

## Important Dates and Chronological Review → Unit 8

Highlight cues, add additional notes, summarize change over time.

### CHRONOLOGICAL REVIEW

- 1945 **Yalta Conference**... the Big Three planned the postwar division of conquered European and Asian countries.
- Allied victories at Iwo Jima and Okinawa.
- FDR died... **Harry Truman** took over.
- United Nations** was founded. From the grave, Woodrow Wilson says, "It's about time."
- Germany surrendered and Hitler committed suicide.
- Potsdam Conference**... planned to divide Germany... Stalin and Truman do not get along... Cold War beginning...
- The first atomic bomb was tested in New Mexico... then the two remaining bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki ... after being threatened and warned. Japan surrendered after the second.**
- WWII ended.**
- 1945 WWII is over... **Harry S. Truman's 21-Point economic message** urged the extension of unemployment benefits, increased minimum wage, support farm prices permanently, and begin new public works projects (and much of FDR's Economic Bill of Rights)
- 12 million G.I.s return home. They look for jobs, women leave the workplace (except for approximately 1/3) and get married... baby boom begins the next year.**
- 1946 **Iran Crisis** erupted when the USSR refused to leave until the U.S. promised them an oil concession.
- The **Employment Act of 1946** promised that the government would use its resources (including deficit spending) to assure "maximum employment, production, and purchasing power."
- The **Baruch Plan** allowed U.S. nuclear information to be shared for "peaceful use"
- Henry Wallace** (Secretary of Commerce) is fired for disagreeing with Truman's "get tough" policy with the Soviets. Henry Wallace later runs for president and is "pro-Soviet" rather than "fight against the Soviets"
- Inflation reaches 18.8%. This is terrible... anything over 3% is hard on Americans. The next year, however, GDP hits 200+ billion for the first time.
- Republicans win both houses of Congress.
- Dr. Benjamin Spock** wrote *Baby and Child Care*. Babies Babies Everywhere...
- 1947 **Truman Doctrine** provided support for those resisting communism... used first in **Greece and Turkey**. Truman investigated loyalty of government employees.
- Communists took over Hungary... U.S. didn't intervene. Big mistake? ...Tune in to the Twilight Zone to see what would have happened had we stood up for this country trying to resist communism.
- Taft-Hartley Act** restored a more balanced relationship between labor and business.
- Marshall Plan** used to provide massive economic assistance to western Europe.
- President's Committee on Civil Rights** issued "To Secure These Rights" as a blueprint for future civil rights activism.

- National Security Act** passed which mandated a major reorganization of the foreign policy and military establishments of the U.S. Government. The act created many institutions including the **National Security Council (NSC)**. The act also established the **Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)**.
- Rio Pact** created military alliances with Latin America.
- House on **Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)** conducted communist investigations... this committee was created in 1938 to investigate "disloyal and subversive" organizations. It was later dissolved in 1975.
- Levittown** built in NY... suburbia... "*little houses on the hillside... little house made of ticky tacky... little houses on the hillside... little houses all the same...*" (song in 1962 criticizing conformity of suburbs)
- 1948      Communists took over Czechoslovakia.
- Israel** was founded.
- Soviets blockaded Berlin**... U.S.(and allies) conduct 11 month **Berlin Airlift** to support democratic side of Berlin and prevent communists from forcing allies out.
- Whittaker Chambers** (a former communist) accused **Alger Hiss** of being a communist. Hiss sued Chambers for slander but lost. **Richard Nixon** served on HUAC and helped find evidence that Hiss was a communist. He is found guilty of perjury and sent to prison in 1950.
- 1949      **NATO** formed.
- USSR exploded their first atom bomb.**
- Mao Zedong** and communists take over **China**. **Jeshi** banished to **Taiwan**.
- National Housing Act** passed and provided Americans with reasonably priced housing.
- 1950      **Senator Joseph McCarthy** alleged hundreds of communists had infiltrated the U.S. government. This began the **Second Red Scare**, aka **McCarthyism**.
- U.S. announced the hydrogen bomb project to find an even more powerful weapon than the A-bomb.
- NSC-68** was issued by the National Security Council which urged massive security build up to protect against the growing communist threat.
- Korean War** began as North Korea invaded South Korea. U.S. send troops to support democratic South. China supported the North.
- The McCarran Act** (internal security) required members of "Communist front" organizations to register with the government.
- 1951      **Dennis et al v. U.S.** ... Supreme Court upheld the conviction and imprisonment of 11 communist leaders.  
            **Jack Kerouac** writes *On the Road*, becoming literary leader of Beat generation
- 1952      **H-bomb** tested.
- Korean War** continued and **Dwight Eisenhower** ran for president promising to end it. (he won) Republicans win both houses of Congress again. (This won't happen again until the early 1990s)
- Norman Vincent Peale inspired Americans with his **Power of Positive Thinking**... book filled with quotes and advice.  
            **Ralph Ellison** awakened many with *Invisible Man*. (showed need for racial justice)
- Television** increased popularity and production...and the first election televised in 52. By the end of the decade... Everyone has the "tube."

