

## Life in the USA: 1945-1960

What were the major concerns of Americans between 1945- 1960?

### Summary: The situation in 1945

#### America's status

*Why was the USA considered to be 'superpower' following the Second World War?*

#### Concerns?

*What were the major concerns of Americans in the post war years?*

### Post war economic boom

#### Economic situation

*Why was the economy in such a strong position? What businesses were benefitting?*

## **Consumer spending**

*How and why did the baby boom lead to an increase in consumer spending?*

*-Housing market*

*-Car sales*

*-Growth of other industries*

## Changes in America

### How did consumerism change America?

*What did the society look like? E.g. shopping malls, television, religion*

*- Criticisms: Suburbia*

*- Criticisms: The 'yes-man'*

*-Criticisms: The suburban housewife*

## Life for American Americans

### How was discrimination being challenged in America?

- *Role of the NAACP*

- *Role of the Supreme Court*

- *Role of the President Truman*

- *Role of the Montgomery bus boycott*

### How far had the situation changed by 1960?

## Domestic response to the Cold War

### Arms Race

*What was the impact of Cold War nuclear weapons on US domestic policy*

### Red Scare

*What was the Red Scare and how did it develop?*

- *Exposing spies*

- *Alger Hiss*

- *Legislation and the formation of HUAC*

### McCarthyism

*What was Senator McCarthy's role in fuelling the Red Scare? How was he discredited?*

**Summary: Society by 1960**

**What were the major concerns and interests of Americans at this time?**