Chapter 14 lesson 1 Notes: Truman and Eisenhower

1. Truman and Eisenhower
2. Return to a Peacetime Economy
3. The Servicemen’s Readjustment act of 1944, called the GI Bill, boosted the economy.
4. The act provided funds to members of the armed services who had returned from the war, called veterans.
5. A greater demand for goods led to higher prices and this inflation soon caused labor unrest.
6. **Legislators** proposed the Taft-Hartley act. This act outlawed the **closed shop**, which forced business owners to hire only union members.
7. The act would allow states to pass **right-to-work laws**. Right-to-work laws outlawed **union shops**.
8. Union shops were businesses that forced new workers to join the union after they started to work.
9. The Taft-Hartley act banned featherbedding—reducing work output in order to create more jobs. The act also banned the use of union money to support political campaigns.
10. Congress passed the Taft-Hartley act in 1947 over Truman’s veto.
11. Truman’s Program
12. Truman wanted to continue the work of Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal after he took office.
13. Truman’s Legislative Agenda
14. Truman wanted to expand Social Security benefits, raise the minimum wage, and create a program to ensure full employment.
15. He wanted to develop long-range environmental and public works planning.
16. Truman also asked Congress in February 1948 to pass a large civil rights bill that would protect African Americans’ right to vote.
17. The Election of 1948
18. Conflicts in the Democratic Party seemed to ruin his campaign. Two groups abandoned the party at that summer’s convention.
19. A group of Southern Democrats was angry at Truman’s support of civil rights. They formed the States’ Rights, or Dixiecrat Party.
20. Liberal Democrats who were frustrated by Truman’s policies and critical of his anti-Soviet foreign policy formed a new Progressive Party.
21. Truman also faced a new Republican opponent, New York governor Thomas Dewey.
22. Truman won by a narrow margin over Dewey because of support from laborers, African American, and farmers.
23. The Fair Deal
24. The 81st Congress did not completely support Truman’s Fair Deal.
25. Legislators did raise the minimum wage to 75 cents an hour. They increased Social Security benefits by 75 percent and gave the benefits to 10 million more people.
26. Congress also passed the National Housing act of 1949. This allowed the construction of low-income housing with long-term rent subsidies.
27. Congress did not pass national health insurance or provide subsidies for farmers or federal aid for schools.
28. Legislators led by conservative Republicans and Dixiecrats opposed Truman’s efforts to approve civil rights legislation.
29. The Eisenhower Years
30. In 1950 the United States went to war in Korea. The war became a stalemate and Truman’s approval rating dropped causing him to not run again for president.
31. Republicans nominated a popular World War II hero, Dwight Eisenhower, the former commander of the allied Forces in Europe.
32. Eisenhower promised to end the war in Korea and won the election in a landslide.
33. Eisenhower and “Dynamic Conservatism”
34. “Middle of the road” described his political beliefs. “**Dynamic conservatism**” meant balancing economic conservatism with activism that would be good for the country.
35. Eisenhower ended government price and rent controls.
36. The president vetoed a school construction bill and agreed to limit aid to public housing to cut federal spending.
37. He ended the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) soon after taking office.
38. Federal money for the TVA fell from $185 million to $12 million during his presidency.
39. In 1956 Congress passed the Federal Highway act. The act provided for a $25 billion, 10-year project to build more than 40,000 miles (64,400 km) of interstate highways.
40. Congress also approved the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway. This was a series of locks along the St. Lawrence River that would allow ships to travel from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean.
41. Extending Social Security
42. President Eisenhower agreed to give Social Security to 10 million more people. He also gave unemployment payments to 4 million more citizens.
43. He agreed to raise the minimum wage and to continue to give some government aid to farmers.