

1. Explain/Identify the challenges faced by Truman with respect to the economy during the postwar time period?

- A. Converting from a peacetime to a wartime economy. Lifting the economic controls used during the war would prove to be challenging. As controls were eased prices of consumer goods skyrocketed. Unfortunately wages failed to keep pace.
- B. Workers who had forgone wage increases during the war, now demanded those raises. In 1946 millions of workers went on strike.
- C. Truman believed that raising wages would push the price of goods even higher. In other words it would have been inflationary.

2. Identify and explain the actions taken by Truman and the U.S. Congress during the postwar time period that resulted in a reduction of Union power in America?
- A. When railroad workers went on strike in 1946, Truman asked Congress for permission to draft the striking workers into the army. He would then order them back onto the job. The strike ended on Truman's terms.
 - B. When the UMW and John Lewis defied a court order against a strike Truman asked the court to find Lewis in contempt. The court fined Lewis and the union.
 - C. In 1947 Congress passed the Taft-Hartley Act. The law allowed the President to declare an 80 cooling off period during which the strikers would return to work. The strikes had to impact industries that affected the national interest. In addition union officials were required to sign oaths that they were not communists.

3. What were Truman's policies as outlined in his Fair Deal? Identify his successes and failures with respect to these goals.

- A. The Fair Deal was an extension of the New Deal.
- B. His goals with the Fair Deal included: legislation to promote full employment, a higher minimum wage, increased unemployment compensation, housing assistance, national health insurance and legislation to control atomic energy.
- C. Truman's programs were opposed by a group of conservative democrats and republicans. This group rejected the majority of his programs. Congress did pass the Employment Act of 1946.
- D. In the 46' midterms Republicans won majorities in both houses of Congress.
- E. From 46'- 48' Truman was relatively powerless.

4. Discuss Truman's goals and accomplishments with respect to the expansion of Civil Rights for African Americans?

- A. He pursued equality of opportunity for all Americans.
- B. He publicly supported: a federal anti-lynching bill, abolishment of the poll tax, establishing a federal board to discriminatory practices in hiring.
- C. Truman created a biracial Committee on Civil Rights
- D. Congress took no actions on these issues.
- E. Most Congressional Committees were chaired by southerners.
- F. Truman ordered an end to discrimination in the hiring of federal employees and ordered an end to discrimination and segregation in the armed forces.

5. Who formed the “States’ Rights Party” and why?

- A. The southern wing of the Democratic Party. Governor Strom Thurmond of South Carolina was their presidential candidate. They were also known as the “Dixiecrats”.
- B. They split from the Democratic party because they opposed the moderate civil rights plank in the party platform.
- C. In addition the more liberal segment of the party split and supported the Progressive Party ticket.

6. Why did Truman's reelection hopes in 1948 appear to be so dim? There are several points that should be included.

- A. His party was severely fragmented.
- B. During the final two years of his term he appeared to many Americans to be powerless, unable to accomplish anything meaningful.
- C. His efforts to extend Civil Rights had alienated white southern voters.
- D. His support during the term had dropped from 87% to just 37%

7. What tactics did Truman use to achieve his surprise victory?

- A. Instead of challenging Dewey, the republican candidate, he campaigned against the 80th “Do Nothing” Congress.
- B. He challenged Americans.
- C. He attacked the Republican Congress for their farm policies which were particularly unfriendly to farmers.
- D. Truman scored an astounding upset. In addition Democrats won control of both houses of Congress.

8. What qualifications did Eisenhower offer as a presidential candidate and what did the Republican formula for success focus upon?

- A. His qualifications include the following: He was the Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the ETO, He was a talented diplomat, He had forged agreements among allied military commanders, Had a pleasing personality that provided Americans with a sense of security.
- B. The formula for victory focused on Korea, Communism and Corruption. End the war, Take a tough approach toward communism and Take on corruption in government.

9. Explain the significance of the “Checkers Speech”.

During the 1952 presidential campaign the Eisenhower's candidacy hit a snag. V.P. candidate Nixon was accused by the media of having a special “secret” fund. They claimed the fund had been set up by powerful, rich Republican supporters. The claim was that he had received illegal gifts.

In response to the charge, Nixon made a speech, historically known as the “Checker's speech. The response to the speech was that it created a groundswell of support for Nixon being on the ticket. A public relations nightmare had been turned into a huge boost.

10. Define “Modern Republicanism”. Provide some examples of Modern Republicanism in action

- A. Eisenhower called his approach to government “dynamic conservatism” or “modern republicanism”. It meant that Eisenhower intended to be conservative when it came to the subject of money and liberal when it came to human beings.
- B. Ike favored big business. His cabinet consisted of mostly successful businessmen. (eight millionaires and a plumber). Transferred \$40 billion in offshore oil lands to the states so that they could lease them to corporations.
- C. On two separate occasions he expanded Social Security to millions of additional workers. In 1955 he raised minimum wage from .75 to 1.00 an hour.

11. Explain the response by Eisenhower and Congress to the launch of Sputnik. You should be addressing two key items.

- A. In 1958 the U.S. created the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), as an independent agency for space exploration.
- B. Also in 1958, Congress and the President created the National Defense Education Act. This act was designed to support science and math instruction in schools so that we could meet the challenges presented by the U.S.S.R. The key was that millions of dollars was provided by the government to help achieve educational goals.

In Addition

- In 1948 Truman defeated NY Governor Thomas Dewey.
- The pollsters had incorrectly called the election for Dewey.
- Due to frustration regarding longtime Democratic control of the White House the Republican Congress moved to enact a term limit with respect to the presidency. In 1951 the 22 Amendment to the Constitution was passed.
- In 1952 Truman chose not to seek reelection. The Democratic party ran Illinois Governor Adlai Stevenson in 1952 and 1956.
- In 1955 Ike suffered a heart attack, In 1956 he underwent abdominal surgery (chrohn's disease), In 1957 he experienced a stroke.