CHAPTER 29

The American Century

ANTICIPATION/REACTION

Directions: Before you begin reading this chapter, in the column entitled “Anticipation” place a check mark beside any of the following seven statements with which you now agree. When you have completed your study of this chapter, come back to this section and in the column entitled “Reaction” place a check mark beside any of the statements with which you then agree. Note any variation in the placement of check marks from anticipation to reaction and explain why you changed your mind.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anticipation</th>
<th>Reaction</th>
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<td>1. _____</td>
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<td>Nearly all postwar leaders were worried by the possibility that the nation might return to economic depression at the end of World War II.</td>
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<td>2. _____</td>
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<td>The postwar Truman administration adopted a foreign policy committed to liberating peoples in Soviet-dominated Eastern Europe.</td>
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<td>In the Truman Doctrine, the United States, Canada, and several European nations agreed that an armed attack against any of them would be considered an attack against them all.</td>
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<td>President Truman fired General MacArthur from his command because MacArthur publicly insisted that the war in Korea was “the wrong war, at the wrong place, at the wrong time, and with the wrong enemy.”</td>
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<td>5. _____</td>
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<td>Former state department official Alger Hiss was exposed in the McCarthy hearings of using “the big lie” to protect himself against accusations of espionage.</td>
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<td>6. _____</td>
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<td>Dwight Eisenhower, the first Republican president in 20 years, used his office to repeal much of the New Deal’s social and economic legislation.</td>
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<td>7. _____</td>
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<td>President Eisenhower initiated desegregation of the armed forces and public schools, and he appointed a pro-civil rights majority to the Supreme Court.</td>
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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After reading Chapter 29 you should be able to:

1. Identify the impact of postwar economic conversion on government management of the economy, labor organizations, and the fortunes of the Democratic party.
2. Identify the major tenets of the containment doctrine and associate it with the conduct of United States foreign policy in the postwar years with Japan, China, the Soviet Union, Britain, France, Germany, the Middle East, and Cuba.

3. Explain the ramifications of the Korean War to American foreign and military policy.

4. Evaluate the anticommunist crusade of Senator Joseph McCarthy and its impact on civil liberties.

5. Explain how civil rights emerged in the political arena of the 1950s and 1960s.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

The Postwar Economy

Nearly all American postwar leaders accepted the necessity of using federal authority and monetary and fiscal manipulations to stabilize the economy. Thus, President Truman slowly demobilized the armed forces in an attempt to prevent sudden economic dislocation. Most returning veterans found jobs because the war induced savings, and pent-up demand for consumer goods kept factories operating at capacity. Meanwhile, the GI Bill of Rights offered subsidies to veterans wishing to continue their education, start businesses, or purchase homes.

Cutting taxes and the removal of rationing and price controls caused a period of rapid inflation and labor unrest. The economic turmoil enabled the Republicans to gain control of Congress in 1946 for the first time in 16 years.

Over Truman’s veto, Congress passed the Taft-Hartley Act, outlawing the closed shop. More importantly, the law authorized the president to seek injunctions of up to 80 days to halt strikes that endangered the national interest. Taft-Hartley made it more difficult to unionize unorganized industries but did not hamper existing unions because it permitted union shop contracts.

The Containment Policy

The Soviet Union dominated Eastern Europe and seemed intent on extending its power into central Europe and the Far East. It was also fomenting trouble in oil-rich Iran. For many Americans, Stalin now evoked the image of Hitler—a cruel dictator who championed an ideology of world conquest. To halt naked Soviet aggression, state department analyst George F. Kennan proposed a policy of “containment” by which the United States would prevent communism from spreading beyond its 1947 boundaries. Just how and where containment should be applied, Kennan did not say.

The Atom Bomb: A “Winning” Weapon?

Stalin refused to be intimidated by America’s possession of the world’s only atom bombs. Espionage informants told him that the Red Army could survive the small arsenal of U.S. atomic weapons. Besides, the American people were uneasy about ever using the atom bomb again. American and Soviet attitudes contrasted on the question of nuclear weapons. The United Nations proposed outlawing such weapons under its supervision, but the Soviets refused to
permit UN inspectors into the Soviet Union and insisted that the United States immediately destroy its stockpile of bombs.

A Turning Point in Greece

Containment was tested in 1947 when communist guerrillas tried to overthrow the Greek monarchy. When Truman told Congress that if Greece and Turkey were lost to communists, all the Middle East might be lost, Congress appropriated $400 million under the Truman Doctrine to support anti-communists in Greece and Turkey with military and economic aid. The result was the establishment of a right-wing, military-dominated government in Greece.

