

# USA 1950-2000 – Crib Sheet

Glossary of Key Terms & USA Words	
<b>Affluent society</b>	Used to describe America after the war when (mainly white) Americans had money to spend on items like televisions, cars, fridges, washing machines etc.
<b>Alphabet Agencies</b>	Nickname given to the organisations set up by Roosevelt as part of the New Deal
<b>Bus Boycott</b>	A non-violent protest method of not using the bus. The MIA and Martin Luther King organised the boycott after Rosa Parks was arrested for not giving up her seat in 1955
<b>Capitalism</b>	USA's economic and political system (the opposite to Communism). The belief that individuals should be free to make as much money as they can.
<b>Cold War</b>	State of hostility between the USA and the USSR without fighting
<b>Containment</b>	Policy used by the US which used military resources and influence to prevent countries turning communist.
<b>Communism</b>	USSR's economic and political system. The belief that the state should make sure that everyone is equal.
<b>CORE</b>	Congress of Racial Equality – Founded in 1942 to campaign for black civil rights
<b>Democrat</b>	Part of the Democratic Party of the US. They believe in democracy, freedom and equality. Presidents Kennedy & Clinton were both Democrats.
<b>Détente</b>	An attempt to reduce the tension between the USA and the USSR
<b>Domestic</b>	Policy which concentrates on factors at home.
<b>Domino theory</b>	The US belief that if one state fell to communism it would be quickly followed by neighbouring states.
<b>Great Depression</b>	The economic and social slump of the 1930s which followed the Wall Street Crash
<b>Fundamentalism</b>	A religious extremist
<b>Impeached</b>	To bring the president of the USA to trial for treason – Richard Nixon resigned before he was impeached and Bill Clinton was impeached in 1998 but was acquitted in 1999.
<b>Jim Crow laws</b>	Laws which discriminated against black Americans
<b>Laissez Faire</b>	A belief (supported by Herbert Hoover after the Wall Street Crash) which stated that people should help themselves rather than be helped by the government
<b>New Deal</b>	Set up by Roosevelt to deal with the effects of the Great Depression
<b>Reaganomics</b>	The nickname given to the economic policies of President Reagan
<b>Rugged Individualism</b>	The American idea that individuals are responsible for their own lives without help from anyone else, especially the government. Herbert Hoover believed in this idea.
<b>Shah</b>	The leader of Iran who was forced to abdicate in 1979. He was backed by the US which made them the enemy of the new leader, Ayatollah Khomeini.
<b>Suburbanisation</b>	When a number of middle class American families moved to new homes in the suburbs in the late 1940s & 1950s (away from the cities).
<b>Truman Doctrine</b>	President Truman's commitment to follow a policy of containment – prevent the expansion of communist countries
<b>Universal Health Insurance</b>	Health insurance which applies to all the population of a country

<p><b><u>1.Economic downturn and recovery</u></b> <b><u>(Chapter 1)</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Wall Street Crash:</u></b>  <b>Rising unemployment</b> – 1.5 million in 1929, 13 million by 1932  <b>Depression in the cities</b> – 1933 1/3 of the work force in the cities was unemployed. Forced to live in Hoovervilles  <b>Family life</b> - no benefit system had to rely on handouts, sharp rise in suicides, number of marriages fell  <b>Depression in the countryside</b> – many farmers not able to sell their produce and became bankrupt, some were evicted and became hobos searching for work</p> <p><b><u>Herbert Hoover attempts to deal with the Depression</u></b>  <b>He believed in:</b>  Balancing the budget, Rugged Individualism, seemed to not care about the poor, 'In Hoover we trusted, now we are busted'  <b>1932 – Hoovers attempt to relieve the crisis:</b>  Emergency Relief Act (July 1932)– gave \$300 million to state governments to help unemployed  Home Loans Act (July 1932) – encouraged home ownership</p>
---	--

