



The Atomic Age: Truman & Eisenhower

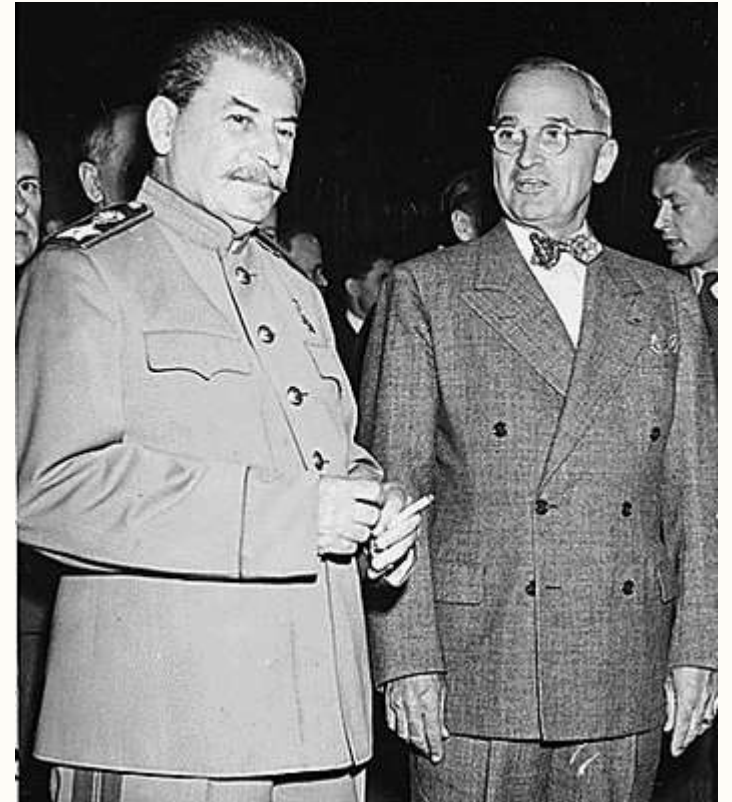
Post-war
Confidence and
Anxiety

1945-1960

The International
Impact of
the Cold War

Origins of the Cold War

- US President Harry Truman and Soviet Union dictator Joseph Stalin disagreed on how Germany and Eastern Europe should be controlled after WWII
- Recall US was *capitalist*; Soviet Union was *communist*
- Stalin's army ended up occupying almost all of Eastern Europe making them satellite states of the USSR
- The rivalry for control between the US and the USSR led to a 46 year conflict known as the Cold War



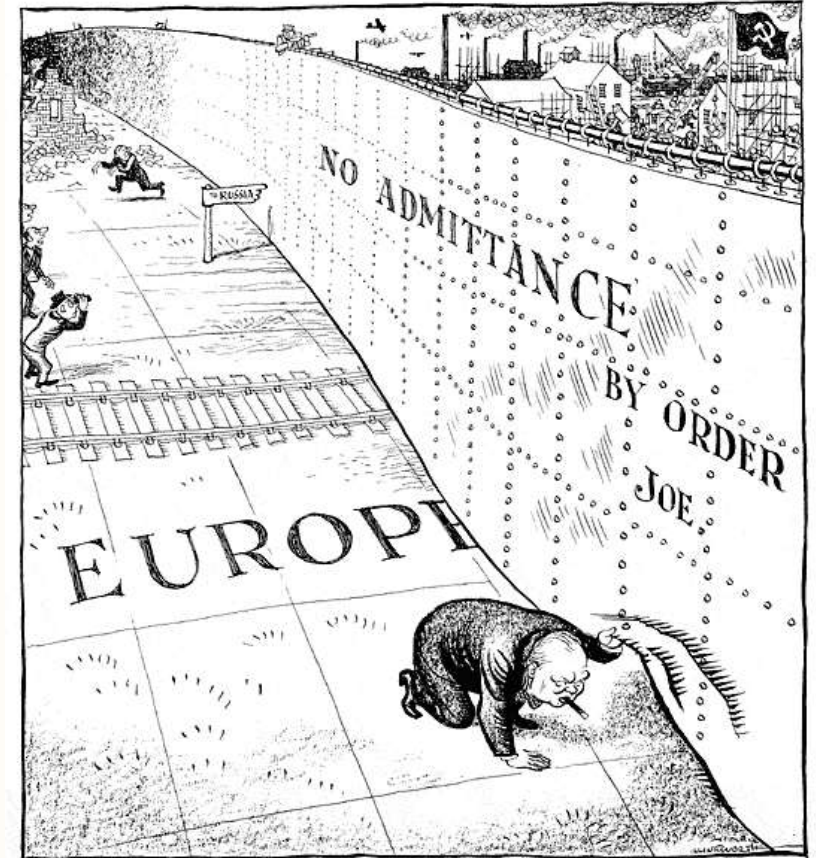


Division of Germany, 1945



The “Iron Curtain”

- British Prime Minister Winston Churchill agreed with Truman that Stalin was attempting to spread Soviet influence throughout the world.
- He commented that the world was now divided in two by an “iron curtain”; on one side communist, the other side capitalist.



