ever before..... more freedom.
- Rock and Roll Music
- Parents disapproved. They believed the new ways encouraged sex, drugs and crime.

#### **Teenagers**

1. Teenagers had money to spend. Entertainment and fashion changed to meet their demands.
2. Their search for excitement and a freer style of life brought them into conflict with the older generation.

3. Many adults disapproved of the new Rock 'n' Roll music with its heavy beat and sexually explicit words and movements. - Elvis Presley
4. Juvenile crime increased in the 1950s
5. War babies - born in peace but also children of nuclear world - threat of the bomb!

## Features of Youth Culture



- Rebellion
- Hippy movement - drugs, sexual freedom, flower power, peaceful protest.
- Support of Civil rights
- Follow/ support famous sports stars, e.g. Mohammed Ali. Role models - Marilyn Monroe, James Dean.
- Disenchanted with government e.g. Watergate.
- Not support Vietnam.
- Generation gap with parents
- Greater freedom and independence.

## Youth counter culture

Hippy Movement - middle class background, 'drop out' of society - long hair flowers, psychedelic clothing, 'alternative lifestyle', travelled round in buses or vans 'Make love not war'. Called flower children. San Francisco = hippy capital - used drugs led to clashes with the police who they called 'pigs'. Influenced by rock groups the Grateful Dead and the Doors. Big outdoor music festival - Woodstock. Refused to fight in Vietnam - burnt draft cards

Older generation concerned about their refusal to work, experimenting with drugs - marijuana and LSD, rejected middle class background

Music - 1960s - Bob Dylan - protest; Beatles and Rolling Stones, Beach Boys

Music - 1970 - 2000 - Disco - Bee Gees, KC & the Sunshine Band, the Jacksons -

Film Saturday Night Fever

Rap and hip hop - reflect inner city problem and unemployment especially among

Black Americans - Will Smith, Fugees popular

Youth counter culture etc

**Student Protest - In the 1960s students became heavily involved in the civil rights movement and the campaign for greater freedom of speech at universities, whilst many opposed US involvement in the conflict in Vietnam.**

<p><b>The Swinging Sixties</b></p> <p>The attitudes of teenagers in the 1950s carried over to the next decade. It is often described as the 'swinging' sixties as the young distanced themselves even more from the older generation and its view of how the young should behave. They demanded greater freedom in everything they did: the music they listened to; the clothes they wore; the social life they led.</p>	<p><b>The influence of Martin Luther King</b></p> <p>For many young Americans, white and black, their first experience of protest was in civil rights. Martin Luther King's methods proved inspirational and many white students supported <b>the freedom marches, freedom rides</b> and the <b>sit-ins</b> of the early and mid-1960s. Moreover, a disproportionate number of black American students were called up to fight in Vietnam. Influential black figures such as Martin Luther King spoke out against the war.</p>
<p><b>Protest singers</b></p> <p>The 1960s saw an explosion in pop music which, in turn, was an expression of this emerging youth culture and of protest against important issues of the day. For example, Bob Dylan's lyrics covered the themes of the changing times - nuclear war, racism and the hypocrisy of waging war. Artists such as Jimi Hendrix and Joan Baez sang about sex, drugs and opposition to the war in Vietnam.</p>	<p><b>Involvement with civil rights</b></p> <p>In 1964, student societies organised rallies and marches to support the civil rights campaign. Many were appalled at the racism in American society and were determined to expose racists in their own colleges: they demanded free speech.</p>
<p><b>Universities</b></p>	<p><b>The conflict in Vietnam</b></p>





<p>Many students wanted a greater say in their own education. They wanted to take part in running the universities and an end to college rules and restrictions imposed on them. The 1960s were also a time of student protest across the world. For example, in the later 1960s there were student protests in Northern Ireland for civil rights for Catholics and in 1968 student demonstrations and strikes in Paris.</p>	<p>Many students were called up to the armed forces. This was known as the draft system. Opposition to the war grew with the number of casualties. In 1965 there were fewer than 2000 US casualties. By 1968 the number had increased to 14,000. Some students questioned the right of the USA to be in Vietnam. The USA was supporting a corrupt regime in South Vietnam. US methods of warfare brought even greater opposition, especially the use of the chemical weapons such as napalm and the killing of innocent civilians such as at My Lai in 1968.</p>
<p><b>The SDS</b>  On of the first student protest groups to emerge in the USA was the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). It was set up in 1959 by Tom Hayden to give students a greater say in how courses in universities should be run. It had 100,000 members by the end of the 1960s. The SDS first achieved national prominence when, in 1964, it helped to organise the 'free speech movement' in the University of California at Berkeley. Up to half of Berkeley's 27,500 students took part in this campaign in 1964 and 1965. The SDS also played a key role in the protest movement against the war in Vietnam, including staging draft card burnings.</p>	<p><b>Anti-war protests</b>  The anti-war protests reached their peak during 1960-70. In the first half of 1960, there were over a hundred demonstrations against the war, involving 400,000 students. In 1969, 700,000 people marched in Washington DC against the war. Students at these demonstrations often burned draft cards or, more seriously, the US flag which was a criminal offence. This, in turn, led to angry clashes with police. However, the most serious clash took place at Kent State University, Ohio, on 4 May 1970. National Guardsman, called to disperse the students, used tear gas to try to move them. When they refused to move shots were fired. Four people were killed and eleven injured. The press in the USA and abroad were horrified and some 400 colleges were closed as 2 million students went on strike in protest against this action.</p>

### The Changing role of women in the USA

1. After the war, women were expected to work at home as wives and mothers. In 1950 the average age at which women married was 20.
2. In many families the mother went out to work anyway in order to help pay for the consumer goods the family wanted.
3. In 1960 40% of women went out to work, mostly in low paid jobs.
4. In the 1960's many women began to question assumptions about motherhood and homemaking
5. Women in the 50s were not as independent and equal as women in the 40s.
6. The 50s image of the ideal woman was the good little housewife who cooked and cleaned, looked after children and always looked pretty for her husband.

