

THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT: 1950S AMERICA

1 Watch the video and read the article about the USA in the 1950s to fill in the timeline.




Discover what it was like to live in America in the 1950s.



Focus on parts 1 (The Post War Booms), 3 (The Civil Rights Movement), 4 (The Cold War) and 5 (1950s Pop Culture).


1946 Baby boom:

1945-1960 Golden Age of American Capitalism:

 **1945-1952** The Red Scare:


1949 First atomic bomb tested by the USSR in Kazakhstan.

1950-1953 Korean War: Cold War conflict between Communist and non-Communist forces.

 **by 1950**

1952 First hydrogen bomb detonated by the USA in the Marshall Islands.

1954-1975 Vietnam War: conflict between Communist forces of North Vietnam (China + USSR) and Communist forces of South Vietnam (USA).

 **1954** Brown v. Board of Education:

1955

1956 Southern Manifesto:

1957 Little Rock Crisis: federal troops sent by President Eisenhower to Central High School in Little Rock (Arkansas) to enforce integration of black students.

1957-1958 Space race: first satellites sent into orbit first by the USSR then the USA.

2 Read the text and find out how *12 Angry Men* sheds light on the main events of the 1950s.

12 Angry Men: A Portrait of the 1950s

Because [*12 Angry Men*] was released in the decade when the Civil Rights Movement was born, it becomes all the more important in portraying racial prejudices in white America. This movie was also released after the pandemonium of McCarthyism had reached its height and shows that the true threat to America's democracy is its very own citizens. Therefore, this film is also a warning to American citizens not to evade their responsibilities or it may threaten the very foundation of our democracy.

andthatsthe way it was in american history.blogspot.com, 2013

GOING FURTHER

You can find more details about the USA in the 1950s in this online video.

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