Berlin Splits in Two

- Later (1961), the Berlin Wall was constructed *physically* separating communist East Berlin from capitalist West Berlin



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Truman Doctrine

- The Soviet Union attempted to expand its influence over the struggling nations of Greece and Turkey.
- President Truman pleaded to Congress in 1947 to financially assist these two countries to deter them from falling under Soviet control.
- Truman's promise to aid nations struggling against communist movements became known as the Truman Doctrine, setting a new course for American foreign policy.



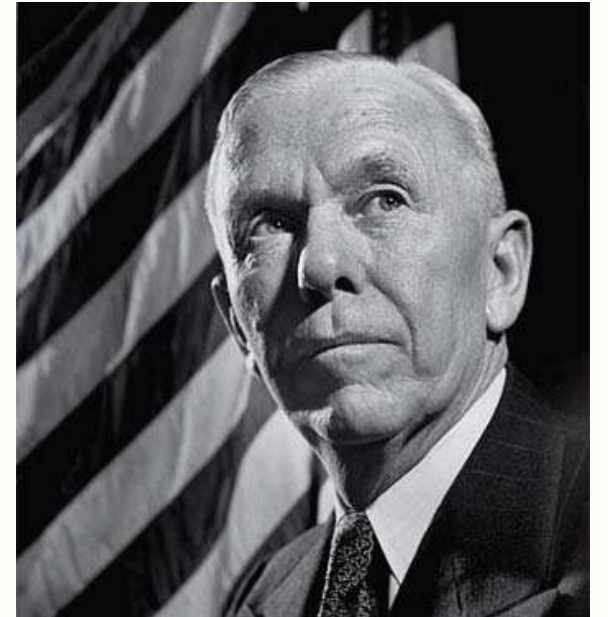
Containment Policy

- In July 1947, George Keenan, an American diplomat, published an article about the global intentions of the Soviet Union.
- Keenan argued that the Soviet Union would be persistent and patient in its attempts to expand communist influence.
- His article presented a blueprint for the American policy of suppressing communism called containment.



Marshall Plan

- After WWII, European countries were in dire need for food, fuel and medical supplies.
- Secretary of State George Marshall proposed a plan to help Europe financially recover, called the Marshall Plan.
- This aid helped facilitate good relationships between Western Europe and the US and also helped reduce the influence of communism on the continent.



The Berlin Air Lift

- June 1948 --Stalin cut off Berlin from Western contact
- All land routes to into city were blockaded by Soviet troops
- Truman decided to fly supplies to the cities citizens by air
- Berlin Airlift delivered supplies to the city for 11 months
- Possibility of war loomed
- Stalin finally reopened city







Communists Takeover China

- In 1949 Chinese communist leader Mao Zedong emerged victorious in the Chinese Civil War.
- US had supported anti-communist forces in China during the war, but refused to intervene militarily.
- Americans were shocked at the communist victory in China; seen as a failure of the containment policy







朝鮮人民軍中國人民志願軍勝利萬歲!