### The 1960s onwards

1. 1960s Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* published in 1963 - Started the Feminist movement - women should be equal to men.
2. Set up National Organisation for Women (NOW) demanded equal rights for women and the right of women to have abortions.
3. 1960s women proactive in fight for sexual equality using petitions, strike and legal actions.
4. 1964 Civil Right act, also ban discrimination based on sex.
5. 1970s - Laws allowing equal treatment of women in employment, admission to higher education, equal pay and access to credit.
6. 1973 abortion legalised.
7. 1983 Dr Sally Ride became first American woman in space on shuttle Challenger
8. 1989 women's earnings still only 70% of men's.
9. 1990 women 6 times as likely to be living in poverty as men.
10. 2010 Hillary Clinton Presidential candidate

EQUALITY OF WOMEN		1940s WWII came and women went to work		1980s – 1990s Women have all the same legal rights as men. Some women have reached top jobs e.g. Madeline Albright  <b>BUT</b> Female earnings = 70% men's earnings Women are 6x more likely to live in poverty than men  EQUAL IN THEORY BUT NOT NECESSARILY IN PRACTISE		1910		1920		1930		1940		1950		1960		1970		1980		1990		2000	
		<b>Short term Gains</b> More money More independence More freedom	<b>Long Term</b> Greater confidence in themselves			<b>1920s</b> Short hair – short skirts Smoking & Drinking – No Chaparones  But there were no changes in economic or legal status		<b>1950s</b> The ideal 50s woman was the Suburban Housewife. Many jobs were lost as men came back from the war. Those who did work did women's jobs like being a secretary.		<b>1960s &amp; 1970s</b> Saw the rise of the Feminist Movement 1963 – The Feminine Mystique 1964 – Sex discrimination illegal 1966 – NOW 1973 – Legalisation of abortion		<b>1930s</b> Sexual discrimination got worse as during the <b>Depression</b> people thought men should have the jobs. The <b>New Deal</b> failed to help women and even encouraged discrimination: NRA allowed unequal pay		<b>1950s</b> The ideal 50s woman was the Suburban Housewife. Many jobs were lost as men came back from the war. Those who did work did women's jobs like being a secretary.		<b>1960s &amp; 1970s</b> Saw the rise of the Feminist Movement 1963 – The Feminine Mystique 1964 – Sex discrimination illegal 1966 – NOW 1973 – Legalisation of abortion		<b>1980s &amp; 1990s</b> Saw the rise of the Feminist Movement 1963 – The Feminine Mystique 1964 – Sex discrimination illegal 1966 – NOW 1973 – Legalisation of abortion							
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# The Race Issue in America, 1929 -2000



Why was there so much racial inequality in the USA between 1929 and 1945?

## Introduction and Background

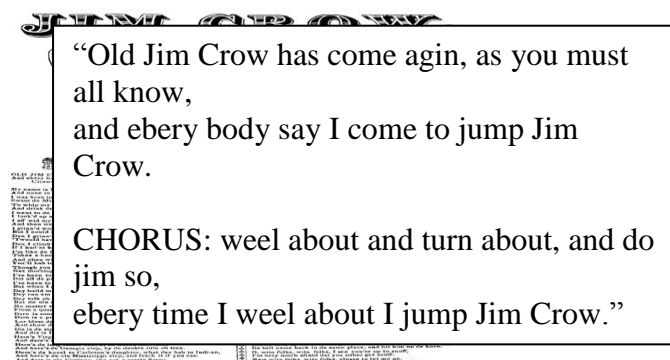
In the US Constitution it says that all people in the US are equal, but until 1863 this was ignored: Black people were slaves in the Southern States.

After the American Civil War 1861-65, fought between the Northern States (Union) and the Southern States (Confederacy), the victorious North punished the South by changing the constitution to make it even clearer that black people were:

- Freed from slavery
- Equal
- Allowed to vote

The North knew it would hurt the South because the southern whites depended on the black slaves to work on the cotton, tobacco and sugar plantations. That is why the North did it. However as anger over the war died down it became clear that the North did not really care about the black people because it let the south ignore the constitution and introduced the Jim Crow Laws

## Jim Crow Laws



The Jim Crow Laws were named after a character in a plantation song that the black slaves used to sing. He allegedly had a white girlfriend which made him a hated figure in the South. These laws were introduced by the state governments of the southern states after the Civil War to make sure that although black people were free from slavery, they would NEVER BE EQUAL to WHITES. The laws:

- 1. SEGREGATED (separated) black people from whites so they had to use separate, or separate sections of buses, trains, theatres, hospitals and churches.
- When black people argued that this was unconstitutional, the SUPREME COURT of the USA ruled that segregation was legal as long as facilities were separate but equal. They weren't of course, but this was often difficult to prove or ignored.
- 2. STOPPED black people from VOTING. They used various tricks to stop people from registering to vote
  - Either making them pay a poll tax which they could not afford before they were allowed to register to vote.
  - Make them pass a literacy (reading) test to show they were clever enough to be allowed to vote. Of course they were asked to read very difficult passages.
  - If these failed, intimidation and violence were used.

A Negro in the Deep South who tried to register to vote might lose his job or credit. He might be beaten or killed'. **I don't want my job cut off**', one man explained. Another was more blunt '**I don't want my throat cut**', he said.

### Ku Klux Klan

Another reason why life was so bad in the southern states was the Ku Klux Klan (KKK). It was set up in 1865, after the Civil War, to make sure that WHITE PEOPLE WOULD stay SUPREME, despite the fact that the North had just freed black people, made them equal and allowed them to vote. The Klan were not going to let this happen in reality, even if it said it on paper.

Only White Anglo Saxon Protestants (WASPS) who promised to defend the USA from black people, immigrants, Jews, Catholics, communists and socialists, could be members.

Members met in the evenings and paraded in white robes and hoods (Symbolising white supremacy and purity) and carrying torches.





Any black person who tried to improve themselves or "rise above their place" at the bottom of society was beaten, tarred and feathered, raped or murdered. The Klansmen left a burning cross as their calling card. The most terrifying "punishment" was lynching (execution without trial by a mob). Any white person who stood up for, or tried to help black people, got the same treatment.



