

THE USA: 1920 – 1973

REVISION NOTES



Course Content

Key Topic: Why did America boom in the 1920s?

- The Boom years and the Roaring Twenties
- Who did not experience the good times?
- Intolerance in the 1920s - Red Scare and racism

Key Topic: What were the causes and consequences of the Wall Street Crash?

- The Key features of the Wall Street Crash
- Why was Roosevelt elected to power?

Key Topic: The New Deal

- The Alphabet agencies and The New Deal
- The Second New Deal
- Failures and opposition to the New Deal

Key Topic: McCarthyism and the Red Scare

- The impact of the Cold War.
- The development of the Red Scare.
- The impact of McCarthyism.

Amplification of content

The impact of McCarthyism involves McCarthy's emergence, the methods he used and their impact, the reasons for the decline of McCarthyism and its overall impact on the USA.

Key Topic: The Civil Rights Movement 1945 - 1962

- Progress, especially in education and problems in implementation.
- Montgomery Bus Boycott.
- Martin Luther King and further progress and problems 1958-62.

Amplification of content

The impact of Second World War, the work of the NACCP, CORE, SNCC and the Supreme Court and key developments in education including Brown v Topeka, Little Rock, problems faced by students and levels of support for segregation.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott, its causes, the events and results; the actions of Rosa Parks, the organisation of the boycott, the involvement of Martin Luther King, reasons for its success and its importance.

The methods and leadership of Martin Luther King, sit-ins and the freedom riders, opposition, KKK violence.

Key Topic: Changes in the Civil Rights Movement 1963 - 1970

- Peace marches in 1963: Washington and Alabama.
- Martin Luther King and civil rights legislation.
- Malcolm X and Black Power.

Amplification of content

Violent reactions to the peace march in Birmingham, Alabama, the peace march in Washington and the 'dream' speech.

The influence of Martin Luther King over John F Kennedy and the civil rights movement,

'Freedom Summer' of 1964, the murder of SNCC workers in Mississippi, Selma and the Voting Rights Act, the importance of the Civil Rights Act, 1964 and the impact of the assassination of Martin Luther King.

Malcolm X and his initial beliefs, methods, influence and involvement with the Black Muslims and his later change in attitude.

Black Power involves the leadership of Stokely Carmichael and the meaning of Black Power, the Black Panther movement, inner city riots and civil rights at the end of the 1960s.

Key Topic - The women's movement.

Amplification of content

The women's movement involves the position of women in the early 1960s, the influence of Eleanor Roosevelt and Betty Frieden, the achievements and importance of

the women's movement including NOW and women's liberation, and opposition to the women's movement.

Exam Guidance

1. How does Interpretation B differ from Interpretation A about.....?

Explain your answer using Interpretations A and B. [4 marks]

- You must refer to both sources and **CONTRAST** them.
- You need to write two to three contrast from the source.
- Support with some of your own knowledge.
- Write a detailed paragraph

Time allocation: 5 minutes

Key phrases for Q1: In contrast...Whereas...

2. Why might the authors of Interpretations A and B have a different interpretation about.....? Explain your answer using Interpretations A and B and your contextual knowledge. [4 marks]

- Refer to the Time, Author or Purpose of both sources and **CONTRAST** them.
- You need to write two to three contrast from the source.
- Support with some of your own knowledge.
- Write a detailed paragraph

Time allocation: 5 minutes

Key phrases for Q2: A and B give different views because ...They also differ because

3. Which interpretation do you find more convincing about.....? Explain your answer using Interpretations A and B and your contextual knowledge.

[8 marks]

- Both sources need to be considered
- Supporting knowledge must be used to judge how convincing the source is
- Include a conclusion of the most convincing
- Write a paragraph for each source and a separate conclusion

Time allocation: 10 minutes

Key phrases for Q3: A is convincing because..... B is less convincing because.....

4. Describe..... [4 marks]

- Describe two key points with supporting evidence.
- Use your specific own knowledge
- Write a detailed paragraph or two smaller paragraphs for each point.

Time allocation: 5 minutes

Key phrases for Q4: One problem/reason/development was.....Another problem/reason/development was.....

5. In what ways was impacted by.....? Explain your answer. [8 marks]

- Write 2-3 well explained impacts
- Use your specific own knowledge
- Focus on the different groups that were impacted
- Try to write a paragraph for each group impacted

Time allocation: 10 minutes

Key phrases for Q5: One way in which.....was affected by.....was.....

6. Which of the following was the more important reason.....? Explain your answer with reference to both reasons. [12 marks]

Explain your answer with reference to both reasons.

[12 marks]

- Write a detailed paragraph for each bullet point
- Use 2 - 3 examples of detailed specific own knowledge for each bullet point
- Conclude the most important bullet point in a clear judgement

Time allocation: 15 minutes

WHY DID THE AMERICAN ECONOMY BOOM IN THE 1920'S?

Isolationism (US reaction to the First World War)

Background to Isolationism:

- The US came out of the First World War as one of the world's greatest powers.
- It entered the war in 1917 on the side of Britain and France (Entente Alliance).
- It provided its allies with loans, food, raw materials and weapons.
- Played a decisive role in the major battles of 1918 that helped defeat Germany.
- Its land had not been devastated by war unlike other countries like France.
- It gained many of the European countries overseas markets.

The American government's isolationist policies included:

- Rejecting the Treaty of Versailles.
- Refusing to join the League of Nations.
- Tariffs against foreign goods.
- Restricting the flow of immigrants.

US reaction to the First World War (1919):

- President Woodrow Wilson had taken the US into WW1 in 1917.
- He played an important part in the Treaty of Versailles based on his Fourteen Points.
- He wanted the US to join The League of Nations which he helped set up.
- The American people however rejected both the Treaty of Versailles and The League of Nations.

Americans choose Isolationism because:

- Americans had moved to the US to escape the problems of the world.
- They did not want to get involved in other countries problems.
- They did not want more American soldiers to be killed abroad keeping world peace.
- They did not want to have to pay, as the richest country, for keeping world peace.
- President Woodrow Wilson's party the Democrats did not control Congress.
- The Republicans rejected both the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations.
- The Republican, Warren Harding, won the 1920 election under the campaign slogan "America First" and a return to "normalcy".

The Boom Years (The US economy in the 1920's)

The causes of the Boom were:

- The impact of the First World War.
- Tariffs Against Foreign Goods.
- Mass Production.
- Credit Facilities + Advertising
- Government Policies - Laissez Faire
- The Cycle of Prosperity.
- Confidence in Shares.

The Impact of the First World War:

- The US provided its allies loans, food, raw materials and weapons during the war.
- Its industry had not been devastated by war unlike other countries like France.
- It gained many of the European countries overseas markets.

Tariffs Against Foreign Goods:

- In 1922 Congress passed the Fordney-McCumber Tariff
- It imposed tariffs (taxes) on all foreign goods that entered into the US.
- This made foreign made goods more expensive to buy than American made goods.
- They did this to protect American industry and jobs from cheaper foreign goods.
- Tariffs helped create the boom years in the US during the 1920's.
- But foreign governments responded by imposing tariffs on American goods.

Mass Production:

- It helped make goods faster and cheaper by using assembly lines.
- It involved dividing workers to work on one small part of a product doing the same job repeatedly as a product moved in front of them on the assembly line.
- Henry Ford first introduced it in the car industry in making his Model T Car.
- The ideas of mass production based on assembly lines were soon copied by other industries.

Henry Ford and the Model T Car:

- Henry Ford wanted to make cars affordable for ordinary Americans by using the methods of mass production making them cheaper to make and therefore sell.
- In 1911 he introduced the Model T car manufactured by using the assembly line.
- To keep costs down all Model T's were the same colour (black) and same engine size.
- In the 1920's mass production led to a Model T car being made every ten seconds.
- Due to mass production its cost fell from \$1200 a car in 1911 to \$295 a car by 1920.
- By the 1920's one out of every two cars sold was a Model T.
- The massive expansion of the car industry led to the growth of the steel, rubber, glass, leather, and oil industries.

Credit Facilities + Advertising:

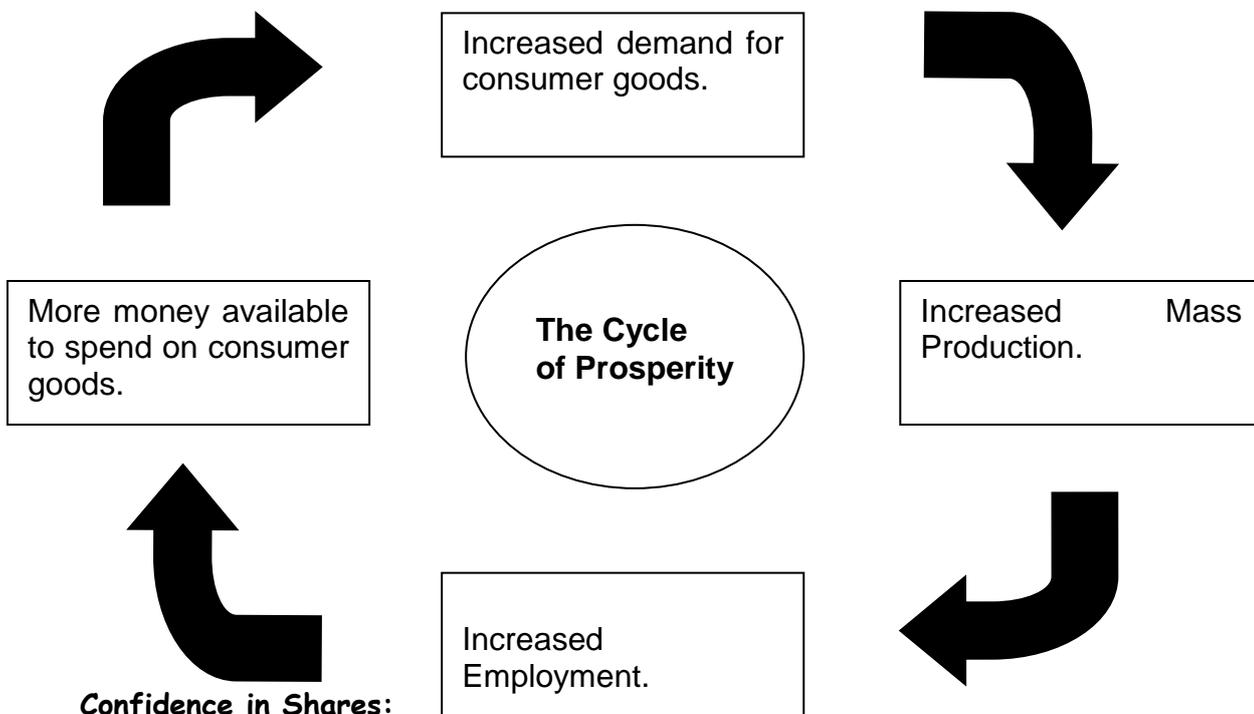
- Americans could buy lots of consumer goods due to the introduction of hire purchase.
- This involved people buying consumer goods that they could not normally afford.
- They did this by buying consumer goods on credit rather than having to save.
- This allowed Americans to buy goods by paying for them in instalments over time.
- Advertisements on radio, cinemas, newspapers, magazines and billboards all encouraged Americans to buy consumer goods.

