

TOPIC 53**COMPARING NATIVE AMERICANS AND
NORTH AMERICAN COLONISTS****1. SIMILARITIES**

- Both lived in village communities
- Both had strong spiritual beliefs
- Both practiced a division of labor based upon gender
- Both had economies based predominately upon agriculture

2. DIFFERENCES

- Native Americans believed that land could be used but not privately owned. In contrast, the North American colonists believed that land could be divided and owned by private individuals.
- Native Americans did not possess advanced weapons. In contrast, the North American colonists were equipped with guns, cannons, warships, and horses.
- Native Americans often lived in matrilineal societies in which property passed through the maternal line on the death of the mother. For example, the Iroquois had a matrilineal system in which women held property and hereditary leadership passed through their line. In contrast, the North American colonists lived in strict patrilineal societies in which property and hereditary leadership passed through the paternal line.

TOPIC 54**COMPARING VIRGINIA AND
MASSACHUSETTS****1. VIRGINIA**

- Founded by a joint-stock company to make a profit
- Settled by males who experienced a high mortality rate
- Developed an agricultural economy based upon tobacco as a cash crop
- Utilized a labor system based upon indentured servants from England and then slaves from Africa

- Lived on widely dispersed plantations and small farms
- Founded as England's first royal colony
- Dominated by an elite group of tidewater gentry

2. MASSACHUSETTS

- Founded by Pilgrims and Puritans seeking religious freedom
- Settled by families who experienced a high birth rate and a high average age
- Developed a diversified economy based upon shipbuilding, fishing, and a leading role in the triangular trade.
- Utilized a labor system based upon independent farmers, craftsmen, and merchants
- Lived in tightly knit communities centered around a meeting house
- Forced to become a royal colony in 1691
- Dominated by an elite group of Puritan ministers and wealthy merchants

TOPIC 55

COMPARING NEW SPAIN AND NEW FRANCE

1. NEW SPAIN

- Explored by sea captains looking for a short route to Asia
- Conquered by conquistadores who toppled the centralized Aztec and Inca empires
- Included the Spanish Southwest, Mexico, Central America, and Peru
- Exploited by royal officials who mined Mexican and Peruvian gold and silver and shipped the mineral wealth to Spain
- Dominated by Spanish officials and priests who Christianized the native peoples and forced them to live and work on encomiendas
- Imposed Spanish culture, language, and religion on a mixed Indian and Spanish population

2. NEW FRANCE

- Explored by sea captains looking for a northwest passage to Asia
- Settled by traders and trappers who developed a lucrative fur trade with the Indian tribes
- Included Canada, the entire Mississippi River Valley, and Louisiana
- Christianized by Jesuit priests who did not require Native American converts to move to missions
- Populated primarily by male trappers who lived and worked in widely scattered trading posts
- Characterized by generally cooperative relations with the Native American tribes

TOPIC 56

COMPARING THE FEDERALISTS AND THE ANTI-FEDERALISTS

1. THE ANTI-FEDERALISTS

- Included small farmers, shopkeepers, and laborers
- Favored strong state governments and a weak national government
- Called for a Bill of Rights to protect individual liberties

2. THE FEDERALISTS

- Included large landowners, wealthy merchants, and professionals
- Favored a strong central government and weak state governments
- Promised to add a Bill of Rights specifically protecting individual liberties

TOPIC 57

COMPARING BACON'S REBELLION AND SHAYS' REBELLION

1. BACON'S REBELLION, 1676

- Sparked by the anger of land-hungry former indentured servants who opposed Governor Berkeley's arbitrary rule and policies that protected Indian tribes and favored wealthy tidewater planters
- Exposed tensions in Virginia between poor former indentured servants and the wealthy and entrenched tidewater gentry
- Convinced planters to replace troublesome indentured servants with slaves imported from Africa

2. SHAYS' REBELLION, 1787

- Sparked by the anger of frustrated Massachusetts farmers who were losing their property because they could not repay their debts to Boston creditors in hard currency
- Exposed tensions in Massachusetts between struggling farmers and the wealthy bankers and merchants who dominated the Massachusetts legislature
- Convinced George Washington, James Madison, and other leaders that the United States needed a stronger national government to protect property owners and creditors

TOPIC 121

COMPARING DEISM AND TRANSCENDENTALISM

1. DEISM

- Deism was a part of an 18th century European intellectual movement known as the Enlightenment.
- Deists thought of God as a cosmic watchmaker who created the universe and then let it operate according to unchanging natural laws.
- Deists believed that natural laws regulate both the universe and human society. These natural laws could be discovered by human reason. The discovery of laws of economics and government would improve society and make progress inevitable.
- Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin were the best known American Deists.