The Marshall Plan and the Lesson of History

In 1947, Secretary of State George C. Marshall outlined a broad program to finance European economic recovery, which came to be known as the Marshall Plan. After communists staged a coup in Czechoslovakia in 1948, drawing another country behind the “Iron Curtain,” Congress appropriated over $13 billion to help restore the confidence of Europeans in their economic future. The results exceeded expectations; by 1951, Western Europe’s economy was booming. Meanwhile, a crisis over Berlin threatened the fragile peace. When the Western allies announced plans for creating an autonomous West German Republic, the Soviets shut off ground access to West Berlin. President Truman ordered the airlifting of food, fuel, and other goods to maintain West Berliners. After a year the Soviets lifted their blockade.

Dealing with Japan and China

Containment worked well in Europe, but in Asia it was more expensive, less effective, and harder to justify. As World War II ended, President Truman decided not to allow the Soviet Union any significant role in the occupation of Japan. The Japanese, under American guidance, showed remarkable adaptability amid military defeat, and accepted political and social changes that involved universal suffrage, parliamentary government, and deemphasized the emperor. Though Japan lost its empire, the nation emerged economically strong, politically stable, and firmly allied with the United States.

China, however, was the scene of a prolonged conflict between communist forces loyal to Mao Zedong and the anticommunist nationalists led by Chiang Kai-shek. Truman sent General Marshall to China to seek a settlement, but neither Mao nor Chiang would make concessions. After Marshall became secretary of state, civil war resumed in China.

The Election of 1948

The Republican congressional victory in 1946, coupled with defections within the Democratic party, gave the Republicans considerable hope of unseating Truman in 1948. When the Democratic party adopted a strong civil-rights plank, Senator Strom Thurmond led a walkout of southern conservatives and ran for president as the States’ Rights party nominee. Former Vice-President Henry Wallace, who claimed the containment policy was a threat to world peace, ran
as the nominee of a new Progressive party. The Republicans again nominated the overconfident New York Governor Thomas Dewey.

Truman’s campaign stirred millions of voters who supported the New Deal and admired the president’s underdog image. The success of the ongoing Berlin airlift also aided Truman in the election. Dewey’s lackluster campaign failed, and to the surprise of the pollsters and nearly everyone except himself, Truman prevailed. As Truman took office, he proposed the Fair Deal, an extension of New Deal programs. However, Congress merely extended social security benefits, increased the minimum wage, and approved a federal housing program.

**Containing Communism Abroad**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was organized in 1949 in order to strengthen U.S. ties with the European democracies and to guarantee the collective security of its members. Disturbed by news that the Soviets had produced an atomic bomb, Truman called for development of a hydrogen bomb, whose mere existence would intimidate the nation’s enemies.

In Asia, communist armies of Mao Zedong drove the remnants of Chiang Kai-shek’s forces to the island of Taiwan. American conservatives cried that Truman had not backed the nationalists with enough vigor and had underestimated Mao’s commitment to world revolution. Truman ordered a thorough review of the containment policy that resulted in NSC-68, a secret document that called for a massive expansion of U.S. armed forces—sufficient to stop the spread of communism anywhere in the world—costing a 350-percent increase in the military budget.

**Hot War in Korea**

In early 1950, Secretary of State Dean Acheson failed to include Korea in what he described as the “defensive perimeter” of the United States in Asia. This encouraged the communist North Korean army to cross the thirty-eighth parallel and overrun South Korea.

With United Nations support but without a congressional declaration of war, Truman dispatched American troops to defend South Korea. Under the command of General MacArthur, UN forces fought successfully on two fronts near Pusan and Inchon. By October, MacArthur’s forces had driven the communists out of South Korea. The general then gained Truman’s permission to occupy North Korean as far north as the Yalu River, thereby risking Chinese intervention.

In November 1950, Chinese divisions smashed through MacArthur’s line, and his once-triumphant advance became a disorganized retreat. The UN army rallied south of the thirty-eighth parallel, and by the spring of 1951 the front had been stabilized. MacArthur then asked that he be allowed to bomb Chinese installations north of the Yalu, blockade the coast of China, and employ Chinese Nationalist troops in the war. When Truman rejected these proposals for fear that they might lead to a third world war, MacArthur appealed to the public and Congress. Truman dismissed MacArthur for insubordination.