The Korean War

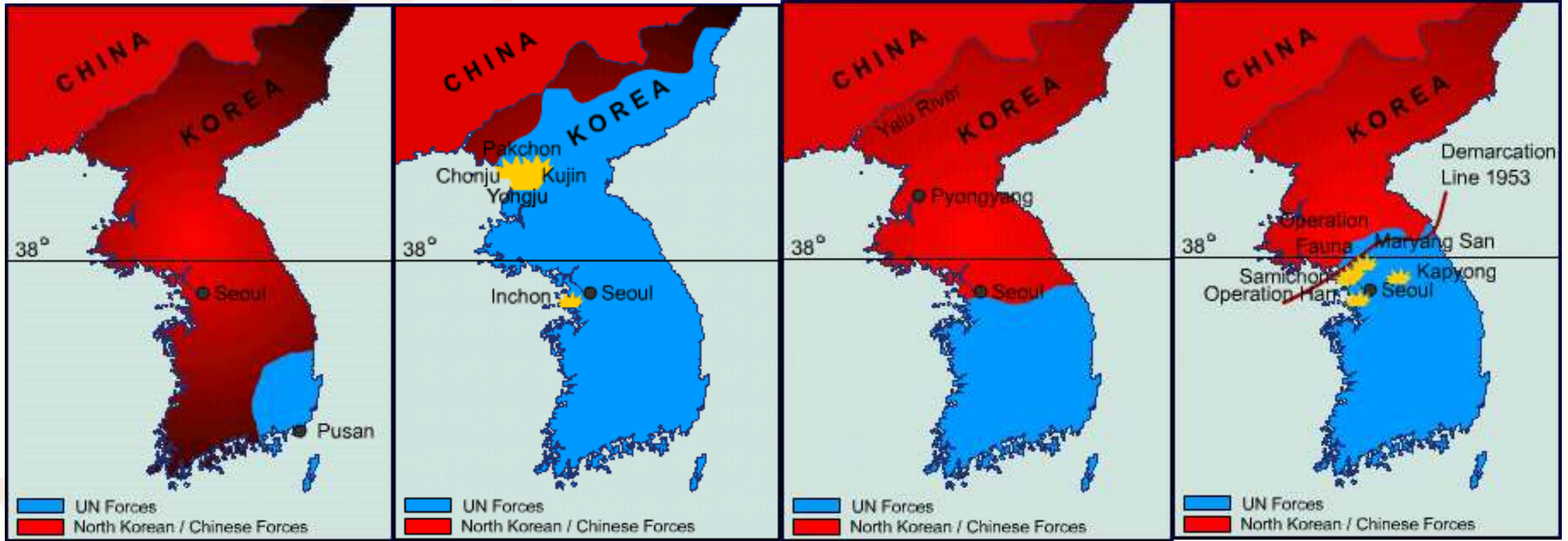


- After WWII, the Korean peninsula was divided at the 38th parallel.
- North Korea was under the control of the Soviet Union.
- South Korea was under the control of the United States.

The Korean War

- In 1950, communist North Korea attacked south of the 38th parallel into South Korea with weapons supplied by the USSR.
- In response, President Truman sent in US troops to push back the North Korea army.
- When the US forced North Korea's army back above the 38th parallel China decided to send troops to assist the North Koreans.
- War ended in 1953 as a stalemate; no territory was gained or lost by either side





The Domestic Impact of the Cold War

Another Red Scare

- After WWI, Americans became very concerned with the spread of communism and socialism in the world.
- This fear was revived after WWII.
- With the “loss” of China and the thousands of troop deaths in the Korean War, many Americans again became concerned about the growing influence of communism.
- This “Second Red Scare” caused more alarm, spreading deeper and wider than the Red Scare of the 1920’s.
- HUAC: House on Un-American Activities Committee created to search for communists in all aspects of American life. (government, army, unions, education, etc.)

Spy Cases Worry Americans



- Americans feared that spies were working within the United States to help steal secrets about constructing atomic weapons.
- Married couple Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were accused of helping pass along atomic secrets to the Soviet Union.
- Both were executed in 1953 for treason.

The Rise of Joe McCarthy

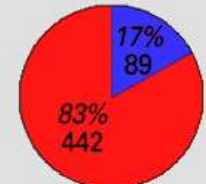
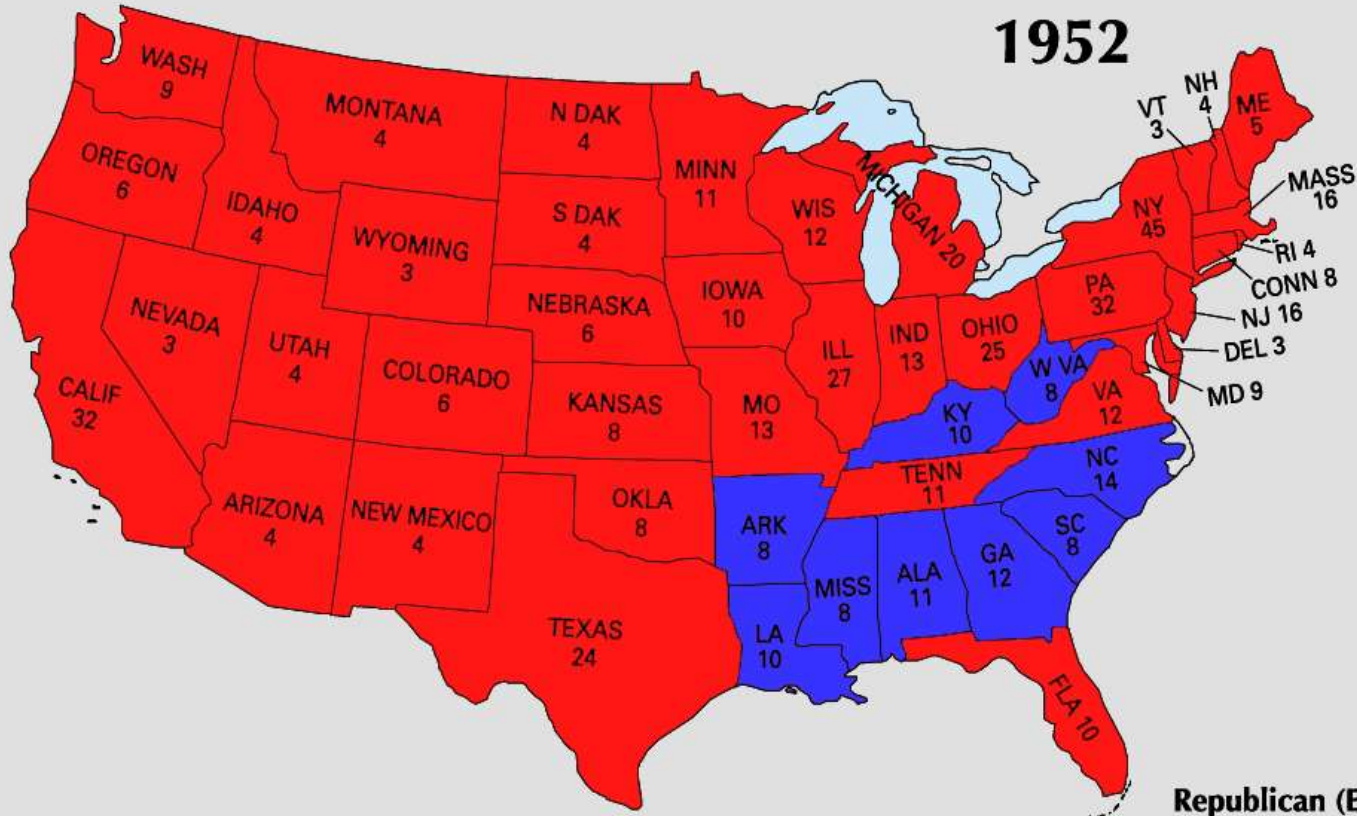
- In 1950, Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy claimed that the US state department was overrun with communists.
- The victory of Zedong's communist regime in China and the outbreak of the Korean War only served to increase the popularity and power of Joseph McCarthy and his accusations.
- His quest to rid the government of communists became known as McCarthyism.