2. TRANSCENDENTALISM

- Transcendentalism was an American philosophical and literary movement that developed in the 1830s and 1840s in New England.
- Transcendentalists rejected Deism's reliance upon reason and its lack of emotion. Transcendentalists emphasized the use of human intuition to discover spiritual truths. They advocated living a simple life and celebrating personal emotion and imagination.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Margaret Fuller were the leading Transcendentalist writers.
- Transcendentalists shared many similarities with Romantic artists and writers. For example, Hudson River School artists celebrated America's natural beauty while Romantic writers such as Walt Whitman rejected reason and discovered insight from their own feelings.

TOPIC 122

COMPARING THE FIRST GREAT AWAKENING AND THE SECOND GREAT AWAKENING

1. THE FIRST GREAT AWAKENING

- A wave of religious revivals that began in New England in the mid-1730s and then swept across all of the colonies during the 1740s.
- "New Light" ministers advocated an emotional approach to religious practice that undermined the authority of traditional "Old Light" ministers.
- Leading New Light ministers such as Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield delivered emotional sermons warning sinners to repent.
- This new emotional approach fragmented American Protestants, thus creating religious pluralism and toleration since no single denomination could impose its will on the other sects.
- As the movement spread across the colonies, more and more women became active in their churches.

2. THE SECOND GREAT AWAKENING

- A wave of religious revivals that began on the western frontier in the early 1800s and then quickly spread to the more densely populated East coast.
- Leading Second Great Awakening preachers such as Charles Finney delivered inspiring sermons that advocated spiritual rebirth, individual self-improvement, and perfectionism.
- The emphasis upon individual self-improvement sparked a variety of movements to reform American society.
- The close link between religion and reform awakened America to the evils of slavery.
- Middle class women played an especially important role in the reform movements engendered (generated) by the Second Great Awakening.

TOPIC 123**COMPARING THE WHIGS AND THE DEMOCRATS****1. THE WHIGS**

- The Whigs supported a strong federal government, a loose construction of the Constitution, the Second National Bank, Clay's American System, and social reform.
- The Whigs opposed Andrew Jackson, the spoils system, Indian removal, and the Mexican War.
- Henry Clay and Daniel Webster were the party's most prominent leaders.
- Supporters included small businessmen, professionals, manufacturers, and some Southern planters.
- The Whigs dissolved in the early 1850s because of sectional differences over the expansion of slavery into the western territories. The passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act led to the party's final demise.

2. THE DEMOCRATS

- The Democrats supported states' rights, a strict construction of the Constitution, Indian removal, and western expansion.
- The Democrats opposed the Second National Bank and Clay's American System.
- Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren were the party's most prominent leaders.
- Supporters included Irish immigrants, poor farmers in the North and Midwest, small planters in the South, skilled and unskilled workers in cities and towns, and the "common man."
- The Democrats split into Northern and Southern factions in the election of 1860. The Democrats nonetheless emerged from the Civil War as a national party with a strong base in the "Solid South."

TOPIC 124**COMPARING TERRITORIAL EXPANSION
UNDER JEFFERSON AND POLK****1. TERRITORIAL EXPANSION
UNDER JEFFERSON**

- Jefferson advocated a strict interpretation of the Constitution. However, he proved to be a flexible and pragmatic president.
- Jefferson agreed to the Louisiana Purchase in order to eliminate the French threat to the port of New Orleans and to fulfill his vision of enabling America to become an agrarian republic that would become an Empire of Liberty.
- The Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the United States.
- The lands acquired in the Louisiana Purchase soon sparked a sectional dispute over the spread of slavery into the new western territories.

