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1940's

***Creative Activities for Teaching
Critical Thinking & Writing***
U.S. History: The 1940's



Stevens & Shea Publishers

Introduction

This unit emphasizes writing and critical thinking. There are basically three types of activities. The news stories, writing exercises and telegrams require students to evaluate, prioritize and write about historical events. They must actually **use** the information rather than just memorize it.

The chronology activity requires students to detect trends and draw conclusions.

The viewpoints and issues activities present different views of the same event rather than just the single view often presented in textbooks. The critical thinking exercises that accompany these units require students to evaluate information.

Many of the activities deal with popular news stories of the decade that are usually not covered in textbooks.

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Creative Activities for Teaching Critical Thinking and Writing U.S. History: The 20th Century

There are nine units in this series.

SS140 1900's	SS144 1940's
SS141 1910's	SS145 1950's
SS142 1920's	SS146 1960's
SS143 1930's	SS147 1970's
SS148 1980's	

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The 1940's

by Lawrence Stevens

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1940's

Directions

Chronology Logic (Page 4)

Events must be placed in chronological order. Each event has internal clues which place it between other events. Students must read carefully and evaluate what they read.

Chronology (Pages 5-6)

The major events of the 1940's are listed year by year. Students must categorize events, detect trends and decide on the ten most important facts of the decade.

Decisions (Pages 7-9)

Nine of the major decisions of the decade are presented and students are to discuss and decide the best possible choice.

People and Terms (Pages 10-11)

Students can categorize the people and decide who was the most important or influential in each category.

Crosswords (Pages 12-13)

Puzzles reinforce the vocabulary on the people and terms lists.

Viewpoints: World War II & Truman (Pages 14-20)

Events and personalities are considered from different points of view. Included are questions and activities that emphasize critical thinking. Students should discuss and compare answers.

News Stories (Pages 21-24)

The facts of major news stories of the decade are presented in random order. The students must write a news story using the inverted pyramid – mention the most important facts at the beginning of the story and the least important facts at the end. The stories should be limited in the number of words, e.g., 75 words. Students must prioritize information. Students may read aloud and compare their stories.

Issues (Pages 25-30)

Major issues are presented from two points of view. Students must decide which they agree with the most. Students may write short essays stating their positions.

News Writing (Pages 31-32)

Several primary resources are provided for students to write a story. The sources and event are fictional but are typical of the decade. Students must assess the information and write news reports. Remember to cover who, what, when, where, why and how. The story should place the important facts first and the least important last.

Telegrams (Page 33)

Major news stories of the decade are described. Students condense the information into telegrams of no more than 20 words. Complete sentences are not required. Emphasis is upon selecting the important details.

Critical Thinking (Pages 34-35)

Students must critically evaluate statements about the decade, select the most precise and general statements, detect emotional words and write generalizations.

Answers

Page

4

Chronology Logic

1)C 2)A 3)E 4)D 5)G 6)B 7)F

5-6

Decisions

Have students research what actually happened.

12

Crossword: People

Across: 2.Vandenburg 4.Thurmond
6.Eisenhower 9. Franklin Roosevelt
10.Truman 13. Dewey 14. Stalin
17.MacArthur.

Down: 1. Patton 3. Alger Hiss 5. Rosenbergs
7. Wallace 8. Robert Taft 11. Robinson
12.Marshall 15. Acheson 16. Bradley.

13

Crossword: Terms

Across: 1. United Nations 3. containment
10. Hiroshima 11. Berlin 12. Allies 13. FEPC
15. Korea 17. Truman Doctrine 18. Taft-
Hartley. **Down:** 2. Iron Curtain 4. Marshall
Plan 5. Dixiecrat 6. NATO 7. Progressive 8.
GI Bill 9. Axis 14. communism 16. Cold War.

14-20

Viewpoints

Students should compare and discuss answers.

21-24

News Stories

Students should compare reports.

25-30

Issues

Students should compare reports.

31-32

News Writing

Students should compare reports.

33

Telegrams

Students should compare telegrams.

34-35

Critical Thinking

Students should discuss, and vote on correct answers where applicable. There are not always correct answers to these items.

Directions

Read the events below carefully. Arrange them in chronological order beginning with the earliest. You will have to figure what order they come in by looking for the clues in each event.

A. With victory in Europe and Asia well on the way, Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin meet at Yalta to plan the peace after the war.

B. The United States creates NATO, a defensive alliance against the Soviet threat in Europe. The Berlin Blockade showed the hostile intentions of the Soviet Union.

C. The Japanese attack Pearl Harbor and the United States is thrust into World War II. The war had already been going on in Europe for two years.

D. Immediately after World War II Europe is destroyed. The U.S. helps rebuild Europe with the Marshall Plan. The Soviet Union is invited to join in the effort but refuses to participate. Later, the Soviets demonstrate their hostility to the west by blockading Berlin.

E. Atomic bombs are dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, to bring World War II to an end.

F. The Cold War between the Russians and the United States finally breaks out into a hot war in Korea. Russian-backed North Korea invaded South Korea. War had been avoided in the Berlin Crisis. In Korea, U.S. troops go into action to fight communism.

G. The Russians stop all traffic to Berlin, which is surrounded by Soviet controlled territory. Two million people in West Berlin are rescued by an airlift that lasts for nearly a year. The Soviets finally lift the Berlin Blockade.

Answers

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

1940

- U.S. approves sale of war surplus material to Great Britain.
- First peacetime draft approved by Congress.
- Richard Wright publishes *Native Son*.

1941

- Roosevelt announces Four Freedoms that everyone should have: freedom from want, fear, freedom of religion and speech.

1942

- U.S. government removes 110,000 Japanese from West Coast and places them in internment camps across the United States.
- Japan suffers first major defeat in Battle of Midway.
- Marines land on Guadalcanal. Japanese finally expelled in 1943.
- U.S. invades North Africa.
- First nuclear chain reaction takes place in Chicago.

1943

- All war contractors barred from racial discrimination in hiring.
- Congress passes law to withhold income taxes from paychecks.
- Race riot in Detroit. 34 dead and 700 injured.
- Race riot in Harlem, New York.
- U.S. troops invade Italy.
- Marines invade Gilbert Islands.

Directions

Use the chronology for the following activities.

1. Put the events into groups, by category. Decide on names for the groups. For example, war, communism, post-war, etc.
2. What general trends do you see in the 1940's? Write a report. For example, What is the trend in relations with the Soviet Union?
3. Decide on what are the ten most important events of the 1940's. Tell why.

1944

- U.S. and allied forces invade Europe on D-Day, June 6.
- G.I. Bill of Rights passed to provide benefits to veterans.
- U.S. forces land in Philippines.

1945

- Yalta Conference in Russia. U.S., Great Britain and Russia agree that Russia will enter war against Japan.
- Marines land on Iwo Jima and Okinawa, Japanese territory.
- Franklin Roosevelt dies. Harry S Truman becomes president.
- Germany surrenders on May 7.
- First atomic bomb exploded in New Mexico.
- Atomic bombs are dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.
- Japan surrenders on Aug. 15.

1945 (cont'd)

- U.S. forces enter Korea up to 38th parallel.
- General Douglas MacArthur takes control of Japan.
- United Nations created in San Francisco.

1946

- U.S. coal miners strike for higher wages. 400,000 out on strike.
- Philippines given independence.

1947

Truman Doctrine began. U.S. provides aid to resist communism in Greece and Turkey.

- Jackie Robinson becomes first African-American to play major league baseball.

- Taft Hartley Labor Act passed by Congress. Truman vetoes act; Congress overrides veto.

- Marshall Plan to provide aid to Europe passed by Congress. \$12 billion will be provided over four years.

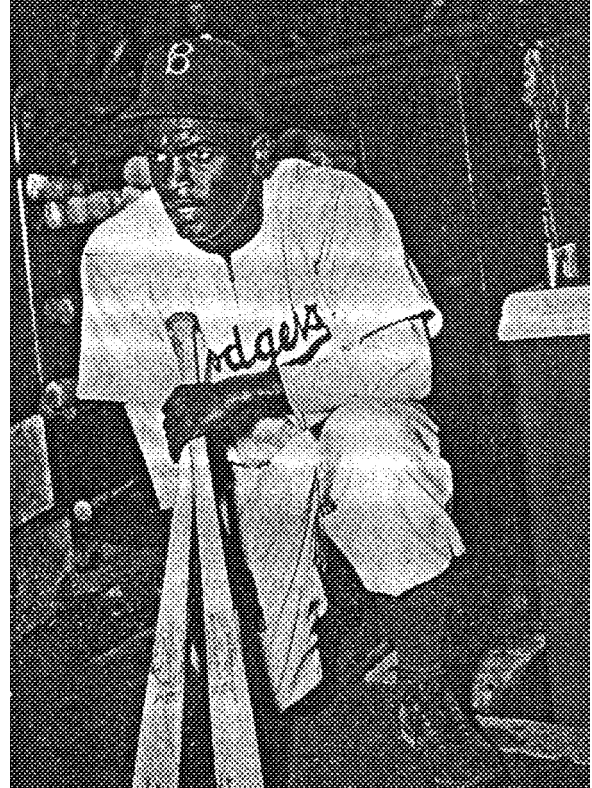
1948

- USSR begins blockade of West Berlin to force the allies out. Berlin Airlift begins to supply city. 2,343,315 tons of food are airlifted by September 1949 when blockade ends.

- Organization of American States (OAS) founded. It is designed to encourage cooperation among the nations of Latin America and North America.

- Alger Hiss, a State Department official, is indicted for lying to Congress about communist affiliations. He is convicted in 1950.

- The first scientific study of human sexuality, *The Kinsey Report*, is published.



Jackie Robinson

- Southern Democrats desert the Democratic Party and form the Dixiecrats. Liberal Democrats form the Progressive Party. It is expected that these two splits will assure a Republican victory in the presidential election.