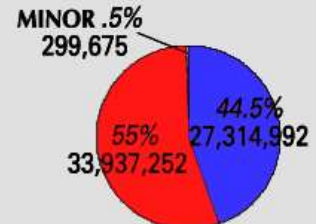
Eisenhower's Administration

1952-1960

1952



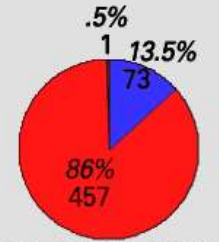
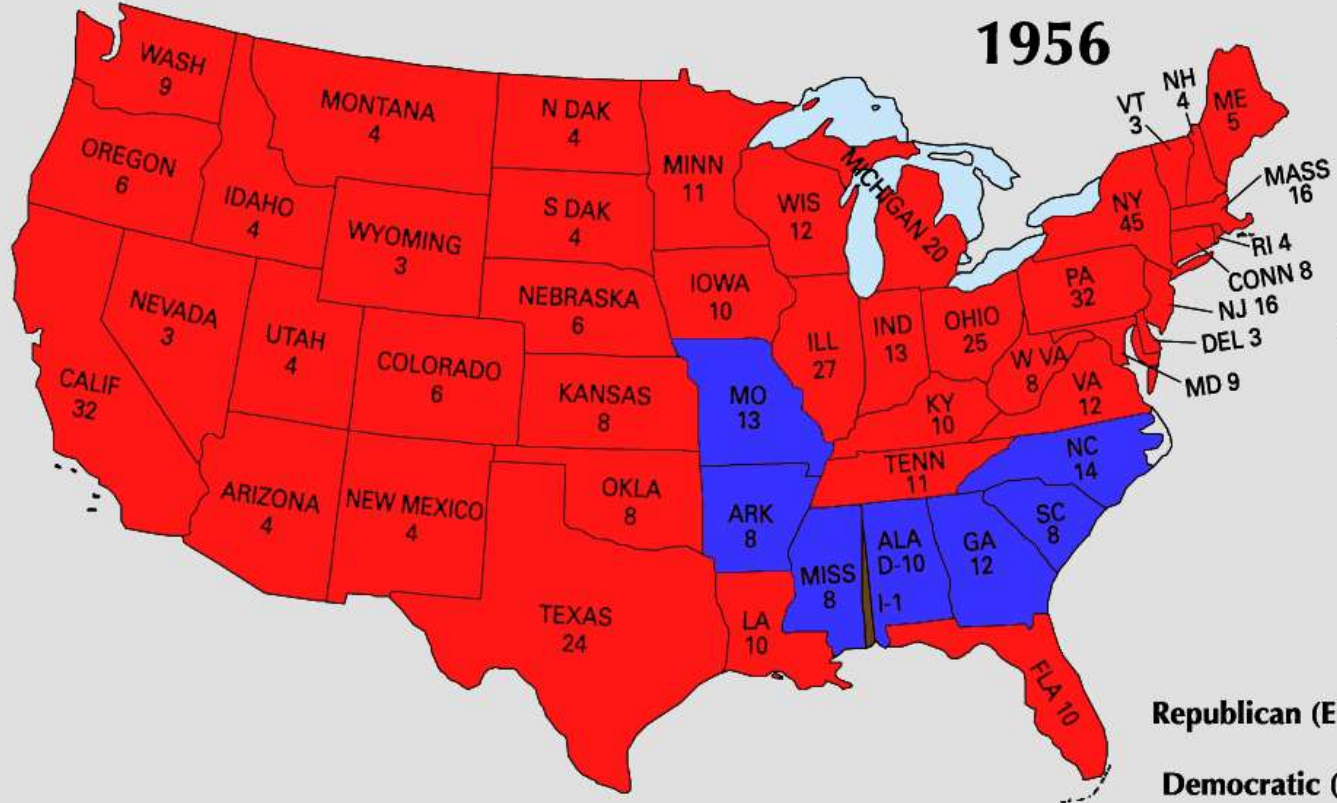
ELECTORAL VOTE TOTAL: 531