2. TERRITORIAL EXPANSION UNDER POLK

- Polk was an ardent expansionist who supported America's manifest destiny to extend its civilization across the continent. Manifest destiny can thus be seen as an extension of Jefferson's idea of an Empire of Liberty.
- Polk ran for president on a platform demanding the annexation of Texas and the right to acquire all of Oregon.
- Despite his campaign slogan "Fifty-four forty or fight," Polk agreed to a compromise settlement with Britain that divided Oregon at the 49th parallel.
- While Polk avoided conflict with Great Britain, he deliberately provoked a war with Mexico. The United States won the Mexican War. Under the terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo the US acquired more than 500,000 square miles of territory including Texas, New Mexico, and California.
- The lands acquired from Mexico soon sparked an increasingly bitter sectional dispute over the spread of slavery into the western territories.

TOPIC 125**COMPARING THE MISSOURI
COMPROMISE AND THE COMPROMISE
OF 1850****1. THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE**

- In 1819, the North controlled a solid majority in the House of Representatives. However, the Senate was evenly divided between 11 free states and 11 slave states.
- In 1819, the territory of Missouri applied for statehood as a slave state. The issue of extending slavery into the new territories ignited a passionate sectional debate.
- House Speaker Henry Clay promoted a compromise that settled the dispute by admitting Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state. In addition, the Missouri Compromise prohibited slavery in the remaining portions of the Louisiana Territory north of latitude 36°30'.
- The Missouri Compromise temporarily defused the political crisis over slavery. It is important to note that the North initially perceived slavery as a political and economic threat and not as a moral issue.

2. THE COMPROMISE OF 1850

- In 1850, the North continued to control an overwhelming majority in the House of Representatives. However, the Senate remained evenly balanced with 15 free states and 15 slave states.
- In 1850, the territory of California applied for statehood as a free state. The issue of extending slavery into the western territories ignited a dramatic Senate debate.
- Senators Henry Clay and Stephen Douglas promoted a compromise that finally settled the dispute by admitting California as a free state, allowing for popular sovereignty in Utah and New Mexico, abolishing the domestic slave trade in Washington, D.C. and enacting a stringent Fugitive Slave Act.
- The Compromise of 1850 briefly defused the political crisis over slavery. It is important to note that for the first time the North began to perceive slavery as both an economic and a moral threat to free labor.

TOPIC 168**COMPARING BOOKER T. WASHINGTON
AND W.E.B. DU BOIS****1. BOOKER T. WASHINGTON**

- Believed that white racism was a consequence of slavery.
- Advocated black economic self-help. Washington called upon African Americans to master trades. He believed that economic progress would earn white respect and gradually end racism.
- Supported accommodation to white society. In his Atlanta Compromise Speech Washington offered a conciliatory approach that was welcomed by his white audience: "In all things purely social we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress."
- Supported vocational education. Washington helped found Tuskegee Institute in Alabama to provide industrial education for African American students.
- Opposed public political agitation to challenge Jim Crow segregation. Washington recognized that African Americans faced a wall of discrimination that could only be overcome by gradual and patient progress. Washington believed that political rights would follow economic success.

2. W.E.B. DU BOIS

- Believed white racism was the cause of slavery and the primary reason why African Americans were forced into a subordinate position in American society.
- Advocated the intellectual development of a "talented tenth" of the African American population. The talented tenth would become a vanguard of influential leaders who would fight for social change.
- Supported legal action to oppose Jim Crow segregation. Du Bois helped found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The NAACP adopted a strategy of using lawsuits in federal courts to fight Jim Crow segregation.
- Opposed Booker T. Washington's policy of gradualism and accommodation. In *The Souls of Black Folk*, Du Bois called

upon African Americans to "insist continually, in season and out of season, that voting is necessary to modern manhood, that color discrimination is barbarism, and that black boys need education as well as white boys."

- Believed that economic success would only be possible if African Americans first won political rights. Du Bois therefore advocated a strategy of "ceaseless agitation" and litigation to achieve equal rights.