In Georgia there were 135 lynchings between 1924 and 1925 but no one was convicted of these brutal crimes. If brought to trial, it was difficult to find a jury that would convict Klansmen. This was sometimes because the Klan threatened the jury; often the police, judges and members of the jury were Klansmen. By 1924 there were an estimated 5 million members of the Klan, but numbers fell when the Klan's leader, D.C. Stephenson, was found guilty of the abduction and rape of a young girl in 1925. He was sentenced to life imprisonment.

### NAACP

The NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for the ADVANCEMENT of COLORED PEOPLE (NAACP) was set up in 1909 by W.E. Dubois to 'fight' for the rights of black people. It was a peaceful protest group. Its aims were to:

- Abolish segregation
- End lynchings
- Get black people the right to vote (in practise)
- Get equal education opportunities for black people

It tried to achieve its aims through discussion, persuasion, petitions, sit-ins, freedom rides and through education. The most famous members of the NAACP was Martin Luther King.



### Migration North

In the 1920s many black people moved North of America:

- To escape the Jim Crow laws, the Ku Klux Klan and terrible living and working conditions.
- To get better jobs and a better way of life. They were encouraged by the economic boom of the 1920s in the Northern industrial cities. Here there were plenty of jobs and no segregation
- Although they were still given the poorest jobs and lived in the worst housing, they were freed from the constant threat of murder and torture by the KKK

### THE BEGINNING 1929



### The South

In the South then life was very difficult for black people. They had to put up with:

- Jim Crow Laws
- Ku Klux Klan
- Poor education, pay and working conditions.

NB

Many black people worked as sharecroppers. Sharecropping was a system designed to keep black workers as virtual slaves after the Civil War. Black people 'rented' their farms, farming equipment, seeds etc off white landowners at extortionate rates. When the harvest came in the black farmer got money for part of his crops - a half or a third. The rest went to the white landowner. Once the cost of the farm, equipment, seeds etc were deducted, the black family ended up in permanent debt to the white landowner; virtual slavery.

### The North

Many black people had migrated to the North after they were freed in the 1860s.

Bad : They were still given the poorest paid jobs and lived in the worst housing. They also suffered private discrimination i.e. being banned from clubs.

Good: However there was no official segregation allowed in many of the northern states and a black middle class began to emerge e.g. small businessmen like shopkeepers. The first black university was even established.

Good: Indeed many talented black musicians and entertainers were 'discovered' by white patrons (who backed them with money) from the poverty and squalor of the 'ghettoes' in the northern cities like Harlem in New York. Black Jazz music became very popular and the records of black musicians brought their music into white homes across America. This has been called the BLACK/HARLEM RENAISSANCE. (What is ironic, however, is that often when black musicians entertained white audiences, black people were banned -private discrimination)

30'S 30'S 30'S

### The Depression & the New Deal

In 1929, after the Wall St. Crash the American economy collapsed and many people lost their jobs, their homes and went hungry.

Good: President Roosevelt in his NEW DEAL set up lots of schemes to help, the unemployed, starving and homeless and therefore a lot of black people, as well as white people, were helped. Thousands received much more relief than ever before. About 200 000 blacks benefited from the CCC programme and got a large share of housing in slum-clearance projects. Some were given positions of responsibility in slum-clearance projects.

Bad: However Roosevelt gave a lot of the money to the states governments to run the schemes. In the Southern States the governments spent most of the money on white people. Blacks were 'last hired, first fired'. By 1935 30% of blacks were living on relief. Segregation continued in the South. CCC camps were segregated. FDR failed to put through any civil rights laws, particularly an anti-lynching law. Blacks remained second class citizens.

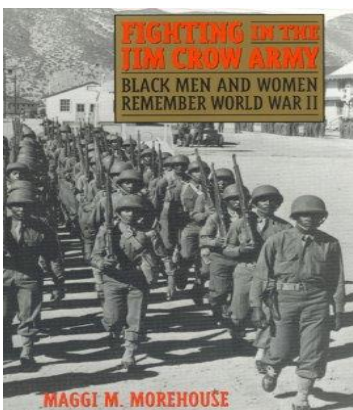
Also because the black people were already very poor and worked in the poorest industries like mining, and textiles and farming that were hardest hit by the Depression, the worst effects of the Depression fell on them.

# 40'S 40'S 40'S

In the 1940s the fight for black civil rights took a huge step forward because of two key factors:

## THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND THE JIM CROW ARMY

In 1941, after the Japanese attack on Pearl harbour, the Americans entered the Second World War on the side of Britain, France and the USSR, against Nazi Germany and Japan.



An American law of 1940, called the Selective Services Act, made it illegal to show discrimination when calling up and training black soldiers. However when they were actually trained, the US war Department continued the practice of SEGREGATED REGIMENTS. i.e. black and white soldiers fought the war SEPARATELY. The black units that fought for the USA were called the JIM CROW ARMY.

Despite this, the war helped the fight for Civil Rights in a number of ways:

- Black Americans, white Americans and the rest of the World could see the IRONY of black Americans fighting against the very RACIST NAZI GERMANY, when they themselves were the victims of racism at home i.e. it began to shame the USA.
- Black soldiers felt if they were willing to fight and die for their country, then their country should reward them with equal rights.
- Black soldiers stationed in Britain, particularly if they were from the South, saw another way of life, as they were allowed into mixed pubs and could 'chat up' white girls. i.e. black and white could mix. This led to trouble between the black American soldiers and Southern white American soldiers who could not accept this behaviour.

- At home black workers made an important contribution to the war effort. By the end of 1944 some 2 million were working in war factories, although some met with hostility (In Detroit which had a large black community, racial tension led to riots in 1943. Again the effort these workers made for their countries led them to believe that change would happen as a reward for their loyalty).
- Many black people believed they would be rewarded for their efforts and loyalty to the USA during the war. Black people hoped to encourage the process of change by joining the NAACP and NAACP membership rose from 50,000 to 450,000 during the war (i.e. 9 times).

### THE FAIR DEAL PROGRAMME (of President Truman)

Truman's 'FAIR DEAL' programme was a continuation of the 'NEW DEAL'. It was designed to help ordinary Americans who were struggling to get a better life. It had 21 points and included things like raising the minimum wage and building 1one million low cost homes.