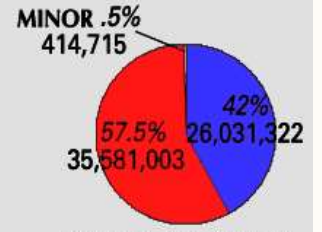
POPULAR VOTE TOTAL: 61,551,919

Republican (Eisenhower) 
Democratic (Stevenson) 

1956



ELECTORAL VOTE TOTAL: 531



POPULAR VOTE TOTAL: 62,027,040



Eisenhower's Presidency



- Dwight D. Eisenhower was president from 1952-1960.
- Architect of D-Day during WWII
- Richard Nixon was his vice president
- John Foster Dulles was his secretary of state
- Dulles advocated for brinkmanship: active support for nations that wanted liberation from communism –The US would push the aggressor nation to the brink of nuclear war, forcing it to back down and make concessions in the face of American superiority
- He wanted to emphasize nuclear and air power more than traditional troops and weapons
- Massive retaliation: the US would unleash its arsenal of nuclear weapons on any nation that attacked it



Domino Theory

- Domino Theory: where one Asian nation would fall to communism and the rest would follow
- Dulles was urged to action by the domino theory
- He created the South East Asian Treaty Organization (SEATO), which resembled NATO, to give mutual military assistance to member nations to hold up Ngo's crumbling regime

Eisenhower Doctrine

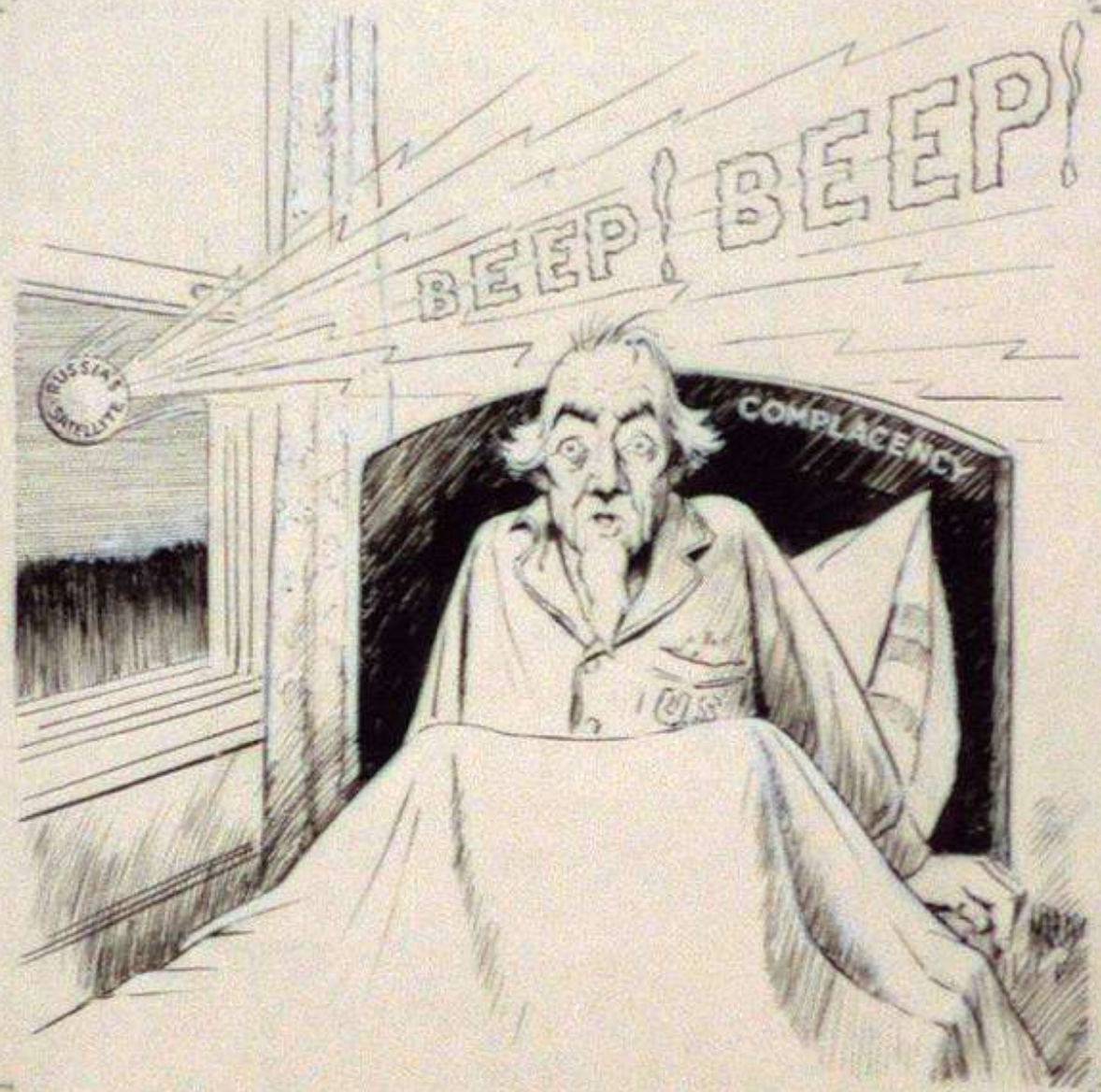
- Eisenhower seized this opportunity to become more of a presence in the Middle East by proclaiming the Eisenhower Doctrine
- Like the Truman Doctrine, but was pointed at the Middle East
- *Remember that the US overthrew a democratically elected leader and helped to enstate a shah in Iran...*

