Life in the US After WWII

- There was concern after the war: how would the economy handle 12 million military veterans entering the workforce, and how would factories deal with less orders.
- **GI Bill**: Gave returning soldiers *money* to go to *college* or loans to buy a *house*, *farm*, or *business*. It also helped find them *jobs* and give them *unemployment for a year* until they found a job.
- Unlike WWI, soldiers of WWII were *helped* after the war.

Demand saves the economy

- People who delayed purchased during the war now began to buy
- Returning soldiers built houses and bought furniture and appliances
- *“The Baby Boom”*: For two decades after the war there was a marked increase in the birth rate.
- These families demanded products and larger cars.
- Therefore the economy made a *smooth transformation* after the war producing products for families.
Minorities after WWII

- President Truman issued Executive Order 9981 which ended segregation in the armed forces.
- This would pave the way for future gains.
- Felix Longoria was refused burial in Texas, but later was offered burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Essential Questions

1. What was a great fear after WWII?
2. How did the GI Bill help returning soldiers?
3. What was the “Baby Boom”? How did that help the economy?
4. What was Executive Order 9981?

Politics in Postwar US

- After the war there was inflation.
- Truman took the blame
- The Republicans won both houses in the Congressional elections of 1946.
- Truman seemed doomed in the election of 1948
- But Truman set off on a speech tour and surprisingly pulled out the victory
- He put forth the “Fair Deal” as his plan
Essential Questions
1. Why did Truman become so unpopular after the war?
2. Who won the midterm elections in 1946?
3. Who won the Presidential elections of 1948? Why was it a surprise?

Trying to build a better World

• The UN: Main goal was to end war.
• Members agreed to respect all treaties and agreements, and promote progress and freedom of all people.
• The UN established a Commission on Human Rights headed by Eleanor Roosevelt.
• They created the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: This declared all people are born free and equal, and called for an end to slavery, torture and inhumane treatment.

Trade and Economics

• World Bank: was aimed at helping poor countries build their economies
• (IMF) International Monetary Fund: was designed to promote International trade and build confidence in the value of international currencies.
• (GATT) General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade: Made to promote economic trade and reduce barriers to trade.
• GATT’s goal was to end tariffs and start free trade around the world.
**Essential Questions**

1. What was the goal of the UN?
2. Why was the Commission of Human Rights set up? Who headed it?
3. What was the World Bank and International Monetary Fund meant to do?