The Korean War had exposed a basic psychological disadvantage of the containment policy: Its objective was not victory but balance, a monumentally frustrating aim. General Omar N. Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, however, explained that the showdown
MacArthur proposed “would involve us in the wrong war, at the wrong place, at the wrong time, and with the wrong enemy.” Armistice talks began in 1951 and dragged on for two years as thousands more died along the static battlefront. The war was unresolved when Truman left office.

The Communist Issue at Home

The Korean War highlighted the paradox that at the pinnacle of its power, the influence of the United States in world affairs was declining. Despite billions spent on armaments and foreign aid, national security seemed far from assured.

Furthermore, recurrent communist espionage convinced many that conspirators were undermining American security from within. Reacting to charges of being “soft on communism,” in 1947 Truman established the Loyalty Review Board. The Board discharged 2,700 government workers over a 10-year period for their alleged association with “totalitarian” or “subversive” organizations. Thousands more resigned.

In 1948, former Time magazine editor Whittaker Chambers, a former communist, charged that Alger Hiss, a former State Department official, had been a communist in the 1930s. Hiss denied the charge and sued Chambers for libel. Chambers produced microfilm that revealed that Hiss had copied classified documents for dispatch to Moscow. Hiss could not be indicted for espionage due to the statute of limitations; instead he was indicted for perjury, convicted, and given a five-year jail term. In another equally sensational incident, it was disclosed that three scientists, Klaus Fuchs of Britain and Julius and Ethel Rosenberg of the United States, had betrayed atomic secrets to the Soviets. The Rosenbergs were executed for treason in the summer of 1953.

McCarthyism

In 1950, Wisconsin Senator Joseph R. McCarthy pressed the communists-in-government issue to an extreme. McCarthy charged that the State Department was “infested” with Communists. The accusations, which were never proved, fed the worries of Americans who were fearful over Soviet power, the Korean War, the loss of the nuclear monopoly, and stories about spies.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

In 1952, the Republican party nominated Dwight Eisenhower for president. Eisenhower’s war record, his genial personality, and desire to avoid controversy proved appealing to voters. His campaign promise to “go to Korea” to end the war was a political masterstroke. The Democrats nominated the urbane, yet unpretentious Governor Adlai Stevenson of Illinois. Following a spirited “I Like Ike” campaign, Eisenhower scored an electoral landslide.

As president, Eisenhower scorned “creeping socialism,” called for more local control of government affairs, and promised to cut federal spending to balance the budget and reduce taxes. Despite his avowed fiscal beliefs, however, he was unwilling to repeal existing social and economic legislation or to reduce military expenditures, and he embraced a Keynesian approach.
to economic problems by trying to halt downturns in the business cycle through government stimulation of the economy. He approved extension of social security benefits; creation of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare; and construction of an interstate highway system. He proved to be an excellent politician.

The Eisenhower-Dulles Foreign Policy

Eisenhower and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles embraced a “new look” in foreign affairs designed to steer clear of future involvement in such “local” conflicts as the Korean War. To Dulles, instead of waiting for communist powers to make a move and then reacting to contain them, a better United States policy would put more emphasis on nuclear bombs and less on conventional weapons.

Korea offered the first test of these views. Eisenhower kept his promise to go to Korea, but was not immediately successful. But within a few months, the Communists agreed to an armistice, perhaps influenced by a hint that the United States might use atomic weapons. Korea remained divided. A potential threat against Nationalist China’s islands of Quemoy and Matsu was averted when Eisenhower announced his willingness to use nuclear weapons in their defense. This threat that America’s enemies would face “massive retaliation” should they become aggressors helped shrink the military budget, but it made little sense when the Soviet Union possessed nuclear weapons as powerful as those of the United States.

McCarthy Self-Destructs

Senator McCarthy, meanwhile, continued to investigate communist infiltration and influence in the State Department’s overseas information programs. In 1954, McCarthy accused the army of trying to blackmail his committee, but the televised Army-McCarthy hearings disclosed no subversion and public opinion quickly turned against McCarthy. With President Eisenhower applying pressure behind the scenes, the Senate censured McCarthy in December 1954; his influence waned, and he died in 1957.

Asian Policy After Korea

In 1954, forces of the Vietnamese communist Ho Chi Minh besieged a French garrison at Dien Bien Phu in northern Vietnam. Facing heavy losses, France asked the United States to commit air power to the battle, but Eisenhower refused on grounds that a limited air strike in these circumstances would fail. France surrendered and joined Britain, Russia, and China in signing an agreement dividing Vietnam along the seventeenth parallel.