Government Policies:

- The Republican government's policies helped encourage the boom.
- It lowered taxes giving people more money to buy consumer goods.
- Let companies invest their profits into building new factories rather than taxing them. It believed in the policy of Laissez-Faire (non-interference) in the economy e.g. the government should not interfere in businesses affairs like forcing them to pay workers a minimum wage.

The Cycle of Prosperity:

- A Cycle of Prosperity marked the boom years.
- The growth in the demand for goods led to a growth in mass production, which led to a growth in employment, which led to a growth in the demand for goods, because more employed people had money to spend on consumer goods



- The boom years led to a feeling of confidence among people in the economy.
- Many ordinary people invested in the booming companies by buying shares.
- They did this through credit by "buying on the margin" which means buying shares but by only paying 10% of their value and borrowing the remaining 90% from banks.
- When share prices rose during the boom years they would sell them for a profit.
- They would then use their profits to pay back the banks the money they originally borrowed or use their profits to buy even more shares.

Did all Americans prosper from the boom?

Not every one shared in the prosperity, however, and there were glaring weaknesses in the American economy in the 1920s.

However, there is plenty of evidence that all was not well with the American economy in the 1920s, and in 1928 the 'boom' began to slow down.

Farmers

- About half of all Americans worked on farms and did not benefit from the boom.
- More than half of Americans lived "below the poverty line".
- In 1928 60% of people earned less than \$2000 a year (minimum needed to survive).
- New machines like combine harvesters helped farmers produce more food.
- This meant more food was made than was needed which led to a fall in prices.
- Farmers had to make many of their farm workers unemployed and could not keep up with their mortgage payments leading to loss of their farms.

Note also that rural areas did not have electricity, so most country-dwellers were excluded from the consumer boom.

Low wage earners

- unskilled and casual workers, or the 2 million who were unemployed - could not share in the prosperity. There were great inequalities of wealth; the top 5% of the population earned 33% of the income, while 60% of Americans earned less than \$2000, and that 40% were below the poverty line (notably farmers/ Black Americans/ immigrants). Only 3% of semi-skilled workers owned a car.

Old Industries

Coal

- overproduction of coal (which was being replaced by oil and gas) led to mine closure and falling wages. In 1929 a coal miners wage was barely a third of the national average income.

Textiles

- There were also problems in the textiles industry where 'flapper' fashions were reducing the amount of cloth used to make clothes. Only 7 metres of material was needed to make an outfit for a flapper, compared to 21 metres for older style clothes
- New synthetic (man made) materials were introduced such as rayon and nylon (in the 1930s). This meant that older industries such as cotton and silk suffered a drop in demand.

- d. **Poor Black Americans** - 1 million black farm workers lost their jobs in the 1920s. Black workers in the towns in the north were the lowest paid; the only work they found available were low-paying, menial jobs. New York's black Harlem district was a severely overcrowded and segregated community, with more than 250,000 citizens crammed into an area 50 blocks long and eight blocks wide. Many of these people had to sleep in shifts, going to bed when others went off to work. 'Rent parties' were common on Saturday nights, to raise money to pay the landlord on Sunday.



This photo is from the 1930s, but it sums up the position of Black people in the 1920s - they can SEE the prosperity, but they don't SHARE in it.

Immigrants

ALL Americans were immigrant families, of course, but until 1890 most immigrants were 'WASPs' (white Anglo-Saxon Protestants) from the wealthier countries of Europe such as Britain, Germany and Sweden. After 1890, more immigrants started arriving from Eastern Europe and Asia.

Demand was growing, however, to slow down immigration and there followed a number of laws and quotas to restrict immigration:

- **1917: Immigration Law**

This required all immigrants to prove they could read English, banned all immigration from Asia, and charged an immigration fee of \$8.

- **1921: Emergency Quota Act**

This stated that the number of immigrants from 'the eastern hemisphere' could not be more than 3% of the number already in America in 1910. It set the maximum number of immigrants in any year at 357,000.

- **1924: Reed-Johnson Act**

Maximum number of immigrants in any year at 154,000. Quota from eastern hemisphere reduced to 2% of those already in America in 1890; the South and the East of Europe were thus only allowed to send 20,000 immigrants per year, and non-Europeans only 4,000

How far did US society change in the 1920's?

The Roaring Twenties

The Boom Years of the 1920's were also known as The Roaring Twenties. During this time the good side to American life in the 1920's was the cultural life of the US but the bad side to American life in the 1920's was the social life of the US.

The Cultural Life of the US:

- The Cinema Golden Era.
- The New Radio Age.
- New Fashions and Crazes.

The Cinema Golden Era:

- Going to the cinema became a national habit at a time before the invention of TV.
- The movie industry grew in Hollywood, which became the film capital of the world.
- By 1929 over 110 million Americans went to the cinema each week.
- All movies were silent until 1927 when movies with sound were introduced. The Jazz Singer was the first talkie film
- All movies were in black and white but by the 1930's some movies were in colour.
- Famous actors like Charlie Chaplin, Rudolf Valentino, Clara Bow and Disney cartoon characters like Mickey Mouse became household names.

Did everyone approve?

Case Study

Charlie Chaplin became one of the greatest comedians in cinema history and one of its most famous stars. He was a living example of the "American Dream". The idea that anyone can make it in America if they have talent and work hard enough. He was born in London to a very poor family but moved to the USA to make his fortune.

His famous films include "The kid", "The Great Dictator" and "The Vagabond". His films and characters were influenced by other cultural developments in America, including the economic boom and the impact it had on the lives of ordinary people.

A celebrity culture developed in the 1920s and stars had their whole lives under scrutiny. Some people were shocked by the films and thought they lowered moral standards. The public expected very high standards from their movie stars and scandals had to be covered up and the real lives of the stars censored as well as the movies.

The Hays Code was introduced to try and keep films morally correct. One of the rules about kisses on screen was they could not last for more than 10 feet of film. This meant quite a short kiss... It also banned nakedness and sexy dancing!!!

The New Radio Age:

- Radio entertained millions of people with news, plays, comedies and music.
- Radio stations made money by advertisements for consumer goods during the boom.
- By 1929 10 million homes had their own radio and it was as important to peoples lives as TV is today.

New Fashions and Crazes:

- Young Americans embraced new fashions and crazes to enjoy themselves.
- They embraced new dances like the Charleston, Tango and Bunny Hug.
- They went to American football, baseball and basketball stadiums.
- Jazz music based on early black music soon became a national craze.
- Young men wore pin-stripe suits and trilby hats.
- Young women called "Flappers" wore their hair short and bobbed, skirts that rose to their knees, tried to look flat-chested and used lipstick with rouge.
- The older generation disliked all these new fashions and crazes and tried to stop them by setting up groups like the Anti-Flirt Association.

How far did the roles of women change during the 1920's?

Theory 1 - Women's lives changed a lot...

Work: Many women had taken over jobs traditionally reserved for men (such as manufacturing), and 1920-29 the number of working women increased by 25%; many went to be teachers and secretaries.

Vote: In 1920 the 19th Amendment gave women the vote. The former suffrage campaigners formed themselves into the Woman's Joint Congressional Committee, which lobbied successfully for a Maternity and Infancy Protection Act (1921), equal nationality rights for married women (1922), and the Child Labor Amendment (1925).



Flappers: dumped the old restrictive fashions, corsets etc. in favour of short skirts, short hair, and the flat-chested 'garconne' look. Many of them wore men's clothing. They smoked, drank, used make-up, played tennis, and danced wildly in jazz clubs. Some were openly lesbian, others were sexually active.

Theory 2 - many women saw very few changes to their lives...

Work: most working women were in low-paid jobs, and they were paid less than men for the same job. 10 million women were working in 1930 ... but this was still only a quarter of the females age 15 and over; the rest worked for free in the home and on the farm.

Vote: Apart from exceptions such as Florence Kelley and Alice Paul, few suffrage campaigners went into politics; they gave up politics and returned to being housewives. Women campaigned in vain after 1920 for an Equal Rights Act.

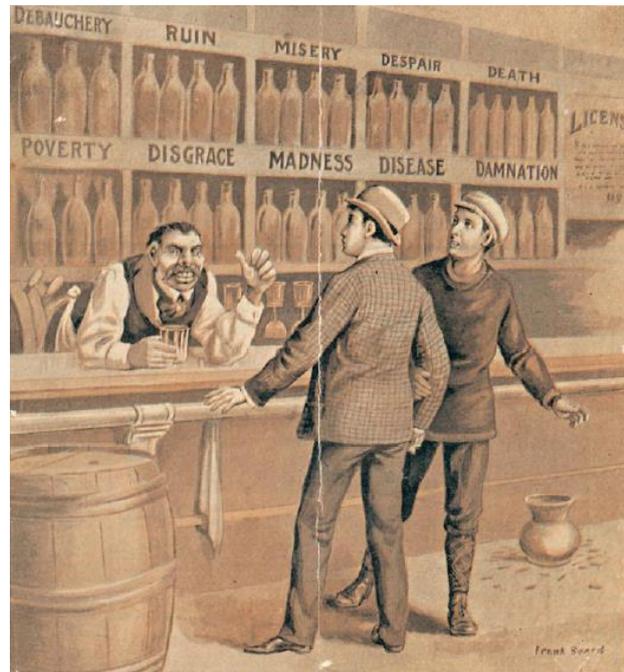
Flappers: The flappers scandalised many Americans - the Anti-Flirt Association tried to persuade young Americans to behave decently. Most girls, especially in rural America, still behaved 'decently', got married and had babies.