However, it included a FAIR DEAL FOR BLACK PEOPLE. There were good reasons for his timing:

- Truman wanted to reward black people for their loyal contribution to the war effort.
- He believed the time was right for change. He believed in equality, but knew you cannot change things if there is too much opposition. He believed that the 'tide was slowly turning' against racism and that he might be able to begin the moves to equality for black people.
- There was pressure from outside of America. The issue of race was becoming prominent in the world. Black African and Asian States were winning their independence from the white empires that had ruled them. These 'new states' were becoming members of the UNITED NATIONS. How could the US face the black leaders of these countries when black people were so badly treated at home.

### Truman's Policies:

- END LYNCHING
- ABOLISH POLL TAXES THAT STOPPED BLACK PEOPLE VOTING
- END SEGREGATION IN THE ARMY.

The US Congress (Parliament) refused to pass the first two, but he did not need their permission to desegregate the army, which he did. It might not seem much, but it was! It was the FIRST TIME THE US PRESIDENT HAD DECLARED SEGREGATION WAS WRONG. THE DOOR HAD BEEN OPENED.

### Why was it difficult for black Americans to gain equal rights in the USA in the 1950s and 1960s?

50'S 50'S 50'S

## The Civil Rights Movement

In the 1930's and 1940's the NAACP had increasingly begun to use the legal system/courts to fight against discrimination, particularly segregation.

***Segregation is the way in which a society tells a group of human beings that they are inferior to the other groups.***

*NAACP pamphlet*

The  
Brown V  
Topeka  
Case  
Kansas

### 1954

In 1954, 20 US states, including Washington D.C. had segregated schools. LINDA BROWN, a 7 year old black girl had to walk 20 blocks to school even though there was a school for white people just two blocks away. With the help of the NAACP, the Topeka Board of Education was taken to court and the case ended up in the US SUPREME COURT, the most important court in the land.

Verdict: in a LANDMARK decision, the court under Chief Justice EARL WARREN declared:

- The decision of the Supreme Court of 1896, that said 'separate, but equal facilities' were fine as long as they were equal was to be changed because
- Separate facilities usually weren't equal.
- Therefore, all schools were to be DESEGREGATED

NB 1. This was a huge breakthrough and gave a huge boost in the fight for civil rights, because the highest, most respected court in the land, whose job it was to decide what the constitution said, had decided that segregation in schools was UNCONSTITUTIONAL / ILLEGAL.

NB 2. This case only meant that schools should be desegregated, but the NAACP knew that if it took cases about segregation in cafes, buses etc. to the Supreme Court it was likely to win.

### Southern White Resistance & the murder of Emmet Till

Southern states just refused to desegregate their schools. They argued, as they had done over slavery, that the STATES HAD THE RIGHT TO DECIDE the matter themselves. Over slavery it had led to civil war, with the southern states breaking away from the United States! By 1956, in six southern states, not one black child was attending a school with white children.

Violence, lynchings and beatings of black people, which had declined since the 1920's increased again. There were riots and bombings and even murders of NAACP supporters. This was to teach black people and their supporters that things were not going to change.

In 1955, 14 year old Emmett Till, from Chicago in the North was brutally murdered, while staying with relatives in Mississippi. He was not used to southern ways and the extent of racism against black people. Unwisely he was cheeky to a young white woman and was murdered as a punishment. An all white jury acquitted/found innocent those who were accused of the murder.

NB However some good did come out of it. The effect of the murder, and the failure to punish those accused, focused the attention of the US and the world on the terrible injustice and violence that black people faced in the South.

***'A little nobody who shook the world'.***

*The mother of Emmet Till describing her son*



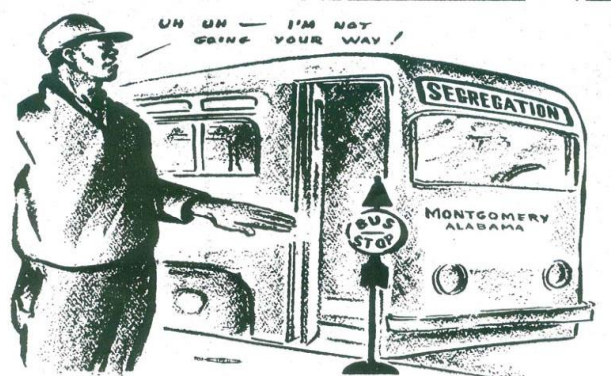
Emmet before his murder



Emmet's badly beaten body. His mother insisted he should have an open coffin so the world could see what the two men had done to her little boy.

### Montgomery Bus Boycott 1955

In December 1955, in MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, a 41 year old black woman, ROSA PARKS, refused the order of the driver to give up her seat to a white man. She was sitting in the black seats, but when all the seats became full she was required by law to give up her seat to a white person and stand at the rear of the bus. She was arrested and fined \$10. She was the local secretary of the NAACP which is



why she was willing to stand up for herself.

The local black community supported her by staging a 24 hour boycott of the buses (refusing to use them). This was so successful that they carried on until the bus company agreed to seat all passengers on a first come, first served basis. It was in this struggle that a young black minister (religious preacher), MARTIN LUTHER KING, first made his name.

The bus company, backed by the mayor and most of the white community, refused to give in and things got nasty. The homes of leading black people were destroyed, including king's home, where his wife and seven week year old baby narrowly escaped injury.

In the end, 13 months after the boycott began, the bus company gave in. The boycott was successful for 3 reasons:

- The peaceful protest led by Martin Luther King.
- Black people made up 75% of the bus company's business.
- Most important of all in Nov 1956, the SUPREME COURT ruled that SEGREGATION ON BUSES was UNCONSTITUTIONAL / ILLEGAL.

### Little Rock, Arkansas 1957



In September 1957, at LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, 9 black students tried to take their places at the all white high school.

The GOVERNOR of the state used the NATIONAL GUARD (reserve soldiers under the control of the state) to stop them taking their places, even though it was their legal right.



to the guard who had let the white students in. I tried to squeeze past him, he raised his bayonet and other guards closed in and they raised their bayonets. I started yelling 'Lynch her!' I tried to see a friendly face in the mob. I looked into the face of an old man who seemed a kind face, but when I looked at her she glared at me. They came closer, shouting, 'No nigger getting in our school! Get out of here!'