	<p><b><u>Roosevelt and New Deal</u></b>  <b>Relief, Recovery and Reform</b> – programme to restore the shattered economy  <b>Alphabet Agencies – AAA</b> – Helped farmers to increase their profits, subsidies paid to farmers to destroy their crops in order to drive up prices. <b>FERA</b> – Provided \$500 million to help poor and homeless  <b>Second New Deal (1935)</b> – Targeted the rights of workers, the poor and the unemployed  <b>Successes</b> – Millions of jobs were created as a result of <b>AAs</b>, it stabilised the banking system and restored confidence in the market, income of farmers doubled between 1932-39  <b>Criticisms</b>- it discriminated against black people (lower wages or no work), only short term improvement as there was <b>another recession in 1937</b>, did not do enough to help the needy, <b>World War ultimately lifted the US out of the Depression</b></p>
<p><b><u>2 The economic impact of WWII and post-war developments</u></b>   <b>(Chapter 2)</b></p>	<p><b><u>How did America benefit from WW2?</u></b> – Arms production rapidly increased. Traditional industries such as coal, iron and steel and oil greatly expanded. By end of 1940s USA produced one-half of the world’s manufactured goods.  <b>Economic boom</b>- war bonds were cashed in and Americans started buying consumer goods, automobile industry increased in sales.  <b>Consumerism</b>– America becomes an affluent society, buy an increased amount of goods, growth in population led to growth in demand of goods, standard of living increased.  <b>Suburbanisation</b> -1950s mid middle class families moved away from the centre of cities to new homes in the suburbs. Here they could live the ‘American Dream’, they could now live here with the latest ‘must have’ appliances.  <b>‘Poverty amidst plenty’</b>- 1950s was <b>not an affluent time for everyone</b> – 29 % of population lived below the poverty line, Hispanic workers in the west and black people in the ghettos had low paid jobs or found it hard to find jobs..</p>
<p><b><u>3. Civil Rights 1941-1969</u></b>   <b>(Chapter 3)</b></p>	<p><b><u>During WWI</u></b> – Fought in segregated units (Jim Crow Army), black soldiers not allowed into combat in the marines – they were only used to transport supplies, US air force would not accept black pilots; by the end of the war there were 1000 black pilots  <b><u>Contribution to the war effort</u></b> - 1941 Roosevelt set up his ‘<b>Fair Employment Practices Committee</b>’ which banned discrimination against black Americans in those factories used to produce war goods. Black Americans began the ‘Double V’ campaign – victory over fascism abroad and over discrimination at home. Membership of the <b>NAACP rose from 50,000 to 450,000 during the war</b>  <b><u>Impact of the war on the civil rights issue</u></b> – President Truman sets up a civil rights committee. Proposes an anti-lynching bill but this was opposed. However, this provided encouragement to the NAACP which began to challenge the segregation laws in the courts in the 1950s.  <b><u>Brown v. Topeka (1952-54)</u></b> – In 1952, <b>Linda Brown’s</b> parents along with the NAACP took the board of education to court because Linda was <b>not allowed to attend the white school nearest to her house</b>. After losing, they took the case to the Supreme Court. 1954, <b>the Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation went against the US constitution</b>. However, the Supreme Court had no power to impose its decision  <b><u>Little Rock Central High School (1957)</u></b>- <b>Nine Africa-American students</b> attempted to enter the white-only Central High School. <b>The Governor Faubus</b> surrounded the school with <b>National Guardsman</b> to prevent the students from entering. <b>President Eisenhower</b> responded by sending in <b>1,000 troops</b> to protect the for the rest of the school year  <b><u>James Meredith (1962)</u></b>-Supreme Court forced <b>Mississippi University</b> to accept the black student James Meredith. He was prevented by doing so by the Governor of Mississippi. Riots broke out and <b>President Kennedy sent 2,000 troops to restore order</b>, 300 soldiers had to remain on the university campus to protect Meredith for three years  <b><u>The Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955-1956)</u></b>- In 1955 <b>Rosa Park</b> refused to give up her seat up to a white person and was arrested and convicted of breaking the law. The <b>MIA was set up (led by MLK)</b> and they organised a boycott by deliberately stopping to use the buses. Bus companies went bust, <b>1956 - the Supreme Court declared the bus laws illegal, the bus companies gave in</b>. This was the beginning of the non-violent mass protest.  <b><u>Freedom Rides (1961)</u></b>-<b>CORE deliberately rode on buses of companies</b> who were ignoring the law banning desegregation, a bus was attacked and burnt and some riders were beaten up. 27 Freedom riders were arrested and by Sept. 1961, 27 freedom riders were jailed for 67 days. Robert Kennedy was eventually able to <b>end segregation in all bus &amp; rail stations and airports</b>.  <b><u>Martin Luther King</u></b> – Believed in non-violent protest, leader of the MIA and played key part in the Montgomery Bus Boycott, gifted public speaker and became leading figure in civil rights movement. <b>Birmingham march (1963)</b>, <b>March on Washington (1963)</b>, <b>Nobel peace prize (1964)</b>, <b>Selma to Birmingham marches (1965)</b> &amp; <b>assassination (1968)</b>.  <b><u>Malcolm X</u></b> – Rejected MLK’s peaceful methods <b>believing violence could be justified</b> to secure a black separate nation, good public speaker, support from young black Americans, encouraged the self-esteem of black Americans, <b>inspired Black Power and Black Panther movement</b>  <b><u>Legislation</u></b> – <b>Civil Rights Act (1964)</b> - racial discrimination banned in employment; black students given equal rights to enter all public places. <b>Voting Rights Act (1965)</b> – stopped racial discrimination over the right to vote; ended literacy tests. <b>Supreme Court ruling (1967)</b> –Supreme Court ruled that state laws banning interracial marriages were unconstitutional. <b>Fair Housing Act (1968)</b> – made racial discrimination illegal in housing</p>

