Chapter 14 lesson 3 Notes: The Other Side of American Life

1. Poverty Amid Prosperity
2. The Decline of the Inner City
3. At least one in five Americans—about 30 million people—lived below the **poverty line**. This is a number the government sets to show the minimum **income** needed to support a family.
4. The poor included: single mothers, the elderly, minorities (including African American, Latino and Native Americans), inner-city residents living in slums and rural Americans.
5. Poverty was most visible in the urban centers.
6. Middle-class residents who moved took their tax dollars with them to the suburbs.
7. Cities could no longer provide enough public transportation, housing, and other services.
8. **Urban renewal** programs tried to stop poverty by tearing down slums and building new high-rises for poor residents. However, these crowded new buildings were frequently sites of violence.
9. Also, the government evicted any tenants of public housing who started to earn more money.
10. African Americans
11. More than 3 million African Americans had moved from the South to Northern cities. Racial discrimination kept many of them poor.
12. In 1958 African Americans’ salaries, on average, were only 51 percent of what whites earned.
13. Hispanics
14. About 5 million Mexicans had come to the United States through the Bracero Program to work on farms and ranches in the Southwest.
15. These migrant workers worked long hours for little pay in conditions that were often terrible.
16. Many of the braceros later returned home. However, about 350,000 stayed in the United States.
17. Native Americans
18. Native Americans were the poorest ethnic group in the nation by the middle of the 1900s.
19. The U.S. government started a program to bring Native Americans into mainstream society after World War II. This plan became known as the termination **policy**.
20. Native American groups were encouraged to move to crowded living conditions in cities.
21. People in Minneapolis, during the 1950’s, were expected to live to age 68. However, Native Americans in the city were only expected to live to 37 due to the living conditions.
22. Appalachia
23. The mountainous region of Appalachia stretches from New York to Georgia. When coal mining mechanized in the 1950s, unemployment rose.
24. About 1.5 million people left Appalachia to look for a better life in the cities.
25. Juvenile Delinquency
26. Factors for the rise in juvenile delinquency
27. Juvenile delinquency is disruptive, harmful, or illegal behavior of young people. The United States saw a 45 percent rise in juvenile crime rates between 1948 and 1953.
28. Experts blamed television, movies, comic books, racism, busy parents, a rising divorce rate, lack of religion, and anxiety over the military draft.

**Copyright © The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. Permission is granted to reproduce for classroom use.**

1. Others said parents’ failure to discipline their children caused youth crime. Bishop Fulton J. Sheen complained that modern parents did not give their children enough direction.
2. Others blamed teen violence on poverty.
3. Many parents focused on the schools as a possible solution.
4. Enrollments increased by 13 million, and school districts had a hard time paying for new buildings and hiring more teachers.
5. Many Americans felt that the nation had fallen behind its Cold War enemy. They blamed this on a lack of technical education.
6. The United States began to improve math and science education.