Cold War Blasts into Space

- October 1957 – USSR launches the *Sputnik I* satellite into space
- Official start of the “Space Race”
- Americans were shocked by the apparent superiority of USSR’s technological advances



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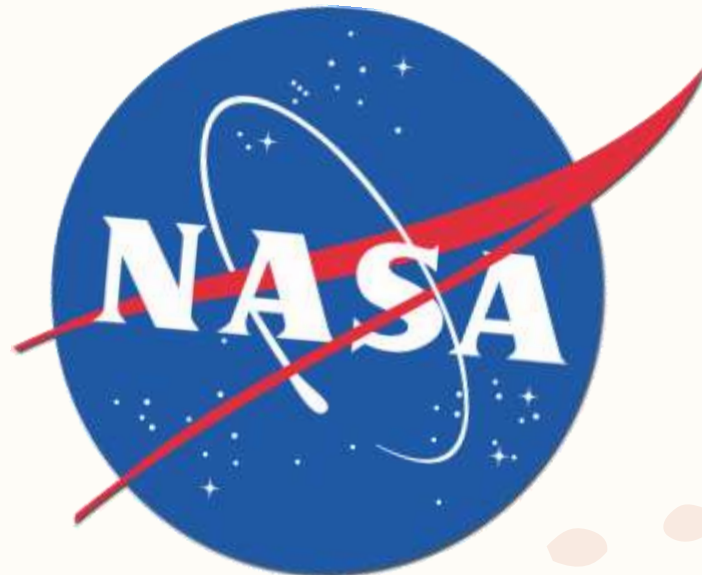
AWAKE AT LAST?

NEIL K. MEEKER
6/10/66



Congress reacts to *Sputnik I*

- President Eisenhower supported the National Defense Education Act – a billion dollar program intended to produce more scientists and teachers of science
- Congress created NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)



Baby Boom changes society



- Soldiers returning from WWII come home and have a lot of babies
- At the peak of the “baby boom” 4.3 million babies born in a year (1 every 7 seconds)
- With rapid population growth comes changes in the structure of society

IN BAD TIMES, FEWER BABIES BORN



SOURCE: NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

Americans move to the suburbs

- “Baby Boom” families move in mass to the suburbs after WWII
- Automobiles allow easy transport from urban centers to suburbs
- William Levitt – leader in the mass production of suburban homes
- These communities designed by Levitt became known as Levittowns.



Construction of Interstate Highway System



- Eisenhower pushed legislation for the new interstate highway system.
- Eisenhower deemed it necessary to homeland security.
- Would allow the military easy transport in case the US was attacked or invaded by the Soviet Union.
- Multi-lane expressways that would connect major cities
- Single largest construction endeavor in American history
- Allowed for the growth of suburbs as travel routes became more efficient and quicker to and from urban centers.