Why was prohibition introduced, and then later repealed?

- Prohibition was when the selling, transporting and drinking of alcohol was banned in the US between 1920 and 1933.
- The 18th Amendment of the American Constitution made alcohol illegal in Jan 1920.
- The Volstead Act defined alcoholic drinks as anything with more than 0.5% alcohol.

The Causes of Prohibition Were:

- The pressure to ban alcohol came from Christian and Women's groups like the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Anti-Saloon League.
- These movements were very popular in rural areas
- They blamed alcohol for poverty, crime, insanity, broken marriages and sick days taken of work due to hangovers.
- The First World War (which America joined in 1917) resulted in more support for Prohibition. Many breweries were owned by German immigrants so it was seen as unpatriotic to buy beer.



Why was Prohibition repealed?

President Roosevelt repealed the 18th Amendment in 1933 when it was clear that it was unenforceable and did not have the support of the American people.

A lack of public support

The public did not respect the prohibition law. People still demanded alcohol. Americans carried on going to speakeasies (secret bars). In 1929 there were 32,000 speakeasies in New York alone, nearly double the amount of legal saloons in existence before Prohibition was introduced.

Not enough Prohibition agents

The Prohibition Bureau employed between 1500 and 2300 agents to stop the trade in alcohol across the whole of the USA. Each agent would need to cover 200,000 square miles each. There simply weren't enough agents.

Corruption

Corruption was rife. Gangsters bribed policemen, judges and local government officials. Once bribes were taken officials were 'in the pocket' of the gangsters. This meant the gangsters could run other rackets (illegal businesses) such as protection and prostitution without interference from the police

Crime

Gangsters were making about \$2 billion a year from the trade in alcohol. Rival gangs fought each other to supply speakeasies with illegal alcohol. Between 1926+1927 there were over 130 gangland murders in Chicago. Due to police corruption no-one was ever convicted for any of the murders

Wall Street Crash

After the Wall Street Crash the government realised that if they repealed (ended Prohibition) that they would be able to tax the trade in alcohol, raising valuable money.

How widespread was intolerance in the 1920s?

The 'Red Scare'

- Following the Russian Revolution in 1917 Communism terrified Americans. Many middle and upper classes looked on in horror at the Russian Revolution as they saw all private business and property removed from the rich to be taken over by the poor.
- Many Americans also associated communism with a lack of freedom of speech. Under a communist regime religion was often banned and anyone who spoke against the communist party could be arrested and disappear. Many millions disappeared in communist Russia.

What happened in the 1920s to make the 'red scare' worse?

- In 1919 many Americans seemed to see evidence all around them to confirm their fears of a communist takeover. There was a wave of disturbances. 400,000 American workers went on strike. Strikes were associated with communism as it was seen as the workers rising up to try and seize power.
- In fact many workers were going on strike simply because due to a lack of demand there was increased unemployment and discontent - nothing to do with communism at all!
- However, some communists were and anarchists were publishing pamphlets calling for the overthrow of the government. Bombs were also posted to 36 important Americans, In June 1919 bombs went off in 7 US cities, one almost killing the attorney general Mitchell Palmer. This again seemed like evidence to many that America was on the brink of communist revolution
- Mitchell Palmer then led the process of arresting all those with known radical beliefs. 10,000 individuals were informed they were to be rounded up and deported from the USA. Many of these people had absolutely no radical beliefs and these 'Palmer Raids' are now seen as a shameful part of American History.

Who were Sacco and Vanzetti?



The case you **MUST** know about is the trial of Sacco and Vanzetti. It is a perfect example of how the red scare affected the USA in the 1920s.

- Sacco and Vanzetti were two immigrants from Italy who were self-confessed anarchists - who in 1920 were found guilty of armed robbery and murder (and executed in 1927)

The defence produced 107 witnesses that they were elsewhere at the time, and in 1925 the actual murderer came forward and gave himself up ... the jury did not believe the defence witnesses because they were all Italian immigrants.

Why were Sacco and Vanzetti executed?

- This was the height of the red scare. There was great fear and distrust of immigrants and anyone with radical beliefs. Unfortunately for Sacco and Vanzetti they were both Italian AND self-confessed anarchists. This meant that many people assumed they must be guilty of the crime, even though the evidence against them was extremely flimsy. **Their trial was less a trial for murder and more a trial about their political beliefs.**
- The judge in the case was extremely biased. Judge Webster Thayer was quoted after the trial saying 'did you see what I did to those two **anarchist bastards**' and also called them 'dagos' (an offensive term for Italians) and 'sons of bitches' They had no chance of a fair trial.

To what extent was America an intolerant society in the 1920s?

It was intolerant

- Black people faced huge problems

Racism towards Black Americans

- **American Government:** refused to pass laws banning lynchings or giving Black Americans the vote.
- **Jim Crow Laws:** the name for laws passed in the southern states which prevented Black Americans from mixing with whites ('segregation'), denied them equality of education and civil rights, and prevented them from voting.
- **Ku Klux Klan:** an organisation to maintain WASPs supremacy, which had 5 million members by 1925. Many supporters were poor whites, who did not want Black Americans to be their equals/fear they would take their jobs, but many were racism wealthy white Americans. They wore white sheets and hoods, and marched with burning crosses. They spoke with each other in a secret language which they called 'Klonversations'. They attacked, tortured and killed Black Americans, but also Jews and Catholics and 'immoral' people such as alcoholics.
- **Lynchings:** mobs of white people often hanged ('lynched') Blacks Americans whom they suspected of a crime (usually the police turned a blind eye).
- **Even in the north:** Black Americans ended up with the low-paid menial jobs, such as janitors, bootblacks, cooks, houseboys, baggage handlers, waiters, doormen, dishwashers and washroom attendants. In 1919, white Americans in Chicago rampaged through Black neighbourhoods after a drowning black man clinging to a log had drifted into a whites-only swimming area



What were the causes and consequences of the Wall Street Crash?

The Causes of the Wall Street Crash were:

- Overproduction.
- Unequal distribution of Wealth.
- Tariff Policy.
- Share Speculation.
- Poorly run banks

Overproduction:

- Markets became saturated (too many products had been produced) due to overproduction caused by mass production. There was a **falling demand** for new products.
- This led to a fall in demand because you only want a limited number of cars or fridges etc.
- Factories were forced to sack workers or close due to a lack of demand for goods. **Unemployment began to rise**. People who had lost their jobs did not have the money to buy new consumer products so demand fell even more and overproduction got worse.

Unequal Distribution of Wealth:

- Many families could not afford to buy consumer goods during the boom years.
- More than half of Americans lived "below the poverty line".
- In 1928 **60% of people earned less than \$2000 a year** (minimum needed to survive).
- Black Americans, immigrants, farmers and workers in older industries **never benefited from the boom**.

Tariff Policy:

When the US imposed tariffs on foreign goods other countries responded by doing the same to US goods. This meant the **US could not export** its surplus (extra) goods to foreign countries to help with the problem of over production.

Share Speculation:

- As the demand for goods fell so did company share prices as people began to think the companies weren't going to do as well in the future.
- **In 1928 share prices stopped rising as much as they did in previous years.**
- Experienced professional investors began selling their shares.
- Ordinary people **panicked** and began selling their shares.
- The price of shares therefore continued to spiral downward as people had to drop the price of their shares in order to try and get rid of them. **Many shares become worthless with this panic selling**

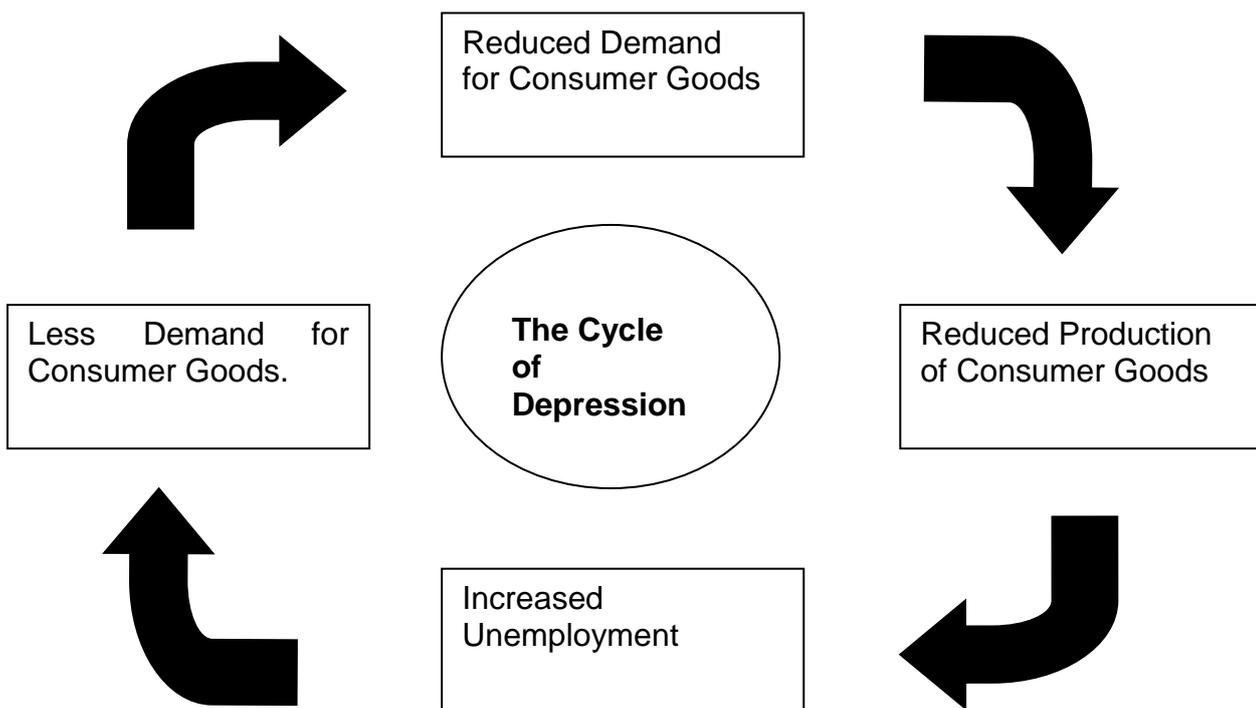
What happened?