<p><b>4. Political change 1960s-2000</b></p> <p><b>(Chapter 4)</b></p>	<p><b>President Kennedy (1960-Democrat)</b> – <b>New Frontier</b> aimed to tackle <b>poverty, inequality and deprivation</b>. He appointed <b>first black federal judge</b> (Thurgood Marshall); sent troops to protect James Meredith at Mississippi University; <b>he introduced the Civil Rights Bill</b>. Introduced public works scheme; spent money on <b>defence and space technology</b> which <b>created jobs</b>. He proposed Medicare and gave financial help to the elderly and unemployed. However, <b>he faced opposition</b> in Congress and <b>many bills were rejected</b> due to his limited experience in office.</p> <p><b>Nixon and the Watergate Scandal (1972-1974 Republican)</b> – 1972 set up <b>CREEP</b> with the intention of getting into power by any means necessary. CREEP arrested for <b>breaking into the Watergate offices</b> of the Democratic Party. <b>Nixon ordered a cover up</b> and lied to the American public (went on to win a landslide victory in the election of 1972). Revealed that president’s conversations had been <b>taped</b> but Nixon refused to hand over the tapes; when the tapes were eventually handed over some were missing or contained gaps. April 1974, Nixon was forced to hand over the tapes unedited which showed that he had repeatedly lied throughout the investigation. <b>August 1974, Nixon resigned before he was impeached</b> by Congress. Effects – it undermined the people’s confidence in politics and politicians; destroyed Nixon’s reputation (nicknamed ‘Tricky Dicky’); it damaged American’s reputation abroad; the USSR used it as an example of corruption the US</p> <p><b>Ronald Reagan (1980 Republican)</b> – Introduced <b>Reaganomics</b>; <b>cut taxes</b> (by \$33 billion) hoping it would encourage people to spend and thereby create jobs; <b>slashed welfare programmes</b> (by \$20 billion a year for three years). Cut taxes at a time when government spending (on the <b>Star Wars programme</b>) increased and this caused <b>the national debt to grow to \$1 trillion</b>. 1987 recession hit due to the worst stock market crash since 1929</p> <p><b>George Bush Snr. (1989-1993 Republican)</b> – <b>continued with Reagan’s economic policy</b> but ran into trouble. Had to go back on election promises <b>and start to increase taxes</b> (especially on the wealthy). Passed the Disability Act and Clean Air Act</p> <p><b>Bill Clinton (1993-2001 Democrat)</b> - <b>Abandoned Reaganomics</b> – increased government spending taxes and reduced the national debt. Got the economy back on its feet after Reagan/ Bush years. Introduced <b>a national minimum wage</b> (1996). Attempted <b>universal health insurance</b> was rejected by Congress. Scandal – has an affair with an intern (<b>Monika Lewinsky</b>). He was threatened with impeachment</p>