- Harry Truman defeats Thomas Dewey for president. Dewey was the expected victor.

1949

- U.S. troops withdrawn from Korea.
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is founded. It is an alliance among the U.S., Canada and 10 European countries to defend Europe from communist attack.
- Eleven leaders of the U.S. Communist Party are convicted for advocating the overthrow of the U.S. government.

Lend Lease

World War II began in 1939. Germany attacked France and Great Britain. By 1940 Nazi Germany had defeated France and driven British soldiers back to the British islands. The British had lost their equipment when they evacuated from France at Dunkirk. German submarines sunk ships attempting to deliver supplies to Britain. Britain needed guns to protect its islands from a planned German invasion and they needed protection from the submarines sinking ships.

Under a law called the Neutrality Act the U.S. could not sell guns to Britain. A law passed in 1926 allowed the U.S. to sell arms if it was surplus equipment. Some Americans thought it would be unwise to sell any guns to Great Britain. They thought that Germany's army was too strong and Germany should be allowed a victory in Europe. Others did not want to get involved in any European War.

Roosevelt viewed Germany a threat and wanted to help Great Britain. The question in his mind was how to do it. What would you decide?

- A. Give no aid to Great Britain.
- B. Sell Great Britain surplus weapons.

Peacetime Draft

German aggression in Europe and Japanese aggression in Asia warned the U.S. that it might be involved in a war. Many Americans did not want to become involved in a war. The U.S. had a very small army. Roosevelt's advisors wanted to be prepared in case the U.S. became involved in war. They wanted to build up the army. They wanted a draft. Roosevelt was facing an election in 1940 and announcing a peacetime draft would be very unpopular.

- A. Come out in favor of the draft before the election.
- B. Wait until after the election to announce the draft.
- C. Wait until war starts.

Directions

These are some of the important decisions faced by Presidents Roosevelt and Truman during the 1940's. If you were president how would you have decided? Check a reference book to find out what decisions were made and why.

**Japanese Relocation**

Soon after the attack on Pearl Harbor the military commander of the West Coast requested that all of the Japanese living in California, Oregon and Washington be removed from those states. He feared that among the 110,000 Japanese were spies and saboteurs. Most of the Japanese were American citizens and had been born in the United States. Earl Warren, the attorney general of California, also appealed to President Roosevelt to issue an executive order for their removal and placement in internment camps. The U.S. Attorney General, Francis Biddle, argued that to place the Japanese in camps would violate their rights as U.S. citizens.

- A. Place them in camps because they are a potential threat.
- B. Do nothing.

Peace with Germany

Roosevelt's Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, and Secretary of War, Henry Stimson, wanted a strong united Germany after World War II to protect Europe from Communist Russia. Others such as Henry Morgenthau, the Secretary of the Treasury, wanted a weakened Germany. He argued that Germany had started two world wars in 30 years and as a united country was too strong for the rest of Europe. He wanted to divide Germany into two parts.

- A. Divide Germany into two or more parts.
- B. Keep Germany united.

Dropping the A Bomb

Roosevelt died in April and Germany surrendered shortly after. Japan continued to fight. It had been forced back to the four main islands of Japan and the U.S. faced the possibility of invading the islands. The Japanese made no indication that they would surrender. The war might continue for another two years and cost 1 million American casualties.

In July the U.S. had perfected the Atomic Bomb. Some of the scientists who worked on the bomb, and military leaders, realizing that thousands of innocent women and children would be killed, suggested that it be dropped in the ocean near Japan to demonstrate its awesome power. Others wanted it dropped on a city of military importance. Hiroshima and Nagasaki were selected as targets.

- A. Drop the bomb in the ocean first.
- B. Drop the bomb on a city.

Aid to Greece

After Greece was liberated from German control, Greek communists began to fight against the Greek king. Most of the land and wealth was concentrated in the hands of a few wealthy Greeks who were supported by the king. Most Greeks were poor and communism was an attractive idea for many of the poor. The British

soldiers who had occupied Greece at the end of the war withdrew. Many suspected that the communists would overthrow the king if Greece did not receive military support. The United States was the only country rich enough to send aid. It was suspected that the Russians were sending aid to the Greek communists.

- A. Send aid to the Greek king.
- B. Send aid only if the Greeks set up a more democratic government.
- C. Send no aid at all.

Marshall Plan

Democratic European countries were on the verge of bankruptcy in 1947. The countries had been destroyed by the war. There was widespread unemployment and food shortages. The communist parties in France and Italy were gaining in support. The United States already had given \$6 billion in relief since the end of the war. If far more aid wasn't given, Europe might fall under communist control. Secretary of State George Marshall proposed a massive aid program costing \$17 billion. Some critics thought this was too much and the U.S. could not afford it. The U.S. had its own economic problems with inflation and unemployment. Others thought that the countries under communist influence in Eastern Europe should also be included to encourage continued cooperation with the Soviet Union.

- A. Provide no aid.
- B. Provide aid to only non-communist countries.
- C. Provide some aid but not \$17 billion.

Berlin

After World War II Germany was divided into two parts, the west controlled by the Allies and the east controlled by the Soviet Union.

In June 1948 the Russians unexpectedly closed off the rail and highway routes to Berlin. No food or supplies could reach West Berlin. The Soviet action was in response to the Allies (France, Britain and the United States) to make West Germany a separate country. Berlin was surrounded by Russian-held East Germany. It was 100 miles from West Germany. Berlin was under international control of France, Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union. There were 2.4 million people living in the sector controlled by the Allies.

- A. Open up the highways to Berlin by using military force.
- B. Avoid military confrontation and airlift supplies to West Berlin.
- C. Abandon Berlin to Russian control.

NATO

To protect Western Europe from possible Soviet attack the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was considered. This was to be a defensive alliance of eleven European nations and the United States. Some thought it was a bad idea. They thought that nations pledging to defend one another might lead to World War III. Others thought it would undercut the United Nations which should be responsible for keeping the peace in the world. Still others were worried about how much it would cost the United States. European nations were still recovering from the war and did not have much money. They felt that the United States would wind up paying the bills, and could the United States afford it?

- A. Push for the U.S. Senate's approval of NATO
- B. Abandon the idea and let each country defend itself.
- C. Rely upon the United Nations to stop Soviet aggression.

**Seizure of the railroads and coal mines**

Prices began to rise rapidly after the war. Labor unions began to ask for higher wages and were willing to go on strike to get them. 1946 saw the largest number of strikes in history. Nearly every major labor union went on strike. Most strikes were settled with new contracts giving workers higher pay. A threatened strike by railroad workers worried the president. The railroads were vital to the nation's economy. President Truman wanted to avoid a strike.

- A. Ask Congress for the power to draft railroad workers into the army and have the federal government operate the railroads.
- B. Persuade the leaders of railroad labor unions not to strike.

Taft Hartley Bill

Because of the rash of strikes in 1946, the Republican-controlled Congress passed legislation sponsored by Senators Taft and Hartley which would provide for a sixty day cooling off period before a labor union could declare a strike. It also outlawed "jurisdictional" strikes by labor unions when two labor unions were competing for the same jobs. The bill was passed by a large vote of both Democrats and Republicans. A large part of the American public supported controls on the power of labor unions. Labor unions were strongly opposed to the bill which they felt would make it difficult to get better contracts and better pay for workers.

- A. Veto the bill.
- B. Allow the bill to become law.

Cold War

Communist Russia and the U.S. were allies during World War II. After the war the Soviet Union became increasingly hostile to the democratic nations of western Europe and North America. There were communist takeovers in democratic nations of eastern Europe even though the Soviets had promised free elections. In response, the U.S. formed NATO. While there was no direct war between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, there was hostility.

Berlin Airlift

Berlin, the former German capital, was surrounded by communist-controlled East Germany. In 1948 the Soviet Union closed land access to Berlin from West Germany with the idea of forcing the Allied forces (U.S., France, Great Britain) out of Berlin. The U.S. supplied Berlin with food by air until the Russians gave up their blockade.

Dixiecrat

A "third party" that split from the Democrats in 1948 over the Democrats' favoring civil rights for African-Americans.

FEPC

Fair Employment Practices Commission. Started by Roosevelt during World War II. The intent was to end racial discrimination in government employment.

G.I. Bill

The G.I. Bill provided money for World War II veterans to obtain college educations. For the first time, a person of low income could attend college with government help. College enrollment rapidly increased providing a huge number of college trained people for the growing post-war economy.

Hiroshima

The Japanese city on which the first Atomic Bomb was dropped. The second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. The bombs ended World War II in the Pacific.

Iron Curtain

Winston Churchill coined the term "Iron Curtain." He described the Soviets taking control of eastern Europe and their reneging on their promise of free elections.

Korean War

Korea, like Germany, was split into two parts after the war. The northern part was under communist control. In 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea.

Marshall Plan

Europe was destroyed after World War II. The U.S. created a plan to rebuild the economies of European countries after the war. The plan was named after the U.S. Secretary of State George C. Marshall.

NAACP

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. This organization, founded in 1909, became very active in obtaining equal rights for African-Americans after World War II.

NATO

North Atlantic Treaty Organization. This was formed to prevent a possible Soviet invasion of western Europe after World War II.

Policy of Containment

George Kennan, a professional diplomat and an expert on the Soviet Union, argued that the Soviets wanted to expand communism and this effort had to be contained. Several military alliances, including NATO, were created to defend against the expansion of communism.

Progressive

A "third party" formed out of the Democratic Party. The Progressives believed that the Truman administration was putting too much emphasis on the Cold War and giving up on the gains made for the poor during the New Deal.

Taft-Hartley Act

Unions had gained the right to organize during the New Deal. The Taft-Hartley Act limited the power of unions. Truman vetoed the bill and Congress passed it over his veto.

