



U.S. HISTORY PROJECT 1940S

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Social Changes

FASHION

- Women wore squared shouldered shirts, bikinis, skirts that end right below the knee, and bobby socks
- Men wore navy or black, colored suits and plain white shirts.



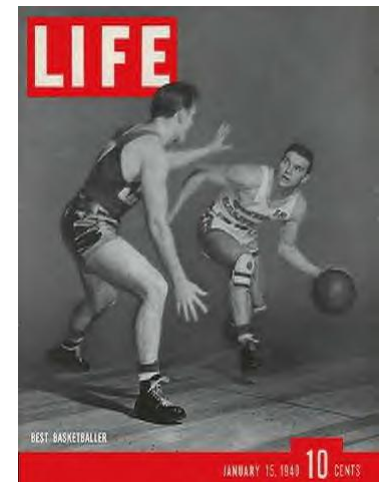
FADS

- 1940s Chevy
- Yo-yo
- Marbles
- Frank Sinatra
(singer/actor)



SPORTS

- **Baseball:** In 1947, the first African-American Jackie Robinson was put on a major league baseball team.
- **Boxing:** Joe Louis at heavyweight and Sugar Ray Robinson at welterweight, helped improved the racial standings of African-Americans.
- **Basketball:** In 1891, Dr. James Naismith invented Basketball and on February 28, 1940, the first televised basketball games were played.
- **Football:** In 1947, the NFL instituted a bonus selection to the draft whereby one team would receive the first pick.



LEISURE ACTIVITIES

- Frisbees was invented during the 1940s, children and adults would throw around metal, flat plates around like Frisbees. In 1948, Walter Morrison made them out of plastic; they were also called the “Flying Saucers”



- Kick the can nor kicking rocks
- Radio in the 1940s, the popular music to listen to was rhythm and blues. Rock and roll then began to gain popularity. Teenagers would hang out at soda shops.
- Jitterbug, people loved to dance.





Political Changes

AMENDMENTS/VOTING RIGHTS

- During the 1940s the 15th amendment was hard to follow for many racist people and segregated areas, they would try their hardest to prevent African-Americans from voting .
- It was also very tough for African-Americans to get jobs because segregated places were popular especially in the south. At this time, only a handful of African-Americans are employed as journalists by white-owned newspapers as the print media are almost completely segregated.
- U.S. Supreme Court decides, in *Smith v. Allwright*, April 3, that exclusion of African-Americans from voting in the Texas Democratic primary violates the Fifteenth Amendment



CIVIL RIGHTS

- August of 1941, thousands of whites were employed in industries mobilizing for the possible entry of the United States into World War II. Black labor leader A. Philip Randolph threatened a mass march on Washington unless blacks were hired equally for those jobs. To prevent the march, which many feared would result in race riots and international embarrassment, President Franklin Roosevelt issued an executive order 8802 on June 25, 1941, that banned discrimination in defense industries.
- The fight against fascism during World War II brought to the forefront the contradictions between America's ideals of democracy and equality and its treatment of racial minorities. Throughout the war, the NAACP and other civil rights organizations worked to end discrimination in the armed forces. During this time African-Americans became more assertive in their demands for equality in civilian life as well. The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), an interracial organization founded to seek change through nonviolent means, conducted the first sit-ins to challenge the South's Jim Crow laws.

WORKING REGULATIONS

- In states without a right-to-work law, employees may be required to join a labor union if it represents workers at their place of employment. Those who refuse to join the union may still be required to pay for the costs of representation, since they profit from the union's efforts in negotiating wages and benefits on behalf of all employees. Such "fair share" payments are often equivalent to the cost of union dues.
- The first right-to-work laws were passed throughout the 1940s, mostly in Southern states. There was a surge of interest in the issue in the 1970s and again in the 1990s, but only a handful of states have enacted right to work laws since the initial wave in the mid-20th century.
- Federal law sets standards for the operation of labor unions in the private sector through the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959. Provisions of federal law govern union elections, management, finances and reporting. Right to work, however, has remained a state issue.



Important People

ENTERTAINMENT/ SINGERS

- Ella Fitzgerald was a popular artist in the 1940s. She was born in 1917 and died 1996. She was the most popular female jazz performer in the U.S.
- Benny Goodman was “The King of Swing.” He was popular in the 1930s because of his catchy music and has won many awards for it. He was born In 1908 and died in 1986.
- Frank Sinatra was a popular artist and actor in the 1940s and 1950s. He rose to fame after performing in a number of bands.