TOPIC 169

COMPARING THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR AND THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

1. THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR

- Founded in 1869 and led by Terrance V. Powderly.
- Attempted to unify all working men and women into a national union under the motto, "An injury to one is the concern of all."
- Experienced a period of rapid growth in the 1880s as membership rolls swelled from 42,000 in 1882 to over 700,000 in 1886.
- Called for an end to trusts, restrictions on child labor, a graduated income tax, an eight-hour day, and equal pay for equal work for both sexes.
- Wanted to eliminate conflict between labor and management. The Knights were idealists who hoped to create a cooperative society in which workers collectively purchased mines, factories, and stores.
- Blamed for the Haymarket Square riot in 1886. Membership plummeted as the Knights were unfairly and erroneously linked with violent anarchists.

2. THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

- Founded in 1886 and led by Samuel Gompers.
- Organized as an alliance of skilled workers in craft unions. The AFL did not welcome unskilled workers, women, or racial minorities.
- Advocated using collective bargaining and, if necessary, strikes to win concrete "bread and butter" goals such

as higher wages, shorter hours, and better working conditions.

- Experienced a period of rapid growth as the AFL replaced the Knights of Labor as America's most powerful labor union. By 1904, the AFL had 1.7 million members and Gompers was recognized as a national spokesperson for American laborers.

TOPIC 170

COMPARING MANIFEST DESTINY AND IMPERIALISM

1. MANIFEST DESTINY

- The phrase "Manifest Destiny" is associated with the territorial expansion of the United States from 1815 to 1860. During this time, the United States expanded to the Pacific Ocean.
- John O'Sullivan coined the term Manifest Destiny in 1845. An influential journalist and proponent of Jacksonian democracy, O'Sullivan believed that the United States had a right to claim the entire Oregon Territory. O'Sullivan argued that America's claim to these lands "is by the right of our Manifest Destiny to overspread and to possess the whole of the continent which Providence has given us for the development of the great experiment of liberty and federated self-government entrusted to us."
- Manifest Destiny assumes that from its earliest beginnings America embarked upon a special experiment in freedom and democracy. The United States thus had a divinely sanctioned mission to spread its democratic institutions across the continent.
- President Polk and other leaders used Manifest Destiny to justify the annexation of Texas and the Mexican War.
- Whigs criticized Manifest Destiny as an excuse for justifying the war with Mexico. New England abolitionists forcefully argued that the slogan "extending the area of freedom" really meant extending the institution of slavery.

2. IMPERIALISM

- Between 1865 and 1897 America was a continental republic focused on Reconstruction, industrial development, and settling the West.
- Imperialism is the policy of extending a nation's power through military conquest, economic domination, or annexation. Imperialism gained support in the United States in the late 1890s.
- Advocates of imperialism argued that the United States had to play a more aggressive role in world affairs. They pointed out that American industry needed new foreign markets and sources of raw materials in order to expand.
- Unlike Manifest Destiny, imperialism included the idea of moral improvement by bringing the blessings of civilization to less technologically advanced peoples. Often called "the White Man's Burden," this idea justified a new national mission to "elevate backward peoples."
- The Anti-Imperialism League opposed the annexation of the Philippines. League members argued that imperialism violated America's long-established commitment to the principles of self-determination and anti-colonialism.
- Like the Whigs before them, the anti-imperialists opposed a policy they felt betrayed America's democratic institutions.

TOPIC 171

COMPARING THE GOSPEL OF WEALTH AND THE SOCIAL GOSPEL

1. THE GOSPEL OF WEALTH

- Promoted by Andrew Carnegie in an essay published in 1889.
- Carnegie believed that great wealth brought great responsibility. He argued that the rich have a duty to serve society by supporting what Carnegie called "ladders upon which the aspiring can rise."
- Over his lifetime, Carnegie donated more than \$350 million to support libraries, schools, peace initiatives, and the arts.

2. THE SOCIAL GOSPEL

- Promoted by Walter Rauschenbusch and Washington Gladden.
- A reform movement based on the belief that Christian principles of love and justice should be applied to the nation's pressing urban problems.
- Supporters of the Social Gospel believed that America's churches had a moral responsibility to take the lead in actively confronting social problems and helping the poor.