1953 **Korean War** ended with armistice, **DMZ**, 38<sup>th</sup> parallel... remains today.

Josef Stalin died.

**Julius and Ethel Rosenberg** were executed for selling nuclear secrets to the Soviets.

**Robert Oppenheimer**, leader of Manhattan Project during WWII, was called a security risk as he doubted morality weapons.

Termination policy called for the end of the **Bureau of Indian Affairs**. It was transferred to the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, now known as the Department of Health and Human Services. This helped to continue a process of ending racist policies including forced assimilation.

U.S. began an economic recession in 1953.

1954 U.S. Air Force Academy was founded.

**Brown v. Board of Education** reversed **Plessy v. Ferguson** (1896) and began desegregation of schools in "all deliberate speed" which the South took to mean... never. This is also the year of **Emmitt Till's** murder and **MLK** helping to organize the **Montgomery Bus Boycott** following **Rosa Parks** refusal to give up her seat to a white man.

CIA intervened in **Guatemala**... arming rebels to resist communism.

U.S. threatens retaliation against China after they invaded islands of Quemoy and Matsu.

1954 **Senate censured McCarthy**... the madness finally ended.  
**Atomic Energy Act**

1955 **Jonas Salk polio vaccine** approved.

**AFL and CIO merge.**

1956 **Interstate Highway Act** authorized 41,000 miles of new interstate. This was an amazing investment for the nation. Eisenhower was reelected too.

1957 **Baby Boom peaked.**

**Jack Kerouac** wrote *On The Road* and defined the "**Beat**" generation.

**Civil Rights Act of 1957**

**Roth v. U.S.** declared obscenity as that which appeals to "prurient interest" and has no "redeeming social importance"

**The first Civil Rights bill since Reconstruction Era was enacted and was primarily a voting rights bill.**

Following the historic US Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), which eventually led to the integration of public schools, Southern whites in Virginia began a "Massive Resistance".

Violence against blacks rose there and in other states, as in Little Rock, Arkansas, where that year President **Dwight D. Eisenhower** had ordered in federal troops to protect nine children integrating a public school in **Little Rock**, the first time the federal government had sent troops to the South since Reconstruction also in this year. There had been continued physical assaults against suspected activists and bombings of schools and churches in the South.

**Senator Strom Thurmond** of South Carolina, an ardent segregationist, sustained the longest one-person filibuster in history in an attempt to keep the bill from becoming law. His one-man filibuster lasted 24 hours and 18 minutes; he began with readings of every state's election laws in alphabetical order. Thurmond later read from the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and George Washington's Farewell Address.

This Act created the **U.S. Commission on Civil Rights**.

