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Us fears during cold war

A decade and a half soon after the end of World War II was one in which middle-class and working-class Americans hoped for a better life than they lived before the war. These expectations were tarnished by fears of economic hardship, as many who experienced the Great Depression feared a return to economic decline. Others clamored for the opportunity to spend the savings they had accumulated through long working hours during the war when consumer goods were rarely available. African Americans who once served in the armed forces and worked in the defense industry don't want to return to normal. Instead, they want the same rights and opportunities as other Americans. Still other citizens who are less concerned with the economy or civil rights; instead, they looked with suspicion at the Soviet presence in Eastern Europe. What will happen now that the United States and the Soviet Union are no longer allies, and other countries that have long helped maintain the balance of power are left badly damaged by war? Harry Truman, president for less than a year when the war ended, was accused of overcoming all these concerns and giving the American people a fair deal. (2) However, not everyone wants the government to reduce American military power. Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal and Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson warned Truman in October 1945 that overly rapid demobilization jeopardized the nation's strategic position in the world. While Truman agreed with their assessment, he felt powerless to stop the demobilization. In response to rising political pressure, the government reduced the size of the U.S. military from a high of 12 million in June 1945 to 1.5 million in June 1947—still more troops than any country has ever armed during peacetime. Soldiers and sailors weren't the only ones dismissed from service. As the war approached, millions of working men who had gone to fight were laid off by their employers, often because the material demand for war had declined and because government propaganda encouraged them to return home to make way for returning troops. While most female workers surveyed at the end of the war wanted to keep their jobs (75-90 percent, depending on research), many actually abandoned them. Nevertheless, throughout the late 1940s and 1950s, women continued to make up about a third of the U.S. labor force. Adjustments to postwar life were difficult for returning troops. The U.S. Army estimates that as many as 20 percent of its victims are psychological. Although many are eagerly awaiting their return to civilian status, others are worried they will not be able to continue their boring existence after the experience of fighting on the front line. Veterans are also worried that they won't find jobs and that civilians workers are better positioned to take advantage of new jobs that are open in a peacetime economy. Some feel that their wives and children will not welcome their presence, and some children do resent the return of fathers who threaten to disrupt the mother-daughter household. Those in front of the house are also worried. Doctors warned fiancées, wives, and mothers that soldiers might come back with psychological problems that would make them difficult to live with. Well before the end of the war, Congress had passed one of the most significant and far-reaching pieces of legislation to ease the transition of veterans into civilian life: the Service Adjustment Act, also known as the GI Bill. Any distinguished veteran who has seen active duty, but not necessarily combat, is eligible to receive unemployment compensation for a year. This provision not only calms veterans' fears about their ability to support themselves, but also prevents large numbers of men—as well as some women—from suddenly entering a job market that doesn't have enough positions for them. Another way that the GI bill avoids gluttony in the labor market is by giving returning veterans the opportunity to pursue education; it pays tuition fees at colleges or vocational schools and gives them a stipend to live on while they complete their studies. The result is a dramatic increase in the number of students - especially male - enrolled in American colleges and universities. In 1940, only 5.5 percent of American men had a bachelor's degree. By 1950, that percentage had risen to 7.3 percent, as more than two million service personnel took advantage of the benefits offered by the GI Bill to complete college. The numbers continued to grow throughout the 1950s. After graduation, these people are prepared for skilled blue-collar or white-collar jobs that pave the way for many to enter the middle class. The creation of a well-educated and skilled workforce helps the U.S. economy as well. Other benefits offered by gi bills include low-interest loans to buy a home or start a small business. However, not