The black community took the Governor to court, so he withdrew the National Guard, but now the black teenagers were left totally unprotected from a violent angry mob of white students and adults, determined not to let them in.

The situation was so dangerous that PRESIDENT EISENHOWER had to send 1000 US PARATROOPERS (Federal troops) to protect them for the next 12 months while they attended Little Rock. This shows how deep rooted hatred the hatred for black people was.



Again this was another victory for peaceful and very brave protest, although by 1960, only 2,600 black children, out of a total of 2 million went to mixed/integrated schools.

## 60's 60's 60's

### The ( Peaceful) Civil Rights Movement

There were several important groups fighting peacefully for Civil Rights for black people: NAACP; CORE; SCLC; SNCC.

FREEDOM RIDES: Although buses now had to be desegregated, the bus stations and railway stations were still segregated in the South.

This time another peaceful black pressure group, the CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY (CORE), organised a series of freedom rides in which black protesters deliberately sat in 'whites only' sections

of bus and railway stations to try and get them desegregated. A lot of these freedom riders were attacked in ugly clashes with white racists.



The Attorney General, Robert Kennedy had to send 500 marshals to protect the freedom riders. Fortunately the President's Federal government, not the states governments, was in charge of commerce between states and these bus stations and railway stations were classed as interstate commerce. Therefore the federal government ordered the bus and railway stations to be desegregated or they would be closed down.

**LUNCH-COUNTER SIT-INS:** CORE and the SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee) organised a series of sit-ins at Woolworth's lunch-counters throughout the South in order to get them desegregated.



#### FREEDOM MARCHES:

people, even in the politically aware. people were beginning Civil Rights for black was proposing to pass greater rights and place to try to SUPPORT him.

By the early 1960s many black South, had become much more Increasing numbers of white to support the call for equal people. President KENNEDY laws to give black people huge demonstrations took

In 1963 Martin Luther King led a march in Birmingham Alabama to end segregation. The year before the council in Birmingham had closed all public recreational facilities, like parks and swimming baths to black people. 30,000, mostly black Americans took part in sit-ins in these facilities. 500 protesters were arrested and the Police Commissioner, Eugene 'Bull' Connor used water cannons, dogs and baton charges on the peaceful protesters. These events were televised and helped turn public opinion against racists like Connor. He had done the opposite of what he intended by helping the cause of civil Rights for black people.

#### MARCH ON WASHINGTON 1963:

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia sons of former slaves and sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood...I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.

Part of King's famous 'I have a dream' speech.



In August 1963 over 250,000 people, including 50,000 white Americans, marched to the LINCOLN MEMORIAL in the capital city, Washington DC to demand civil rights for all and made his famous 'I have a dream' speech.

### How much progress has been made by black Americans since the 1960s?

#### CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS (LEGISLATION) WHICH MADE BLACK PEOPLE LEGALLY EQUAL

In the Brown case in 1954 and lots of segregation cases afterwards, the Supreme Court said separate facilities were not equal and therefore were illegal.

PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON passed a series of laws to back up the Supreme Court's decisions and make it clear the Jim Crow laws were illegal.

a) Civil Rights Act 1964: banned segregation in public places e.g. bus stations.

b) Voting Rights Act 1965: black people's right to vote was protected,

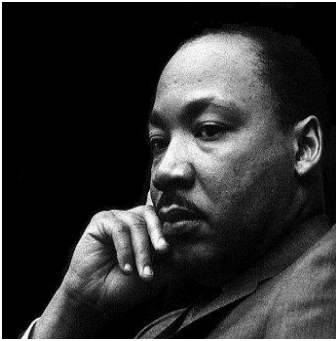
c) Civil Rights Act 1968: made it illegal to discriminate in jobs, housing etc.

Since these laws were passed, black people have been LEGALLY EQUAL to whites.



Lyndon B Johnson signing the Civil Rights Act in 1968

## Martin Luther King's contribution to the Civil Rights Movement



Dr Martin Luther King was a pastor/minister of a Baptist Church (a vicar) in Montgomery Alabama.

He first came to prominence when he helped lead the successful boycott of the MONTGOMERY bus system in 1955, after a black woman, Rosa Parks, had refused to give up her seat to a white man on the segregated bus system. During this fight the Supreme Court declared segregation on buses illegal.

- King believed in the NON -VIOLENT, DIRECT ACTION, methods used by Gandhi in the 1940's to demand the British give India its independence.

- He was one of the leaders of the SOUTHERN LEADERSHIP CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE, (SCLC) which was formed to co-ordinate protests against discrimination. It was black-led and black-run and advocated non-violent protest.
- Although there were several large Civil Rights groups that advocated peaceful protest, King became the most well known figure i.e. the effective spokesperson of the peaceful Civil Rights protest.
- In 1963 King led protests against discrimination in BIRMINGHAM ALABAMA against discrimination. The white population was violently resisting desegregation. The city was nicknamed 'BOMBINGHAM' because of the violence used by the whites against the Civil Rights protestors. King was arrested and jailed for his part in the protests.
- In 1963 he led the enormous Civil Rights MARCH ON WASHINGTON D.C., in which he delivered his famous 'I HAVE A DREAM' SPEECH, predicting that one day equality for black people would become a reality.
- In 1964 he was awarded the NOBEL PEACE PRIZE.
- He was ASSASSINATED in 1968 on a visit to Memphis Tennessee.

NB King's non- violent methods were so important in helping getting black people Civil Rights for several reasons:

- If they had used violence white racists could say that black people were not civilized and did not deserve to be given the rights that white citizens had.
- King's peaceful methods made the white racists who attacked the peaceful black protesters look even worse.
- His peaceful methods won him respect and support from abroad (international support) for rights for black people. The Nobel peace prize was recognition of this support. This INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT was CRUCIAL in putting pressure on the US government to do something about the inequality.