TOPIC 172

COMPARING THE POPULISTS AND THE PROGRESSIVES

1. THE POPULISTS

- Populists were predominately angry farmers living in the Midwest and South.
- Populists focused their attention on problems faced by farmers. Militant farmers believed they were being unfairly exploited by discriminatory railroad rates, high protective tariffs, and a deflationary monetary policy based on the gold standard.
- The Populist Party challenged America's traditional two-party system. The party platform called for free coinage of silver, government control of the railroads, and the direct election of United States senators.
- Racism prevented poor white and black farmers from working together to improve their standard of living.
- The defeat of William Jennings Bryan in the 1896 presidential election led to the collapse of the Populist Party and a new period of Republican dominance.

2. THE PROGRESSIVES

- Progressives were predominately well educated middle and upper-middle class reformers living in urban areas.
- Progressives focused on a broad range of problems caused by industrialization, urbanization, and immigration.
- Progressives wanted government to play an active role in solving social problems and improving the quality of American life.

- Progressives supported a wide range of reforms including women's suffrage, temperance, a graduated income tax, and the popular election of United States senators.
- Progressives devoted little attention to the plight of African Americans.
- Progressives challenged America's two-party system by joining Theodore Roosevelt's short-lived Bull Moose Party. The Bull Moose Party split the Republican vote and led to the election of Woodrow Wilson.
- The Progressives achieved many of their goals. The Progressive spirit began to rapidly decline when America entered World War I.

TOPIC 214**COMPARING HOW ANDREW JACKSON AND DWIGHT EISENHOWER RESPONDED TO SUPREME COURT DECISIONS THEY DISAGREED WITH****1. ANDREW JACKSON AND *WORCESTER v. GEORGIA***

- In the late 1820s, Georgia demanded that the federal government eliminate the substantial Indian enclaves within its borders.
- The Cherokee nation posed the greatest obstacle to voluntary relocation. The Cherokee had achieved literacy in their own language, instituted a republican form of government, and made progress toward adopting a settled agrarian way of life.
- Georgia ignored this progress and extended its state laws over the Cherokee. This legislation defied provisions of the Constitution giving the federal government jurisdiction over Indian affairs.
- In *Worcester v. Georgia*, Chief Justice John Marshall denied the right of a state to extend its jurisdiction over tribal lands.
- President Jackson refused to enforce the court order, defiantly declaring, "John Marshall has made his decision; not let him enforce it." Jackson asserted the primacy of states' rights over Indian rights and called for the prompt removal of all eastern Indians to designated areas beyond the Mississippi.
- In 1838, the U.S. Army forcibly removed about 17,000 Cherokees from their ancestral lands and marched them on an 800-mile journey to Indian Territory. About one-fourth of the Cherokee died from disease and exhaustion on what came to be known as the Trail of Tears.

2. DWIGHT EISENHOWER AND *BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION*

- In 1954, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education* that the doctrine of "separate but equal" violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

- One year later, the Supreme Court directed the states to desegregate their public schools "with all deliberate speed." Outraged Southern leaders responded by calling for "massive resistance" to the Court's decision.
- President Eisenhower did not use his enormous personal prestige to morally support the civil rights movement. Ike privately believed that, "You cannot change people's hearts merely by laws."
- The school board in Little Rock, Arkansas adopted a desegregation plan that called for nine black students to integrate Central High School when classes opened on September 3, 1957. A crisis began when a mob of over 1,000 whites blocked the entrance to the school.
- This display of resistance forced President Eisenhower to make a decision. Unlike President Jackson, Ike chose to enforce the Supreme Court's decision. On September 4, 1957, President Eisenhower sent 1,100 paratroopers to Little Rock to protect the nine black students. He explained his action by stating that, "The very basis of our individual rights and freedoms rest upon the certainty that the President and the Executive Branch of Government would support and insure the carrying out of the decisions of the federal courts, even, when necessary, with all the measures at the President's command."

