

Unit 8: 1945-1980

Questions 1-3 refer to the excerpt below.

In considering the requirements for the rehabilitation of Europe, the physical loss of life, the visible destruction of cities, factories, mines and railroads was correctly estimated but it has become obvious during recent months that this visible destruction was probably less serious than the dislocation of the entire fabric of European economy. For the past 10 years, conditions have been highly abnormal. The feverish preparation for war and the more feverish maintenance of the war effort engulfed all aspects of national economies. Machinery has fallen into disrepair or is entirely obsolete. . . In many countries, confidence in the local currency has been severely shaken. The breakdown of the business structure of Europe during the war was complete. . .

The remedy lies in breaking the vicious circle and restoring the confidence of the European people in the economic future of their own countries and of Europe as a whole.

Source: General George C. Marshall, Secretary of State, speech at Harvard University, June 1947

1. In his speech Marshall had a goal of

- a. exploitative territorial expansion in Europe.
- b. extending full political rights to people in American territories.
- c. placing sanctions on non-democratic countries.
- d. providing economic and military aid abroad.

Explanations:

- a. **Incorrect:** *The United States did not expand its territory into Europe.*
- b. **Incorrect:** *Following World War II, a wave of decolonization occurred, including in the territories held by the United States.*
- c. **Incorrect:** *Though the United States would maintain a hardline stance against Soviet-aligned countries, the Marshall Plan did not prescribe such measures.*
- d. **Correct:** *The Marshall Plan focused on the economic rebuilding of Europe, with the ulterior motive of obstructing Soviet communism's influence in desperate nations.*

2. Which of the following factors best explains Marshall's concerns in Europe?

- a. The United States wanted to prevent Soviet influence in struggling countries
- b. Support for European economies would promote international trade
- c. The potential for fascism reemerging in Germany and Italy
- d. European countries owed the United States money after the war

Explanations:

- a. **Correct:** *"The Iron Curtain" effectively cast Eastern Europe as a satellite/buffer zone to the Soviet Union. Thus, Marshall prioritized Greece and Turkey as most needy of economic aid.*
- b. **Incorrect:** *While the rekindling of peacetime trade was definitely front of mind, it was not Marshall's immediate priority following World War II.*

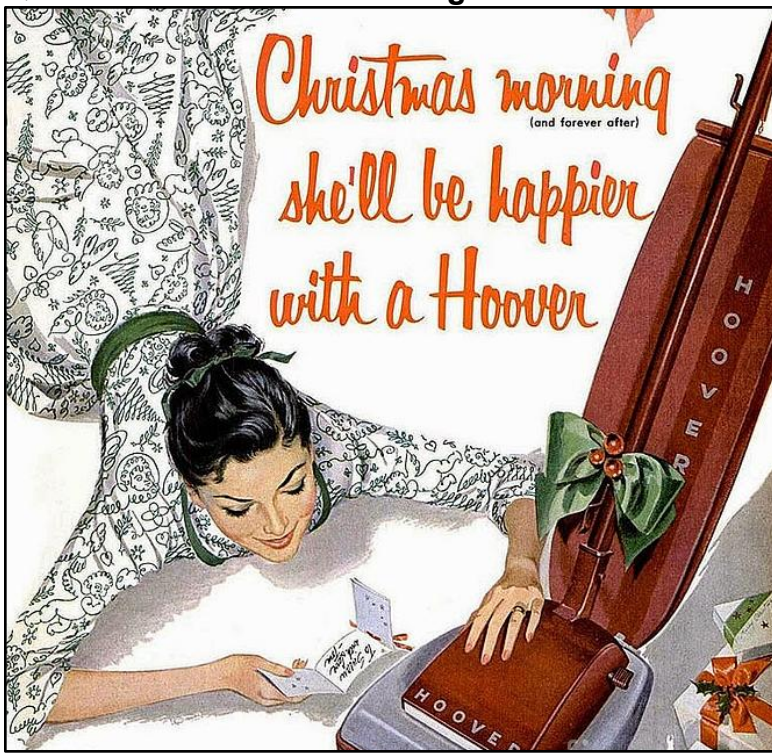
- c. **Incorrect:** The conditions that created the occasion for the rise of fascism in the 1920s and 30s had waned. The spread of communism in Europe was the primary concern.
- d. **Incorrect:** While most of the United States' allies were in debt as a result of US loans and supplies, payments were often extended and even forgiven.