## Black Power- the militant struggle for rights



Black power movements  
APPROACH to the

The BLACK POWER movement rejected peaceful protest. Some black people, many of whom started in the peaceful civil rights movement, began to feel the peaceful approach would get black people nowhere.

believed in a different  
peaceful Civil Rights movement.

They were also not prepared to let white policemen or white racists attack them and do nothing, and were prepared to use violence if violence was used against them.

Black power movements had different AIMS to the peaceful Civil Rights movement. However they did not just disagree with King over their approach. They had different aims to King. They saw King as an "Uncle Tom" figure, begging the white man to be equal. Although there were differences in exactly what they wanted, they emphasised pride in being black ("BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL"), the building up of black institutions/organisations (schools, hospitals, newspapers, books, leisure activities) and ultimately a separate black country within the USA i.e. they wanted to be totally SEGREGATED. They were going to do this on their own, not beg the white man for equality.

### **Groups who believed in Black Power**

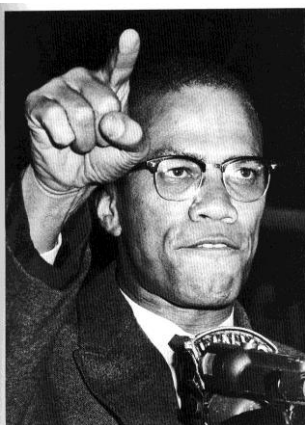
#### **NATION OF ISLAM**

- This organisation rejected Christianity as a white man's religion and instead chose to follow ISLAM (become MUSLIMS), which they saw as a BLACK PERSONS RELIGION.
- It was led by ELIJAH MUHAMMED. They rejected their 'Christian slave names' and instead substituted 'X' as a sign of their transformation. (below is a picture of Elijah Muhammed with Malcom X)



- They rejected white society and called for RACE WAR.
- Their long term aim was a separate state/country/nation for black Americans.

#### **MALCOLM X**



He was a very charismatic and influential figure. Malcolm X was originally a member of the NATION of ISLAM (Black Muslims) who rejected Christianity as a white man's religion.

He left the NATION of ISLAM organisation when Elijah Muhammed became jealous of his popularity.

Although he remained a Muslim, he began to later to turn his attention from religion to getting more political power and better living/working conditions for black people.

#### **Why Malcolm X appealed to some black people in the 1960's.**

- They were much more aggressive in defence of black rights than Martin Luther King and the wider peace movement.

- They believed MLK's soft approach was not working i.e. there were violent attacks on Black people who protested for equality. Black people should defend themselves i.e. Violence should be met with violence.
- They believed in the idea of 'BLACK POWER'.
- The black community should be segregated from the white community and should not beg the white man for equality.
- The black community should educate itself, develop its own businesses, and build up its own community without the white man's help.
- Black people should be proud to be black - 'BLACK is BEAUTIFUL'
- He appealed more to the urban Black people of the Northern cities who could vote and were not segregated, but still were very poor and discriminated against.

NB Strictly speaking the Black Power Movement was not after Civil Rights from white Americans. They wanted to build up separate communities.

However the successes achieved in the fight for Civil Rights can be as much attributed to people like Malcolm X and Stokely Carmichael as Martin Luther King. The peaceful approach showed how respectable black people were. The more aggressive approach of the black power movement showed black people would no longer put up with violence against them and this no doubt scared some white people / politicians in to action.



This photograph is misleading. It was a publicity shot to show he would DEFEND himself if attacked.

He must not be seen as a violent figure. He advocated violence in self defence. In fact it was his respectability combined with his determination not to be bullied that made him such a frightening figure.

He was assassinated in 1965 by members of the Nation of Islam.

### THE BLACK PANTHERS



Set up by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale in 1966, was the most violent and secret of the black power groups and was involved in several bloody battles with the police in the late 1960s when leaders were killed or imprisoned. They believed were fighting a class struggle not a race struggle. wore uniforms and were prepared to use weapons. 1968 they had 5000 members. However, there internal divisions and in 1969 27 Panthers were and 700 injured in confrontations with the police.



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STOKELY CARMICHAEL had been non-violent like King, and one of the leaders of the SNCC, but later his views became more militant. He wanted blacks to take more responsibility and reject white help. He adopted the slogan 'Black is beautiful'. Carmichael attracted criticism because of his

aggressive views. He became associated with the Black Panthers (but then left the USA in 1969 and moved to Guinea).

### **Black Power Riots: why did they happen?**

In the mid 1960s a number of riots took place in the northern cities of the USA. In the North there was no official segregation and black people had the vote. The riots were about something different to the protests in the South. They were about the hardships black people suffered such as slum housing in the northern ghettos, unemployment, inferior education and police attitudes. Young urban blacks were angry and frustrated with their situation and lack of opportunity.

There were riots in HARLEM, NEW YORK in 1964 and other cities such as CHICAGO and DETROIT in 1966. In these latter riots people were killed when black militants set fires and opened fire at police.



The most INFAMOUS, however, was the riot in the WATTS district of LOS ANGELES in August 1965 in which 34 people were killed 1072 people were injured in 6 days of rioting. Much of the area was burned down by its own people who chanted 'black power' slogans and fired on police. There was \$40 million worth of damage done. Between 1964 and 1966 there were over 100 riots in cities in the US, 130 people killed and £700 million worth of damage.

Some legislation passed by President L.B Johnson continued to lead the way for improvements in the lives of black Americans:

1967 Inter-racial marriages Act: The Supreme Court ruled that to forbid these was unconstitutional.

1968 Fair Housing Act: Made racial discrimination in housing illegal.

President LBJ and his advisers also wanted to look at why the riots had happened. The Kerner Report 1968 stated that racism was deeply embedded in US society. It said that Afro-Americans faced poverty and 'systematic police bias and brutality'. It said the federal government would have to spend money to improve the situation. It was largely ignored.

The Black Power movement gained great publicity at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics when Tommie Smith (gold medal) and John Carlos (bronze) gave the clenched fist salute at the medal ceremony. They were sent home.

# **70's**

# **80's**

# **90's**

### **The 1970s and 1980s**

What had improved for black Americans?



