

#19

WWII ACCELERATED AND NURTURED EVERY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN SOCIAL, SCIENTIFIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE LATE 20TH CENTURY.

ASSESS THE VALIDITY OF THIS STATEMENT

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Set the precedent for continued intervention into the economy.
The gov't accounts for 1/3 of the gross national product by 1970's
The U.S. plays a leading role in world economy, especially with the rebuilding of the German and Japanese economies.

SOCIAL IMPACT:

Women in the workforce: "Rosie the Riveter" symbol of the new American woman. Demands follow for equal pay and further equality.

Rise of middle class family: Family income soars after WWII, GI Bill makes college possible for thousands of young men who otherwise would never have attended. New technology/job increases remake the American family.

Rise in personal aspirations: Horizons broaden due movement of the workforce to industrial centers during WWII. Many GI's experience the west coast during the war and move there after the war. Americans have a greater understanding of each other. (troop movements during war) GI Bill once again raises the bar on expectations once college degrees are attained. Home ownership expanded once unobtainable dream.

Mobility: after WWII, the direction of this country was to the city from the farm, westward to the Pacific Coast, to the suburbs. In general, Americans were not locked in place, construction of the Interstate System in 1956 facilitated this mobility. The West was the general direction.

City Growth: Was accelerated during and after the war, growth of the suburbs eroded the innercity taxbase. (white flight) 60% of Americans lived in or near a city of 500,000 or more

The Family: much more fragile as a result of these social changes, mobility factor separates children from grandparents, their role is replaced by the television the new source of cultural values. Now a child spends more time in front of the TV by age 7 than all of the time he will spend in the classroom.

Political Parties: More veterans than ever will participate at the polls after WWII, television will play a major role in the political process. Americans will increasingly look to Washington and the federal gov't to solve their problems. For the first time, people will tend not to register with the party of their parents.

Black Americans: Black veterans will return with a different attitude from WWII, disappointed with opportunities and with the help of the Supreme Court they will begin to demand what they had been granted 100 years earlier. They will migrate north and west, political parties will align their platforms more in their direction after some prodding. (riots 50's and 60's)

Quality of life: Improves, especially in the areas of medicine, transportation, leisure time, and opportunity. (certain segments of population would disagree)

POLITICAL IMPACT:

America and the World: U.S. for the first time after a war does not return to isolation, joins the United Nations as a leading power. (economic/atomic) Helps to rebuild devastated nations to "contain" Communism. Rebuilding of Germany and Japan will result in economic competition. American companies will evolve into multi-national entities in order to expand. American industry is perceived as too predatory in some sectors of the world creating problems. The Cold War helps to sustain a military industrial complex in order to keep a technology edge.

United Nations

Created in 1945 with headquarters in New York City.

Goals: Maintain international peace through collective action.
Develop a forum for friendly relations amongst the worlds nations.
Promote and respect human rights regardless of race, gender or religion.
Encourage international cooperation in solving social, economic, cultural and humanitarian problems.