<p><b>5. Social Change 1950-2000</b></p> <p><b>(Chapter 5)</b></p>	<p><b>Music-1950s Rock n roll</b> gave teenagers music of their own to listen to – rebellious – looked upon as inappropriate (‘Elvis the Pelvis’ –energetic dancing and upfront sexuality) – linked to R&amp;B which was associated with the black community.<b>1960s The Beatles</b> took the USA by storm (Beatlemania). Bob Dylan – protest songs. <b>1970s Disco</b> – <b>Donna Summer</b>, Chic, Bee Gees particularly popular with women, the black and gay community. Heavy metal – Led Zeppelin. <b>1980s Bruce Springsteen</b> – music about the struggles of ordinary working class people. <b>1980/90s – Rap / hip hop</b> –product of inner-city problem areas –starts off political, changes into glamourising gangster lifestyles</p> <p><b>Film</b> – 1950s the emergence of the anti-hero –<b>James Dean, Marlon Barlow</b>. 1980s Method actors <b>Harrison Ford, Tom Cruise</b>. 1990s Arnold Schwarzenegger. Blockbuster films – <b>Jaws (1975)</b>, Star Wars (1977), ET (1982), <b>Ghostbusters (1984)</b>. 1950s/1960s drive-ins become popular ‘passion pits’. 1960s Multiplex cinema opens in 1963. DVDs appear in the late 1990s.</p> <p><b>Television</b> – <b>1946 no. of TVs increased from 7000 in 1946 to 50 million in 1960</b>. TV personalities became household names, such as <b>Lucille Ball</b> who appeared in I Love Lucy. TV reflected white middle class lives of Americans, no representation of black America. <b>1960s – the ‘Western’ genre</b>. <b>1980s soap</b> operas Dallas, Dynasty. 1990s chat shows – Oprah Winfrey Show, Jerry Springer Show</p> <p><b>IT</b> – <b>1985 Bill Gates sets up Microsoft</b> and launches Microsoft Windows. Late 1990s development of the internet. Since 1980s development of computer games – Nintendo introduces NES. Sega Mega Drive, Sony PlayStation in 2001. Recent developments – <b>email, social networking</b></p> <p><b>Literature</b> – ‘Great American novel’ led to popular books such as <b>‘To Kill a Mockingbird’</b> (Harper Lee, 1960) focused on issues of racial equality. The <b>‘Beat Generation’ group of novelists and poets</b> who produced books that talked about the teenage way of life and drug taking <b>Hunter S. ‘Thompson’s ‘Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas’</b>.</p> <p><b>Youth Culture</b> – <b>1950s emergence of the teenager</b> – more money to spend on records, films and clothes- had more free time. <b>Became rebellious</b> – some formed gangs, cruised in cars, drank heavily, dropped out of society (beatniks). Looked to anti-heroes like <b>James Dean</b>. The hippy movement – 1960s many young people rejected parents’ lifestyles, dropped out of society, grew long hair, took drugs like LSD, engaged in ‘free love’. Opposed the Vietnam War, settled in hippy communes</p> <p><b>Student Protest</b> –Influence of <b>‘Swinging Sixties’</b> and protest singers influenced students to protest about issues, such as civil rights many took part in <b>freedom marches, freedom rides and sit ins</b>. <b>SDS</b> first student protest group set up in 1959.Marches peaked in 1968-70, 1969 700,000 people marched to Washington DC against the Vietnam War</p>