Truman Doctrine

The U.S. policy formed by President Truman to stop the advancement of communism throughout the world after World War II.

United Nations

Formed in 1945 at the end of World War II. The UN replaced the League of Nations as a way of settling conflict peaceably.

Axis

The term used to describe Germany, Japan and Italy during World War II.

Allies

During World War II the Allies were the U.S., Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union. With the advent of the Cold War the Soviet Union was dropped from the group.

General Omar Bradley

Commander of the U.S. forces in Europe during World War II. Later, became chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Korean War.

Thomas Dewey

Republican presidential candidate in 1948. Because two parties, the Dixiecrats and Progressives, had split from the Democratic party, it was assumed that Dewey would win the election.

General Dwight Eisenhower

Commander of the Allied forces in Europe during World War II. Later, became president from 1952 to 1960.

General Douglas MacArthur

Commander of the U.S. forces in the Pacific during World War II. Later, the commander of United Nations forces in the Korean War. He was fired by President Truman because of a disagreement over war policy. He is given credit for making Japan a democracy after World War II.

General George C. Marshall

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during World War II. Organized our victory in the war. Became Secretary of State under Truman after the war. Created the Marshall plan to rebuild Europe after World War II. Also, helped form NATO to resist a communist military takeover of Europe.

General George Patton

Famous U.S. tank commander in Europe during World War II. Known for his aggressiveness. Killed after the war in a car accident.

Jackie Robinson

First African-American to play major league baseball, which had been segregated. Broke into the majors with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

Senator Robert Taft

Conservative Republican Senator from Ohio. Authored the Taft-Hartley Act to limit power of labor unions.

Strom Thurmond

Democratic Senator from South Carolina who split with the Democratic Party in the election 1948 to form the Dixiecrats. The split was over the Democrats' position favoring civil rights for African-Americans.

Harry S Truman

Became president in 1945 when Roosevelt died. He was re-elected in 1948 in an election that no one expected him to win.

Henry Wallace

Led another "third party" in the election of 1948, the Progressive Party. The progressives thought the Democrats too conservative.

Senator Arthur Vandenberg

Ranking Republican member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who worked closely with President Truman in forming the Marshall Plan and NATO.

Alger Hiss

A State Department employee who was accused of being a communist spy. He was convicted for lying to Congress. He denied being a communist spy.

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg

Convicted and executed for stealing atomic bomb secrets and passing them on to the Russians.

Dean Acheson

Replaced Marshall as Truman's Secretary of State.

Winston Churchill

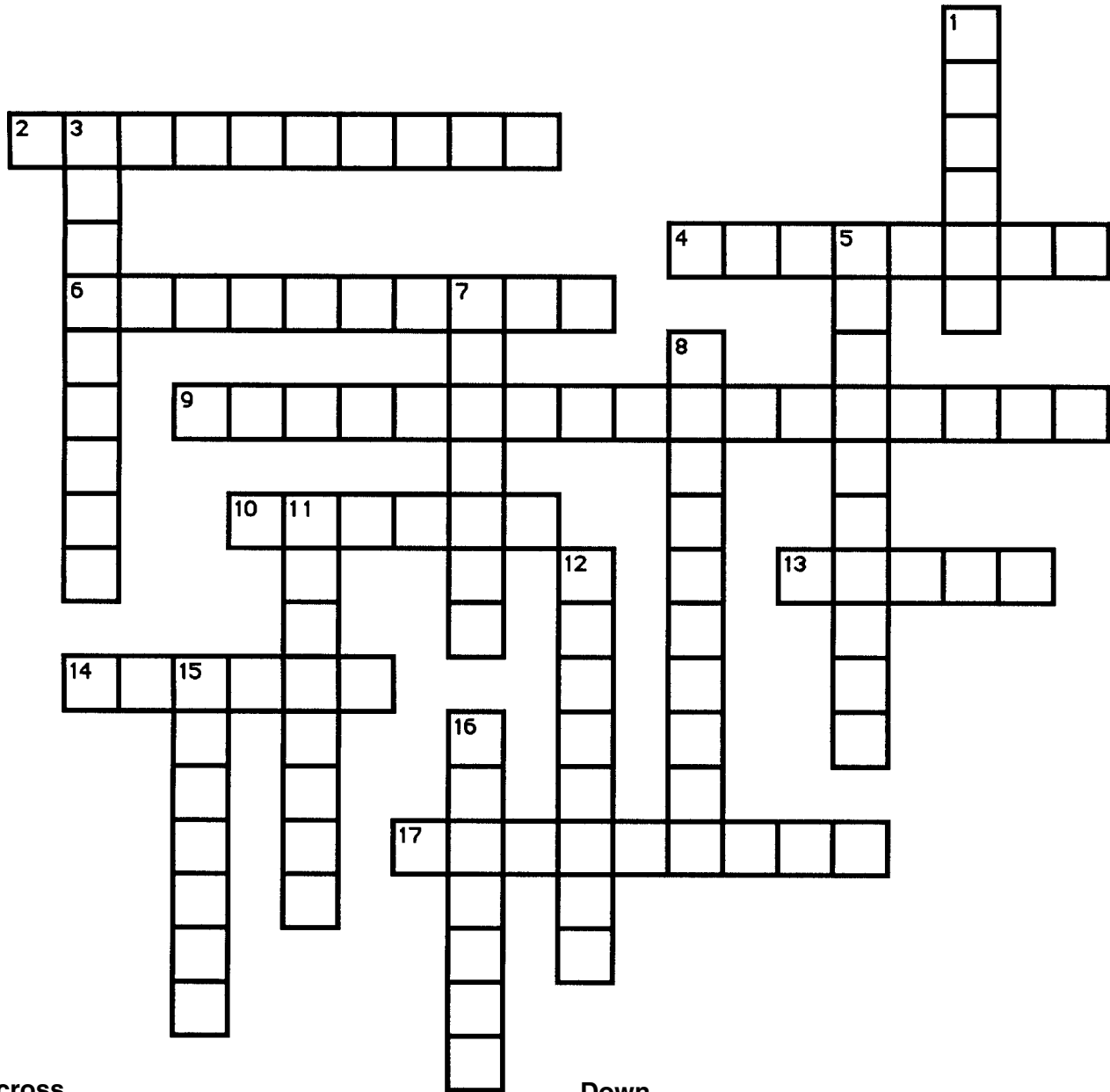
Prime Minister of Great Britain during World War II. He coined the term "Iron Curtain" which described the closing off of borders between communist Eastern Europe and democratic Western Europe.

Joseph Stalin

The dictator of the Soviet Union until he died in the 1950's.

Adolph Hitler

Dictator of Germany from 1933 to 1945. He is given the credit for starting World War II.

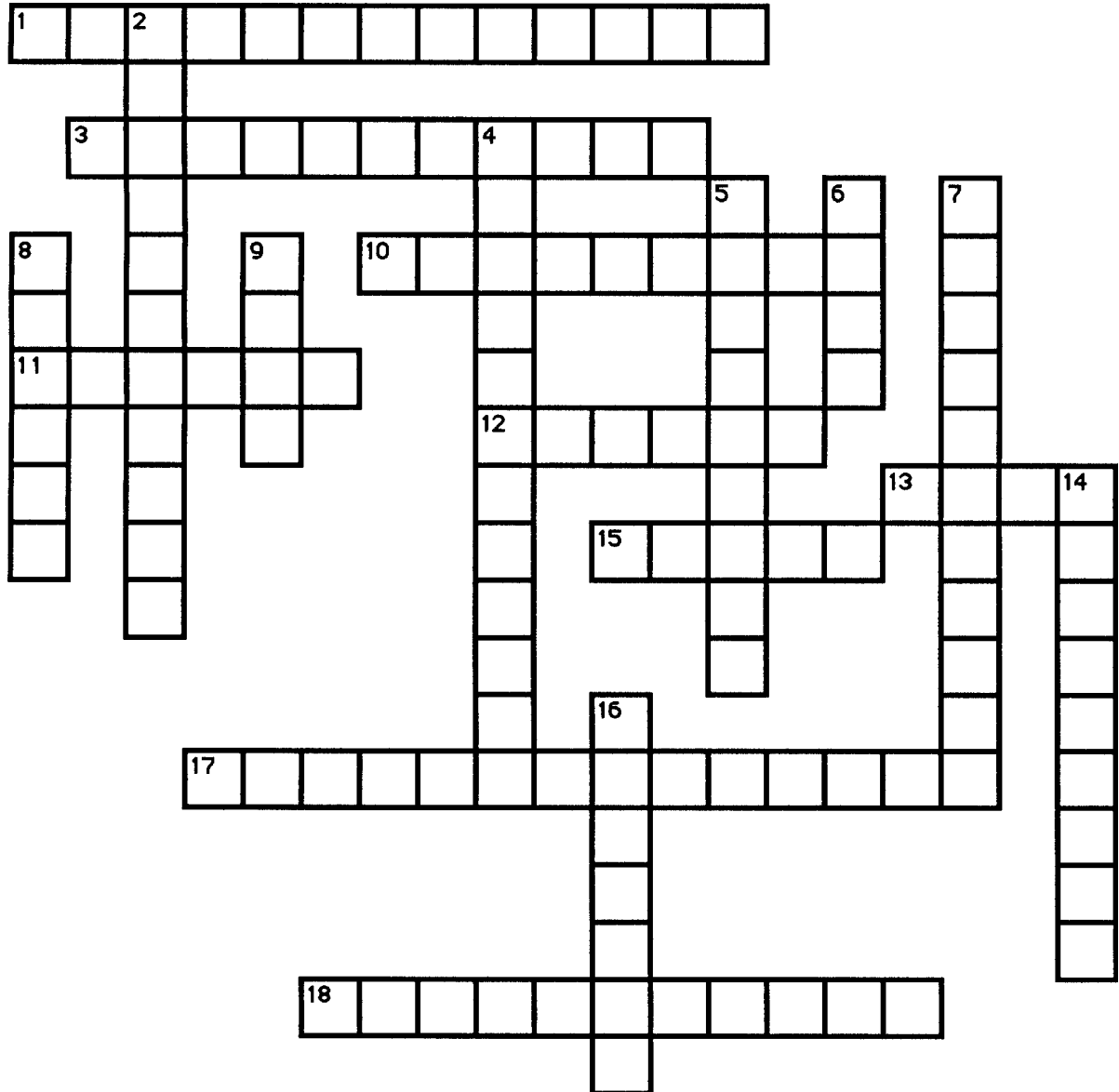


Across

- 2. A Republican senator who supported the Marshall Plan.
- 4. A Democratic senator who formed the Dixiecrats.
- 6. Commanding general of Allied forces in Europe.
- 9. U.S. President during World War II (2 words).
- 10. Became president when FDR died.
- 13. Defeated by Truman in 1948.
- 14. Dictator of the Soviet Union.
- 17. Commander of U.S. ground forces in South Pacific.

