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The Eisenhower Era

1952–1960

Every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies . . . a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.

Dwight D. Eisenhower, April 16, 1953
# 1: In what ways was the Eisenhower era a time of caution and conservatism, and in what ways was it a time of dynamic economic, social, and cultural change?

- The Advent of Eisenhower
- “Ike” Takes Command
- The Rise and Fall of Joseph McCarthy
- Eisenhower Republicanism at Home *
#2: American blacks had suffered and often protested segregation and discrimination since the end of Reconstruction, but without result. Why did the civil rights movement finally began to gain public attention and influence in the 1950s?

- Desegregating the South
- Seeds of the Civil Rights Revolution
- Crisis at Little Rock *
#3: How did Eisenhower balance assertiveness and restraint in his foreign policies in Vietnam, Europe, and the Middle East?

- A New Look in Foreign Policy
- The Vietnam Nightmare
- A False Lull in Europe
- Menaces in the Middle East *
#4: What were the dynamics of the Cold War with the Soviet Union in the 1950s, and how did Eisenhower and Khrushchev combine confrontation and conversation in their relationship?

• The Race with the Soviets into Space
• The Continuing Cold War
• Cuba’s Castroism Spells Communism *
#5: How did America’s far-flung international responsibilities shape the U.S. economy and society in the Eisenhower era? Was the American way of life fundamentally altered by the nation’s new superpower status, or did it remain largely sheltered from world affairs? *
#6: How did the age affect American politics, economics, society, and culture in the 1950s?

- Kennedy Challenges Nixon for the Presidency
- The Presidential Issues of 1960
- An Old General Fades Away
- Changing Economic Patterns
- Consumer Culture in the Fifties
- Life of the Mind in Postwar America *
• The Helicopter Era, 1957
• President Eisenhower was routinely criticized by liberals, as in this Herblock cartoon in the *Washington Post*, for his apparent indifference to many seething social problems of the day. His failure to employ his vast prestige on behalf of civil rights was especially conspicuous.
1960

Candidate (Party) | Electoral Vote | Popular Vote
------------------|---------------|---------------------
Kennedy (Democrat) | 303 | 34,266,731 | 49.7%
Nixon (Republican) | 219 | 34,108,157 | 49.5%
Byrd (Independent) | 15 | 501,643 | 0.7%
• **A Gaggle of Beats**

• From left to right, Bob Donlin, Neal Cassady, Allen Ginsberg, Robert LaVinge, and Lawrence Ferlinghetti stand outside Ferlinghetti’s famed City Lights Bookstore in San Francisco, California, 1956.