3. Based on the ideas expressed in the excerpt, Marshall would most likely support
- a. a return to American isolationism
 - b. planned economic policies
 - c. expansion of the military-industrial complex
 - d. collective security organizations

Explanations:

- a. **Incorrect:** Recoiling back into isolationism is not alluded to in the excerpt.
- b. **Incorrect:** Planned economies are run by the central government, as is the case in a communist state.
- c. **Incorrect:** Marshall does not reference or allude to the military-industrial complex.
- d. **Correct:** Organizations, such as NATO, were in direct alignment with Marshall's ideas.

Questions 5-7 refer to the magazine advertisement below.



4. The ideas expressed in the advertisement best represent a continuity of which of the following periods?
- a. The Gilded Age
 - b. The Progressive Era
 - c. The Roaring Twenties
 - d. The Great Depression

Explanations:

- a. **Incorrect:** Advertising and popular culture emerged during this era, but not to the extent that it did in the 1920s.
- b. **Incorrect:** The Progressive Era is characterized by private and public pushes for regulation and reform of the national economy and federal government.
- c. **Correct:** The 1920s saw the growth of a credit economy. With it, consumerism and a "keeping up with the Joneses" mentality emerged. This would continue in the 1950s.
- d. **Incorrect:** The Great Depression was the worst enduring economic crisis that the United States has experienced. As such, the average consumer lacked spending power.

5. The advertisement most directly reflects the

- a. post-war economic growth and consumerism
- b. Increased federal spending and greater social mobility
- c. Mass culture surrounding brand loyalty
- d. Rejection of the cult of domesticity

Explanations:

- a. **Correct:** Following World War II, the United States found itself as the supreme economic power in the world. This allowed for decades of continued economic growth.
- b. **Incorrect:** Federal spending and social mobility are not alluded to in the advertisement.
- c. **Incorrect:** While brand loyalty surged as a result of widespread advertising campaigns, the advertisement better reflects the broader consumerist culture of the 1950s.
- d. **Incorrect:** The advertisement portrays home appliances, in this case a vacuum cleaner, as something to be desired by women.

6. The ideas expressed in the advertisement eventually led to

- a. further intensified racial conflict and increased wealth inequality
- b. the challenging of traditional gender roles and rise in feminism
- c. the emergence of regional cultures through suburbanization
- d. technological advancement and the mechanization of labor

Explanations:

- a. **Incorrect:** Though indicative of the stereotypical suburban home, what with the social and racial ramifications that came with the development of suburbs, the element of race is not particularly present in the advertisement.
- b. **Correct:** The women's liberation or second-wave feminist movement that emerged in the 1960s was primarily responding to unequal economic opportunity/pay and limited social freedoms and expression.
- c. **Incorrect:** Regional cultures can not be reasonably inferred based on this advertisement.
- d. **Incorrect:** The advertisement, while attempting to sell new vacuum cleaners, does not make reference to any specific mode of production.

Questions 7-8 refer to the excerpt below.

The end of World War II left the United States in a position to assume unilaterally a stance of "free world leadership". . . The extension of power and influence of the United States in Europe was only blocked by the power of the USSR at the direct line of contact. . .

In the Near East, effectuation of the Truman Doctrine is said to have thwarted Communist subversion and infiltration. In the Middle East, Soviet occupation of part of Iran was abandoned through a combination of factors . . . In the Far East, . . . the only major obstacle lay in China.

In Vietnam the United States again faced the problem of making a fateful choice from available alternatives. . . The United States determined to pursue . . . military intervention on a major scale to assist [South Vietnam] and to destroy the Vietcong and their supporters.

In conclusion, in this age of multirevolutions, the United States—"a nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal"—should preach *and practice* the blessings of the liberty at home and abroad, and should respect and honor the principle of "sovereign equality," that all nations are created equal.

Source: Young Hum Kim, historian, 1968

- 7. All of the following significantly contributed to the expanded role of the United States in the world after World War II except**
- political turmoil that followed decolonization of non-aligned states
 - an American desire to bolster leftist movements around the world
 - the policy of "containing" communism abroad
 - protecting economic interests abroad, such as oil

Explanations:

- Incorrect:** Decolonization further destabilized and minimized the economic and military power of former empires, such as Great Britain and France.
- Correct:** The United States threw massive support behind typically right-wing, anti-communist forces throughout the world.
- Incorrect:** Containment as a policy allowed the United States to justify its foreign military intervention and growing economic reach.
- Incorrect:** Access to friendly sources of oil was claimed to be in the interest of national security, leading to an increased involvement in the Middle East.