Down

- 1. Famous tank commander during World War II.
- 3. Sent to jail for lying about alleged communist affiliation. (2 words)
- 5. Executed for spying.
- 7. Formed Progressive Party in 1948.
- 8. Republican senator who sponsored Taft-Hartley Act (2 words).
- 11. First African American major league baseball player.
- 12. Commander of U.S. military during World War II.
- 15. Secretary of State under Truman.
- 16. Commander of U.S. forces in Europe.



Across

- 1. Formed in 1945 to promote peace (2 words).
- 3. The policy of the U.S. to stop communism.
- 10. The first Atomic Bomb was dropped here.
- 11. The U.S. airlifted supplies to this city.
- 12. Great Britain, France and the U.S.
- 13. Fair Employment Practices Commission (abbr.).
- 15. A war began here in 1950.
- 17. HST's policy for fighting communism (2 words).
- 18. A law restricting the power of labor (2 words).

Down

- 2. Winston Churchill said this had come down across Europe (2 words).
- 4. A U.S. program for rebuilding Europe (2 words).
- 5. Party that split from Democrats in 1948 to protest integration.
- 6. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (abbr.).
- 7. Party that split from Democrats in 1948 to protest Cold War.
- 8. Helped veterans go to college (2 words).
- 9. What Germany and Japan were called in WW II.
- 14. What the U.S. fought after WW II.
- 16. The fight between communism and democracy (2 words).

Directions

Read the viewpoints on the next six pages. Answer the questions for each viewpoint. Then answer the questions on this page.

Questions**Bias**

1. Which viewpoint(s) are critical of the U.S. role in World War II? Why?

2. Which viewpoint(s) are favorable to the U.S. role? Why?

Causation

The viewpoints offer different explanations about World War II. Make a chart showing how the different viewpoints explain the following.

Who started the war

What was the cause of the war

Why was the Atomic Bomb dropped

Valid generalizations

Which statements are valid generalizations? A generalization is a conclusion based upon the facts. It may also include a value judgment or opinion. A valid generalization is supported by the facts. An invalid generalization is not supported by the facts and tends to be more of an opinion. Mark (V) for valid and (I) for invalid generalizations. Use (CT) if you can't tell.

1. _____ War is brutal.

2. _____ The United States should not have fought in World War II.

3. _____ The Japanese are sneaky.

4. _____ The U.S. and Japan fought over who was to control the Pacific area.

5. _____ U.S. business prospered during World War II.

6. _____ The Japanese were effective fighters.

7. _____ The U.S. obtained valuable resources from the Pacific area.

8. _____ The Japanese were imperialistic.

9. _____ The U.S. entered the war only when it was attacked by Japan.

10. _____ It was necessary to drop the Atomic Bomb to force Japan to surrender.

**Directions**

Emotional words are used to influence how people think about events. They also are used to distort reality. Select what you think might be the emotional word in each of the statements below.

1. The Japanese planned a sneak attack on Pearl Harbor.

2. World War II was a war between democracy and dictatorship.

3. The Japanese had legitimate reasons for opposing the U.S.

4. Hitler murdered innocent women and children.

5. The Japanese did not count on valiant resistance from the Chinese.

In the 1930's Japan fell under the control of a fascist military dictatorship. In order to keep itself in power the military invaded China. The Japanese considered themselves to be racially superior to the Chinese and committed terrible atrocities in China such as the "Rape of Nanking" in which the Japanese army was turned loose on the civilian population in an orgy of rape, murder and torture in which tens of thousands of innocent women and children were killed.

Japan continued its military conquests by taking over French Indochina in 1940 taking advantage of Hitler's defeat of France. Japan clearly wanted to create an Asian empire and enslave other Asian countries.

While Japan pretended to seek peace with the United States, it was secretly planning a sneak attack on the U.S. While Japanese ambassadors were in Washington declaring their desire for peace, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, killing 2,300 American soldiers and sailors.

When Japan conquered the Philippines it forced American prisoners to go on the "Bataan Death March" in which thousands of U.S. soldiers died.

The United States surprised Japan with its courageous fighting. By 1943, the tide of the war had turned in favor of the United States. Led by General Douglas MacArthur, the United States liberated the Philippines in 1944.

The Japanese philosophy of Bushido, or "The way of the warrior" made the Japanese fanatical fighters willing to fight to the death. When the U.S. began to conquer Japanese territory, the Japanese refused to surrender. They conducted Kamikaze raids against American ships. Japanese pilots committed suicide crashing their planes into American ships. The Japanese refused to surrender.

U.S. military planners estimated that 1 million Americans would be killed or wounded in an invasion of Japan. President Truman ordered the dropping of the atomic bomb on a military target, Hiroshima, to bring an end to the war. It took the dropping of a second bomb in order to force the Japanese to surrender.

Questions

Bias

1. What is the main point of the article?
2. What evidence does the author use to support his point?

Causation

1. What caused World War II?
2. Who started the war?
3. Why was the atomic bomb dropped?

Emotional words

Certain words are used to influence the reader's feelings or show the author's biases. Identify these words in the statements below. Underline the words or phrases.

1. The Japanese army engaged in an orgy of rape and murder.
2. The U.S. surprised Japan with its courageous fighting.
3. The Japanese were fanatical fighters.
4. The Japanese forced Americans to go on the Bataan Death March.

The United States had become an imperialist power in Asia in 1900 when it took control of the Philippines and other small islands in the Pacific. It also forced other European imperialist powers to follow an open door policy in China in which white nations would control the trade with the Chinese.

Japan was the only Asian nation strong enough to resist the Americans and Europeans. The Japanese navy and army were strong enough to defeat the imperial ambitions of the Russians in 1905.

Japan, however, is a small, poor country compared to the United States. Japan has almost none of the industrial resources required to maintain a strong modern economy. Japan needed a modern economy to protect itself from being taken over by the Europeans and Americans. To obtain coal and iron, it was necessary for Japan to control Manchuria. If Japan did not control Manchuria, the Russians certainly would have controlled it.

When the imperialist European power, France, was defeated by Germany in 1940, it was only reasonable and fair that Japan should take control of France's colonies. Japan had a treaty with Germany. The United States did not have the right to tell Japan what it should do. Placing a trade embargo upon the Japanese was only designed to hurt relations between Japan and the United States. The trade embargo was an act of war.

Japan was always willing to negotiate its differences with the U.S. However, the U.S. refused to negotiate, insisting that Japan leave Indochina and provide guarantees that it would allow the U.S. to control the Philippines. The U.S. had no right to control the Philippines. Asians should be allowed to control their own affairs.

The refusal of the U.S. to sell oil to Japan forced Japan to invade Dutch-controlled Indonesia in order to obtain oil. Japan recognized that it would be only a matter of time before the U.S. would take military action against Japan.

The Japanese attack upon Pearl Harbor was an act of self defense. It was necessary to force the United States to negotiate a settlement in the Pacific that would respect the economic security and well-being of Japan. Japanese leaders believed that if the American fleet were sunk, the U.S. would be willing to negotiate a peaceful settlement in the Pacific.

It was the United States that declared total war on Japan and asked Japan to surrender unconditionally. The United States wanted to control all of Asia. The United States was intent upon totally destroying Japan. Fire bomb raids on the civilian populations of Japanese cities killed hundreds of thousands of people. Two atomic bombs were dropped on the Japanese cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. The Hiroshima bomb alone killed 100,000 civilians. The purpose of dropping the bombs was to bring about the total defeat of Japan before the Soviet Union had a chance to declare war on Japan and claim Japanese territory.

Questions

Bias

1. What is the main point of the article?
2. What evidence does the author use to support this point?

Causation

1. What caused World War II?
2. Who started the war?
3. Why was the Atomic Bomb dropped?

Emotional words

Certain words are used to influence the reader's feelings or show the author's biases. Identify these words in the statements below. Underline the words or phrases.

1. It was only reasonable and fair for the Japanese to take control Indochina.
2. The U.S. was intent upon totally destroying Japan.

The United States did not enter World War II until it was attacked by Japan in 1941. The U.S. followed a policy of non-intervention. During the Spanish Civil War in which Republicans were fighting fascists for control of the Spanish government, the United States refused to help the Republicans. When Hitler began to imprison and kill Jews, the United States did not even protest. When Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia, Austria and Poland, the United States did nothing to stop the attacks. During the presidential campaign of 1940, Roosevelt promised that American boys would not fight in any foreign wars.

When the U.S. interests were threatened in Asia the United States began to take steps that would inevitably lead to war with Japan. Japan had become an imperial power in Asia at the turn of the century. It took control of Korea and Formosa. It also shared with Great Britain and the United States control of parts of China. The United States recognized the Japanese interest in China. However, when the Japanese expanded their control in China and took control of French Indochina, the U.S. began to threaten the Japanese.