ART/LITERATURE

- Pablo Picasso was born on October 25, 1881 and died on April 8, 1973. He was popular in the 1940s. In 1941 he wrote a play entitled *Desire Caught by the Tail*.
- Ansel Adams was a photographer and environmentalist that was popular in the 1940s. He took black-and-white landscape photographs.



GOVERNMENT/SERVICE

- Franklin D. Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945.
- Harry S. Truman became president after the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt until January 20, 1953.





Historical Events

1940-1944

- December 7, 1941 is when the Japanese fighter planes launch a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. This damaged a lot of the naval equipment. This is what led us into World War II.
- November 8, 1942 North Africa is invaded by the United States and Great Britain.
- June 22, 1944 the G.I. Bill of Rights is signed, providing benefits to veterans.
- On November 6, 1944, Franklin D. Roosevelt gained his fourth term as president.

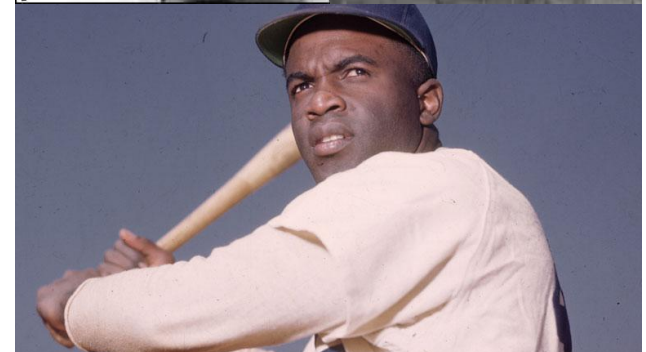
1945-1946

- In February 19, 1945, United States Marines land on Iwo Jima. On April 1 they invade Okinawa and starts the Battle of Okinawa.
- January 10, 1946 the first meeting of the United Nations occurs.
- July 4, 1946 is when the Island nation of the Philippines were given their independence after 425 years of dominance by the west.



BASEBALL!

- April 15, 1947 Jackie Robinson played several positions for the Dodgers. This is a historical event because Jackie was the first colored player to play in Major League Baseball.
- Jackie Robinson breaks the color barrier, making this equal for people of all races and colors.
- After Jackie Robinson, the jersey number 42 was retired from all the baseball teams. This means that it is not to be worn again after Jackie Robinson.



EXECUTIVE ORDER 9981.

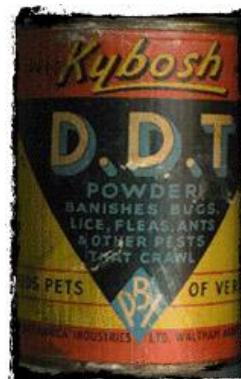
- Executive Order 9981 is put into effect by Harry S. Truman ending all segregation in the United States military.
- Executive Order 9981 says that “there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed forces without regards to race, color, origin, religion, or national origin.” There was a refusal from the military but after the Korean conflict, they learned to become integrated.



Science & Technology

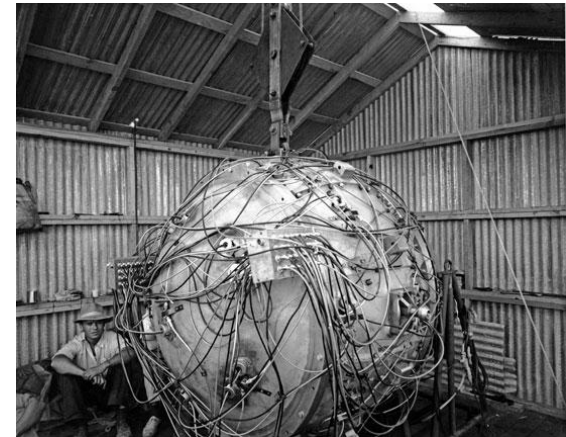
SCIENCE

- WWII boosted research in science through government funding. Which led to new technologies that transformed American lives after.
- The demands of war inspired the production of new substances and materials such as the antibiotic penicillin, the insecticide DDT, and synthetic rubber.
- Penicillin were developed as antibiotics in 1940 and were used to help cure diseases.
- With the creation of the atomic bomb, American scientists influenced the political and cultural atmosphere of the rest of the century and beyond.