- 2. Which of the following people or groups would most disagree with the ideas expressed in the last paragraph of the excerpt?**
- Pentagon officials
 - Anti-war protestors
 - Civil rights activists
 - Lyndon Johnson

Explanations:

- a. **Correct:** *The Vietnam War was highly controversial, especially by the late 1960s. Leading military officials, as well as the President, publicly maintained that victory was near despite continued losses. The “domino theory” front of mind, many in the Pentagon saw military intervention as the only way to curb the spread of communism.*
- b. **Incorrect:** *Protests spread across the nation throughout the 1960s and 1970s, reaching a boiling point 1968. Protestors would've generally agreed with the sentiment of “sovereign equality” for all nations.*
- c. **Incorrect:** *The cross-section of America that was involved in the numerous civil rights movements significantly overlapped with the anti-Vietnam War movement and, thus, would have agreed that the United States “should preach and practice the blessings of the liberty at home and abroad”.*
- d. **Incorrect:** *President Johnson inherited the war in Vietnam from his predecessor, John F. Kennedy. Though he certainly escalated American involvement in Vietnam, LBJ contemporaneously lamented his role in the growing conflict on numerous occasions.*

Questions 9-10 refer to the excerpt below.

If I say I want peace, then you say, "You should put down your gun". But hasn't it occurred to you by now after 400 years of being brutalized and murdered and lynched and maimed by guns and force on the part of racists and the racist power structure in this country; it's damn near time we picked up the gun to try to begin to get some peace, to defend ourselves and our community from racist attacks by the pigs, to defend ourselves against racist attacks by . . . what have you? . . .

So you see organized black brothers here, ready to do what they have to do to defend themselves against all forms of racists attacks and this is where it's going. This is political. Power comes out of a barrel of a gun and if you don't believe it you're jiving.* You see that power structure up there? Where [does] their power come from?

**willfully ignorant*

Source: Bobby Seale, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, speech, April 1968

9. Which of the following developments most directly led to the ideas expressed in the excerpt?

- a. Slow progress of the civil rights movement
- b. Rising unemployment among blacks
- c. Terror tactics used by the Ku Klux Klan
- d. The assassinations of Democratic politicians

Explanations:

- a. **Correct:** *The non-violent approach advocated by Martin Luther King, Jr. saw long term success and the mobilization of millions of people of different races across the country to this day. However, this “dream” of King’s was not realized in his lifetime, leading many to abandon non-violence in favor of a militant and even separatist approach.*
- b. **Incorrect:** *The Black Panther Party did address the plethora of socioeconomic issues plaguing urban black communities. However, Seale’s speech is focusing on the issue of protecting the black community from continued harassment and attacks.*

- c. Incorrect: The KKK's impact was largely felt in the South, though not exclusively. For this reason, the Black Panther Party's focus was on the larger, systemic threat of violence against them from police, the FBI, and society, in general.*
- d. Incorrect: The assassination of JFK and his brother, RFK, rocked the political and social landscape in the 1960s. While both of these politicians publicly befriended the civil rights movement, their deaths did not directly lead to increasingly militant black organizations.*

10. Which of the following approaches to racial inequality is best reflected by the ideas expressed in the excerpt?

- a. nonviolent protest
- b. Pan-Africanism
- c. Black Power
- d. civil disobedience

Explanations:

- a. Incorrect: Nonviolence is disregarded as ineffective in the excerpt.*
- b. Incorrect: Pan-Africanism was the broader movement for unity amongst all of the African diaspora and did not specifically focus on the plight of blacks in the United States.*
- c. Correct: Black Power represents the notion of black separatism in the United States that called for the black community to become economically and socially self-sufficient as a means of insulating themselves from the failings of the civil rights movement and systemic racism they perceived around them.*
- d. Incorrect: Civil disobedience, harkening back to Henry David Thoreau, claimed one is just in peacefully disobeying unjust laws. Conflict is still rejected as a method for progress.*