The U.S. received important supplies from Asia. Much of America's tin and rubber came from British and French colonies in south-east Asia. The United States ordered Japan to stay out of French Indochina. When Japan refused, the U.S. placed a trade embargo on Japan. The U.S. refused to sell Japan scrap steel and oil. These were vital supplies to Japan. It was only a matter of time before Japan would react. The Japanese were forced to attack the U.S.

To mold public support for the war, the United States began a propaganda campaign declaring that World War II was a war for democracy and that no country had the right to invade and dominate other countries such as Japan

and Germany had done. However, behind the scenes, the U.S. had promised France that it could keep control of Indochina. Also the U.S. was planning to expand the Open Door Policy that it created in China. The United States planned to control trade throughout the world and control the international economy.

During the war the U.S. and England set up the International Monetary Fund to regulate the international exchanges of currency. The U.S. had the controlling interest in the fund. The International Bank for Reconstruction was also established to help promote American businesses in the rebuilding of war-torn countries.

The war was very good for American business, especially big business. By 1941, 75% of the military contracts went to 56 large corporations. Profits increased while wages were controlled. In the textile mills of Lowell, Massachusetts, profits went up 600% and wages only 36% from 1940 to 1946.

Questions

Bias

1. What is the main point of the article?
2. What evidence does the author use to support his point?

Causation

1. What caused World War II?
2. Who started the war?

1940's Truman Viewpoints Questions

Directions

Read both viewpoints on the following pages and answer the questions below.

General questions for both viewpoints

1. Which viewpoint favors Harry Truman?
2. What evidence is used to indicate Truman was a good president?
3. Which viewpoint is critical of Truman?
4. What evidence is used to indicate Truman was not a good president?
5. What events and generalizations are mentioned in the favorable viewpoint that are not mentioned in the unfavorable viewpoint?
6. What events and generalizations are mentioned in the unfavorable viewpoint that are not mentioned in the favorable viewpoint?
7. Are there any events and generalizations which are agreed upon by both viewpoints? If any, what are they?

Valid generalizations

Which statements are valid generalizations? A generalization is a conclusion based upon the facts. It may also include a value judgment or opinion. A valid generalization is supported by the facts. An invalid generalization is not supported by the facts and tends to be more of an opinion. Mark (V) for valid and (I) for invalid generalizations. Use (CT) if you can't tell.

1. _____ Truman took some very unpopular actions.
2. _____ Truman allowed the communists to take over.

3. _____ Truman wanted to increase the power of the Federal government.

4. _____ Truman helped rebuild Europe.

5. _____ Truman was a strong anti-communist.

Viewpoint A author's biases and assumptions

An assumption is something that is believed to be true without proof. Our values and beliefs influence our generalizations about things. This is called bias. Often an author's values and assumptions are not openly stated. Which statements would the author of Viewpoint A agree with? Mark an (A) for those that you think the author would agree with and a (D) for those you think the author would disagree with. Use (CT) if you can't tell.

1. _____ Labor unions should not have too much power.

2. _____ The Federal government should not have too much power.

3. _____ Republicans could have done a better job than Truman.

4. _____ Truman should have done more to help minorities.

Harry Truman took office just before the end of the war. Soon after the war Truman was faced by the same problems that Roosevelt faced in the Depression of the 1930's. Truman attempted to deal with the problems of unemployment and rising prices with the same methods of Roosevelt during the New Deal. However, Truman attempted to out-New Deal the New Deal. Truman's Fair Deal was a long step toward socialism.

Truman's Fair Deal introduced the idea of "socialized medicine." Every American was guaranteed free medical care. Truman even wanted to create government owned steel mills to compete with privately held steel mills. He also wanted to expand the Tennessee Valley Authority to every major river basin in the country. The TVA built publicly owned power plants to compete with privately held utilities. Truman was unable to persuade Congress to pass his Fair Deal proposals.

Truman's desire to increase the control of the Federal government over the economy was evident in his method of handling strikes in crucial industries. He had the federal government seize control of the coal mines in 1947 and it was the federal government that negotiated a contract with the United Mine Workers Union giving the miner's union almost everything it wanted.

Truman was unable to manage the economy during the post-war years. Inflation climbed rapidly. Labor strife reached its high point in 1946. By the end of January 1946 at least 1,650,000 workers were on strike and at least twice that number were out of work because of the strikes.

The public demanded an end to the power of labor. Congress passed the Taft-Hartley Act which curtailed the irresponsible use of the strike by unions. Truman vetoed the bill and Congress easily overrode the veto. Truman's popularity plummeted.

In battling communism abroad and at home Truman also failed. The Soviet Union

cemented its control over eastern European countries such as Poland and Czechoslovakia. In China the communists took control in 1949 as Truman withdrew military support of the anti-communist government.

At home it was discovered that a Soviet spy ring passed A-bomb secrets to the Russians. The spies were caught and convicted.

Truman was not given much of a chance of winning the election in 1948. He was one of the most unpopular presidents in history. The Republicans were over-confident and did not campaign as hard as Truman. Truman won reelection by the narrowest margin since 1916.

Truman's troubles did not end. It was revealed by the House Un-American Activities Committee that a high State Department official, Alger Hiss, was a communist and had leaked secrets to the Soviets. Hiss was convicted for perjury before a grand jury and sentenced to prison. Many felt that Truman did not do enough to rid the government of communists and communist sympathizers.

The Korean War did nothing to improve Truman's popularity. While he acted quickly to stop communist aggression in Korea, Truman limited the ability of the American military to fight the war. When the Chinese communists entered the war in the winter of 1950, Truman refused to allow General MacArthur to bomb Chinese military bases in China.

The Republicans easily won the election of 1952 defeating another Democratic liberal, Adlai Stevenson.

Questions

1. What is the main point of the article?
2. What evidence does the author use to support her point?

Harry S Truman came from being a political unknown to become one of the great presidents. He was elected Vice-President in 1944 when he was a senator from Missouri. When Roosevelt died just before the end of the war Truman was thrust into a position where he had to make controversial decisions.

His first step was to bring the war to a close. Germany had been defeated. To force Japan to surrender he ordered the dropping of the atomic bomb on Japan.

After the war he faced the problem of converting the wartime economy to a peacetime economy. There were 12 million people in the military who had to be put to work. During the war there were controls on prices and wages. After the war businesses and labor unions wanted the controls lifted. Truman took an unpopular position. He wanted a continuation of wartime controls which would be gradually reduced over one year's time. A Congress dominated by Republicans defeated his proposal. Inflation, an increase in prices, followed quickly as people who had saved money during the war wanted to spend it on goods they couldn't buy during the war. Labor unions went on strike for higher wages to keep up with increasing prices.

The auto workers and steel workers went on strike. The Truman administration helped settle both strikes by getting sides to agree to a limited increase in the price of goods and a limited wage increase. Truman took drastic action against some labor unions. When the railroad unions threatened to strike Truman responded by asking Congress to pass legislation to allow the government to draft railroad workers into the army. Railroads were vital to the nation's economic health.

Truman did not limit himself to responding to crises. He proposed an extension of the New Deal. Truman's Fair Deal was far ahead of its time, and most of its provisions were never enacted by a conservative Congress. His proposals for national medical insurance and federal aid to education had to wait until the 1950's

and '60's for enactment. One proposal that Congress did enact that was of tremendous benefit to the average citizen was federal aid to build houses. This enabled many Americans to buy homes.

Truman made his mark in taking decisive action to stop the spread of communism. He provided military aid to Greece to prevent a communist take-over, created the Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe and prevent France and Italy from falling into communist hands. He faced down the Russians when they attempted to blockade Berlin without resorting to war. The U.S. and the Allies flew in 2,000 tons of supplies a day for a year to keep West Berlin alive. Truman created the policy of containment that the U.S. followed for 20 years. NATO, a defensive alliance of European countries, was created to stop Russian aggression.

Truman also moved to stop internal subversion by creating Loyalty Boards to weed communists out of government employment.

Truman's courage and toughness was demonstrated in his efforts to achieve equal rights for African Americans. Truman wanted to end discrimination in employment, public places and education. He proposed a Fair Employment Practices Commission, a Civil Rights Commission and a Civil Rights division in the Department of Justice to enforce civil rights laws. Truman risked defeat in the election of 1948 by making these proposals. Southern Democrats split from the Democratic Party and formed their own segregationist Dixiecrat Party in 1948. Truman lost southern states in the election.

Truman was given no chance to win the election of 1948. But with a hard-hitting whistlestop campaign which covered 25,000 miles, Truman found that most Americans approved of his actions.

Questions

1. What is the main point of the article?
2. What evidence does the author use to support her point?

Directions

Write a news story using the facts below. Write the story using the inverted pyramid. Decide which facts are the most important and put them at the beginning of the story. Place the least important facts at the end of the story. You may combine facts into one sentence and you may rewrite sentences.

Write the story in a journalistic style. Put no more than five sentences in a paragraph and limit the sentences to 20 words or less.

Facts: Pearl Harbor

- š 94 combat and auxiliary ships were tied up in Pearl Harbor.
- š Pearl Harbor is the United States' Pacific naval base located in Hawaii.
- š It was Sunday, December 7, 1941.
- š At 7:55 A.M. Hawaiian time, Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor and Hickham Field.
- š The first wave of the Japanese attack included 90 "Kate" torpedo bombers, 50 "Val" dive bombers and 50 "Zeke" fighters.
- š At 7:02 A.M. two Army privates picked up a large "blip" on their new radar screen.
- š They did not contact the Information Center at Hickam Field until 7:20.
- š Of eight battleships in the harbor four were sunk.
- š 2,403 were killed and 1,178 were wounded.
- š 188 planes were destroyed on the ground.
- š President Roosevelt was lunching with Harry Hopkins when he received a message from Commander Murphy in Hawaii: "Japanese attacking Pearl Harbor – this is no drill."
- š The U.S. government had been in negotiations with the Japanese for the last nine months. The U.S. had asked the Japanese to withdraw from French Indo-China and had placed a trade embargo upon Japan to force them to do so.
- š The Japanese invaded Indo-China when France was defeated by the Germans.
- š At 4:05 A.M., Honolulu time, the U.S. minesweeper Condor sighted a periscope in the water off Honolulu.
- š At 6:45 A.M. the destroyer U.S. Ward sank a submarine.

