

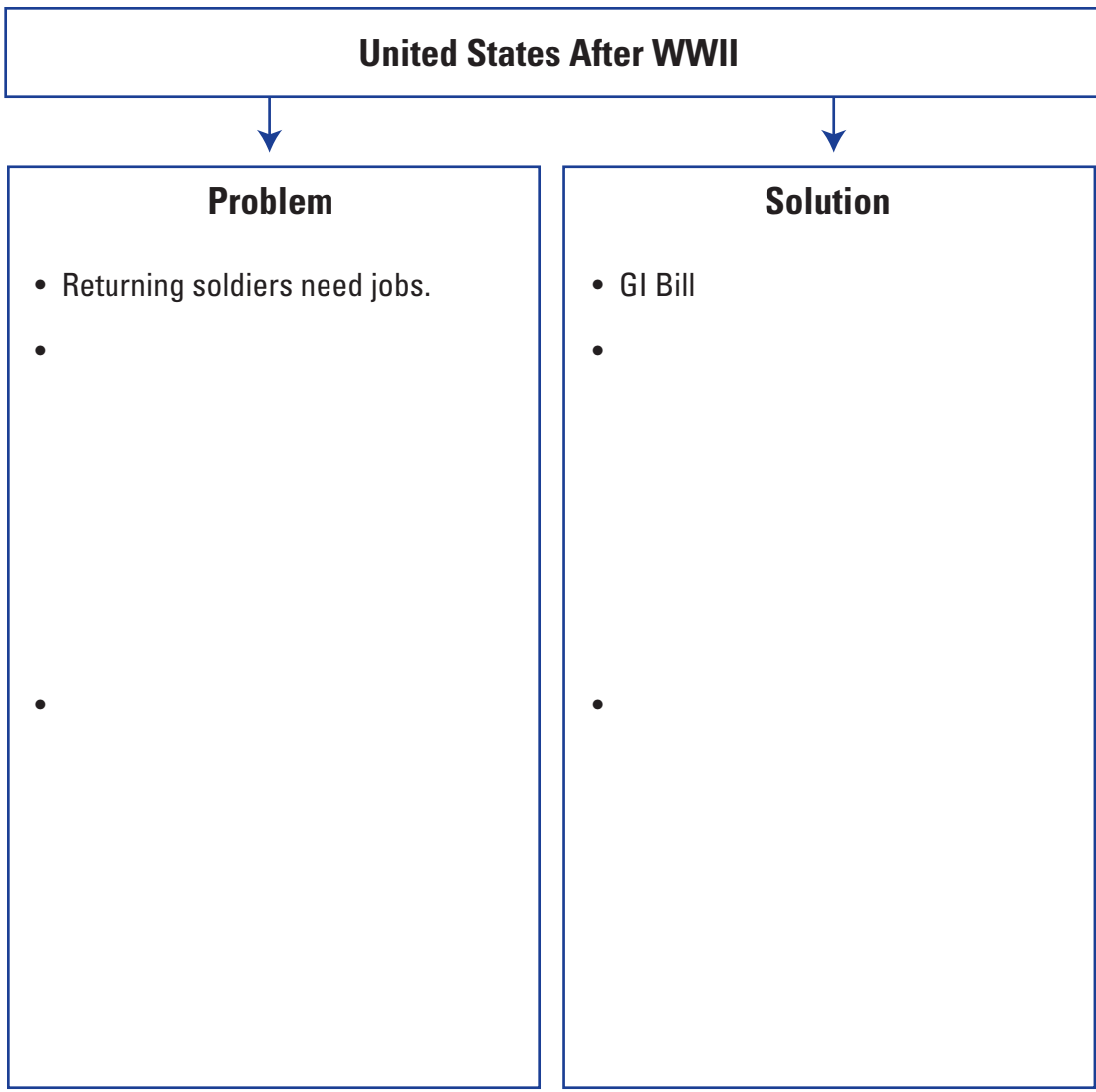
CHAPTER
13
SECTION 1

Note Taking Study Guide

AN ECONOMIC BOOM

Focus Question: How did the nation experience recovery and economic prosperity after World War II?

List the problems raised by the shift to a peacetime economy and the steps taken to solve them.



CHAPTER
13
SECTION 1

Section Summary

AN ECONOMIC BOOM

The production of military supplies halted at the end of World War II. Millions of Americans initially lost their jobs, but soon the nation experienced the longest period of economic growth in American history.

President Harry Truman brought soldiers home by starting the **demobilization**, or sending home members of the army. To calm fears about the economy, the government passed the law known as the **GI Bill of Rights**. The GI Bill provided veterans with unemployment benefits, financial aid for college, and loans to start businesses. Veterans also received home loans, fueling an upsurge in home construction, which led to explosive growth in the suburbs.

Many veterans started families upon returning home. This **baby boom** peaked in 1957 when 4.3 million babies were born. Between 1940 and 1955, the U.S. population grew by 27 percent.

Soaring demand for consumer products caused skyrocketing prices and inflation. Businesses employed more people to produce goods. The United States soon dominated the world economy, producing nearly 50 percent of the world's total output. However, the inflation rate prompted several trade unions to demand pay increases. When employers refused, millions of workers went on strike. Congress then enacted the **Taft-Hartley Act** to outlaw the closed shop—a workplace that hired only union members.

By 1951, Truman's executive order to desegregate the military had been mostly implemented. However, his support of civil rights caused Southern Democrats to leave the party and establish the States' Rights Party. Another split in the Democratic Party led to the creation of the new Progressive Party. The splits seemed to give the 1948 presidential election to Republican Candidate Thomas Dewey. However, Truman won by a narrow margin.