- Eisenhower Doctrine** promised intervention on behalf of any Middle Eastern country threatened by communism.
- USSR launched **Sputnik**. This began the space race and led to **NASA** and **National Defense Education Act** the following year.
- U.S. entered another recession.
- 1958 The first Boeing 707 went into service and the first U.S. satellite was launched. The space race and technology race surged.
- China still causing trouble on the islands of Quemoy and Matsu...
- Nikita Khrushchev** demanded the end of the 4-power occupation of Berlin. This renewed Berlin Crisis eventually led to the building of the **Berlin Wall** in 1961.
- 1959 **RCA 501** was introduced... the world's first fully transistorized computer.
- Fidel Castro took over Cuba**, nationalizing economy, becoming communist, and aligning with Soviets.
- Khrushchev and Nixon's **Kitchen Debate**
- 1960 Vietcong formed in South Vietnam
- Gary Powers – **U2 Incident**... spyplane shot down in USSR
- Eisenhower** leaves office warning of “the unwarranted influence of **military-industrial complex**” entering foreign conflicts, which ultimately, would destroy the American way of life
- Greensboro**, North Carolina – site of the first **sit-in**
- SNCC** (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee) formed
- JFK** elected President. Nixon barely loses... **Televised debate** could have been the key
- 1961 **Peace Corps** founded by JFK
- Bay of Pigs** invasion... failed attempt to support anti-communist revolutionaries trying to overthrow Fidel Castro
- Berlin Crisis ends with **Berlin Wall** being erected
- Freedom Riders** head to the South
- Mapp v. Ohio** ruled that federal exclusionary rule, stating that illegally obtained evidence cannot be used in a trial, is extended to the states
- 1962 **Cuban Missile Crisis**
- John Glenn** orbits Earth in Friendship 7 (Mercury Project)
- Rachel Carson** writes **Silent Spring** revealing dangers of DDT insecticide; fuels **environmentalism**
- 1963 **Betty Friedan** writes **The Feminine Mystique**
- Martin Luther King, Jr.** leads **Civil Rights March in Washington D.C. – I Have A Dream**
- U.S. & U.S.S.R. sign **Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty**
- Ngo Dinh Diem assassinated in Vietnam (by U.S.)
- JFK assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald; LBJ takes over

# CHRONOLOGICAL REVIEW

- 1964 **Gulf of Tonkin** incident causes Congress to grant Lyndon Johnson broad war powers (**Gulf of Tonkin Resolutions**)
- Civil Rights Act** passed
- Free Speech Movement** begins on college campuses
- LBJ elected to full term
- Reynolds v. Sims** ruled that state legislatures and later congressional districts must be proportional to the people represented to allow for equal representation
- 1965 **Malcolm X** assassinated
- Voting Rights Act of 1965** enacted
- Anti-War "**teach-ins**" (U.C. Berkley) begin
- Ralph Nader** writes **Unsafe at any Speed** revealing automobile manufacturing flaws... leads to government regulations in the name of consumer protection... hello seatbelts!
- 1966 **NOW** formed, **Gloria Steinem**, (National Organization for Women)
- Miranda v. Oregon leads to **Miranda Act** upholds right of the arrested to be informed of their rights
- 1967 **Race riots** in Newark, N.J., Detroit, M.I. and many other cities
- Peace rallies** staged throughout nation
- Israel wins **6-Day war**
- 1968 **Tet Offensive** changes perception of Vietnam
- My Lai Massacre** exposed
- Vietnam Peace Talks** begin; Johnson unable to broker agreement
- MLK and RFK** assassinated
- Civil Rights Act of 1968** passed
- Violent demonstrations and charges of police brutality outside **Democratic National Convention**
- Richard Nixon** elected President by **silent majority**; LBJ chose not to run
- 1969 U.S. has more than 500,000 troops in Vietnam; Nixon promises peace with honor
- Stonewall Riot** in New York City marked the beginning of the **Gay Pride** movement
- Apollo XI** lands on the moon... Once step for man, one giant leap for mankind (and the U.S.) – **Neil Armstrong**
- Woodstock** Festival of Peace and Love
- Nixon begins to withdraw troops from Vietnam
- Nixon Doctrine**: U.S. will provide arms and economic assistance, not manpower, to nations that request it
- Nixon announced **détente** policy