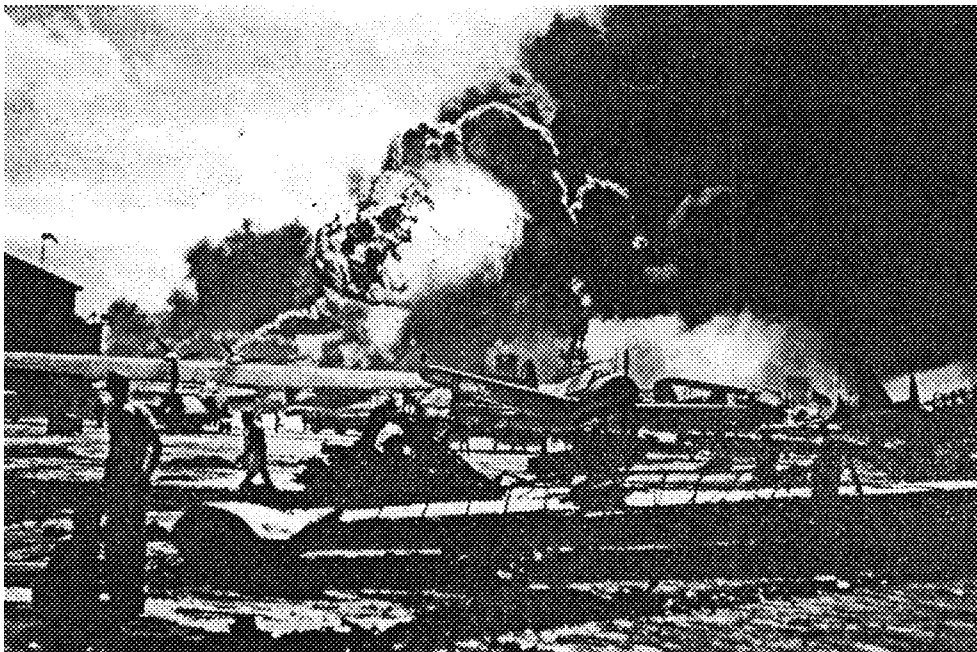
Directions

Write a news story using the facts below. Write the story using the inverted pyramid. Decide which facts are the most important and put them at the beginning of the story. Place the least important facts at the end of the story. You may combine facts into one sentence and you may rewrite sentences.

Write the story in a journalistic style. Put no more than five sentences in a paragraph and limit the sentences to 20 words or less.

Facts: D-Day

- š The attack was launched from Great Britain.
- š The attack took place on June 6, 1944.
- š U.S. and British troops invaded Europe to defeat Germany.
- š The Germans had driven the British from Europe in 1940 when they defeated France.
- š The attack took place at Normandy.
- š The attack was called Operation Overlord.
- š General Dwight Eisenhower was the commander of the allied troops.
- š 250,000 men were landed in 24 hours.
- š 4,000 ships and 11,000 planes were used in the operation.
- š The attack was the largest amphibious invasion in history.



Directions

Write a news story using the facts below. Write the story using the inverted pyramid. Decide which facts are the most important and put them at the beginning of the story. Place the least important facts at the end of the story. You may combine facts into one sentence and you may rewrite sentences.

Write the story in a journalistic style. Put no more than five sentences in a paragraph and limit the sentences to 20 words or less.

Facts: Roosevelt's Death

- š President Roosevelt was vacationing in Warm Springs, Georgia.
- š He left Washington, D.C. on March 29, 1945.
- š He died at 3:35 on April 12, 1945.
- š The cause of death was a brain hemorrhage.
- š Roosevelt was re-elected for a fourth time in 1944.
- š FDR served longer than any other president.
- š He was first elected in the middle of the Depression in 1932.
- š Roosevelt had been in poor health since March 1944.
- š During the last year Roosevelt had lost 20 pounds.
- š Harry S Truman, the Vice-President will be sworn in as President.
- š Harry Truman is a former U.S. Senator from Missouri.
- š Roosevelt was born on January 30, 1882, in Hyde Park, New York.
- š Harry Truman was born on May 8, 1884, in Lamar, Missouri.
- š Roosevelt was the Governor of New York.
- š Roosevelt was married to Eleanor Roosevelt.
- š Roosevelt was crippled by polio in 1921.

Directions

Write a news story using the facts below. Write the story using the inverted pyramid. Decide which facts are the most important and put them at the beginning of the story. Place the least important facts at the end of the story. You may combine facts into one sentence and you may rewrite sentences.

Write the story in a journalistic style. Put no more than five sentences in a paragraph and limit the sentences to 20 words or less.

Facts: Truman's Election

š Truman had trouble with Congress. Congress overrode his vetoes of the Taft Hartley Act, which Truman thought was anti-labor, and a tax bill, which Truman thought favored the rich.

š The Southern Democrats did not like Truman because they did not like his stand on civil rights.

š The Republicans won control of Congress in 1946 for the first time in 16 years. Congress refused to cooperate with the President.

š Harry Truman became president in 1945 when Roosevelt died. He had never run for president before.

š Henry Wallace, Roosevelt's Secretary of Agriculture, had formed the Progressive Party. It was estimated that the Progressive Party would take 3 million votes away from the Democrats.

š Election day was on November 2, 1948.

š Southern Democrats formed the Dixiecrat Party which was opposed to civil rights. It would take votes away from the Democrats.

š On Sept. 9 the Roper Poll showed that Thomas Dewey, the Republican candidate, was favored by 44% to Truman's 31%. Elmo Roper said it would be impossible for Truman to make up the difference by election day.

š Truman took his campaign to the people by train, travelling from town to town giving speeches from the back of the train. He called the Republican Congress the "do nothing" Congress and blamed them for high prices and unemployment.

š It was the closest presidential race since 1916.

š Truman won 49.5% of the popular vote; Dewey 45.1%.

š Truman won 304 electoral votes and Thomas Dewey 189.

Directions

One of the most controversial meetings between the Allies was the one at Yalta. Many felt that President Roosevelt had sold out the nations of eastern Europe to Soviet control. Others have felt that Roosevelt did the best he could under the circumstances. What do you think? Did Roosevelt "give in" to the Soviet Union?

Background: Yalta

In February 1944 President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain and Joseph Stalin, the dictator of the Soviet Union met at Yalta to cement plans for the end of the war. The Allies were winning the war against Germany and Japan and it was only a matter of time before the war would end. A number of key agreements were made at Yalta that later became controversial.

Roosevelt's goal at Yalta was to get the Russians to agree to the United Nations concept. At the Dumbarton Oaks meeting 18 months earlier, it was agreed that a United Nations would be created after the war to help prevent another world war from starting. The Soviet Union insisted that 16 Soviet Republics be seated in the United Nations. The U.S. and Great Britain wanted them to have just one seat.

At the conference the Soviet Union agreed to enter the war against the Japanese. The Soviet Union promised to allow "free" elections in Poland and other eastern European countries. Roosevelt and Churchill agreed to Russia receiving part of Poland's territory and Stalin agreed to Poland getting part of Germany's territory. Stalin agreed to France becoming part of the Security Council of the United Nations. They also agreed to call countries to a meeting on April 25 to write the charter of the United Nations.

Pro

Roosevelt should have sought guarantees to hold free elections in Poland. The allies had large armies and, while the atomic bomb had not been fully developed, it was close to completion. Roosevelt and Churchill had the military power to force Stalin to be specific about free elections and those elections could have been supervised by the United Nations.

Con

Roosevelt got the best deal he could.

The Soviet Union agreed to enter the war against Japan once the war against Germany was over and agreed to one seat in the United Nations.

He got Stalin to agree to free elections in eastern Europe. However, since Soviet troops occupied those countries there was little the United States could do to insure free elections.

Directions

How the U.S. was to deal with the Soviet Union after World War II was one of the key issues of the 1940's. Two points of view of this issue are offered.

Should the U.S. view the Soviet Union as the new enemy? Decide which view you agree with the most. Tell why.

Background: Relations with the Soviet Union

The Soviet Union was our ally during World War II. Once the war was over hostile relations developed. The U.S. came out of the war the richest and most powerful country in the world. The U.S. demobilized its armed forces immediately after the war. The U.S. was the only country with the A-Bomb. The Russians kept their armed forces after the war.

The Cold War developed between Russia and the United States. The U.S. viewed the Russians as attempting to expand communism.

Con

The Soviet Union was devastated by World War II. It had lost 30 million people in the war. After the war it wanted revenge against its traditional enemy, Germany. It also wanted protection. Twice in the last 30 years it had been invaded by Germany.

The Soviet Union took control of the countries on its western frontier. It also insisted on dividing Germany and eliminating any potential power to start another world war. The Soviet Union did this for self-protection.

The Soviet Union was not interested in expanding communism after the war. It actually cut off aid to Greek communists who were fighting to overthrow the Greek government. There were large communist parties in Italy and France who could, with Russian help, have overthrown their governments. The Soviet Union did provide the help.

The Soviet Union did not provide military aid to the Chinese communists. The Chinese communists obtained most of their military equipment from the nationalists who were well supplied by the United States. They primarily used captured military equipment.

The Soviet Union was primarily interested in rebuilding its country after World War II. A large part of the country had been destroyed by the war. The Soviet Union was in no position to expand militarily because the United States had the atomic bomb and Russia did not.