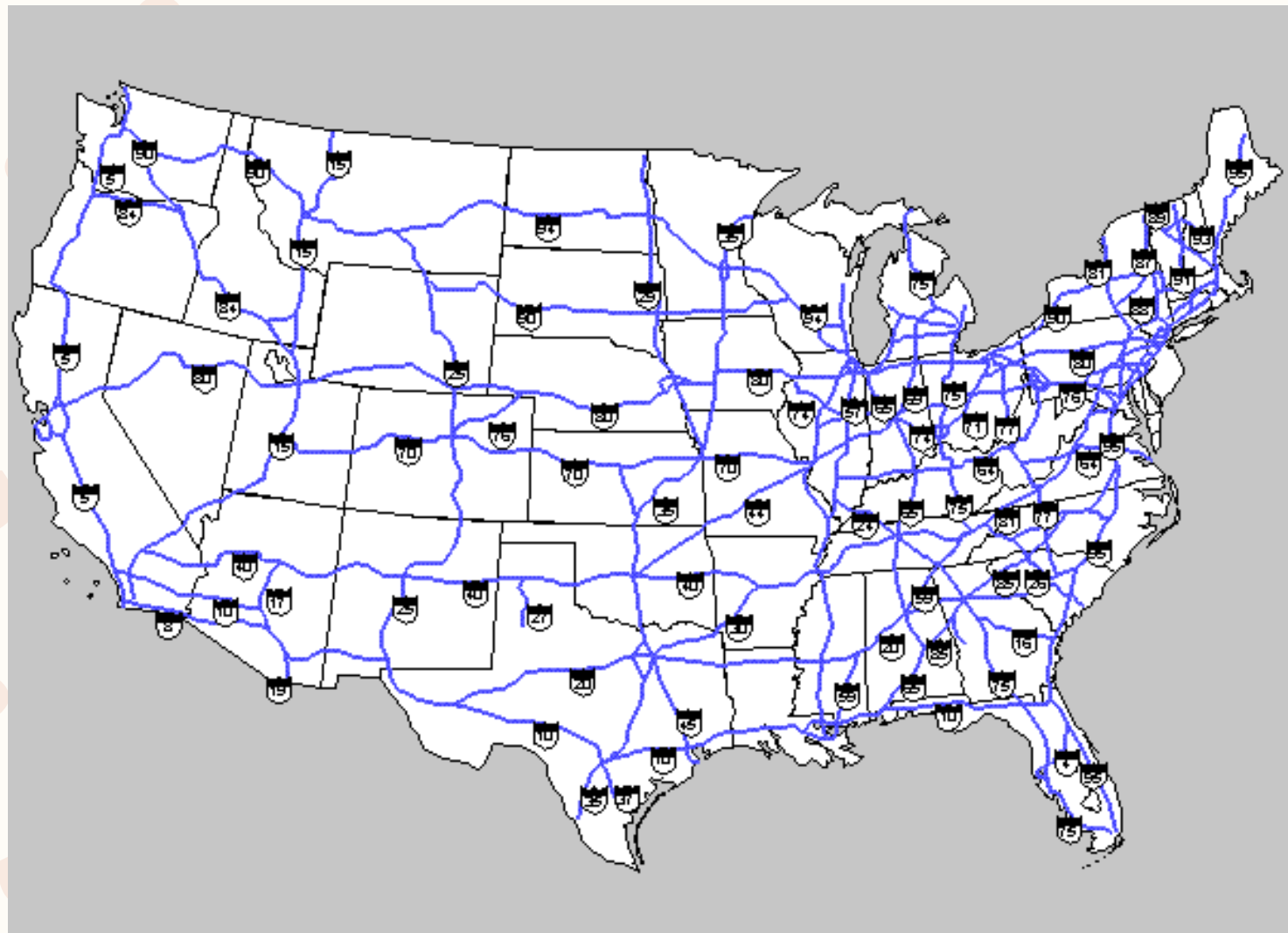








Photo by C. B. Woodruff

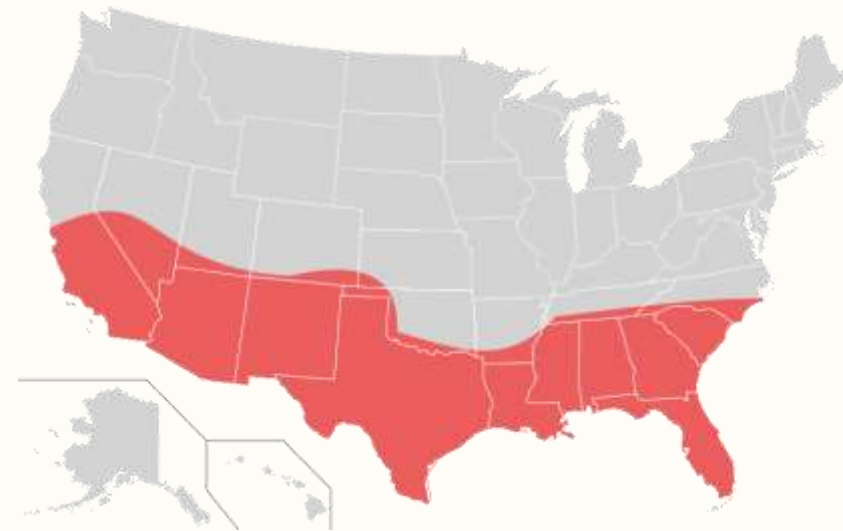
Such roads as this are hamper rapid movement of mechanized units of the Army and must be widened and realigned for National Defense