TOPIC 215

COMPARING MARCUS GARVEY AND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

1. MARCUS GARVEY

- Marcus Garvey was one of the earliest and most influential black nationalist leaders in the twentieth century.
- Garvey organized the Universal Negro Improvement Association to increase racial pride and promote black nationalism. Unlike Dr. King, Garvey championed black separatism and Pan-Africanism.
- Garvey stressed black solidarity. He believed that integration and civil rights legislation would not achieve black equality. Instead, he focused on transforming black heritage from a mark of inferiority into the basis of a program of pride. "The world has made being black a

crime. Instead of making it a crime," Garvey proclaimed, "I want to make it a virtue."

- Garvey's message of black nationalism and racial solidarity captured the imagination of black people in America, the Caribbean, and Africa. Within a short time, Garvey was one of the most famous black spokesmen in the world.
- Garvey's fame and influence did not last long. Irregularities in fund-raising for the Black Star Line led to his arrest and conviction for mail fraud. President Coolidge commuted Garvey's sentence and he was deported to his native Jamaica.

2. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

- Dr. King was the most influential black civil rights leader of the twentieth century. Dr. King's goal was the peaceful integration of all races in all areas of American society.
- Dr. King inspired his followers with a message of nonviolent civil disobedience derived from the writings of Henry David Thoreau and the actions of Mahatma Gandhi in India.
- Following the success of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Dr. King founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). Under his leadership, the SCLC sought to apply the principles of nonviolent civil disobedience to other Southern cities.
- Dr. King recognized the importance of building a nationwide alliance or "coalition of conscience" to lobby Congress to pass the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- Dr. King's dream of racial harmony and equality continues to inspire people in American and around the world. Today, Dr. King's birthday is a national holiday and he is the first African American to be honored with a statue in the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

TOPIC 216

COMPARING THE NEW DEAL AND THE GREAT SOCIETY

1. THE NEW DEAL

- The New Deal was a response to the economic crisis caused by the Stock Market Crash and the Great Depression.
- New Deal relief programs provided direct federal assistance to unemployed Americans.

- New Deal recovery programs used deficit spending for public works projects to revive the economy.
- New Deal reform programs attempted to address instability in the stock market and banking system.
- The Social Security Act of 1935 created a federal pension system funded by taxes on a worker's wages and by an equivalent contribution by employers. The aging of the U.S. population is now widely seen as a threat to the long-term viability of the Social Security system.
- New Deal programs helped African Americans survive some of the worst hardships of the Great Depression. The New Deal did not directly confront racial segregation. As a result, there was no major civil rights legislation.
- New Deal programs were partially successful in reducing unemployment and reviving the economy. The United States did not fully emerge from the Great Depression until the massive military expenditures prompted by World War II.
- The New Deal did NOT integrate the armed forces, sponsor the Equal Rights Amendment, nationalize basic industries or provide recognition for migrant workers.

2. THE GREAT SOCIETY

- The Great Society was conceived and enacted during a period of economic prosperity. Like the New Deal, the Great Society used the power of the federal government to promote the social welfare.
- The Great Society launched a War of Poverty. Great Society programs attempted to provide a safety net for the poorest members of American society. Education and job training programs helped disadvantaged people overcome the cycle of poverty limiting their opportunities.
- Medicaid and Medicare programs extended Social Security. These programs established government health insurance coverage for elderly and poor Americans.
- The Great Society included preschool education for disadvantaged children. These programs were NOT an extension of the New Deal.
- The Great Society included landmark civil rights legislation. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 protected the civil liberties and voting rights of African Americans.

- The Great Society was undermined by government spending during the Vietnam War.
- The Great Society did NOT establish the Peace Corps, create Social Security, guarantee employment or place new restrictions on immigration.

TOPIC 217

COMPARING LITERARY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE 1950S AND 1960S

1. LITERARY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE 1920S

- The 1920s were a period of prosperity as mass produced consumer goods, radio, and advertising reshaped American culture.
- A group of writers known as the Lost Generation became disillusioned with America's mass culture. Lost Generation writers such as Sinclair Lewis and F. Scott Fitzgerald criticized middle-class materialism and conformity. Several Lost Generation writers moved to Paris.
- A second group of writers known as the Harlem Renaissance expressed pride in their African American culture. The Harlem Renaissance was an outpouring of black literary and artistic creativity. Key figures in the Harlem Renaissance included Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, James Weldon Johnson, Claude McKay, and Jean Toomer.