all veterans are able to take advantage of the GI bill. African American veterans can use their educational benefits only to attend schools that accept black students. About nine thousand servicemen and women who were dishonorably discharged because they were gay or lesbians were not eligible for gi bill benefits. Benefits for some Mexican American veterans, especially in Texas, were also denied or postponed. While most veterans receive assistance to assist in their adjustment to life others return home to an uncertain future without the promise of government assistance to help them get on with their pre-war lives. Japanese Americans from the West Coast who had apprentices during the war also faced the task of rebuilding their lives. Their. In December 1944, Franklin Roosevelt declared an end to the forced relocation of Japanese Americans, and by January 1945, they were free to return to their homes. However, in many areas, neighbors cling to their prejudices and denounce people of Japanese descent as unfaithful and dangerous. These feelings have been exacerbated by wartime propaganda, which often features harrowing accounts of Japan's mistreatment of prisoners, and by statements by military officers against the effect that Japan is inherently barbaric. Faced with such hostility, many Japanese American families chose to move elsewhere. Those returning often find that in their absence, friends and neighbors have been selling items that have been left with them for safekeeping. Many homes have been damaged and farms destroyed. When Japanese Americans reopen their businesses, former customers sometimes boycott them. (2) Early in his presidency, Truman sought to build on Roosevelt's New Deal promises. In addition to mobilizing the armed forces and preparing for the homecoming of soldiers and women, he must also guide the nation through the process of returning to the peacetime economy. To this end, he proposed an ambitious program of social legislation that includes setting the federal minimum wage, expanding Social Security and public housing, and banning child labor. Wartime price controls are maintained for some items but removed from others, such as meat. In his inaugural address in 1949, Truman referred to his programs as the Fair Deal, a nod to his predecessor's New Deal. He wants the Fair Deal to include Americans of color and be the first president to address the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He also took the decisive step of extending civil rights for African Americans by executive order in December 1946, the Presidential Committee on Civil Rights to investigate racial discrimination in the United States. Truman also delegated the armed forces, again by executive order, in July 1948, putting aside many objections that the military had no place for social experimentation. Congress, however, which is dominated by Southern Republicans and conservative Democrats, refused to pass more pieces of radical legislation, such as a bill that provides for national health care. The American Medical Association spent about \$1.5 million to defeat Truman's health care proposal, which sought to discredit it as a socialized drug to draw American fears against Communism. The same Congress also refused to make lynching a federal crime or ban the poll tax Poor American access to the ballot box. Congress also rejected a bill that would create the Roosevelt Fair Employment Practices Committee, which prohibits racial discrimination by companies that do business with government, permanent. At the same time, they passed many pieces of conservative legislation. For example, the Taft-Hartley Act, which limits union power, became law despite Truman's veto. (2) As World War II approached, the alliance that had made the United States and the Soviet Union a partner in their defeat of axis powers—Germany, Italy, and Japan—began to fall apart. Both sides realize that their vision for the future of Europe and the world is incompatible. Joseph Stalin, the prime minister of the Soviet Union, wanted to maintain Eastern European rule and form a communist, pro-Soviet government there, in an effort to expand Soviet influence and protect the Soviet Union from future invasions. He also sought to bring the Communist revolution to Asia and to developing countries elsewhere in the world. The United States wants to expand its influence as well by protecting or installing democratic governments around the world. It sought to combat the influence of the Soviet Union by forming alliances with Asian, African, and Latin American countries, and by helping these countries to build or expand a prosperous free market economy. The end of the war left European and Asian industrial countries physically devastated and economically exhausted by years of invasion, fighting and bombardment. With Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and China reduced to their former shadows, the United States and the Soviet Union emerged