<p><b><u>(Chapter 5)</u></b></p>	<p><b>Women-</b> During <b>WWII 6 million women were employed</b> by factories in traditional 'male' jobs. After the war gave up their war time jobs and returned to their roles as mothers/wives and traditional female roles such as, teachers, nursing and secretarial work. <b>1950s – media encouraged women to take up traditional roles.</b> New items such as washing machines led to boredom and encouraged women to seek paid employment. <b>1960s – growth of the feminist movement</b> –governmental report stating that women earned 50/60% of what men did. <b>1963 Betty Friedan</b> published the <i>Feminine Mystique</i> called for equal opportunities for women. 1966 Friedan sets up <b>National Organisation for Women (NOW)</b> which challenged discrimination. More radical group called the Women's Liberation Movement was also set up which became more active in challenging discrimination. They burned their bras and protested against Miss America. <b>1964 Civil Rights Act banned discrimination</b> due to gender; <b>1973 abortion legalised.</b> 1981 – <b>Sandra Day O'Connor</b> became the first woman to be appointed to the <b>US Supreme Court.</b> By 1995, 70 % of women of working age were in employment compared with only 38% in 1955</p>
<p><b><u>6. Cold War 1945-2000</u></b></p> <p><b><u>(Chapter 6)</u></b></p>	<p><b>Truman Doctrine -(1947)</b> – President Truman offered help to any countries threatened by communism; trying to <b>prevent the spread of it to other countries.</b> Turning point in relations with USSR as the USA would now be <b>proactive in following a policy of containment</b> (as they believed in the Domino Theory). <b>The Marshall Plan (1947)</b> – offered \$13 billion in <b>aid to countries recovering from war</b> in the hope that these countries would not turn communist.</p> <p><b>The Berlin Crisis (1948-1949)</b> – After the war, <b>Germany split into four zones</b> (West –USA, Britain &amp; France. East – USSR). Berlin was in the USSR zone and was also split into four zones (West –USA, Britain &amp; France. East – USSR). 1948 –with the introduction of a new currency in the West, Stalin (leader of the USSR) decided to <b>retaliate by cutting off all links between West Germany and West Berlin.</b> Stalin hoped that the West would be forced to give up their sectors. The West organised <b>supplies to be airlifted to West Berlin</b> which lasted until May 1949 when Stalin gave in and re-opened all routes. Truman saw this as a success. In 1949 the USA <b>joins NATO.</b> The USSR set up the Warsaw Pact.</p> <p><b>The Cuban Missile Crisis</b> – 1961 JFK backed a landing of Cuban exiles at the <b>Bay of Pigs</b>, which intended to overthrow the Cuban Fidel Castro (communist Cuban leader). Cuba became closer to the USSR and Castro agrees to have USSR missile bases in Cuba in retaliation for the USA having missile bases in Italy and Cuba. 14 Oct. US spy <b>plane took a photograph of Soviet missile launch site,</b> JFK decided to <b>impose a blockade on Cuba</b> using the US navy. Letters were sent between the two leaders, with Kennedy agreeing publically to lifting the blockade in return for USSR missiles to be removed from Cuba. JFK agreed privately to remove US missiles from Turkey. <b>Consequences</b> – It looked to the American public that Kennedy had won. Both Khrushchev and Kennedy were accused of <b>brinkmanship</b> (pushing the world to the brink of nuclear war, <b>a hotline was set up between Kennedy</b> (The White House) and Khrushchev (the Kremlin) to ease communication.</p> <p><b>Vietnam- Causes -</b> Vietnam was divided into a communist country in the north and a non-communist country in the south. In 1963 Diem (the leader of the South Vietnamese) was overthrown and this worried the US because they feared South Vietnam would be taken over by communists, along with the neighbouring countries of Laos and Cambodia. In 1964, a US destroyer was fired on by the North Vietnamese patrol boat; President Johnson used this as an excuse to send troops to South Vietnam. <b>Methods</b> – intense bombing campaign (Operation Rolling Thunder); chemical warfare; search and destroy. <b>Reason for defeat</b> – growing opposition at home; inexperienced troops at home; Vietcong tactics; support from the USSR and China. <b>Consequences</b> – 1969 President Nixon began peace talks. By 1975, communist forces had over-run South Vietnam and in 1976 Vietnam was reunited under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh Asia, Laos and Cambodia soon turned communist.</p>