- On the 24 October 1929 nearly 13 million shares were sold on the same day by panicking investors worried by the fall in share prices.
- By 29 October 1929 nearly 16 million shares were sold on the same day by panicking investors for any price they could get leading to share losses of \$8000 million.
- The stock market of the boom years had totally crashed.

How did the Wall Street Crash lead to the depression?

The Cycle of Depression:

A Cycle of Depression soon set in causing the economy to spiral downwards. The fall in the demand for goods led to a fall in mass production, which led to a fall in employment, which led to a fall in the demand for goods, because more unemployed people meant less people had money to spend on consumer goods.



What were the effects of the depression?

- Unemployment.
- Homelessness.
- Farm Repossessions.
- The Banking Crisis.

Unemployment:

- Many businesses sacked their workers or closed down.
- Between 1929 - 1933, 100,000 businesses shut down completely.
- **Unemployment** rose from **3% in 1929 to 25% in 1933.**
- Wages fell by 25% for those lucky enough to still be in work.
- **There was no unemployment benefit in the US.**
- Hundreds of thousands took to the roads becoming "hobos" who took to the roads looking for any work they could find.

Homelessness:

- Unemployed workers could not pay back the credit they took out to buy consumer goods and shares during the boom years.
- Banks repossessed homes and landlords kicked out lodgers who could not pay their rent and in **1932 alone over 250,000 Americans lost their homes.**
- Many ended up living in slum shelters on waste grounds in what became known "**Hoovervilles**" named as an insult to President Herbert Hoover.



Farm Repossessions:

- The unemployed millions could not afford to buy food leading to a fall in prices.
- Many farmers went bankrupt because of the fall in prices for farm produce.
- In 1930 there was drought, strong winds and little rain that turned large areas of farmland into a **dust bowl**.
- In **1932 one in every twenty farmer was evicted** from their land for failure to meet mortgage payments.
- Many farmers could not afford their mortgage repayments and many 'Okies' (from Oklahoma) and 'Arkies' (from Arkansas) had to abandon their farms and go fruit-picking in California



The Banking Crisis:

- The banks could not get back their loans to customers and businesses because they did not have anything to pay them back with due to the 1929 Wall Street Crash.
- People began to panic that the banks might collapse and not pay them their savings.
- This led to a "run on the banks" which led them to run out of money.
- **In 1929 nearly 700 banks collapsed and had to close their doors.** This meant many innocent people lost all their life savings.

How did President Hoover deal with the depression?

- The Republican Government of Herbert Hoover continued to believe in **Laissez-Faire**.
- Hoover advocated "**rugged individualism**" which means letting sort out their own problems without government help.
- He believed the depression would not last long and soon the economy would boom. His famous quote was that "**prosperity was just around the corner**" This angered many people who felt he did not understand how difficult the situation was.
- All his attempts to help solve the depression like cutting taxes were too little, too late.
- Millions of **Americans blamed Hoover for the depression** and all the problems which came with it.

Who were the Bonus Marchers?

- In 1932, 25,000 ex-soldiers from the First World War marched to Washington to ask the government for help to survive the depression.
- They were very hungry and very angry. They wanted to government to pay them their war pensions - a **\$500 bonus** - early. They built a Hooverville just in front of the Whitehouse.

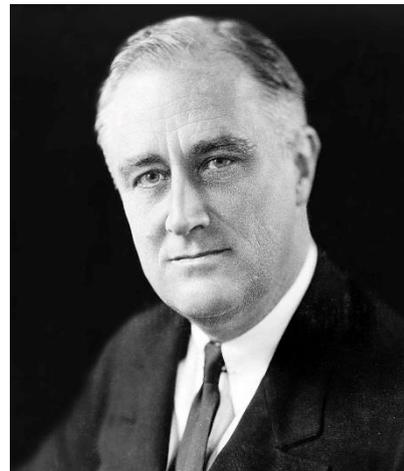


- Hoover refused to pay this '**Bonus Army**' so they decided to stay. Hoover called in the army, led by Douglas MacArthur. Two protestors and a baby (some ex-soldiers came with their families) were killed in the battle that followed.
- The actions of Hoover and the army against world war 1 soldiers was shocking. For many Americans this was the end of Hoover and it made them **determined to vote against him in the upcoming election**. To others it looked as if America was on the brink of **revolution**.

Why did Roosevelt win the election in November 1932?

Franklin D Roosevelt (FDR) won the election with about seven million more votes than Hoover. Hoover only won 6 states. **This was the biggest election victory ever recorded**. So why did it happen....

1. **Americans were fed up with Hoover's policies**
 - Hoover believed in 'rugged individualism' - that is people could achieve success through their own effort and hard work. He said people would bring about an end to the Depression if they were left alone. It was not the government's job to interfere
 - Many Americans blamed Hoover for the mess they were in. A famous banner read '**In Hoover we trusted and now we are busted**'



2. Roosevelt led a fantastic election campaign

- Roosevelt travelled America to speak to as many people in person as he could. He was an excellent speaker and people believed him when he said he would help them.
- Roosevelt went on a grand train tour. In a 20,000km trip he made 16 major speeches and another 60 from the back of his train.

3. Roosevelt seemed to care about those suffering in the depression

- Roosevelt convinced people who cared about them. Compared to Hoover he seemed like a breath of fresh air. He talked about helping 'the forgotten man'. Roosevelt had gone through difficulties himself, having become disabled through contracting polio and the age of 39. This made many Americans feel like he knew what it was like to go through hardship and that he understood their suffering.

4. Roosevelt offered a new approach to deal with the Depression

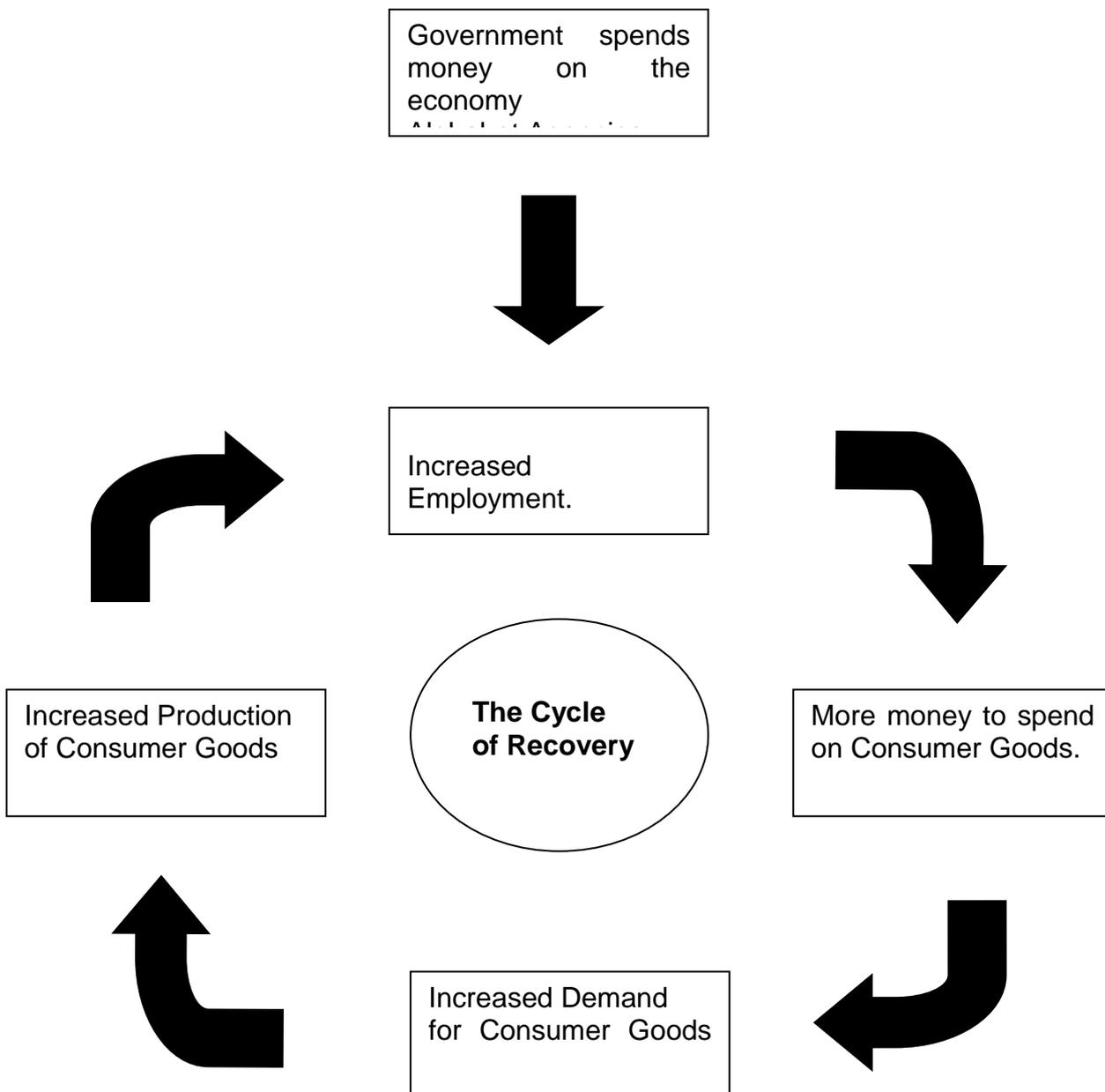
During the election campaign Roosevelt promised to:

- run government schemes to provide more jobs
- to take measures to revive industry and farming
- to provide relief for the poor and unemployed
- provide protection for workers against employers
- to get rid of Prohibition

How successful was the New Deal?

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) & The New Deal:

- In 1932 Roosevelt won the Presidential election by promising the American people a “**New Deal,**” which meant **government action to solve the depression.**
- He won 42 of the 48 states of the USA in the biggest victory anyone ever won in a Presidential election.
- Congress gave him “**emergency powers**” to solve the depression.
- During his first hundred days in office he set up a number of Alphabet Agencies.
- He raised people’s spirits through his popular weekly radio addresses.
- The New Deal would be for the government to spend money to create a *Cycle of Recovery* to lift the US out of the depression.