as the last two superpowers and quickly found themselves locked in a contest for military, economic, social, technological, and ideological supremacy. (2) The United States has a long history of avoiding foreign alliances that may require the commitment of its troops abroad. However, in accepting the reality of a post-World War II world, where traditional powers such as great Britain or France are no longer strong enough to police around the world, the United States realized that it had to make permanent changes in its foreign policy, shifting from isolation relative to active engagement. Assuming the presidency of Franklin Roosevelt's death, Harry Truman was already troubled by Soviet actions in Europe. He disliked the concessions made by Roosevelt in Yalta, which had allowed the Soviet Union to install a Communist government in Poland. At the Potsdam conference, held from July 17 to August 2, 1945, Truman also opposed Stalin's plan to demand major reparations from Germany. He worried that the burden that would be imposed on Germany could lead to another cycle of German rearmament and aggression—fears based on the nation's development after World War I. Although the United States and the Soviet Union eventually reached an agreement in Potsdam, this last chance where they worked together for some time. Each remains convinced that that the economic and political system itself is superior to the others, and the two superpowers quickly find themselves drawn into conflict. The decades-long struggle between them for technological and ideological supremacy was known as the Cold War. Called because it did not include direct military confrontations between Soviet and U.S. forces, the Cold War was fought with a variety of other weapons: espionage and surveillance, political assassinations, propaganda, and the formation of alliances with other countries. It has also become an arms race, as the two countries compete to build the largest stockpile of nuclear weapons, and also compete for influence in poorer countries, supporting opposing sides in wars in some of those countries, such as Korea and Vietnam. (2) In February 1946, George Kennan, a State Department official stationed at the U.S. embassy in Moscow, sent an eight thousand-word message to Washington, DC. In what is known as the Long Telegram, Kennan maintains that Soviet leaders believed that the only way to protect the Soviet Union was to destroy rival countries and their influence over weaker countries. According to Kennan, the Soviet Union was not so much a revolutionary regime as a totalitarian bureaucracy that could not accept the prospect of peaceful coexistence of the United States and itself. He suggested that the best way to thwart the Soviet plan for the world was to withhold Soviet influence—primarily through economic policy—to places where it already existed and prevent its political expansion into new territories. This strategy, then known as containment policy, formed the basis for U.S. foreign policy and military decision-making for more than thirty years. When Communist governments came to power elsewhere in the world, American policymakers expanded their containment strategies against what was known as a domino theory under the Eisenhower administration: Neighbors to Communist countries, as well as assumptions, tended to succumb to the same ideology thought to be dangerous and contagious. As dominoes dropped on each other, the whole region would eventually be controlled by the Soviets. The request for anti-Communist detention emerged in early March 1946 in a speech by Winston Churchill, in which he referred to the Iron Curtain that divided Europe into a free West and a Communist East controlled by the Soviet Union. The commitment to resist Soviet expansion made it necessary to mount strong military violations and defenses. In pursuit of this goal, the U.S. military was reorganized under the National Security Act of 1947. This streamlined the government's security by establishing a National Security Council and establishing a Central Intelligence Agency surveillance and espionage in foreign countries. It also created a Department of The Air Force, combined with the Departments of Army and Navy in 1949 to form one Department of Defense. In Europe, the end of World War II saw the rise of a number of internal struggles for control of countries that had been occupied by Nazi Germany. The United Kingdom occupied Greece when the Nazi regime there collapsed. Britain helped Greece's authoritarian government in its battle against Communist Greece. In March 1947, the British announced that they could no longer afford the costs of supporting the government's military activities and withdrew from participation in the Greek civil war. Stepping into this power vacuum, the United States announced the Truman Doctrine, which offered support to Greece and Turkey in the form of financial assistance, weaponry, and troops to help train their military and