**7. Search for World Peace since 1970**

**(Chapter 7)**

**Détente – Reasons for** – The USA wished for improved relations with the USSR and China; they wanted to **reduce the risk of nuclear war**; the USA wanted to end the war in Vietnam; they also wanted to reduce the cost of the arms race

**SALT I (1972)** – limited the amount of ICBMs and ABMs (missiles). First agreement between superpowers to **limit the number of nuclear weapons they held**.

**Helsinki Agreements (1975)** – agreed to work towards closer economic, scientific and cultural links; the USSR accepted the existence of West Germany

**The USA's changing relations with China** – Nixon wanted to exploit the strained relationship that had started to appear between the USSR and the China. **Ping-pong diplomacy (1971)** – Chinese table tennis team invited the US team to Peking and this proved successful. This lifted the 21-year-old trade embargo with China. 1972 – Nixon became the first US president to visit China. China was allowed into the UN

**End of Détente – Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, 1979** – USA refused to sign **SALT II** because of the **USSR's invasion of Afghanistan**. US Olympic team boycotted the Moscow Olympic games 1980

**Reagan and the second Cold War – 1983 Reagan** displayed threatening behaviour by increasing his defence budget by working on **'Star Wars'** developing satellites with lasers that would destroy Soviet missiles in space. This proved a turning point as the USSR could no longer keep up the USA in terms of defence spending.

**Reagan and Gorbachev a return to détente** – 1985 **Gorbachev** became the new leader of the USSR and he started a process of friendlier relations with the USA. **1987 INF was signed** and agree to destroy all medium and short range weapons within three years. 1989 Bush Snr. And Gorbachev meet at Malta and announce the end of the Cold War. The reform policies resulted in the Soviet grip over Eastern Europe loosening. The satellite states started to overthrow their governments and this sparked **the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989**. Europe was no longer divided between communism and capitalism.

**US involvement in Iran** -1980/90s US became more involved in the Middle East. 1979 the Shah of Iran (who was supported by the US) was forced to abdicate and Iran was now led by a fundamentalist who denounced the USA. **Nov. 1979 the US embassy was stormed** and 66 Americans were taken hostage; they were held for 444 days. Carter authorised a rescue mission but it failed.

**The Gulf War (1990-1991)** – **Aug. 1990** troops from Iraq invaded and captured Kuwait; USA wanted to protect its oil supplies in Kuwait; sent forces to protect Saudi Arabia (**Operation Desert Shield**); Jan 1991, the Allies launched an air assault against Iraq (**Operation Desert Storm**) and land forces began the liberation of Kuwait (**Operation Desert Sabre**); Saddam was allowed to withdraw with much of his army intact; Bush's reputation stood high and America had restored order.

1. How important was Roosevelt and his New Deal in solving the problems caused by the Wall Street Crash? (12)

2. The lives of many Americans changed between 1945 and the late 1960s due to the influence of developments such as:

- Post-war affluence
- Consumerism
- Suburbanisation

Arrange the developments in order of their significance in changing the lives of many Americans between 1945 and the late 1960s.

3. How important was the Montgomery Bus Boycott in the struggle for civil rights? (12)

3. How important was education in the struggle for civil rights in the USA between 1941 and 1970?

3. How important was the Civil Rights Act of 1968 for Black Americans and their struggle for equality? (12)

4. How important was JFK in eliminating poverty, inequality and deprivation? (12)

4. How important were the changes made by Bush Senior and Bill Clinton? (12)

4. The economy in the USA between 1981 and 2000 improved due to the policies of the American Presidents:

- Ronald Reagan
- George Bush snr
- Bill Clinton

Arrange these Presidents in order of their significance in improving the economy of America.

5. The lives of many young Americans in the 1950s and 1960s were influenced by developments such as:

- Films and the media
- New musical styles
- Literature

Arrange the developments in order of their significance in influencing young Americans. Explain your choices.

6. How important was the Cuban Missile Crisis in improving relations between the USA and Russia? (12)

7. How important was détente in bringing about a change in the relationship between the USA and Russia? (12)

7. How important was the relationship between President Reagan and Gorbachev in bringing about an end to the Cold War? (12)