- Schools were more integrated as civil rights laws were enforced.
- By 1969 64.8% of black Americans had registered to vote.
- Most black Americans used their vote to try and improve their position. They aimed to vote black Americans into power whenever possible.
- In 1977 Carl Stokes became the first black Mayor of a major city - Cleveland.
- By 1985 over 10% of elected officials in the USA were black.
- A black cultural movement in the late 1960s and 1970s aimed to make black Americans proud of their racial and cultural heritage. It's logo was 'black is beautiful'.
- In the 1980s the films of director Spike Lee and the novels of Tony Morrison continued to celebrate black culture in this way.

What problems were there?

- By 1990 many black people still faced discrimination when trying to rent or buy housing.
- In 1980 13% of black males were unemployed compared to the national average of 7%.
- By 1967 27% of black Americans earned the average wage - higher than before but still too low.
- Many black people lived in the poorest areas, the worst housing and were poorly paid.
- Racism still existed. Black people were often harassed by the police.
- It seemed to be a long slow struggle to get equality and to change the way that some people thought.

### The 1990's

#### **Rodney King and the 1992 Los Angeles (LA) Riots**



On 2 March 1991 King and friends were driving in Los Angeles. The police spotted their car speeding. King refused to pull over and several police cars and a helicopter joined the chase. When they were stopped the two passengers lay face down on the ground and were arrested without incident. When four officers went to grab him, King resisted. A Taser was fired at King twice. Two officers then beat King with batons. King kept resisting. After 56 baton blows and 6 kicks King was handcuffed and dragged to the side of the road to await an ambulance. A citizen videoed the lengthy beating and when the police were not interested in it he took it to a TV network which broadcast the whole thing. People around the world watched the LAPD beating King.

The LAPD officers were charged with use of excessive force. On 29 April 1992 the officers were acquitted. President Bush said he was 'stunned' by this verdict.

The 1992 Los Angeles Riots began in the evening after the verdicts, got worse for 2 days and continued for several days. 53 people died; 2000 were injured. There was up to \$1 billion in damage. A curfew and the National Guard were used to try and control the rioting. The federal troops eventually left on 9 May.

The underlying causes of the riots were tension between the black and Korean communities in the area, high unemployment, poverty, racism, police brutality, frustration and feeling powerless. Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate, said both parties had not done enough to stop urban decay, and particularly blamed the Republicans for failing to do more over the last 10 years. A retrial two of the officers were found guilty of civil rights violations.

After the riots Congress passed a £500 million enterprise zone package to help deprived urban areas. In 1992 and 1993 Clinton started up Empowerment Zones to help these areas. Some cities which benefited from this were Atlanta, Chicago and NYC. They have helped to create jobs and encourage investment. There have been mixed results and it is hard to collect precise data on this.

### How successful had the Civil Rights movement been for black people by the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century?

#### Successes:



During the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century black Americans have excelled in all fields - politics, sport, entertainment, business, media and literature.

#### Politics:

- limited success in national politics (apart from Obama elected in 2008).
- Only 121 black Americans have been elected to both branches of US congress since 1880.
- Shirley Chisholm was the first black woman elected to Congress in 1968.
- Colin Powell was the first black American to become Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1989 and held this position during the Gulf War. He was also the first black Secretary of State from 2001-2005.
- Condolisa Rice was George Bush's Secretary of State (the 2<sup>nd</sup> most powerful politician after the president)
- More success at local level; many cities have black mayors and councillors. By 2000 there were 9040 black elected officials in the USA.

#### Sport:

- Muhammad Ali was world heavyweight boxing champion. He won the title 3 times and dominated the sport for more than 20 years. Most boxing experts view him as the greatest boxer of all time. In 1999 he was crowned 'Sportsman of the Century' by Sports Illustrated.
- Carl Lewis won 9 Olympic gold medals for athletics, four at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. With Michael Johnson he holds the record for the most number of medals won by any athlete.
- In the 2000 Olympic Games, Venus Williams won the tennis singles gold medal and doubles gold with her sister Serena.
- 'Tiger' Woods became the first black American to win the Masters golf tournament in 1997.

#### Television:

- Many TV shows which have created black American stars: 1960s I Spy starred Bill Cosby, 1980s and 1990s Different Strokes with Gary Coleman, The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air with Will Smith. Also the TV mini-series Roots.
- Oprah Winfrey has her own TV chat show. She is one of the richest people in the US. She has become a role model for black American women.
- Black Americans have found it hard to break into sports presentation. Recently there has been Greg Gumbel and Robin Roberts.

#### Literature:

- Toni Morrison won the Nobel Peace Prize for literature in 1993.
- Alice Walker and Maya Angelou have an international success.
- Robert Hayden became the first black American poet laureate (1976-78) and Rita Dove was the first female poet laureate (1993-95)

#### Cinema:

- Many black American stars including Eddie Murphy, Samuel L Jackson, Morgan Freeman and Whoopi Goldberg.
- Denzel Washington became the second black American to win an Oscar for best actor and has played iconic roles such as Malcolm X and Steve Biko.
- Spike Lee has been a very influential director in the latter 20<sup>th</sup> century. His movies have examined race relations, urban crime and poverty.

#### Music:

- Black Americans have made enormous contributions to the world of popular music.
- In the 1960s the Tamla Motown label produced groups such as the Supremes, the Four Tops, the Temptations, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder and the Jackson Five.
- Michael Jackson became a worldwide phenomenon. His 1982 album Thriller topped charts all over the world and became the biggest selling album of all time.
- In the 1980s black Americans developed their own new unique styles of music with hip hop and rap. Ice T focussed on drug dealing, pimping and gang warfare.
- Some politicians, religious leaders and journalists have accused rappers of creating a culture of violence and hedonism through their lyrics.
- Some black Americans feel that rap music expresses how they live and feel.

These are talented people' but they have had their opportunities thanks to the successes and struggles of people like Martin Luther King and Malcolm X and many others fighting for Civil Rights.

#### 1. Supreme Court Success:



After the Brown case of 1954 in which the Supreme Court ordered desegregation of schools, the Court supported desegregation in both public facilities like bus stations and in privately owned things like hotels and cafes.