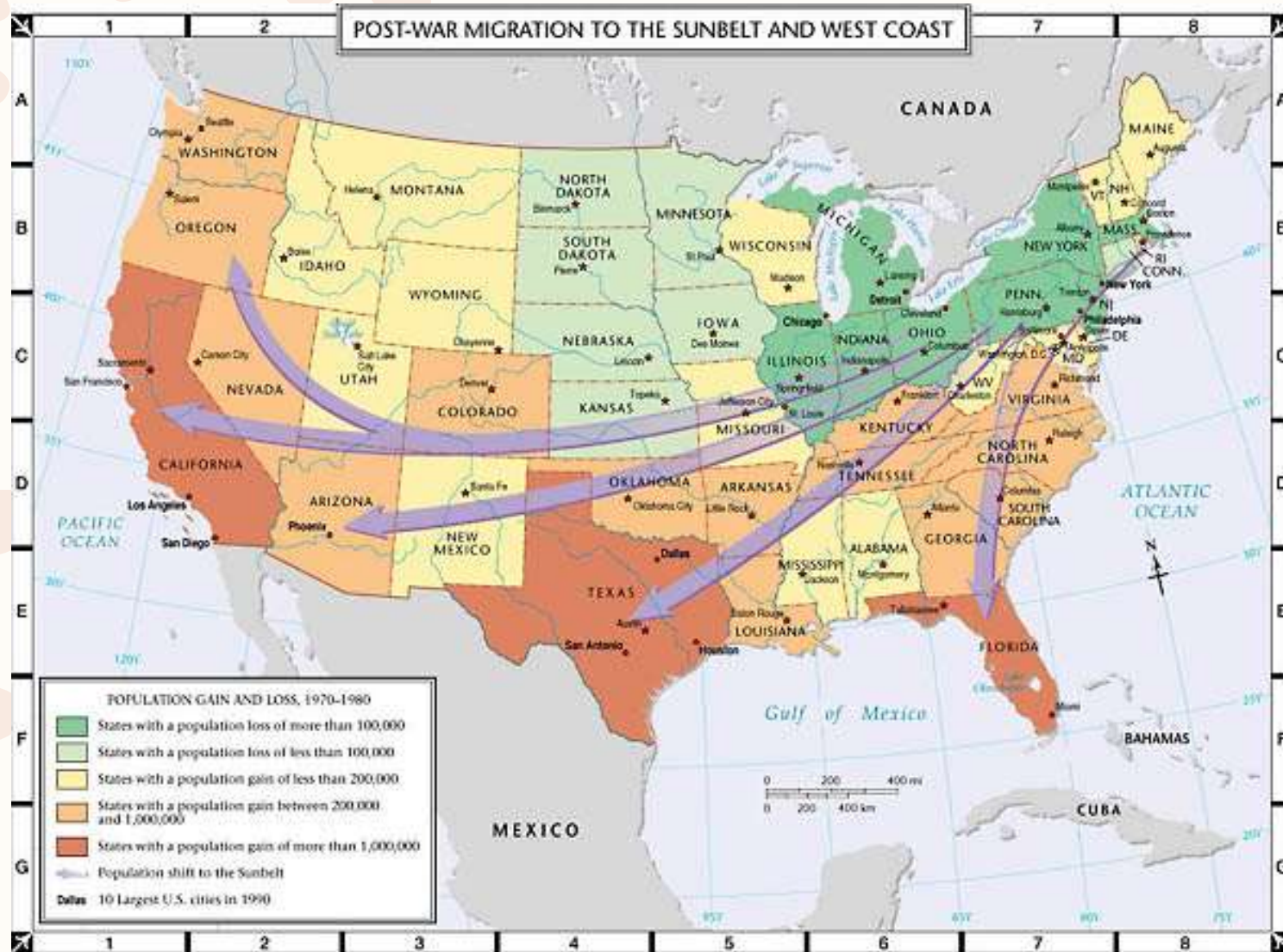
Highways for National Defense

By C. H. PURCELL, State Highway Engineer

Migrating to the Sunbelt

- Post-WWII people flock to the Sunbelt – name given to the South and Western states
- 1958 -Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Giants move to CA (symbolic of the migration patterns of the entire country)
- Air conditioning attracts many to the once unbearable climates
- Political power shifts from the Rust Belt and Northeast to the South and West







The invention of air-conditioning led to a population explosion in cities such as Phoenix, Dallas, Miami, Los Angeles and Atlanta.



Television changes perceptions of society

- TV shows such as “Leave It to Beaver” and “Father Knows Best” paint the picture of the American nuclear family (father, mother and 2.4 kids)
- Network newscasts become standard in American homes
- Rock-n-Roll grows in popularity thanks to the images seen on television (Elvis Presley)



TV images of
the “nuclear
family”.





At left – Legendary CBS news anchor
Walter Cronkite

He would be the face of American
television for nearly 3 decades.

- Families would gather
around the television set
and watch the network
evening news broadcasts



Elvis Presley on The Ed Sullivan show