The northern sector became communist North Vietnam; the southern zone remained in the hands of the emperor, Bao Dai. Thereafter, the anticommunist Ngo Dinh Diem overthrew the emperor and became president of South Vietnam. The United States supplied his government liberally with aid. An election to settle the future of Vietnam scheduled for 1956 never occurred, and Vietnam remained divided.
Israel and the Middle East

American policy in the Middle East was influenced by that region’s huge oil resources and by the conflict between the newly created Jewish state (Israel) and its Arab neighbors. Arab countries vowed to destroy Israel, yet the outnumbered, but better organized and better armed Israelis easily drove out their foes, including one million Palestinian Arabs, and thereby created a refugee problem in nearby countries and incited renewed calls for a Palestinian state. President Truman immediately and consistently supported Israel.

President Eisenhower tried to ease Arab resentment against the United States by supporting the new Egyptian government of Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser in 1956. America planned to lend Nasser money to build the Aswan High Dam on the Nile, but would not sell him arms. When Khrushchev agreed to an arms sale, Nasser allied Egypt with the Soviets, and Eisenhower withdrew the offer to finance the dam. In retaliation, Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal, an action that outraged the British and French, who tried to reclaim the canal by force. Israel also attacked Egypt. Khrushchev threatened to launch atomic missiles against France and Britain if they did not withdraw. Eisenhower also called upon Britain and France to pull out of Egypt. British Prime Minister Anthony Eden announced a cease-fire, Israel withdrew its troops, and the crisis subsided with Egypt keeping control of the canal.

The Soviets used the Suez crisis to recover the prestige they had lost as a result of their brutal suppression of the Hungarian revolt, which broke out a week before the Suez crisis. The Eisenhower Doctrine issued in 1957 declared that the United States was “prepared to use force” anywhere in the Middle East against “aggression from any country controlled by international communism”—a restatement of the containment policy.

Eisenhower and Khrushchev

After the death of Stalin in 1953, Nikita Khrushchev emerged as the new master of the Soviet Union. Khrushchev appealed to the anti-Western prejudices of new nations emerging from colonialism by offering them economic aid and pointing to Soviet achievements in science and technology. He claimed that the successful launch of the space satellite Sputnik in 1957 was proof that communism would “bury” the capitalist system. Eisenhower was alarmed by the success of the Soviet space program because it portended the obsolescence of America’s bomber defenses and the massive retaliation military strategy. Secretary of State Dulles resigned in April 1959, and Eisenhower assumed much of the responsibility for conducting diplomacy. The key to his approach was restraint; he avoided making new commitments.

In the summer of 1959, Vice-President Richard M. Nixon visited the Soviet Union. Later that year the Soviet premier toured the United States, and he and Eisenhower agreed to convene a summit conference. Days before the scheduled conference, an American U-2 reconnaissance plane was shot down by antiaircraft fire over the Soviet Union and its pilot was captured. When Eisenhower assumed responsibility for the espionage mission, Khrushchev accused the United States of “cowardly” aggression, and the summit conference was abruptly cancelled.
Latin America Aroused

The United States tended to neglect Latin America during the Cold War years and supported reactionary military regimes in the region. Resentment grew against the United States. In the spring of 1958, Vice-President Nixon made what was supposed to be a goodwill tour of Latin America, but in Lima, Peru, Nixon was mobbed and in Caracas, Venezuela, radical students pelted his limousine with eggs and stones.

A year later, a revolutionary movement headed by Fidel Castro overthrew the Cuban dictator, Fulgencio Batista, and Eisenhower recognized the new government. Castro soon proved to be a communist, however, and confiscated American property without providing compensation, suppressed civil liberties, and allied with the Soviet Union. Khrushchev vowed to defend the Castro regime with atomic weapons should the United States intervene. Shortly before he left office, Eisenhower broke diplomatic relations with Cuba.

The Politics of Civil Rights

African Americans, resentful of their continuing status as second-class citizens, grew more militant. Eisenhower completed the integration of the armed forces begun by Truman, but it was the Supreme Court that moved against school segregation. In the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* case the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren decreed “separate-but-equal” to be “inherently unequal.” The next year the Court ordered the states to proceed with school desegregation “with all deliberate speed.”

