

## **AP US History Notes**

### **The Truman Years, 1945-1953**

#### **“Guns-to-Butter” (The Economy)**

- Over 10 million decommissioned soldiers
- Postwar shortages
- 25% inflation
- Strikes
- Taft-Hartley Act (banned closed labor shops)
  - Vetoed by Truman
  - Veto overridden
- Truman’s “Fair Deal”
  - **Got:**
    - Public Housing (the “projects”)
    - Increased Social Security
    - Min. wage from .40 to .75 cents
  - **Did NOT get:**
    - Civil rights bill
    - National health insurance
- G. I. Bill of Rights
  - Provided money to vets for college and home and business loans
- Economy soon began to thrive
- Toward a more service oriented economy

#### **Social and Political changes**

- Integration of Armed Forces and government
- Proposed civil rights bill (failed)
- Jackie Robinson (first African-American player in Major League Baseball)
- “Dixiecrats”: Southern white Democrats who split from Truman and his “Fair Deal” ~ part of the conservative backlash
- More “white collar” jobs
- “Suburbia”
  - “White Flight” out of the cities leaving behind a more impoverished and minority based “core.”
  - Levittown (1<sup>st</sup> planned community in U. S. ~ on Long Island, NY)
- “Sunbelt” Workers and retirees moved to the southwest (mostly California)
- “Baby Boom” (post WWII = largest ever increase in U. S. birthrate) =>
  - Kid-centered culture
  - Dr. Spock
- “Cult of Domesticity”
  - Doris Day, etc.
- Polio Vaccine ~ Dr. Jonas Salk

**See also:** *The Cold War Begins & The Cold War at Home*