

# The Eisenhower Years

1953-1961



# Overview



Eisenhower had been the **Supreme Allied Commander** for the war effort in Europe during WW2.

The Presidency of Dwight Eisenhower was a time of **prosperity and social change**. The period was marked by several important developments.

# Economic Expansion

The United States continued to be the **world's largest producer of goods.**

Americans bought millions of automobiles, television sets, refrigerators and other appliances.

# Baby Boom

As a result of economic prosperity, people settled down to **work and started having families.**

Birth rates were extremely high.

# Growth of Suburbs

The **G.I. Bill** made it easy for **war veterans** to obtain loans to **buy houses and attend college**.

This led to an **increase in home ownership** and the **growth of suburbs**. (loosely-populated areas just outside of cities).

People living in the suburbs were able to **commute by car to work in city centers**.

# Conformity

There was an **emphasis on conformity** (being like everyone else).

**Fear** and distrust of communism

Increased **hostility towards unusual or different ideas.**

# Containment

In foreign affairs, the **U.S. contained communism by stopping the Soviets** from gaining additional territory.

In 1957, the **Eisenhower Doctrine** stated the US would send **troops to any Mideast nation defending itself against communism.**

# The Civil Rights Movement

President Eisenhower gave **some support to the Civil Rights Movement** when he sent federal troops to Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957 to enforce a Supreme Court decision against racial segregation in public schools.

