

Name _____

Class _____

Date _____

Teacher _____

PROSPERITY, REBELLION, AND REFORM (1945 - 1980) – LESSON 1

Objective: To examine how America changed in the years immediately following World War II.

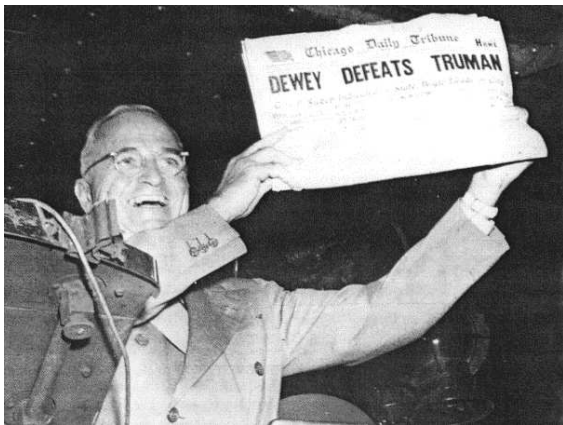
Postwar Leaders

Election of 1948:

- Harry Truman narrowly defeated the Republican Thomas Dewey.

The Fair Deal – a series of reforms proposed by Pres. Truman after the election of 1948

- Minimum wage was raised.
- Social Security covered more people.
- Segregation was ended in the armed forces.



- However, Congress rejected Truman's plan for the government to provide health insurance for all Americans.

Election of 1952:

- Pres. Truman announced that he would not seek reelection.
- Republican General Dwight D. Eisenhower defeated Democrat Adlai Stevenson for the Presidency.



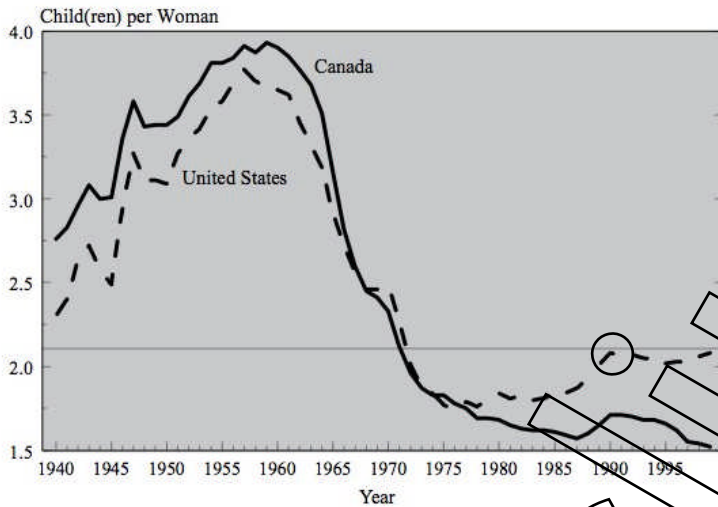
Life in the 1950's:

- In the 1950's, the nation experienced a **baby boom**.

Example:

Decade	U.S. Population Growth
1930's	9 million
1940's	19 million
1950's	29 million

Figure 1. Total Fertility Rate, Canada and United States, 1940-1999

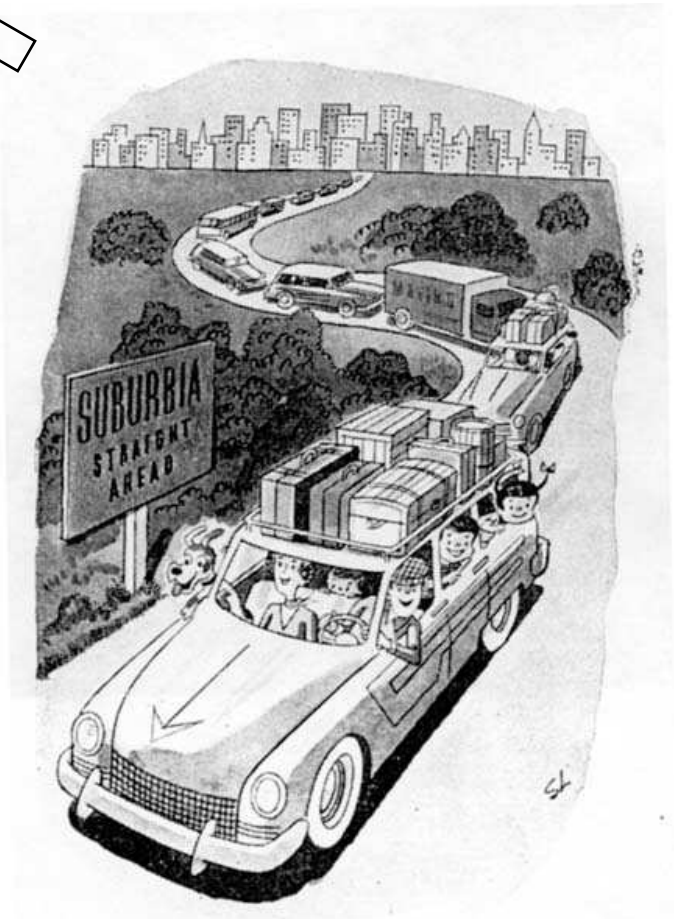


What caused the baby boom?

- The economy was the best it had been since the 1920's
- Many couples waited until after WWII to have children
- Health care improved for pregnant women and newborn infants
- Dr. Jonas Salk created a vaccine against polio.

The suburbs grow:

- As families grew, people began to move out of the cities and into the suburbs.
- William Levitt bought large tracts of land on which he built thousands of identical houses.
- These communities were known as Levittowns, the first of which was built on Long Island in 1947.



Cars and Highways:

- The growth of suburbs caused an increased reliance on cars and the construction of highways. Example: By 1960, 9 out of 10 suburban families owned a car.
- The **Interstate Highway Act** of 1956 built a network of highways across the country linking the nation.

Television:

- In the 1950's, the television replaced the radio as the primary form of home family entertainment.
- Popular shows included *American Bandstand*, *Howdy Doody*, and *I Love Lucy*.

Take it Easy!

Change TV Programs from your Easy Chair with the Amazing **Zenith "Lazy Bones"** REMOTE CONTROL

Not one knob to touch! That's right—you just hold the "Lazy Bones" control in your palm, anywhere in the room. To change programs one after another, just press lightly with your thumb. Absolutely nothing else to tune or re-tune. All the necessary adjustments are made for you—automatically. It's the far-ahead design and extraordinary stability of Zenith's Turret Tuner that make possible such miraculous remote control! You must try it yourself to believe it. Your Zenith Radio and Television Dealer invites you, to try.

Only \$30. on any new Zenith TV Receiver

New Zenith® "Byron" TV Console. 19 inch (238 sq. in.) 2-in-1 Reflection-Proof screen, wider than a newspaper page! New "Super-Range" chassis. Pre-tuned built-in antenna. 18th Century cabinet in rich Mahogany veneers.

©1958

ZENITH
RADIO and TELEVISION

Zenith Radio Corporation, Chicago 39, Illinois • Also Makers of Fine Hearing Aids