Pro

After World War II Russia began to expand its control over eastern Europe. Russia had promised free elections in Poland. Instead, it eliminated the non-communist leaders and installed a communist government. In Czechoslovakia communists killed the democratically elected leader and took control.

Russia helped Greek communists in an attempt to take control of the Greek government. Russia also made a move to extend its control into Iran. President Truman threatened the Russians with war if they did not withdraw from Iran. They withdrew. The U.S. provided \$240 million of military aid to the Greek government to defeat the communists.

In 1948 the Russians attempted to take control of Berlin, the German capital. Germany had been divided in two at the end of the war. The western part was controlled by the Allies and the eastern part by the Soviet Union. Berlin, in the eastern part, was also divided in two. The Russians tried to force the Allies (U.S., France, Great Britain) out of West Berlin by preventing supplies shipped over highways and railroads from reaching it. The Berlin Blockade was overcome by an airlift that supplied food and fuel. The Russians ended the blockade in 1949.

In China the communists overthrew the government in 1949 and the country with the largest population in the world came under communist control.

Directions

How the U.S. was to deal with converting to a peacetime economy was one of the key issues of the 1940's. Two points of view of this issue are offered.

Should the U.S. continue to regulate prices and wages after the war? Decide which view you agree with the most. Tell why.

Background: Inflation and Unemployment

Most of the U.S.'s resources during the war went to the military. The people at home worked hard at producing products for the war but could not spend their paychecks. They saved their money. There were very few consumer goods produced. In 1944, for example, U.S. industry built 95,000 airplanes and only 70,000 passenger cars. Five years before it built 3.7 million cars and 6,000 planes. Average wages almost doubled during the war, but people had nothing to spend their money on. People had saved a total of \$136.4 billion.

After the war, people wanted to spend their money. Businesses were still converting from producing wartime goods to peacetime goods. Demand was greater than supply. Prices began to rise. Businesses wanted to make as much money as they could.

During the war price and wage controls were in effect. The government limited the amount that could be charged for a particular item. An Office of Price Administration (OPA) was created to keep prices down. The OPA was to end at the close of 1945.

Unemployment was another problem. At the end of the war in August 1945, there were over 12 million Americans still in uniform. Employment was at an all-time high of 53 million. Large manufacturers would need time to convert from wartime production to peacetime production.

Businesses wanted to end price controls and labor unions wanted to end controls on wages. During the war labor unions promised not to strike. Once the war was over they wanted higher wages and began to strike.

In September 1945 President Truman received the Snyder report outlining the economic problems after the war. The Snyder report recommended that price and wage controls be gradually relaxed over an 18 month period. President Truman called for Congress to extend the OPA for one year.

Pro

Without controls and planning there could be a dramatic increase in prices which would mean that people could not afford even some basic necessities such as food.

Without planning it was estimated that as many as 8 million would be unemployed as soldiers were released from the military.

Con

Price and wage controls are socialistic. It is the government telling private citizens how much money they can make.

The "free market" is a better system. Letting businesses decide how much to charge for products, and labor ask for as much as it can get is a much fairer way of deciding on prices and wages.

Directions

World War II interrupted the New Deal of Franklin Roosevelt. The war cured the problems of unemployment but the U.S. faced the same problems of unemployment and poverty and racial injustice after the war. President Truman developed his own program to deal with these problems.

What portions of the Fair Deal do you think should be enacted? Tell why.

The Fair Deal**National Health Insurance**

- Prepaid medical care available to all citizens at little or no cost.

Social Security

- Extend Social Security to 3 million people not covered.
- Improve Social Security benefits.

Housing

- Low interest federal loans to construct 1 million new houses over six years.
- Rent supplements to low income people.
- Finance slum clearance projects in cities.

Labor

- Repeal the Taft-Hartley Act which restricted the power of labor unions.
- Increase the minimum wage from 40 cents to 75 cents.

Civil Rights

- Creation of a permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission to end racial discrimination in employment.
- End segregation in schools and public places such as theaters, hotels and restaurants.
- Creation of a Civil Rights Commission to keep track of progress in eliminating segregation.
- Create a Civil Rights division in the Department of Justice to enforce civil rights laws.

TVA and Conservation

- Extension of the TVA to other major river basins in the country. The TVA provided transportation and fertilizer to improve farming and produced cheap electric power. The TVA was publicly owned.

Farm Price Supports

- Change the farm price support system so that small farmers would get more money.

Supply of basic commodities

- Government construction of steel mills to eliminate the shortage of steel.

Education

- Provide federal aid to low income states to improve public schools.

Economic Regulation

- Creation of wage, credit and price controls to combat inflation.

Taxes

- Increase taxes on corporations.

Directions

How the U.S. was to deal with the Soviet Union after World War II was one of the key issues of the 1940's. Two points of view of this issue are offered.

Should the U.S. take harsh measures to eliminate subversives within the U.S.? Decide which view you agree with the most. Tell why.

Background: Internal Subversion

With the development of hostile relations with the Soviet Union and the news that the Soviet Union had the A-Bomb, the United States became worried about internal subversion. The government discovered that a Soviet spy ring had helped pass atomic bomb secrets to the Russians. Two of the spies, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, were executed for treason.

A former State Department employee, Alger Hiss, was accused of being a communist and spy. He denied the charges and was convicted of perjury and sentenced to prison.

The U.S. was worried that there were communist agents in the United States attempting to undermine our government and help the Soviet Union.

The Republicans attacked the Democrats and President Truman as being "soft on communism." The Truman administration responded by creating in 1947 a permanent Federal Employee Loyalty Program.

The program called for the FBI to make a check on each of the two million people on the federal payroll and on the 500,000 who applied for federal employment each year. If any "derogatory" information was found on anyone a full investigation of the person's life was conducted.

By the end of 1952 over 4,750,000 people had had their loyalty checked. 26,236 were given full investigations and 560 were dismissed or denied employment for disloyalty to the government.

One person who was accused of disloyalty and was dismissed from the government claimed that she was accused unfairly. She appealed her dismissal to the United States Supreme Court. The Court on a four to four vote upheld her dismissal.

Pro

The U.S. government took the correct action to protect the country from Soviet spies attempting to infiltrate the government.

A Soviet spy ring passed U.S. atomic secrets on to the Soviets enabling Russia to build an atomic bomb much faster than it could have on its own. If there was one Soviet spy ring there also might be others.

Con

The Loyalty program had no protections against unfair accusations. Those accused were never allowed to confront their accusers. They were in effect denied the protections of the Constitution.

Out of millions of people investigated only 560 were dismissed and of this group no one was charged with being a spy, and, undoubtedly, some of the 560 who were fired were wrongly accused.

Directions

Many African Americans fought for democracy in World War II. After the war they returned home to a society that denied them equal rights.

Should the U.S. government take an active role in promoting equal rights for blacks? Below are two approaches to the problem. Which would you favor and why? Decide which view you agree with the most. Tell why.

Background: Race Relations

The chief issue during World War II was the democratic nations fighting the racist, totalitarian dictatorships. African Americans fought as well as whites. However, they fought in segregated units. Many blacks fighting for democracy were denied the right to vote at home and were forced to use inferior, segregated facilities, which had been the custom since the Civil War. The Supreme Court approved segregation in the 1890's. After World War II, the government had to answer the question: should African Americans be given more freedom?

The South was a particular problem. Blacks had always been segregated since the Civil War. They went to separate schools, used separate restaurant and hotel facilities. They were denied access to public parks and swimming pools. Most importantly, they were denied the vote. In the North, African Americans could vote but were segregated by housing. They were forced to live in certain areas of town and thus were segregated.

President Roosevelt improved the position of African Americans. He gradually moved to end segregation in the U.S. military and ended segregation in U.S. government offices.

The Democrats were in a difficult position. A large part of their political strength was in the South. They depended upon the votes of white segregationists to win office.

Pro

The Democrats should be aggressive in obtaining equal rights for African Americans. All forms of segregation and discrimination should be eliminated.

Southern Democrats elected to Congress are elected because blacks are denied the right to vote. If blacks had the right to vote, Congressmen who were not prejudiced against blacks would be elected.

Con

It is impractical to pursue equal rights for blacks. If the Democrats were not elected to Congress and the Presidency, there would be no legislation passed that would benefit the poor and average person, including blacks.

The Republicans, if they were elected, would do nothing to help the poor.

A gradual approach is necessary because of the prejudice of the South.

Directions

Education had always been viewed a responsibility of the states, not the Federal government. In 1944 the U.S. Congress passed the G.I. Bill. The bill paid veterans for attending school. The motive in part was to keep vets out of the labor market when the war ended. People feared massive unemployment with millions of soldiers returning home. Also the bill was a way of rewarding the veterans for the sacrifices they made during the war.

Using the information below, write a news story about the event. Use the inverted pyramid approach putting the important information first and the least important last. If you quote someone use quotation marks and identify the source. The events described below are fictional but typical of the time.

Interview with Joe Collins, Navy veteran

Interviewer: What do you think of college?

Collins: It's a little hard. I graduated from high school back in 1942. After being in the Navy for three years, I've forgotten how hard school work is, but it is a whole lot better than being shot at.

Interviewer: Where were you during the war?

Collins: I was a seaman on a destroyer in the Pacific. We were in on the landings at Iwo Jima, Saipan and Tinian.

Interviewer: What's your major?

Collins: Engineering. I was always pretty good at math.

Interviewer: Are you married?

Collins: Yes, and have a six month old child.

Interviewer: Do you find that your G.I. Bill covers your expenses?

Collins: Barely, but it's enough to get by. I'll graduate in two years and then I'll be making good money.

Interviewer: What about housing?

Collins: Well, that's pretty tough for everybody. There are so many veterans here it is hard to find housing. We're lucky, though. The University has gotten some barracks that the military used in the war. We have a place there. It's cramped and inconvenient but it's cheap.