2. LITERARY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE 1950S

- The 1950s witnessed a period of sustained prosperity, rapid suburbanization, and a return of the cult of domesticity.
- A group of writers and poets known as the Beat Generation rejected middle-class culture and conformity. Led by Jack Kerouac, Beat writers expressed their alienation and disillusionment with America's carefree consumption and mindless conformity. Beat writers congregated in bohemian enclaves in New York City and San Francisco.
- A second group of social commentators also criticized the conformity of postwar American life. Writers such as Sloan Wilson decried mass-produced Levittowns filled with endless rows of identical box houses. While Wilson

criticized the superficial suburban lifestyle, William H. Whyte and David Riesman described how corporations created a culture of stifling conformity that emphasized getting along above taking risks.

TOPIC 218

COMPARING THE KOREAN WAR AND THE VIETNAM WAR

1. THE KOREAN WAR

- The Korean War began when North Korea invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950. President Truman saw the invasion as a test of containment and an opportunity to prove that the Democrats were not “soft” on Communism.
- Truman took advantage of a temporary Soviet absence from the United Nations Security Council to obtain a unanimous resolution condemning North Korea as an aggressor. The Korean War thus marked the first use of collective military action by the United Nations.
- The Korean War was a limited conflict that extended America’s containment policy to Asia. The war quickly became a prolonged stalemate that frustrated the American people and led to the rise of Senator McCarthy and the election of Dwight Eisenhower in 1952.
- The combatants finally signed an armistice in 1953 that set the boundary between North Korea and South Korea near the 38th parallel.
- The Korean War marked the first time that American forces fought in integrated units.

2. THE VIETNAM WAR

- The first phase of the Vietnam War involved a conflict between France and forces loyal to Ho Chi Minh that lasted from 1946 to 1954. The war ended in a disastrous French defeat that left Vietnam divided at the 17th parallel. Ho Chi Minh and his Communist government ruled north of the parallel while a French-backed government ruled south of the parallel.
- The French defeat forced President Eisenhower to support South Vietnam. Ike believed that the fall of South Vietnam would inevitably lead to Communist expansion throughout

the rest of Southeast Asia. This belief was soon called the domino theory. The domino theory grew out the policy commitments and assumptions of containment.

- President Kennedy continued Ike's policy of supporting South Vietnam. At the time of Kennedy's death in 1963, over 16,000 American advisors helped train the South Vietnam army.
- President Johnson was determined to meet the Communist challenge. Like Truman, LBJ wanted to prove that he was not "soft" on Communism.
- In August 1964, Congress responded to unsubstantiated reports that North Vietnamese vessels attacked U.S. destroyers by overwhelmingly passing the Tonkin Gulf Resolution. The resolution gave President Johnson a "blank check" to escalate the War in Vietnam.
- President Johnson used the Tonkin Gulf Resolution to begin a dramatic escalation of the Vietnam War. Unlike the Korean War, the Vietnam War was not fought under the auspices of the United Nations.
- The seemingly endless Vietnam War polarized America into hawks who supported the war effort and doves who demanded that America end the conflict. The cost of the war undermined Johnson's Great Society programs and eroded his popularity.
- The Tet Offensive in 1968 undermined Johnson's prediction that "victory was just around the corner." Public discontent forced LBJ to reject calls for troop increases and to announce his decision not to seek re-election.
- President Nixon won election in 1968 on a promise to achieve "peace with honor" in Vietnam. Nixon announced a policy called Vietnamization that called for training South Vietnamese soldiers while beginning the gradual withdrawal of American forces.
- The Vietnam War finally ended in 1975 when the North Vietnamese captured Saigon and unified Vietnam. Unlike the armistice that ended the Korean War, the fall of Saigon resulted in a defeat for the U.S. policy of containment.