White citizens’ councils opposed to integration sprang up throughout the South, and President Eisenhower did little to discourage southern resistance to desegregation. However, in 1957, Eisenhower was compelled to dispatch paratroopers and summon National Guardsmen to federal duty in Little Rock, Arkansas, to enforce the desegregation of Central High School. Nine black students thereafter began to attend class, and soldiers were stationed at the school to protect them.

The Eisenhower Administration introduced, and Congress passed, the Civil Rights Act of 1957, authorizing the attorney general to stop election officials from interfering with blacks’ efforts to register to vote. The law also established a Civil Rights Commission with broad investigative powers and a Civil Rights Division in the Department of Justice.

The Election of 1960

Vice-President Nixon, the Republican presidential nominee in 1960, had skyrocketed to prominence by exploiting the public’s fear of communist subversion of the government. He sought the presidency on the strengths of the Eisenhower record. The Democrats nominated Senator John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts, with his convention rival, Senator Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas, as his running mate. Kennedy had not been a particularly liberal congressman and had not been involved in the civil rights movement, but he had been an enthusiastic Cold Warrior and said he liked Joseph McCarthy. The son of a wealthy businessman, Kennedy was only the second Catholic to gain a major-party nomination for president. While a strength in eastern cities, Kennedy’s Catholicism weakened him in farm districts and in the West.
Kennedy exuded youth and vigor and promised to open a “New Frontier” for the country. A series of televised debates between the candidates helped turn the tide for Kennedy. Kennedy’s victory was a victory for minority groups (Jews, blacks, blue-collar “ethnics,” and Catholics) over the traditional white Protestant majority, which heavily preferred Nixon.

PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS

Identify the following:

- closed shop
- “cooling-off period”
- “massive retaliation”
- Iron Curtain
- “defensive perimeter”
- “big lie”
- “creeping socialism”
- summit conference

Describe the following:

- GI Bill of Rights
Truman Doctrine

Marshall Plan

NATO

Sputnik

17th Parallel

38th Parallel

SEATO

Eisenhower Doctrine

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka

Identify the following:

Chiang Kai-shek

Mao Zedong

J. Strom Thurmond
MAP EXERCISE

Refer to the Middle Eastern map on the following page. Place the correct letter that corresponds with the location of the following:

_____ 19. Yemen  _____ 20. Turkey
SELF-TEST

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. As World War II ended, American leaders believed all of the following EXCEPT
   A. monetary and fiscal policies could minimize unemployment.
   B. government spending was not a proven way to stimulate the economy.
   C. federal authority was needed to stabilize the economy.
   D. the economy may slip back into depression.

2. The Taft-Hartley Act outlawed the
   A. open shop.
   B. closed shop.
   C. union shop.
   D. court injunction to break strikes.

3. At the end of World War II, nearly everyone wanted all of the following EXCEPT
   A. rapid demobilization of U.S. armed forces.
   B. immediate removal of wartime wage and price controls.
   C. cessation of federally funded farm subsidies.
   D. tax reduction.

4. The G.I. Bill of Rights
   A. paid a cash bonus to veterans upon their arrival from overseas.
   B. was generally ignored or underused by returning veterans.
   C. made federal subsidies available to veterans to continue their education.
   D. guaranteed each veteran a civilian job upon his leaving military service.
5. In his article, “The Sources of Soviet Conduct,” diplomat George Kennan
   A. explained his plan for how the United States could contain Soviet aggression.
   B. emphasized that the ideology of communism was the source of Soviet aggressiveness.
   C. argued in favor of firm and vigilant containment of Soviet aggression.
   D. identified the parts of the world where Soviet aggression needed to be contained.

6. Soon after World War II, the United States proposed all of the following EXCEPT
   A. UN supervision of all nuclear energy production.
   B. a plan for eventually outlawing all atomic weapons.
   C. inspection of any country to prevent it from making atomic weapons.
   D. U.S. unilateral reduction of its stockpile of atomic weapons.

7. The Truman Doctrine committed the United States to all of the following EXCEPT
   A. military and economic aid to Greece and Turkey.
   B. supporting free peoples who are resisting subjugation by internal armed minorities.
   C. financing the reconstruction of the West European economy.
   D. supporting free peoples who are resisting subjugation by outside pressures.

8. In 1948, the Soviet Union closed all rail, river, and highway access to Berlin from the west
   in retaliation against the Western nations’
   A. endorsement of the Truman Doctrine.
   B. organizing NATO.
   C. signing on to the Marshall Plan.
   D. plan to create a near autonomous West German Republic.