What were the aims of the New Deal?

Relief:

- Help those suffering in poverty by providing food for the starving and to stop people losing their homes

Recovery:

- Ensure the economy was boosted so that people could be given jobs

Reform:

- Ensure that in the future there would be welfare (government help) for the unemployed, old, sick, disabled and destitute.

What did Roosevelt achieve in his first 100 days?

Solved the Banking Crisis (The Emergency Banking Act):

- Roosevelt introduced the Emergency Banking Act in 1933.
- All Banks were closed for four days and their accounts inspected.
- Properly managed banks were reopened with loans supported by the government.
- Customer confidence was restored in the banking system. Once people had confidence in the banks they would keep their money in them, this money could be then used to give credit to businesses and the economy would hopefully start recovering.

Abolished Prohibition (the Beer Act)

- He said: 'I think this would be a good time for a beer". This restored faith in the government because it stopped the humiliation of the government's laws being openly ignored.
- (It also increased the government's revenues.)

Cut government costs (The Economy Act)

- This act cut the pay of everyone working for the government, the army, the navy and airforce by 15%. Even the President took a pay cut.
- This act saved the government 1 billion dollars, this money could not be used to help those unemployed.

Fireside Chats

- FDR described his policies in radio broadcasts called 'fireside chats'.
- He broadcast he chats to the whole of America on a Sunday evening
- Over 60 million Americans tuned in to hear what FDR was doing and why he was doing it.
- Nowadays we are used to politicians doing this, at the time it was a new development.

- FDR made sure that everyone who sent him a letter got a reply (he got up to 8,000 letters a day), and that everyone who telephoned the White House was never cut off.

Alphabet agencies

FDR didn't have a fixed plan as to how to deal with the depression when he became president. He surrounded himself with clever men and women with fresh ideas. He called them his **Brain Trust**. The new ideas, measure and laws soon became known as the alphabet agencies because the various organisations were known by their initials.

Farming:

- Roosevelt set up the **Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA)** in 1933.
- It helped farmers by paying them to produce less food in order to try and stop the overproduction.
- This led to higher food prices and hence farmers profits to rise.
- Farmer's incomes doubled between 1933 to 1939.
- It was controversial as sometimes the farmers were paid to produce less food and destroy some of the food they had already produced. The government was criticised for wasting food when so many people were starving.

Unemployment:

- A number of agencies were set up to solve unemployment.
- The **Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA)** was set up in 1933 to spend \$500 million to give quick relief to the unemployed e.g. setting up soup kitchens etc.
- The **Civil Work Administration (CWA)** was set up between 1933 - 1934 to provide 4 million short-term jobs before winter arrived e.g. fixing roads, schools, airports etc.
- The **Public Works Administration (PWA)** was set up to provide 4 million long-term skilled jobs and infrastructure projects e.g. airports, schools, hospitals, dams, bridges, roads, battleships etc.
- The **Works Progress Administration (WPA)** employed 2 million workers a year becoming the country's biggest employer e.g. it gave actors, writers, photographers jobs.

Industry:

- The **National Recovery Administration (NRA)** sought to help workers.

- It set codes for fair prices for goods, a minimum wage and working conditions.
- It banned child labour and sweat shops.
- Businesses that followed the codes could advertise using a Blue Eagle motto.
- The government encouraged consumers to buy goods with the Blue Eagle on them.
- By 1933 2 million employers employing 22 million workers had agreed to the code.



Young People:

- The **Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)** helped agriculture and the environment.
- It gave temporary work to single, unemployed, young men **aged 18 to 25**.
- By 1938 2 million young people had been employed by the CCC.
- They cleared land, planted trees, created forests and made reservoirs.
- They got **free food, clothing, shelter and pocket money** of \$1 a day.

Other Measures:

- The **Home Owners Loans Cooperation (HOLC)** helped people having difficulties with their mortgage payments.

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

- The Tennessee valley was one of the poorest parts of America. FDR visited it in January 1933 and called it 'our nation's number one problem'

Problems

- The Tennessee Valley had huge problems. The Tennessee river flooded every spring, washing away millions of tons of soil and destroying many farms. The river dried out in summer and high winds blew even more soil away.
- Only 3% of farms had electricity
- Half of the 3 million people living in the area relied on charity donations

TVA Solutions

- Over 2 dams were built to control the Tennessee river. They also provided cheap electricity and by 1940 they were Americas biggest producer of electricity.
- Cheap electricity attracted factories to the area - car makers, paper mills and steel makers all created jobs
- The dams controlled flooding which meant farms could perform better and grow more crops. By 1950 93% of famrs were hooked up to an electricity supply.
- **The TVA was one of the most impressive alphabet agencies.** The Tennessee River was tamed, thousands of jobs were created and the entire region improve

A Summary of The Alphabet Agencies:

AAA: Helped farmers by paying them to produce less food.

FERA: Provided relief for the hungry and homeless in 1933.

CWA: Created jobs on public work schemes (1933-1934).

PWA: Created jobs in public and community work schemes.

NRA: Introduced codes for fair conditions for workers in Industry.

CCC: Provided jobs for the young unemployed in the countryside.

TVA: brought improvements to states in the Tennessee Valley.

HOLC: Helped people in meeting their mortgage repayments.

The Second New Deal

In 1935, Roosevelt's New Deal was still hugely popular with the people, but it was running into opposition (see below)

The most important elements of this opposition were:

1. The Supreme Court, which ruled the NRA and the AAA illegal, because they took away the right of states to run their own affairs.
2. Some businessmen, who attacked and ignored the NRA saying that it was expensive and wasteful.

Therefore, in the run up to the 1936 election and after it, Roosevelt followed a much more radical 'reform' agenda.

1. National Labour Relations Act (1935):

- Also known as the Wagner Act.
- To replace the banned NRA.
- Protected workers' right to join a trade union.
- Set up the National Labour Relations Board (NLRB) to prevent employers from victimising workers.

2. Soil Conservation Act (1935):

- To replace the banned AAA.
- Allowed the government to continue subsidising farmers.

3. Social Security Act (1935):

- Provided America's first system of social welfare.
- set up a national system of old-age pensions
- gave help to people with physical disabilities
- gave help to children in need
- set up a national system of unemployment insurance.

4. National Housing Act (1937):

- Provided loans to buy houses
- Reduced excessive rents.

5. Fair Labour Standards Act (1938):

- Set hours and conditions of work
- Fixed a minimum wage.

Opposition to the New Deal came from:

- Republicans who continued to believe in laissez-faire and rugged individualism.
- They believed the New Deal **cost too much money** that was **wasted on worthless jobs**
- They also accused Roosevelt of having too much power and acting like a **dictator**.
- Businessmen resented **government interference** in their affairs e.g. setting wages within the NRA and later the Wagner Act.
- Businessmen feared that the New Deal was moving the US towards Communism. They compared the New Deal to Stalin's 5 year economic plans.
- Some Democrats attacked Roosevelt for not going further in his policies.
- **Huey Long** suggested an alternative for the New Deal called '**Share our Wealth**' - he said that if he were president all fortunes over \$5million would be confiscated and shares out. He was assassinated in 1935.
- The Supreme Court attacked the legality of the New Deal.
- **Charles Coughlin** set up the National Union for Social Justice. Its aim was to provide work and fair wages for everyone. However he made speeches attacking Jews and trade unions and his support declined.

The Supreme Court:

- It was the highest court in the US with the power to declare whether any government policies were illegal because they went against the US constitution.
- The majority of Supreme Court judges were Republicans opposed to the New Deal.
- Between 1935 -1936 it declared the NRA and AAA Alphabet Agencies to be illegal or **unconstitutional**
- In 1936 Roosevelt threatened to "pack" the Supreme Court by adding six more judges who supported the New Deal. FDR was criticised for this, even by some of his supporters, for acting like a **dictator**.

- Roosevelt backed down but so did the Supreme Court that stopped challenging the legality of the New Deal.

The successes of the New Deal:

- It helped bring relief for millions of unemployed and homeless Americans. People felt that FDR was doing something and was trying to help them. This gave them more confidence that the depression would end.
- The TVA brought work and an improved standard of living to deprived parts of the USA.
- It restored confidence in the banks and stock markets. People started to reinvest money in the banks which got the economy moving and tried to restart the cycle of prosperity.
- It provided workers with greater rights.
- It led to acceptance that the government had an important role to play in the running of the American economy.

The Weaknesses of the New Deal:

- It did not help Black workers as much as White workers. They often got the worst jobs and received less relief than white people.
- The New Deal offered little help to women. Some of the alphabet agencies codes actually required women to be paid less than men. Only 8000 women were employed by the CCC out of the 2.75 million involved in the scheme.
- Many farmers continued to have a low standard of living.
- It benefited skilled workers more than unskilled workers.
- Between 1933 to 1936 it did bring recovery to the American economy. In 1937 Roosevelt tried to cut spending on the New Deal but this led to a rise in unemployment, fall in demand and decline in share prices.
- By 1939 despite renewed spending 9.5 million Americans remained unemployed.
- The outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 is what saved the US economy as sold peaceful and war goods to the Allies. The US entered the Second World War in 1941 following the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbour, which led to massive defence spending which pulled the US out of the depression.

McCarthyism and the Red Scare

- The impact of the Cold War.
- The development of the Red Scare.
- The impact of McCarthyism.

Amplification of content

The impact of the Cold War involves reactions in the USA to the build-up of the Cold War in Europe including Soviet expansion in Eastern Europe, the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan, the Berlin Crisis (1948-9), NATO, the Soviet Union and the atom bomb and the Korean War.

The impact of McCarthyism involves McCarthy's emergence, the methods he used and their impact, the reasons for the decline of McCarthyism and its overall impact on the USA.

The Red Scare

This refers to the fear of communism in the context of the Cold War.

During the post war period there was an intense fear and hatred of Communism in the USA. Above all there was a fear that communism was spreading.

By 1948 it had spread into Eastern Europe including Berlin.

The Berlin crisis of 1948-49 seemed to be firm evidence of Stalin's intentions to spread communism. By 1949 it was spreading to other parts of the world including China in 1949 and Korea in 1950.

In 1949 the USA gained evidence that the USSR had exploded its first atomic bomb.

The USA was determined to 'contain' communism and above all to stop it spreading to the USA - the fear of communism from within/ the enemy within'.

