Topic 7: Postwar America 1

I The Beginning of the Cold War

- A. The Truman Doctrine advocated supporting any nation that is resisting Communism.
- B. The Truman Doctrine evolved because the US feared that Communism would spread to other countries.
- C. The Marshall Plan would see that Europe got all the raw materials needed to rebuild.
- D. The Marshall Plan helped Europe helped Europe get the food and other essential products needed.
- E. Communist leaders would not allow the Marshall Plan in their countries, they wanted independence from the West.
- F. The distance from West Germany to Berlin made it impossible to launce a military operation to help West Berlin. Therefore the Berlin Airlift was used to get supplies to West Berlin.
- G. The Berlin airlift was successful in showing that the Soviet Union could be challenged.
- H. The Warsaw Pact was developed to counter the North Atlantic Treaty Organization(NATO).
- I. Members of the Warsaw Pact: Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and the Soviet Union.
- J. NATO promised the mutual defense of all members.

II The Korean War

- A. The Communist won the civil war in China, thus China became a Communist country. The US had no power to effect the result of the civil war in China.
- B. The basis of the cease fire between North and South Korea is the 38th parallel.
- C. Communist in China used propaganda to influence public opinion.
- D. General MacArthur says that China's entry into the Korean war makes it "an entirely new war" and a major turning point in the war.
- E. There was no winner in the Korean War. Technically it has never been ended. Only a cease-fire has been agreed to, no peace treaty has ever been signed.
- F. For the first time US troops were sent into battle without congressional declaration of war. This set a precedent that would allow future Presidents to do the same.

III The Cold War Intensifies

- A. The US and the Soviet Union enter into an arms race. The rivalry between the US and the USSR puts the entire world under pressure.
- B. The US openly explains that if forced to defend itself, the US would use massive retaliation against the aggressor.
- C. This kind of diplomacy is known as "brinksmanship".
- D. Khrushchev's talk of "peaceful co-existence" made the citizens of Soviet dominated countries in Eastern Europe believe they would gain a degree of political autonomy.
- E. Communist leaders wanted to show that they could be independent of the West.
- F. Eisenhower writes a letter to the Prime Minister of England hoping to persuade him not to go war over the Suez Canal.
- G. The USSR dedicates massive resources to successfully launch a satellite into space, well ahead of the US.
- H. The USSR used it's early dominance of it space program to inspire a huge sense of Soviet nationalism.

Topic 7: Postwar America 2

IV Cold War Fears at Home

- A. US fears of a nuclear attack motivate some to build bomb shelters.
- B. The Smith Act made it illegal to advocate the violent overthrow of the US government.
- C. The House Un-American Activities Committee targeted the film industry first because people believed that movies influenced peoples belief in politics.
- D. Alger Hiss and Julius Rosenberg were accused of breaking the law by known Communist.
- E. Senator Joseph McCarthy claimed to have a list of known Communist that worked in the US govt.
- F. Much of McCarthy's accusations could never be proved so he lost credibility.
- G. Senator Margaret Smith believed that McCarthyism was causing Americans to fight each other instead of fighting the enemy.

V Postwar Prosperity

- A. The GI Bill provides for medical care, education, and housing for all veterans
- B. Because of the GI Bill the US experienced a positive impact on the postwar economic prosperity.
- C. Americans migrated from the Mid-West to California, and the Sunbelt states during this time period.
- D. Because of the population increase, the Sunbelt and California gained greater political power.
- E. Sam Walton's Wal-Mart Stores, specializes in retail merchandising, becomes one of most successful business in the twentieth century.
- F. Truman fails in passing his legislation known as the "Fair Deal" which included national health insurance and an increase in the minimum wage.

VI Mass Culture in the 1950's

- A. The US is caught up in a wave of consumerism, buying as much as they could, most of it on credit.
- B. Postwar prosperity is evident in the fact that the US produced seven million TV sets in 1950.
- C. A religious revival sweeps the US, as millions turn out to attend the Billy Graham revivals.

VII Social Issues of the 1950's

- A. The Beatnik's attitudes and appearances was a reaction to postwar conformity and materialism.
- B. Urban Renewal was suppose to improve cities, but in many cases it drove people from their homes.