strengthen their government against Communism. Eventually, the program was expanded to include any state that tried to withstand a Communist takeover. Truman's teachings thus became a hallmark of U.S. Cold War policy. In 1946, the American economy grew significantly. At the same time, the economic situation in Europe is catastrophic. The war has turned much of Western Europe into a battlefield, and the rebuilding of factories, public transport systems and power plants is growing very slowly. Hunger looms as a real possibility for many. As a result of these conditions, Communism made significant inroads in Italy and France. These concerns led Truman, along with Secretary of State George C. Marshall, to propose to Congress the European Recovery Program, known as the Marshall Plan. Between implantation in April 1948 and its termination in 1951, the program provided \$13 billion in economic assistance to European countries. Truman's motivations are economic and political, as well as humanitarian. The plan stipulates that European countries must work together to receive aid, thereby enforcing unity through enticement, while seeking to undermine the political popularity of Communist France and Italy and persuade moderates from forming coalition governments with them. Likewise, most of the money should be spent on American goods, boosting the postwar economy of the United States as well as the presence of American culture in Europe. Stalin regarded the program as a form of bribery. The Soviet Union refused to accept aid from the Marshall Plan, although it did, and banned Eastern European Communist countries from receiving U.S. funding as well. States receiving aid are starting to experience economic recovery. The lack of consensus with the Soviets on the future of Germany made the United States, United Kingdom, and France in favor of joining the zone each became an independent state. In December 1946, they took steps to do so, but the Soviet Union do not want the country's western zone to unite under a democratic and pro-capitalist government. The Soviet Union was also worried about the possibility of a unified West Berlin, located entirely within the Soviet sector. Three days after western allies allowed the introduction of a new currency in West Germany—the Deutsche Mark—Stalin ordered all land and water routes to Berlin's western zone to be severed in June 1948. Hoping to starve the western part of the city into submission, the Berlin blockade is also a test of the emerging US detention policy (Figure 12-1). A map of the German occupation zone in 1945, modified to show the inner German border and the zone where Allied forces withdrew in July 1945. Allied occupation zones in post-war Germany, highlighting the Soviet zone (red), the inner German border (heavy black line) and the zone from which British and American troops withdrew in July 1945 (purple). Provincial boundaries were the pre-Nazi boundaries of Weimar Germany, before Länder (federal states) was founded. Figure 12-1: The German occupation zone with a border by the U.S. Army is in the Public Domain. Unwilling to leave Berlin, the United States, the United Kingdom, and France began sending all the necessary supplies to West Berlin by air. In April 1949, the three countries joined forces with Canada and eight Western European countries to form the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), an alliance that promised its members to defend each other in the event of an attack. On May 12, 1949, a year and about two million tons of supplies later, the Soviets conceded defeat and ended the Berlin blockade. On May 23, the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), which consists of a unified western zone commonly referred to as West Germany, was formed. The Soviets responded by creating the German Democratic Republic, or East Germany, in October 1949. (2) In 1949, two incidents deeply undermined American confidence in the ability of the United States to withstand the spread of Communism and limit Soviet power in the world. First, on August 29, 1949, the Soviet Union detonated its first atomic bomb—no longer does the United States have a monopoly on nuclear power. A few months later, on October 1, 1949, Chinese Communist Party leader Mao Zedong announced the Communist Party of China's victory over their Nationalist enemies in a civil war that had raged since 1927. The Nationalist forces, under their leader Chiang Kai-shek, left for Taiwan in December 1949. Soon, there were suspicions that spies had passed on bomb-making secrets to the Soviets and that Communist sympathizers at the U.S. State Department had hidden information that might have allowed the United States to ward off Communist victories in China. Indeed, in February 1950, Wisconsin senator Joseph a Republican, was indicted in a speech that The State Department is spied by Communists. Also in 1950, the imprisonment of The United Kingdom of Klaus Fuchs, a German-born