As the Cold War continued the citizens of the USA became increasingly hysterical about the possibility of communism coming to America. There were fears that the USA government was being infiltrated by the USSR.

'Better dead than Red' and 'Reds under the Bed' were popular slogans.

The height of this anti-communist hysteria took place between 1950 and 1954 during the McCarthy witch hunts.

However it was already around even before the outbreak of WWII.

The development of the Red Scare.

The fear of communism began following the Russian Communist Revolution of 1917.

The American government was determined to stop the spread of communism to America.

In 1937 it set up the HUAC, **House Un-American Activities Committee**, to hunt out communists.

A famous member of the HUAC was Richard Nixon, who became President of the USA in 1968.

With the beginning of the Cold War the government became even more determined to stop the spread of communism.

In 1945 Truman became President. He was a Democrat.

He was determined to contain communism and in 1947 announced the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Aid.

However many Republicans accused him of being 'soft on communism'.

1950 - 1954: McCarthyism.



Senator Joseph McCarthy: A member of the Republican Party. Between 1950 and 1954 he undertook a 'witch hunt' to root out all communists - particularly high profile communists - eg politicians and actors. He was responsible for whipping up anti-communist fears to a fever pitch.

9 February 1950 McCarthy announced he had a list of 205 communists who worked in the State Department. His claims were investigated by a Senate Committee under the leadership of **Senator Tydings**. When the Committee pressed him for details the number dropped from 205 to 81 to 57 to 'a lot'. The Senate decided the claims were 'a fraud and a hoax'. McCarthy then turned on Tydings and accused him of being a communist. In the autumn of 1950 there were elections. Tydings was defeated by a supporter of McCarthy.

With the war going badly in Korea and the communist advances in Eastern Europe and China, many people in the USA were genuinely frightened about the possibilities of internal subversion.

For the next four years McCarthy carried on accusing many people of being communists: **Scientists, Diplomats, Writers, Actors and Members of the Democratic Party**. Even Truman was accused of being a dangerous **liberal** and soft on communism. McCarthy's campaign helped the Republican candidate, Dwight **Eisenhower**, win the presidential campaign in 1952.

In 1953 he was appointed Chairman of the Senate Committee on Government Operations. This enabled him even more of an opportunity to investigate communist subversion.

He never produced a shred of evidence against any of the people he accused. His main weapon has been described as the 'multiple untruth'.

His accusations made terrific stories in the press and received extensive publicity. To the public McCarthy became a crusader and a hero. He gained enormous support. He was seen as someone who was prepared to stand up to enemy of communism and make America safe for democracy.

He had so much public support that those people who were accused either resigned or were sacked as a security risk. Not surprisingly politicians were very reluctant to criticize him.

1954 he accused 45 army officers of being communist agents.

However there was now a new factor that McCarthy had to deal with. The Army-McCarthy hearings were televised. The public now saw McCarthy for the first time and were appalled to see how rude, abusive, aggressive and bullying he was.

His popularity now declined dramatically.

In December 1954 the Senate condemned McCarthy and accused him of 'improper conduct'. He died in 1957.

Why was McCarthy able to whip up anti-communist feelings?

1. The context of the Cold War: Eastern Europe, China, Korea,
2. The fear amongst the general public of 'Reds Under the Bed'
3. The way that the anti-communist frenzy was whipped up in the press
4. The knowledge amongst politicians that if they showed opposition to McCarthy they were likely to lose their seats.

The consequences of McCarthyism

1. 9,500 civil servants were dismissed. 15 000 resigned. 600 teachers lost their jobs. Many artists and actors found it difficult to ever work again.
2. It helped create an anti -democratic atmosphere. Anyone who was Liberal, a trade Union member, who worked for civil rights or showed sympathy for the poor was branded a 'lefty' and a 'Commie' or a 'pinkie'. This created problems for people trying to bring about civil rights.
3. The fear of communism continued after the death of McCarthy. Vigilante-style groups were set up. The government produced anti-communist leaflets and films. In 1954 the Communist Party was banned.

Key Topic: The Civil Rights Movement 1945 - 1962

Progress, especially in education and problems in implementation.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Martin Luther King and further progress and problems 1958-62.

Amplification of content

The impact of Second World War, the work of the NACCP, CORE, SNCC and the Supreme Court and key developments in education including Brown v Topeka, Little Rock, problems faced by students and levels of support for segregation.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott, its causes, the events and results; the actions of Rosa Parkes, the organisation of the boycott, the involvement of Martin Luther King, reasons for its success and its importance.

The methods and leadership of Martin Luther King, sit-ins and the freedom riders, opposition, KKK violence.

The impact of the Second World War on black people.

The war against Germany was a war fought for 'democracy and freedom'. Yet black people in America did not have democracy and freedom.

Slavery had been abolished in 1863 at the end of the American Civil War. However most white people, particularly in the southern states, were extremely racist and were opposed to black people being treated the same as white. Therefore most states in the South passed anti-African American legislation known as **Jim Crow Laws**. These laws allowed the legal discrimination and segregation of African Americans in schools, restaurants, theatres, hotels, cinemas and public baths. Trains and buses were also segregated and in many states marriages between whites and African American people were banned. Voting restrictions also meant that most black people did not have the right to vote.

-By the outbreak of WWII black people still suffered immense discrimination and segregation- both legally and socially, particularly in the southern states where the majority of black people still lived.

-Black Americans had a far inferior education than their white peers. They were extremely unlikely to go on to further education and consequently had limited employment opportunities. Their wages were low and their standard of living very poor. Extreme racism meant that attacks on black Americans were common and the law did little to protect them.

World War II did impact on Black Americans in several ways.

1. Some progress was made in ending segregation in the armed forces.

At the beginning of the war segregation existed and all- black units were usually commanded by white officers - in fact there were only 12 black officers.

Black soldiers were not sent into combat and instead were given less important jobs.

There were no black officers.

During the war there was a big increase in the number of racially integrated units - thanks mainly to the support of General Eisenhower.

There was also an increase in black officers and by the end of the war there were several units of black pilots.

2. The beginning of the civil rights movement.

The civil rights campaign refers to the campaign to gain equality for black people in all aspects of life. It is normally associated with the campaigns led by Martin Luther King in the 1950s and 1960s but it started during WWII. The advances made by the soldiers on the battlefield brought about a determination to gain civil rights for all black soldiers.

During the war the black newspapers set up the **Double V campaign**. They argued that victory on the battlefield should also be accompanied by victory at home in terms of civil rights. The campaign was led by **Philip Randolph** who used the slogan ' We loyal American citizens demand the right to work and fight for our country'.

In 1941 President **Roosevelt** issued **Executive Order 8802** which ordered the ending of discrimination in government agencies. Roosevelt also ordered the setting up of the **Fair Employment Practices Committee** to investigate violations of Order 8802.

This small breakthrough encouraged the growth of civil rights organizations.

Membership of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (**NAACP**) rose from 40 000 in 1940 to 460 000 in 1946.

In 1942 the Congress of Racial Equality (**CORE**) was set up.

However in reality very little progress was made during the war.

Black people suffered from segregation and discrimination. Black Americans lived in immense poverty and had no opportunity to break out of this situation.

Immense racism existed. The attitude of many White Americans towards Black Americans was appalling, particularly in the Southern States.

In fact in some ways the war created more racial problems. This was because approximately 700 000 black Americans left the southern states and migrated north in search of work. The arrival of so many black people created racial tensions.

In Detroit in 1943 riots led to the death of 25 black and 9 white Americans. \$2 million worth of damage was done to buildings. Riots also took place in Harlem in New York in 1943.

However the point to make is that the developments that took place in the war laid the foundations for the civil rights movement which was to develop more fully in the 1950s and 1960s. It brought about a heightened determination to fight for civil rights.

The Campaign for Civil Rights in Education

In 1945 the two areas where segregation and racism was most obviously applied was in housing and education. In the southern states the African Americans lived in the poorest areas with the worst facilities. Without a good education no-one could advance themselves in society. Therefore a poor education guaranteed a poor lifestyle for the African Americans.

Within the south the general philosophy was that an educated 'boy' could become a danger. There was also a belief that they were not intelligent enough to deserve an education.

1896 Supreme Court: 'Separate but Equal'

This was a law that established that segregation was allowed in education but the provision for all students at schools and colleges of further education had to be the same.

However this was not the case.

There was certainly no equality in the standards of schools for black and white children. Black schools had few teachers, few classrooms and few books.

Equal facilities did not exist in further education colleges:

- no black college existed where it was possible to study for a PhD
- no black college existed where it was possible to study engineering or architecture
- law could only be studied at two colleges
- medicine could only be studied at two colleges

The Brown vs the Board of Topeka Case : 1954

Linda Brown was eight years old and lived in Topeka, Kansas. Because she was black she had to travel 21 blocks to get to her school even though her nearest school was only 8 blocks away and was much better than the one she had to go to. However her nearest school was for whites only.

In 1954 the **NAACP** took the Topeka school board to the Supreme Court. It argued that Linda should go to her nearest school.

Whatever the Supreme Court decided now would have implications for future cases.

The head of the Supreme Court was **Earl Warren**.

Warren was determined to bring about the legal promotion of social equality and on May 17th 1954 the Supreme Court ordered that segregation in schools was illegal.

In the field of public education the doctrine separate but equal has no place.

The consequences of the Brown vs Topeka case.

The decision had an enormous impact on Americans.

For many people campaigning for civil rights the decision by the Supreme Court was wonderful news.

The Supreme Court was one of the most powerful institutions in America and it looked as if it was willing to support the campaign for civil rights.

By the end of 1957, 723 schools in the southern states had desegregated its schools.

The ending of segregation in the education gave even more hope that the campaign for civil rights would be successful and equality for Black Americans would be gained. It gave the civil rights campaign a new spark of life.

However not everybody was happy. Warren's opponents called it Black Monday.

Even some African Americans were not happy with the decision by the Supreme Court. They believed that black children would face persecution and abuse if they went to desegregated schools. They were better in their own schools.

There was enormous resistance to the law in many states. Many states in the south refused to desegregate their schools.

The Ku Klux Klan also campaigned to prevent integration. They burnt houses and churches and committed many acts of violence against individuals. Their aim was to intimidate the African Americans to keep to their 'own' schools so that desegregation might exist on the statute book but not in actual reality.