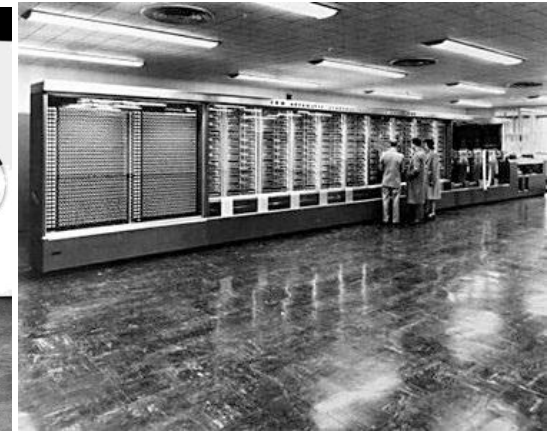
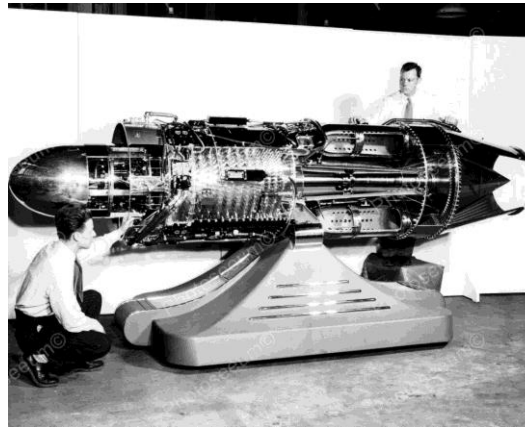
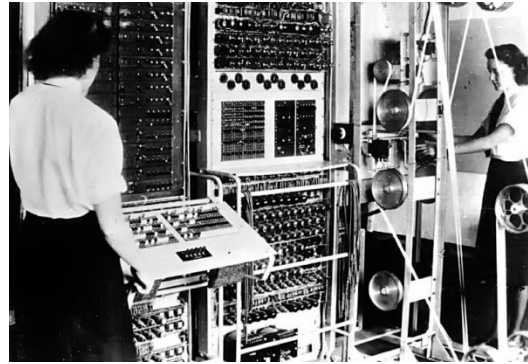
ATOMIC BOMBS

- This research was called the Manhattan Project and the total cost of it was \$2 billion.
- The test was the culmination of three years' planning and it was headed by General Leslie R. Groves. The test was given the code-name "Trinity"
- The first atomic bomb was tested on the morning of July 16, 1945 in Alamogordo, New Mexico.
- The atomic bombs was going to be dropped on Germany but they had surrendered so it was going to be dropped on Japan.
- On August 6, 1945, Little Boy, a uranium bomb, was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. Between 80,000 - 140,000 people were killed.
- Three days later, Fat Man, a plutonium bomb, was dropped on Nagasaki. About 74,000 people were killed.



TECHNOLOGY

- Jet engines, Radar, and Nuclear Fission technological advances due to the war
- Colossus, the world's first totally electronic and digital computer. It is designed to break the complex Lorenz ciphers used by the Nazis during WWII.
- Harvard University mathematician Howard Aiken built the Mark I computer, which was a room-sized, relay-based calculator. This 35-ton machine was capable of finding the product of two 11-digit numbers in three seconds.

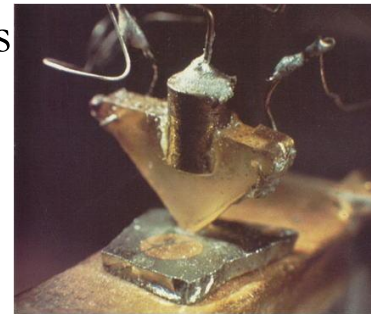


MORE TECHNOLOGY

- In 1948, Edwin Land invented the Polaroid Land® camera. It was the first camera to produce finished prints instantly - in this case, 60 seconds. It was sold for \$89.75



- The first long-playing phonograph record was introduced by Columbia Records. It held six times as much music as previous records and helped create the modern recording industry.



- Holography was invented by Dennis Gabor., the technique created three-dimensional images.

- Bell Laboratories' physicists invented the transistor. Smaller, cheaper, and faster than a vacuum tube, it revolutionized the field of electronics.