physicist who had worked on the Manhattan Project and was later convicted of passing on nuclear secrets to the Soviets, raised American fears. The information provided by Fuchs to the British also involved a number of Americans. The most notorious trial of the suspected American spies was that of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were executed in June 1953 despite a lack of evidence against them. Decades later, evidence was found that Julius, but not Ethel, had in fact provided information to the Soviet Union. Concerns that communists in the United States endangered the country's security had existed even before Mao Zedong's victory and the arrest and conviction of atomic spies. The new Roosevelt Deal and the Truman Fair Deal were often criticized as socialists, many of which were mistakenly associated with Communism, and Democrats were often labeled Communists by Republicans. In response, on March 21, 1947, Truman signed Executive Order 9835, which provided the Federal Bureau of Investigation with broad powers to investigate federal employees and identify potential security risks. State and city governments are instituting their own loyalty councils to find and lay off potentially unfaithful workers. In addition to the loyalty review board, the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC), established in 1938 to investigate suspected Nazi sympathizers, after World War II also sought to root out Communist suspects in business, academia and the media. HUAC was particularly interested in Hollywood because it worried Communist sympathizers might use motion pictures as pro-Soviet propaganda. Witnesses are called and required to testify before the committee; refusal can result in a prison sentence. Those who seek Fifth Amendment protection, or are suspected of being Communist sympathies, often lose their jobs or find themselves blacklisted, which prevents them from securing jobs. Notable artists blacklisted in the 1940s and 1950s include composer Leonard Bernstein, novelist Dashiell Hammett, screenwriter and screenwriter Lillian Hellman, actor and singer Paul Robeson, and musician Artie Shaw. (2) Just as the U.S. government is worried about possible Communist infiltration of the United States, so too is wary of signs that Communist forces are moving elsewhere. The Soviet Union was given control of the northern part of the Korean peninsula at the end of World War II, and the United States had control of the south. The Soviets showed little interest in expanding their power to South Korea, and Stalin did not want to risk a confrontation with the United States over Korea. However, the North Korea wants to reunify the peninsula under communist Communists In April 1950, Stalin finally gave permission to North Korean leader Kim Il Sung to attack South Korea and give North Korea weapons and military advisers (Figure 12-2). On June 25, 1950, North Korean People's Democratic Army troops crossed the thirty-eighth parallel, the border between North and South Korea. The first major test of U.S. containment policy in Asia has begun, for the domino theory held that a victory by North Korea might lead to further Communist expansion in Asia, in the virtual backyard of the United States' new ally in East Asia—Japan. The United Nations, which was founded in 1945, quickly reacted. On June 27, the U.N. Security Council denounced North Korea's actions and called on U.N. members to help South Korea defeat the invading forces. As a permanent member of the Security Council, the Soviet Union could have vetoed the act, but has boycotted the UN meeting following the granting of China's seat on the Security Council to Taiwan instead of to the Chinese People's Republic of Mao Zedong. On June 27, Truman ordered U.S. military forces into South Korea. They established a defensive line in the southern part of the Korean peninsula near the city of Pusan. The U.S.-led invasion of Inchon on September 15 halted North Korea's advance and turned it into a retreat. As North Korean forces moved back across the thirty-eight parallels, U.N. forces under the command of U.S. General Douglas MacArthur followed. MacArthur's goal was not only to expel North Korean soldiers from South Korea but also to destroy Communist North Korea. At this stage, he had the support of President Truman. However, as U.N. forces approached the Yalu River, the border between China and North Korea, MacArthur and Truman's goals diverged. Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai, who had provided supplies and military advisers to North Korea before the conflict began, sent troops into battle to support North Korea and capture U.S. forces in a surprise way. After a costly retreat from North Korea's Chosin Reservoir, the rapid advance of Chinese and North Korean forces and another invasion of Seoul, MacArthur urged Truman to deploy nuclear weapons against China. Truman, however, did not want to risk a wider war in Asia. MacArthur criticized Truman's decision and voiced his disapproval in a letter to a Republican congressman, who later allowed the letter to become public. In April 1951, Truman accused MacArthur of insubordination and relieved him of his orders. The Joint Chiefs of Staff agreed, calling the escalation MacArthur had called for the wrong war, in the wrong place, at the wrong time, and with the wrong enemy. Nevertheless, the public gave MacArthur a hero's welcome in York with the largest ticker tape parade in the nation's history. In July 1951, UN forces recovered from the setback earlier in the year and pushed North Korean and Chinese forces back across the thirty-eighth parallel, and peace talks began. However, fighting raged for more than two additional years. The main source of contention is the fate of prisoners of war. China and North Korea insist that their prisoners be returned to them, but many of these people do not want to be repatriated. Finally, the ceasefire agreement was signed on July 27, 1953. The border between North and South Korea, one close enough to the original thirty-eight parallel lines, was agreed. A demilitarized zone between the two countries was established, and both sides agreed that prisoners of war would be allowed to choose whether to be returned to their homelands. Five million people have died in the three-year conflict. Of these, about 36,500 are U.S. soldiers; the majority are Korean civilians. (2) Map of the Korean War, 1950-1953.Figure 12-2: Overview of Korea by the U.S. Military Academy West Point is in the Public Domain. N. Korean troops cross the 38th parallel, June 25 Emergency session of the U.N. Security Council decided to help S. Korea, June 26, Truman shifted the 7th Fleet into the Formosa Strait, June 27, U.S. troops first met NKPA north of Osan and were forced to retreat, July 4, MacArthur was given command of U.N. Forces, July 8 Walker's 8th, August - September MacArthur landed in Inchon, seized Kimp'o airport and Seoul September 15th. U.N. forces expel N. Koreans from Korea S, Oct. 1. The United Nations authorized MacArthur to enter N. Korea, Oct. 7, 2014. Arrest Pnyongyang, Oct 19. N. Korean troops are pushed into the Yalu River, Oct. Chinese troops cross Yalu to N. Korea, counterattack, Oct 14. - Nov. 2nd. MacArthur launches new offensive, Nov. 200,000 U.N. troops attack China, Nov. 1st Marine Div & 7th Div. Nov. 27. U.N. troops withdraw, Seoul falls to communists, December 1 Marine Div. and a complete Division 7 breakout, Dec. 9. Walker is dead, 23 Des Ridgway takes command of 8th Army 8th, 26th Dec. CCF & NKPA retakes Seoul, Jan. 4. Ridgway revitalizes 8th Army, stops retreat & stabilizes defense, Jan 8–24. The U.N. resolution offers China a peace plan. China refuses, Jan 13-17. U.N. forces begin limited strikes, Jan. 25. 8 army raid and recapture Seoul, March 14, MacArthur was relieved of command after challenging Truman, April 11, China pushes U.N. forces south from the 38th parallel, April 22 The second Chinese attack is beaten back, May 10. The battle of the stable line near 38 , July 10 Negotiating while fighting, July 10, 1951- July 27, 1953 Armistice signed in Panmunjom When the war in Korea ended, as well as one of the most fearsome anti-Communist campaigns in the United States. After charging the U.S. State Department hiding Communists, Senator Joseph McCarthy continues to make similar accusations against other government agencies. Prominent Republicans like Senator Robert Taft and Congressman Richard Nixon regardEd McCarthy as an asset targeting Democratic politicians, and they supported his actions. In 1953, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Government Operations, McCarthy investigated Voice of America, which broadcasts news and is pro-US, propaganda abroad, and the State Department's foreign library. After an aborted attempt to investigate a Protestant clergyman, McCarthy turned his attention to the U.S. Army. This proved to be the end of the senator's political career. From April to June 1954, the Army-McCarthy China was televised, and the American public, able to witness its use of intimidation and innuendo in person, rejected McCarthy's approach to rooting out Communism in the United States. In December 1954, the U.S. Senate formally condemned his actions with condemnation, ending his prospects for political leadership. One particularly heinous aspect of the communist hunt in the United States, likened by playwright Arthur Miller to an old witch hunt, is its efforts to root out gay and lesbian men employed by the government. Many anti-Communists, including McCarthy, believe that gay men, referred to by Senator Everett Dirksen as lavender youth, are morally weak and thus very likely to betray their country. Many also believed that lesbians and gay men were vulnerable to being blackmailed by Soviet agents because of their sexual orientation, which at the time was considered by psychiatrists to be a form of mental illness. (2) pain. (2)