The most famous incident of resistance against the law happened at Little Rock Central High School.

Little Rock Central High School 1957

September 1957 nine black students were supposed to be starting at Little Rock Central High School, **Arkansas**.

The *Governor* of Arkansas was **Orval Faubus**.

He surrounded the school with members of the **National Guard** to stop the black students entering.

After a court ruling Faubus was forced to remove the National Guard but when the students arrived at school they were met by a hostile crowd of 1000 people - they had to go home under police protection.

Eisenhower sent **federal troops** and then the **National Guard** to protect the students until the end of the school year.

In September 1958 Faubus **closed all schools** in Little Rock to prevent segregation. The **Supreme Court** ruled this was against the constitution and Faubus was forced to reopen and desegregate the schools.

In 1958 Faubus was in the top ten of an opinion poll on the most popular men in the USA.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott 1955 - 1956 - the ending of segregation on buses

In 1955 **Rosa Parks** was arrested for refusing to give up her seat in the middle of the bus to a white customer in the town of **Montgomery, Alabama**. Black leaders met to decide what action should be taken.

Their leader was **Martin Luther King**.

Luther believed that black people should show their opposition to racial discrimination by use of **peaceful civil disobedience**.

He suggested that black people should **boycott** using the buses in Montgomery until segregation ended. 75% of people who used buses were black. Luther hoped that the loss of income the bus company would suffer would force them to



desegregate the buses. However this would also cause great inconvenience to the 13 000 black people in Alabama who would be forced to find other methods of getting to work.

On the first day of the boycott Luther waited nervously to see what would happen. However he was delighted to see that there were no black customers on the buses.

The bus boycott continued for a year.

During that time white violence grew but Luther insisted that the black community must not retaliate with violence - even when a bomb exploded in the garden of his house which had his wife and baby inside.

At the end of the year the bus company had lost 65% of its income.

In December 1956 the **Supreme Court** announced that the Montgomery bus segregation was **unconstitutional** and must end. This also meant that it must end in all other states where there was segregation on buses.

This was a massive victory for civil rights campaigners.

-It is seen as the true beginning of the civil rights campaign.

-It demonstrated how non-violent methods could achieve progress

-It made civil rights campaigners even more determined to gain equality.

-It also made white racists even more determined to stop them.

-It propelled Martin Luther King into the leadership of the movement. He helped form the

-Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to continue the struggle for equality. -

It was black led and black run. The SCLC believed that boycotts and other forms of non-violent protest should be adopted in the struggle for equality.

The role of sit-ins

The campaign for civil rights continued during the late 1950s.

The most famous example of a sit-in took place at the Greensboro branch of Woolworths in the state of North Carolina. Four black students from a local college demanded to be served at a whites-only lunch counter. When they were refused they remained seated at the counter until the shop closed. The next day there were accompanied by 27 more students and on the third day a further 80. By the fifth day there were 300.

The students then boycotted any shop in Greensboro that had segregated lunch counters.

During the sit-ins the students had to endure violence and assaults but they were careful not to retaliate.

King visited Greensboro and promised the support of the SCLC.

-By April 1960 students in 78 communities had held sit-ins.

2,000 protestors were arrested.

-By September 1961 approximately 70,000 black and white students had used the tactic of the sit-ins.

-Variations on a theme developed - there were kneel ins, wade ins, read ins and sleep ins.

-810 towns and cities had desegregated public areas by the end of 1961.

-Publicity was gained for the civil rights movement when television showed the non-violence of the protestors in the face of some violent opponents.

-It led to the emergence of a new pressure group - the SNCC - the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (Snick)

The role of the freedom riders.

In December 1960 the Supreme Court ordered that all bus stations and terminals should be integrated.

CORE decided to test that decision by travelling on the buses - these became as known as freedom riders.

The first of the freedom rides began on 4th May 1961 when James Farmer, the National Director of CORE, and 12 volunteers left Washington by bus to travel to New Orleans.

On 14 May the bus reached Anniston, Alabama where it was met by an angry mob who firebombed it. The mob then held the doors shut intending to burn the riders to death. An exploding fuel tank caused the mob to retreat, allowing the riders to escape the bus, but they were viciously beaten as they tried to flee.

The bus reached Montgomery on 20th May where white racists beat up several of the freedom riders.

In Jackson, Mississippi, 27 freedom riders from the SNCC and SCLC were jailed for 67 days for sitting in the whites-only section of the bus station.

The freedom riders continued throughout the summer of 1961. Hundreds of them were imprisoned. Attacks on them by the KKK increased - supported by the FBI.

The freedom riders gained a lot of publicity for the civil rights movement. They also were successful in ending segregation on the buses. Many young people, black and white, became involved in the campaign for civil rights. They saw that America's claim to be the land of freedom and democracy was not true.

Key Topic: Changes in the Civil Rights Movement 1963 - 1970

Peace marches in 1963: Washington and Alabama.

Martin Luther King and civil rights legislation.

Malcolm X and Black Power.

Amplification of content

Violent reactions to the peace march in Birmingham, Alabama, the peace march in Washington and the 'dream' speech.

The influence of Martin Luther King over John F Kennedy and the civil rights movement, Selma and the Voting Rights Act, the importance of the Civil Rights Act, 1964 and the impact of the assassination of Martin Luther King.

Malcolm X and his initial beliefs, methods, influence and involvement with the Black Muslims and his later change in attitude.

Black Power involves the leadership of Stokely Carmichael and the meaning of Black Power, the Black Panther movement, inner city riots and civil rights at the end of the 1960s.

1963: A Turning Point in the Civil Rights Movement

The Birmingham March

This was organized by Martin Luther King. Luther advocated peaceful methods of protest. However he also appreciated how powerful the media could be, particularly the **TV**, in gaining publicity for the civil rights movement. He was careful to organize protest marches in places where he knew the protestors would be met with violence. This would guarantee media coverage and publicity.

A good example of this was at Birmingham, Alabama in 1963.

The leaders of the city were determined to prevent desegregation. In an attempt to prevent desegregation the city authorities closed parks, playing fields, swimming pools and other public places.

King and the SCLC were determined to challenge the city with Project C - Confrontation. Marches, sit-ins and demonstrations were planned to press for desegregation.

The demonstrations began on 3rd April 1963.

The local police commissioner was **Eugene Bull Connor**. He was determined to prevent desegregation. He closed all parks and playgrounds. This prompted King to make a speech to a large rally - he said it was better to go to jail in dignity than just accept segregation.

On 20th April he was released from prison and immediately organized another march. It was decided that students and children would be used in the demonstration. Connor reacted by allowing his men to set dogs on the protestors and then called in the fire department to use powerful water hoses. Connor placed almost 2 000 demonstrators in jail. Around 1,300 children were arrested.

Television witnessed the events and the images were seen all over the world. It showed the violence of the authorities in the face of peaceful demonstrators. Most viewers were horrified to see the brutality that was used against the young demonstrators.



This gave King the publicity he needed. It helped make making Americans, particularly in the north, aware of the way black Americans were treated.

It was this point that Kennedy became involved. He sent Assistant Attorney General Burke to mediate. Talks between King and the city authorities led a settlement by which it was agreed that the city would be desegregated within 90 days.

The March on Washington: August 1963

The idea of the march was put forward by Philip Randolph. The NAACP, CORE, SNCC and SCLC were all organized.

King was keen to have the march in an attempt to stop the increasing move towards violence in the movement due to slow progress.

It celebrated the centenary of the freeing of slaves in 1863.

It began as a cry for jobs and freedom but its aims broadened to cover those of the whole of the civil rights movement. There was also a demand for the passage of Kennedy's Civil Rights Bill.

About 250 000 people took part, including 80 000 white supporters.

Before the speakers there were songs by several protest singers including Bob Dylan.

King was the final speaker of the day. His speech is known as the 'I have a Dream Speech' and is one of the most famous and powerful speeches of all times. He used many biblical references.

After the march King and other leaders met Kennedy to discuss civil rights legislation. Kennedy made it clear that he was committed to a civil rights bill.

The role of President Kennedy

Kennedy had always made it clear that he supported equality for Black Americans.

In his inauguration speech of 1960 - known as the New Frontier Speech - he announced he would achieve equality for black Americans.

Kennedy has been criticized for not doing more to help black Americans but he certainly did more than any president before him.

This included:

He appointed 5 black judges.

He appointed other black Americans to his administration

He threatened legal action against the state of Louisiana for refusing to fund schools that were not segregated.

Feb 1963: He introduced a Civil Rights Bill to Congress. This aimed to give black people equality in public housing and education.

The Civil Rights Bill went through its first stages in November 1963. However its passage was delayed due to the assassination of Kennedy.

The Civil Rights Act was finally signed on 2nd July 1964 by President Johnson. It is seen as Johnson's biggest achievement.

Why was the Civil Rights Law passed?

1 The methods and leadership of Martin Luther King.

His leadership was vital to the civil rights movement.

He had many important qualities to make him a good leader.

He was determined to bring an end to inequality.

As a **minister** he was already well known and respected.

As a minister he also good at **oratory** - speaking to large groups of people.

King was determined to use **non-violent** methods to gain civil rights.

Boycotts - eg bus boycott in Montgomery.

Demonstrations and Marches - eg at Birmingham in 1963 and Washington in 1963 which was attended by over quarter of a million people and where Luther demanded the passage of Kennedy's civil rights bill.

Speeches - the most famous being his 'I have a dream speech' he gave at Washington in 1963.

Sit ins. This tactic was most used when blacks were not served at lunch counters. Large numbers of civil rights demonstrators would arrive and stage sit ins.

King was also aware of the need to get different groups and individuals involved in the campaign for civil rights.

One group he appealed to were students. In April 1960 the **Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)** was formed. Many students dropped out of their studies to work at ending segregation.

Luther also encouraged groups like *CORE* and *NAACP* to carry on fighting for civil rights. He also inspired President Kennedy.

2. The role of the NAACP and CORE

NAACP

1954: *Brown v Topeka* case

CORE founded in 1942

1961 members of *CORE* formed themselves into a group called **Freedom Riders**. They were determined to ensure that integration on buses was enforced. Many of them were arrested but they gained a huge amount of publicity.