Interviewer: You're content with the G.I. Bill program?

Collins: It's great. I would have never had a chance to go to college if it hadn't been for this. My family didn't have much money. I figured after the war I would be working with my dad in the General Motors factory. I never imagined I would have a chance to go to college.

Interview with Chip Logan, a young college student

Interviewer: What do you think about all the veterans on campus?

Logan: It's a mess.

Interviewer: What do you mean?

Logan: The classes are overcrowded. I mean in some of them you have to stand. There aren't enough professors or desks.

Interviewer: Are the vets good students?

Logan: They're taking all the fun out of college. All these guys do is study. You have to work harder to keep up with them.

Interviewer: You missed the war?

Logan: I didn't graduate from high school until 1945.

Interview with C. Robert Jones, college administrator

Interviewer: How has the college handled the arrival of the veterans?

Jones: As best as we can. Our enrollment has doubled.

Interviewer: Do you think the GI Bill is a good idea?

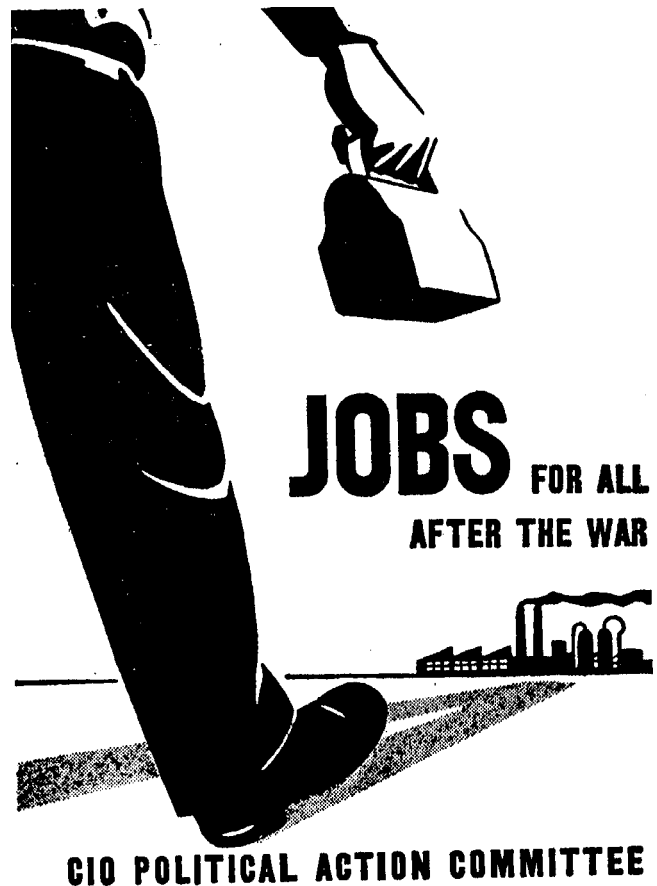
Jones: Probably the best idea our government ever had. It's really going to help out the country.

Interviewer: You mean by keeping the veterans out of the labor market?

Jones: No. I mean we are going to have millions of highly educated people that will help out business and industry. With engineers and managers, business will really grow.

Interviewer: I thought the purpose of the GI Bill was to keep the vets out of the labor market until we convert to a peacetime economy.

Jones: Well, that might have been a motive, but, just think about it. All these guys, 12 million of them, are coming back and starting families. The population will jump, and five years from now we'll need lots school teachers, doctors and everything else.





Directions

Write a telegram containing no more than 20 words reporting the events below. You do not have to write complete sentences. Imagine you are a reporter on the scene and you have to send a telegram to your paper reporting the news story and you only have enough money for 10 words.

Draft

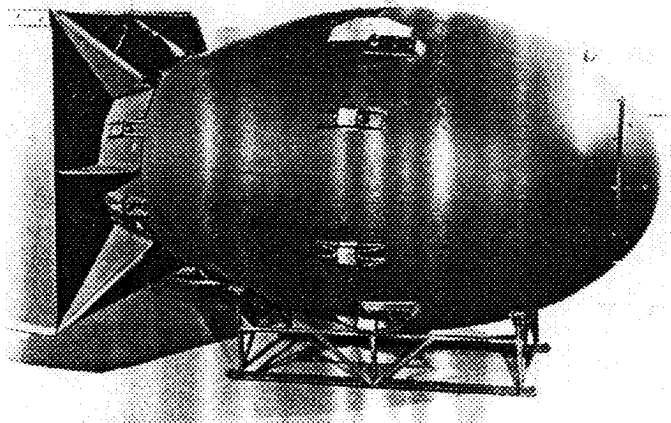
On October 16, 1940, it was announced that all men between the ages of 21 and 36 must register for selective service. Failing to do so could result in a sentence of five years in jail and a \$10,000 fine. 16,316,908 registered in one day. Only 900,000 could be drafted in one year, and the term of service was to be one year.

Spies

In June, 1941, The FBI arrested 33 members of a Nazi spy ring. Most lived in and around New York City. They were charged with violating both the espionage and Foreign Agents Registration acts. 19 pleaded guilty on arraignment. All were jailed under \$25,000 bond each.

United Nations

Forty six nations met in San Francisco on April 25, 1945, to write the charter for the United Nations. They met in the Opera House. There were 300 delegates. The first meeting was opened at 4:30 p.m. by U.S. Secretary of State Edward Stettinius.



Atomic Bomb

An atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima at 9:15 A.M. Monday, April 6, 1945. The bomb was the equivalent of 20,000 tons of TNT. Hiroshima had a population of 265,000. The bomb was dropped by a B-29 named the Enola Gay. The plane flew from the island of Tinian, 1,500 miles from Japan. 78,150 people were killed instantly.

Directions

Below is a series of statements about the 1940's. There are four types of statements. 1. True facts which are well-documented. 2. Arguable facts which are not well-documented but can be proven true or false with further research. 3. Purely opinion which are statements judging the facts. 4. Mixed fact and opinion in which the facts are interpreted with a person's opinion. Decide which statements are factual and which are opinions. Mark an F for truly factual statements, AF for an arguable fact, O for opinion and FO for statements that contain an interpreted fact.

1. ____ Truman would never have been president if he had to be elected.
2. ____ Truman was a liberal.
3. ____ Truman proposed legislation that went far beyond anything that Franklin Roosevelt ever wanted.
4. ____ Truman wanted national health insurance.
5. ____ Truman was "soft" on communism.
6. ____ Truman was "soft" on communism because he allowed the communists to take over China.
7. ____ Truman refused to provide more military aid to the Chinese fighting communism because they refused to make democratic reforms.
8. ____ Truman was willing to take unpopular stands.
9. ____ Truman was willing to take unpopular stands such as his stand on civil rights.
10. ____ No one gave Truman a chance to win the election of 1948.
11. ____ Truman was a Democrat.
12. ____ The Congress of 1946 was anti-labor.
13. ____ The Congress of 1946 was a do-nothing Congress.
14. ____ Truman called the Congress of 1946 a "do-nothing" Congress.
15. ____ The Congress of 1946 passed the Taft Hartley law which was anti-labor.
16. ____ Truman wanted to increase federal control over the economy.
17. ____ Truman advocated socialist ideas.
18. ____ Truman did nothing to get communists out of the government.
19. ____ Truman won the election of 1948 by campaigning harder than his opponent.
20. ____ A larger percentage of workers was out on strike in 1946 than at any other time in history.
21. ____ Truman dropped the Atomic Bomb on Japan because he hated Japanese.
22. ____ Truman rebuilt Europe because he liked France and Britain.
23. ____ The Marshall Plan which helped rebuild Europe stopped the communists from taking over.
24. ____ The U.S. could have won the Korean War if it hadn't been for Truman stopping MacArthur from bombing China.
25. ____ Alger Hiss was a communist.

Directions

Below is a series of statements. Select the statement that you think is most precise in each group.

Group 1

- A. Truman had problems after World War II ended.
- B. Many soldiers were getting out of the military.
- C. Business worried about unemployment.
- D. There were 12 million in the military who would enter the job market.

Group 2

- A. Truman wanted to stop the expansion of communism.
- B. Truman did not like communism.
- C. Truman created NATO to defend Europe against possible communist attack.
- D. Truman created a policy to fight communism.

Group 3

- A. Truman tried to help African Americans.
- B. Southern Democrats were unhappy with Truman because he was too liberal.
- C. Truman proposed a Civil Rights Commission to end racial injustice.
- D. African Americans were treated unfairly.

Directions

From the statements below select the most general statement .

Group 1

- A. Truman ordered U.S. troops to Korea.
- B. Truman was willing to use military force to fight communism.
- C. Truman ordered U.S. troops to Korea to fight a communist invasion.
- D. The Korean War started in June, 1950.

Directions

Write a general statement that is supported by all of the facts in each group.

Group 1

- A. Truman proposed a Fair Employment Practices Commission.
- B. Truman ended segregation in the U.S. military.
- C. Truman created a Civil Rights Commission.
- D. Truman was opposed to racial discrimination.

Group 2

- A. Truman wanted to continue wage and price controls after World War II.
- B. Prices began to rise because of a shortage of consumer goods and the savings people made during the war.
- C. Republicans were opposed to wage and price controls.
- D. Labor unions wanted higher wages to keep up with rising prices.

Group 3

- A. North Korean communists invaded South Korea in 1950.
- B. Chinese communists took over China in 1949.
- C. Communists blockaded Berlin in 1948.
- D. Communists lost in Greece in 1947.

Directions

Emotional words are used to influence how people think about events. They are also used to distort reality. Select the emotional word in each of the statements below.

1. Harry Truman was tough.
2. Selfish people in Congress and business opposed Harry Truman.
3. Truman lost China to the communists.
4. Truman was a great president in difficult times.
5. The liberal Truman administration harbored communists sympathizers.