- 1970 U.S. invaded **Cambodia** in pursuit of enemies
- Student protesters killed at **Kent and Jackson State Universities**
- The First **Earth Day** is celebrated, raising awareness about environmental concerns
- Clean Air Act** strengthened, requiring regulatory controls for air pollution (original act passed in 63)
- 1971 **The Pentagon Papers** made public by **Daniel Ellsberg**
- 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment** lowers voting age to 18
- 1972 Nixon visits China...**Henry Kissinger** works with Nixon to develop **Shuttle Diplomacy**, secret meetings, detente
- SALT I** Treaty signed by U.S. & U.S.S.R. to limit arms
- Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)** approved by Congress (but later fails to be ratified... 3 states short)
- Democratic Committee Headquarters at Watergate Hotel** broken into  
 James McCord and a team of Cuban "burglars" are caught and implicate E. Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy as the masterminds. Hunt has indirect ties to the White House as a consultant to Charles Colson (Special Counsel) and this begins the **Watergate Affair**... Despite some outrage in the press, Nixon denies any involvement and wins re-election in a landslide.  
*Then, Washington Post* report by **Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein** reveals that a check signed by E. Howard Hunt was found on one of the Cuban Watergate burglars.
- Furman v. Georgia** ruling states all death penalty statutes in all states were unconstitutional as written due to subjectivity and arbitrariness; rewritten state statutes brought the death penalty back within a few years
- Clean Water Act** sets goals and standards for eventually ending toxic dumping into waterways and tables
- 1973 **Roe v Wade** legalized abortion in the first trimester of pregnancy (later expanded and then limited in many ways state to state... issue polarizes nation and splits parties... Democrats = Pro Choice, Republicans = Pro Life
- Vietnam armistice (cease-fire) ends war, dividing country at 17<sup>th</sup> parallel into North and South Vietnam
- Arab Oil Embargo** leads to gas shortages and inflation
- Vice President **Spiro Agnew** resigns after pleading "no contest" to tax invasion; **Gerald Ford** chosen to replace him
- Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities** holds hearings that last into 1974 on **Watergate** break-in.  
 John Dean (White House Counsel) implicates Nixon, exposing direct evidence of involvement of Nixon and his highest advisors in a series of questionable legal and extra-governmental activities. Nixon fires many prosecutors and investigators on the case (**Saturday Night Massacre**); public outraged. Nixon announces, "**I am not a crook.**"
- Endangered Species Act** signed into law
- 1974 Federal law limits **maximum speed limit to 55**... effort to conserve fuel and lives (later repealed in the 90s... Ralph Nadar and others predicted increase in casualties... didn't happen... *the nation just can't drive 55*
- House Judiciary Committee approved 3 articles of Impeachment with large bipartisan support... **Nixon resigns**  
**Gerald Ford takes over & pardons Nixon**
- 1975 **Vietnam Era ends** when **Saigon** falls. Congress denies Ford needed funding and approval for military support for the falling South. Mass evacuations.
- 1976 **James Earl Carter** (Jimmy) elected President
- America celebrates its bicentennial

# CHRONOLOGICAL REVIEW

- 1977 Carter announces **Human Rights** policy  
**Panama Canal Treaties** signed
- 1978 **Regents of the University of California v. Bakke** upholds affirmative action  
**Camp David Accords** promise peace between Egypt and Israel  
**Jim Jones** and his religious cult commit mass suicide in Guyana
- 1979 **Three Mile Island nuclear accident** in PA strikes fear in Americans  
**Jerry Falwell** forms **Moral Majority**  
**Iranian Hostage Crisis** begins... Iranian "student militants" take over American Embassy and hold hostages for 444 days... released after Reagan sworn in, January 1981  
**U.S.S.R. invaded Afghanistan**
- 1980 **U.S. grain embargo** against Soviet Union in protest of Afghanistan invasion  
**U.S. boycotts Olympics** being held in Moscow (Summer games)  
**Cyrus Vance**, Secretary of State, resigns because **Carter's decision to use force to rescue U.S. hostages in Iran** was made against Vance's advice and all rescuers were killed  
**Ronald Reagan** elected President (hostages released after he takes oath of office)