



**GH 2 REVIEW**

Topics in U.S. History (Pre-Vietnam War)

## Prosperity and Good Will

□ **Economic:** U.S. experiences one of greatest periods of prosperity in history after WWII (what is prosperity?)

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## Prosperity and Good Will

### □ Social Change:

- **Civil Rights:** more laws passed to protect rights of all minorities including women (not just African Americans)
- **War on poverty:** government takes greater role, enacts laws and programs (create more jobs, low-income housing, welfare programs, education funding, equal pay)



## Fear and Mistrust

- Cold War: Capitalism/democracy (U.S.) vs. Communism (Soviet Union) Dog/wolf fable?
  - Both countries trying to spread their ideologies around the world. Why?
- Red Scare: Fear of communism in U.S. (is communism bad?)
- Space Race / Arms Race: Competition with Soviet Union to get to space and the moon; build up of nuclear weapons (Why?)
- M.A.D.: Mutually Assured Destruction (What's that?)

## A Militant U.S.

- U.S. Committed to Fighting Communism across the globe (how?)
  - ▣ militarily, economically, politically
- Proxy Wars: Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan
- What is a proxy war?
  - 2 powers fight, but never fight each other directly (Soviet Afghanistan War– U.S. supports anti-communists in Afghanistan);

## The Cold War

- Approximately 1946 – 1991
- Political, economic, military competition and confrontation + propaganda and espionage (spying) between the US and Soviet Union (2 remaining superpowers after WW2)
  - ▣ Why?
  - ▣ Each group fears the other will destroy them
- U.S. & Soviet Union never directly fight each other. Why not?
  - ▣ Fear of nuclear war (MAD); Fear of world war

## What is Communism?

- An ideology:
  - ▣ beliefs on how political (gov), social (people), and economic (\$) and jobs) systems should run
  - ▣ a system to ensure happiness and prosperity (wealth, success) for all
- What does it look like?
  - ▣ communal ownership of all property (no private property, community owns everything)
  - ▣ classless social structure (everyone equal, no rich, no poor)
  - ▣ authoritative ruling party (made up of the working class): decides what is produced and how distributed to people in best interest of community. (elected by working class)
- achieved only through the violent overthrow of capitalism
- A world-wide revolutionary political movement

## Democracy

- A political system: people choose who governs them; free and fair elections.
- To Truly work, people must get involved!
  - ▣ Politics + active citizens (participate!)
- Protection of the human rights of all citizens.
- A rule of law, in which the laws and procedures apply equally to all citizens.

## Capitalism

- Private control of trade and industry
- individuals own, control, and decide what to produce, how much to produce, how much to charge, as well as everything else it takes to produce the things people want and buy.
- private control not government control
  - ▣ Should there be some government control in our economy? Examples?

## Why / who Communism Appealing to?

- Conquered people who feel mistreated
  - ▣ Don't share in wealth or success of conquerors
  - ▣ Don't share in government
- People who are fed up with current system of government
- The working poor; lower class majority groups, long history of abuse, no chance for a better life (perception)