3. The role of President Kennedy.

Kennedy was committed to correcting inequalities in society

Very importantly he was prepared to fight for civil rights for blacks even though it would lose him the support of many people - particularly in the Southern States.

4. The role of the Supreme Court.

This is important as it showed that one of the most powerful organizations in the country was prepared to support the civil rights movement.

5. The role of the media, particularly TV

This has already been mentioned but it is worthwhile emphasizing how important television was in raising peoples' awareness of the unfair way in which black Americans were treated.

6. The role of thousands of ordinary people willing to put themselves in danger

Voting Rights 1965

The Civil Rights Act did not mean that black American had the right to vote.

King decided to begin another non-violent campaign.

He decided to launch his campaign at the town of **Selma**, Alabama, where only 383 out of 15 000 black Americans had the right to vote.

The sheriff of Selma was Jim Clark. King knew he was likely to react brutally. Again King was hoping for media attention.

It was decided to organize a march from Selma to Birmingham in order to present Governor Wallace with a petition asking for voting rights. Wallace banned the march but King was determined to go ahead.

The march was stopped on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The marchers were attacked by Clark's men and state troopers with tear gas, horses and clubs. This day became known as Bloody Sunday.

The event was shown across the world. Public opinion was behind King.

Johnson agreed to put forward a bill to give black people the vote. This became law in 1965.

On 21st March 1965 King led 25 000 people on a march from Selma to Montgomery. It was the largest march ever seen in the South.

The assassination of Martin Luther King

King was assassinated on 4th April 1968.

It led to an outburst of rioting across the country. 46 people died and more than 3 000 people were injured. There were demonstrations in more than 100 cities.

The Nation of Islam or Black Muslims

Its supporters believed in Black Separatism. They did not want integration. They believed that white and black people should be kept separate because black people were better than white people. Members rejected their slave surname and called themselves X.

The most famous supporter of Black Power was **Malcolm X**. He strongly criticized King's methods. He felt that violence could be justified as a means to secure a separate black nation. He strongly criticized the March on Washington which he called the Farce on Washington.

The white people should thank Dr King for holding black people in check.

Our enemy is the white man!

His ideas were very popular amongst young people who were becoming increasingly angry and frustrated about the way they were treated. Luther's methods seemed too slow in bringing about change. Even after 1964 nothing had really changed for black Americans. It seemed that King's methods would never gain equality.

Malcolm X helped set up education and social programmes. He is credited with reconnecting black Americans with their African heritage and with spreading Islam amongst the black community in the USA.

The riots of 1965 - 1967

It became clear that little had changed for black Americans.

Young black Americans living in the ghettos became increasingly angry and frustrated with the high rates of unemployment, discrimination and poverty.

This anger exploded into a riot in the **Watts** district of LA in August 1965. The riot left 34 dead, 1 072 injured, 4 000 arrested and caused about \$40 million of damage.

In total 130 people were killed.

The damage totaled more than \$700 million.

Black Power

Black Power emerged during the riots. It was originally a slogan but came to mean a wide range of activities that aimed at increasing the power of blacks in the USA.

By 1966 the SNCC had also become committed to Black Power. Stokely Carmichael was elected Chairman of the SNCC because he made clear his support for black separatism.

Carmichael and his supporters wanted blacks to have pride in their heritage. They promoted African forms of dress and appearance and adopted the slogan 'Black is Beautiful'.

The most famous incident that took place that was associated with black power happened during the 1968 Mexico Olympics at the winners' ceremony for the men's 200m and 400m relay. During the ceremony when then the US national anthem was played, Tommie Smith gave the salute with his right hand to indicate Black Power and John Carlos with his left to show black unity. Smith also wore a black scarf to represent black pride and black socks with no shoes to represent black poverty in racist America.

As a result of their actions the whole world became aware of Black Power.



Black Panthers

The Black Panthers was founded in 1966 in California by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale. Both men were heavily influenced by Malcolm X.

It was one of the most militant black-power groups. It urged blacks to arm themselves and fight white people in order to force whites to grant them equal rights. They also advocated an end to capitalism.

They were constantly targeted by the FBI.

The Civil Rights Movement by the late 1960s

By the late 1960s the civil rights movement had lost momentum.

This was for several reasons.

1. Legally there wasn't anything to fight for.

Segregation was illegal.

1964: Civil Rights Act

1965: Voting Rights Act. This enabled a further 1 million blacks to vote.

2. The movement lacked effective and strong leadership.

1965: Malcolm X assassinated

1968: Martin Luther King assassinated.

3. Campaigners became involved in other issues:

Vietnam

Crime

Drugs.

Certainly much progress had been made.

However although laws had been passed to end discrimination black people still suffered from immense racism and barriers to social improvement.

Mississippi whites were responsible for at least 12 separate lynchings of blacks in 1980.

Key Topic: How successful were the Great Society and New Frontier

Kennedy and the New Frontier

Kennedy was the youngest US president and put the emphasis on youth and idealism. He was about the USA being at the edge of a New Frontier.

In his acceptance speech as Democratic Candidate in 1960 John F. Kennedy promised the American people a 'New Frontier'.

"We stand at the edge of a New Frontier - the frontier of unfulfilled hopes and dreams. It will deal with unsolved problems of peace and war, unconquered pockets of ignorance and prejudice, unanswered questions of poverty and surplus." - Kennedy

What was the New Frontier?

JFK wanted to make the USA a better, fairer place for all Americans. JFK's New Frontier policy aimed to create economic growth, improve public programmes, destroy discrimination and to "get the country going".

The New Frontier covered three areas:

Social reforms

Economy

Civil rights

Was the New Frontier a success?

The Social Security Act made more money available to elderly and unemployed

The Manpower Development and Training act retrained the unemployed

He made \$900 million available to businesses to create jobs

He was shot dead meaning his initiative did not have time to fully develop

Johnson and the "Great Society"

Vice President Lyndon Johnson became president when Kennedy was assassinated. He talked in terms of a "Great Society" and of taking Kennedy's reforms further with an "unconditional war on poverty" and an immediate end to racial injustice. Johnson's Great Society covered three areas:

Civil rights - War on poverty - The economy

Johnson's war on poverty involved a range of measures:

In 1965 two government funded health care programmes, Medicare and Medicaid, were set up for elderly people and families on low incomes

The minimum wage was increased from \$1.25 to \$1.40 per hour

The funding of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) scheme was increased. This gave financial help to 745 000 families on low incomes

The VISTA programme tried to create work in poor inner city areas

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 for the first time put federal funding into improving education in poorer areas

The Model Cities Act (1966) linked to the other inner city employment programmes by clearing slums and providing parks and sporting facilities.

What other problems did he face?

People accused him of wasting money - especially Republicans (spent too much on welfare)

Blacks accused him of wasting time fighting a war in Vietnam when there was a war to wage on racism and poverty at home

Was taking too long to win the Vietnam war and costing lots of American lives

Didn't stand for re-election in 1968



Key Topic: The Women's Movement in the USA

Amplification of content

The women's movement involves the position of women in the early 1960s, the influence of Eleanor Roosevelt and Betty Frieden, the achievements and importance of the women's movement including NOW and women's liberation, and opposition to the women's movement.

THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

The impact of WWII

The women's movement began during WWII.

More than 350 000 women served in the armed forces.

With so many men away fighting in the war it was inevitable that there was a big increase in female workers. The government appreciated the need for female workers and organised campaigns to encourage women to work in the factories. Posters of Rosie the Riveter could be seen everywhere persuading women to go out to work.

In 1941 women made up 27% of the workforce. By 1945 this had risen to 37%.

However attitudes to female workers did not change and women often had a hard time gaining acceptance by their male co-workers.

When the war ended most women gave up their jobs. Many women were happy to do so. Others were persuaded by the US government and industry who urged women to 'go back home' and 'give your job to a veteran'. Women were also aware to the stigma attached to being seen as having to work.



However the war did have some impact on breaking the stereotype of the 'wife at home'. Many women enjoyed the independence that came with working and did not give up their jobs despite the enormous pressure that was placed on them.

The 1950s

During the 1950s more and more women began to challenge their traditional role as they became increasingly frustrated with their lives. More and more women went to university but then found they had only a very limited choice of career. They were still expected to give up their job once they were married.

The 1960s

It was during the 1960s that the women's movement really emerged.

This was for several reasons:

1 Many female teenagers were influenced by the greater freedom of the 'Swinging Sixties' which encouraged them to challenge traditional attitudes and roles.

2 1960: The birth control pill went on sale - women could now take control over their decision to have a family. This had an enormous impact on their careers and professional development. In theory women this also allowed women to become much more sexual and promiscuous. However of course attitudes towards male and female sexuality remained very different,

3 The role of Eleanor Roosevelt. In 1960 she set up a commission to investigate the status of women at work. The results were reported in 1963 and highlighted women's second class status in employment. Only 7% of doctors were women and only 4% lawyers. Women earned 50 to 60% of the wages of men who did the same job.

4 The role of Betty Friedan. Her book *The Feminine Mystique* was published in 1963. She was probably the most important reason behind the women's movement. Her book expressed what thousands of women believed - that there was more to life than being a mother and housewife. In 1966 she set up NOW - the National Organisation for Women.

5 The success of the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 encouraged women to fight for equality.

6 By 1968 there were many in the women's movement who were becoming increasingly frustrated with the lack of progress and set up the Women's Liberation Movement. These women had far more radical aims and took a more active role in challenging discrimination. These women were known as feminists.

The really extreme feminists wanted nothing to do with men. They argued that wearing make up and bras degraded women and they picketed the Miss America contest. Some people

argue that their actions brought the wrong sort of publicity and brought ridicule to the movement.

7 The Roe v Wade case. Abortion was illegal in the USA. However in 1970 Jane Roe (Norma McCorvey) won the right to have an abortion. She already had three children who had been taken into care. The victory led to abortions becoming more readily available.

By 1970 the women's movement had made some progress.

The stereotype of the wife and mother at home was being challenged. Many women wanted to be independent of men. Women's expectations changed enormously during this time. Marriage and children was no longer the most important thing in women's lives. Women realised the importance of challenging stereotypical positions.

However there was still a great deal of prejudice against women.

TV still portrayed women in a certain way - or made fun of career women.

The percentage of women in professional jobs was the same in 1970 as it had been in 1950. They were still not employed in managerial roles - by 1980 only 28% of managers were women.