

# 19.2

## **The Western Democracies & Japan**

## **As a Young Historian, I will be able to...**

- Analyze the postwar American economy.
- Identify developments in American society and government.
- Explain how Western Europe rebuilt and moved toward greater unity.
- Describe how Japan changed after World War II.

# **Postwar Prosperity in the U.S.**

The background of the slide is a composite image. The right side features a close-up of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in a wavy, draped manner. The left side features the flag of the Soviet Union, with a red field and a yellow hammer and sickle emblem. The text boxes are overlaid on these flags.

**After WWII, the American economic system flourished & expanded around the world**

**The headquarters of the United Nations was built in New York City**

**Other nations depended on U.S. services due to the destruction of Europe**

**1945- 50% of the worlds manufactured goods came from the United States!**



# U.S. Economy

**New inventions such as refrigerators and the television took the nation by storm!**

**Suburbanization-** The movement to communities outside cities, suburbs

**Due to the invention of air conditioning, many Americans moved to the Sunbelt**

**New Veterans programs allowed them to attend college or buy homes**

**Eisenhower reduced the government's role in the economy & organized the nation's highways**

# Global Economy



**Interdependence-** Mutual dependence of countries on goods, resources, & knowledge

1970s a political crisis in the middle east led to a global oil shortage

**Recession-** Period of economic downturns

During the 1980s, the U.S. lost manufacturing jobs to Asia & Latin America due to lower wages





# U.S. New Challenges

**Segregation-** Forced separation, was legal in many states separating African Americans to unequal treatment

**Discrimination-** Unequal treatment & barriers in jobs, voting, & life

**Brown vs. The Board of Education** declared that segregation in school was illegal

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** helped lead the Civil Rights movement to gain civil rights to African Americans

# **The Great Society**

**Native Americans, women, & Latinos gained equal rights & new laws banned discrimination**

**President Lyndon Johnson created programs to fight against poverty & improve healthcare**

**Conservative groups in the 1980s challenged social programs & the growth of government**

**Under President Ronald Reagan, government spending dropped, military spending rose**

The background of the slide is a composite image. On the left side, there is a portion of the Soviet Union flag, featuring a red field with a golden hammer and sickle and a star. On the right side, there is a portion of the United States flag, showing the stars and stripes. The two flags are positioned to represent the Cold War era.

# Rebuilding Western Europe

**Europe slowly rebuilt after WWII, but by the 1950s the standard of living rose dramatically**

**Germany was split between the Western alliances & eastern Soviet control**

**Konrad Adenauer- Chancellor who rebuilt West Germany in an “economic miracle”**

**Welfare State-** Government keeps most features of a capitalist economy but takes care of the social & economic needs of people



# Recoveries

**1989- The Soviet Union falls, the Berlin Wall is torn down, & Germany is reunited**

**Britain gives up global leadership to United States & begins to free nations from Empire**

**Britain builds a welfare state & raises taxes, but in 1979 [Margaret Thatcher](#) rolls back policies to privatize nation**

**1993- The European Union is formed between 28 nations to cooperate with each others economies**



# Japan is Transformed

**After WWII American military set two goals for Japan, destroy militarism & ensure democracy**

**1946- Japan adopts a new constitution & creates a parliament government & banned military forces except for defenses**

**American forces open education for all people & reform nation**

**America builds bases in Japan & begins a close allyship**

**Gross Domestic Product (GDP)- Total values of all goods & services produced by a nation in year, Japan's skyrockets**