2. Laws passed to make black people LEGALLY EQUAL to white people.

In the Presidency of Lyndon Johnson, Crucial laws/legislation was passed to protect black civil rights.

a) Civil Rights Act 1964: banned segregation in public places e.g. bus stations.

b) Voting Rights Act 1965: black people's right to vote was protected,

c) Civil Rights Act 1968: made it illegal to discriminate in jobs, housing etc.

Since these laws were passed, black people have been LEGALLY EQUAL to whites.

3. Positive discrimination: for much of the late 1970's and early 1980's the US Government followed a policy of AFFIRMATIVE ACTION. This involved reserving a certain percentage of jobs; university places etc. for black people/ethnic minorities. It covered all public sector jobs, or jobs in any company with a public sector contract.

#### Failures:

Despite the huge success of some black people who have become stars and the many more successful members of the black middle class and despite the fact that the Supreme Court and Civil Rights Laws make black people equal there are still problems:

MOST BLACK PEOPLE ARE STILL IN THE POOREST THIRD OF US SOCIETY.

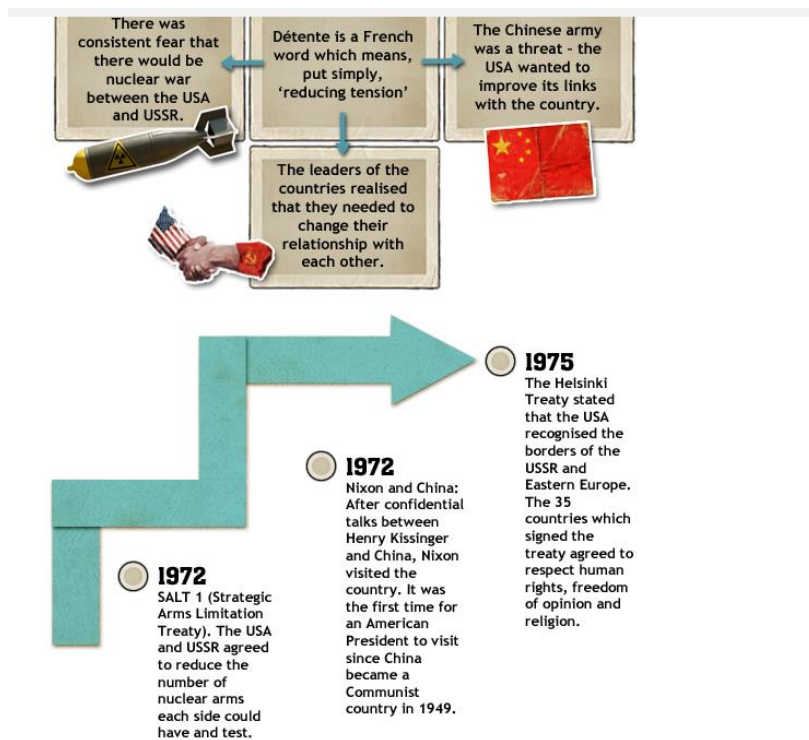
IN 1990 THE AVERAGE INCOME OF A BLACK FAMILY WAS LESS THAN HALF THAT OF THE AVERAGE WHITE FAMILY

IN 2000 BLACK AMERICAN MALE MANUAL WORKERS ONLY EARN 80% OF WHAT WHITE MALE MANUAL WORKERS EARN.

THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT STOP PRIVATE DISCRIMINATION e.g. a white person finding an excuse not to give a black person a job.

DESPITE THE LAWS TO PROTECT THEM, BLACK PEOPLE STILL FACE DISCRIMINATION WHEN TRYING TO RENT OR BUY A HOUSE AND EDUCATION STANDARDS ARE NOT EQUAL.

NB In fact the REPUBLICAN PARTY which was in power for much of the 1980's and early 1990's STOPPED AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, arguing it was reverse discrimination against white people.



## Afghanistan

On Christmas Day 1979, Soviet Union soldiers entered Afghanistan. Afghanistan was an important country because of its strategic location: it bordered with China and Russia, and was close to countries like Iran and Iraq – important countries in terms of oil.

In January 1980 President Jimmy Carter decided that USA athletes would not take part in the Olympic Games in Moscow. The period of détente came to an end – it had lasted for over 10 years.

- In 1981 Ronald Reagan became President of the United States. He believed strongly in the fight against Communism – he called the Soviet Union an "evil empire".
- Reagan decided that the USA would spend more on nuclear missiles and defence. He announced a new initiative called the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), which was later referred to as **Star Wars** by the media. The purpose of this initiative was to put lasers in space in order to be able to shoot and destroy the missiles of any invaders.
- The aim of the investment was to get rid of Communism by forcing the USSR to spend on weapons rather than investing in the country.
- In 1985 Gorbachev ordered the quarrelling to end. The relationship between the USA and Russia improved.
- In 1987 Gorbachev and Reagan agreed to remove missiles from Europe within three years – **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty**.
- By 1989 Soviet soldiers were leaving Afghanistan.
- In 1991 a treaty was signed to limit nuclear arms.

## Reasons for the end of the Cold War

1. Gorbachev's policies – reducing Soviet power in Eastern Europe.
2. In 1989, Gorbachev withdrew Soviet Union soldiers from the Communist countries of Western Europe.
3. During the course of the following year, Communist governments in Eastern European countries were abolished and the Cold War ended.

## Involvement in areas such as Iran, the Gulf War and Iraq

### Iran

On 22 September 1980, Iraq attacked Iran. The Iranian government needed equipment for its armed forces. Jimmy Carter agreed that the USA would exchange equipment for 444 **hostages**.

### The Gulf War and Iraq

Saddam Hussein was the leader of Iraq and when he attacked and conquered Kuwait in 1990. The world was stunned. Saddam now controlled around 20 per cent of the world's oil reserves.

By August, Iraqi soldiers had reached Saudi Arabia and had enough power to take control. King Fahd called on the USA to help, marking the beginning of the 'Desert Shield' campaign.

The Bush government and the American people supported the intervention for several reasons:

1. Iraq's cruel war tactics – murder and torture
2. Iraq's development of **weapons of mass destruction** (WMD)
3. **Economic sanctions** (not trading with the country) had failed.