9. In the 1948 presidential election, President Truman ran against all of the following
   EXCEPT
   A. J. Strom Thurmond and the States’ Rights party.
   B. Adelai Stevenson and the National Union party.
   C. George Dewey and the Republican party.
   D. Henry A. Wallace and the Progressive party.

10. Congress enacted all the following parts of President Truman’s Fair Deal program
    EXCEPT
    A. a higher minimum wage.
    B. national health insurance.
    C. a federal housing program.
    D. increased social security benefits.

11. In 1950, a National Security Council secret report (NSC-68) argued in favor of all of the
    following EXCEPT
    A. a U.S. military alliance with South Korea.
    B. a massive expansion of the nation’s armed forces.
    C. a many-fold increase in military spending.
    D. making the containment policy applicable anywhere in the world.
12. France withdrew from Indochina after a military defeat at
   A. Ho Chi Minh.
   B. Dien Bien Phu.
   C. Ngo Dinh Diem.
   D. Vietminh.

13. When President Truman received news of North Korea’s invasion of South Korea, he did all of the following EXCEPT
   B. asked Congress for a declaration of war.
   C. sent planes to battle in Korea.
   D. ordered the adoption of NSC-68 when feasible.

14. During the Korean War, General MacArthur affected a brilliant amphibious maneuver at
   A. Pusan.
   B. the Yalu River.
   C. the 38th parallel.
   D. Inchon.

15. In 1950, former State Department official Alger Hiss was convicted of
   A. perjury.
   B. slander.
   C. espionage.
   D. libel.

16. Senator Joseph McCarthy
   A. never exposed a single spy or traitor.
   B. held hearings that revealed that Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were communist spies.
   C. provided the information that convicted Alger Hiss.
   D. was censured by the Supreme Court.

17. As president, Dwight Eisenhower supported all of the following EXCEPT
   A. extension of Social Security to cover more people.
   B. creating the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.
   C. federal aid to education.
   D. abolishing existing social and economic legislation of the New Deal.

18. President Eisenhower’s “new look” military policy was based on
   A. guerrilla warfare experts called “special forces.”
   B. massive new military spending.
   C. nuclear weapons and “massive retaliation.”
   D. replacing bomber defenses with rockets.

19. The Soviet Union’s launch of Sputnik into orbit in 1957 caused alarm in the Eisenhower Administration because
   A. it exposed the United States to nuclear blackmail by the Soviet Union.
   B. the successful launch demonstrated the technological superiority of the Soviets.
   C. it exposed a “missile gap” between the United States and the Soviet Union.
D. U.S. bomber defenses and the massive retaliation strategy were made obsolete.

20. All of the following are true of the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* EXCEPT

A. it undermined the “separate but equal” doctrine.
B. it ordered out the National Guard to enforce school desegregation in the South.
C. it reversed *Plessy v. Ferguson*.
D. it was based on a mass of sociological data.

**Essay Questions**

1. Explain how the Korean War became a key confrontation of the postwar period. Evaluate the military strategies of General MacArthur and Commander-in-chief Truman. Could the results concluded in the summer of 1953 have been obtained as early as the fall of 1950?

2. Evaluate the rise and fall of Senator Joseph McCarthy as a factor in domestic politics of the Cold War.

3. Compare and contrast the successes and shortcomings of Eisenhower’s foreign and domestic policies.

4. Explain how and why civil rights became a political issue by the middle 1950s.

5. Evaluate the election of 1960 in reference to parties, nominees, issues, political traditions, and long-range significance.

**CRITICAL THINKING EXERCISE**

Though instructors rarely require students to recite dates of key events, time and sequence are important concepts in the effective learning of history. Arrange the events in each of these three sets in chronological order.

*Set I.*

_____ 1. Election of Truman
_____ 2. Truman fires MacArthur
_____ 3. McCarthy censure
_____ 4. Hiss conviction
_____ 5. Korean War settlement
Set II.

_____6. Eisenhower reelection
____7. “Kitchen Debate”
_____8. Little Rock desegregation crisis
_____9. Launching of Sputnik
____10. Hungarian crisis

Set III.

____11. Election of Kennedy
____12. U-2 spy incident
____13. Johnson joins the Kennedy ticket
____14. Fulgencio Batista toppled
____15. Nixon’s goodwill tour of Latin America