After the election, Truman introduced the **Fair Deal**, a program to strengthen New Deal reforms and establish programs such as national health insurance. Most of the Fair Deal failed in Congress.

In 1952, Republican Dwight Eisenhower won the presidency by a landslide. He helped create an interstate highway system and gave financial support to education.

Review Questions

1. What is the Taft-Hartley Act? Why was it passed?

2. How did President Truman's late-term legislative efforts compare with those of President Eisenhower?

READING CHECK

How much did the U.S. population grow between 1940 and 1955?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *upsurge* mean in the underlined sentence? The word *decrease* is an antonym of *upsurge*. Use the meaning of the antonym and context clues such as "fueling" and "explosive growth" to help you figure out the meaning of *upsurge*.

READING SKILL

Understand Effects How did the GI Bill benefit the American economy?

CHAPTER
13
SECTION 2

Note Taking Study Guide

A SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

Focus Question: What social and economic factors changed American life during the 1950s?

A. Complete the chart below to capture the main ideas.

Postwar Changes		
Society	Economy	Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth of suburbs • • • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service economy • • • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • •

B. As you read, identify the effects of the population shift to the Sunbelt.

Moving to the Sunbelt	
Causes	Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •

CHAPTER
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SECTION 2

Section Summary

A SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

Between 1940 and 1960, more than 40 million Americans moved to the suburbs, one of the largest mass migrations in history. Developers began quickly building affordable housing in the suburbs to fill the gap left by a shortage of urban housing. Government-backed low-interest loans enabled more people to purchase homes.

Suburban growth would not have been possible had Congress not passed the **Interstate Highway Act** in 1956. This act authorized funds to build 41,000 miles of highway, consisting of multilane expressways that would connect the nation’s major cities. The new highways eased the commute from suburbs to cities and boosted the travel and vacation industries.

Southern and western states, known as the **Sunbelt**, also experienced rapid growth. These states had appealing climates and a large number of jobs in the defense, aerospace, and electronics industries. As people moved, their political power moved with them. The Sunbelt and suburbs gained representation while urban areas in the Northeast and the Midwest lost political power.

The American economy was also shifting. Fewer people worked in manufacturing or farming. Employment grew in the **service sector**, businesses that provided services rather than manufactured goods, and **information industries**, businesses that provided informational services. **Franchise businesses** allowed companies to distribute their products and services through retail outlets owned by independent operators. **Multinational corporations**, companies that produced and sold their goods and services across the globe, thrived.

Unions also experienced change. The AFL and the CIO joined in 1955 to form the **AFL-CIO**, bringing them more political clout. However, new white-collar workers generally did not join unions.

Educational opportunities grew as well. By the early 1960s, close to 40 percent of college-age Americans attended college, up from about 15 percent in 1940. The federal government increased education funds, in part to produce more scientists and science teachers. Many states undertook improvement of their public universities. Accessibility to ordinary Americans also increased. California created a **California Master Plan**, creating three tiers of higher education: research universities, state colleges, and community colleges.

Review Questions

1. Discuss the factors that fostered suburban growth.

2. What industries and types of businesses saw job growth in the postwar period?

READING CHECK

Why did people move to the Sunbelt?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does *undertook* mean in the underlined sentence? Read the underlined sentence aloud but leave out the word *undertook*. Think about what word you could use in its place. Use this strategy to help you figure out the meaning of *undertook*.

READING SKILL

Identify Main Ideas Discuss changes in American education in the postwar period.

CHAPTER
13
SECTION 3

Note Taking Study Guide

MASS CULTURE AND FAMILY LIFE

Focus Question: How did popular culture and family life change during the 1950s?

Identify postwar changes in daily life and popular culture.

I. The Culture of Consumerism

A. Americans spend more

1. Increased family income

2. _____

B. _____

1. _____

2. _____

II. _____

A. _____

1. _____

2. _____

B. _____

1. _____

2. _____

C. _____

1. _____

2. _____

D. _____

1. _____

2. _____

III. _____

A. _____

B. _____

IV. _____

A. _____

B. _____

1. _____

2. _____

CHAPTER
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SECTION 3

Section Summary

MASS CULTURE AND FAMILY LIFE

As the U.S. economy began to boom in the postwar era, Americans were caught up in a wave of **consumerism**, buying as much as they could, much of it on credit. **Median family income** refers to average family income. Median family income rose dramatically during the 1950s. With money to spend, easy credit, and new goods to buy, shopping became a new pastime for Americans.

During the 1950s, the ideal family was one in which men worked and women stayed home. Popular magazines of the era described the **nuclear family**, or a household consisting of a mother and father and their children, as the backbone of American society. Nevertheless, as the 1950s progressed, more women were willing to challenge the view that a woman should not have a career.

More so than in the past, family life revolved around children. Dr. **Benjamin Spock**, a best-selling author of the era, emphasized the importance of nurturing children, from their earliest days as infants through their teen years. Parents were also spending more money on their children. Some parents even defended their spending by arguing that it would prevent the recurrence of economic depression.

The 1950s also witnessed a revival of religion in the United States. Regular church attendance rose. At the same time, numerous advances in medicine were made, including the widespread use of antibiotics to help control many infectious diseases.

Television had a profound impact on American society, particularly among children. Sitcoms, which rarely discussed real-life problems, were popular. These shows reflected and reinforced the ideal of the 1950s family. Television also eroded distinct regional and ethnic cultures, helping to develop a national culture.

Like television, **rock-and-roll** captured the attention of Americans. Rock music originated in the rhythm and blues traditions of African Americans. **Elvis Presley** made rock music popular when he integrated African American gospel tunes into the music he played. Although some Americans complained about rock music, it nonetheless became a symbol of the emerging youth culture and of the growing power of youth on mass culture.

Review Questions

1. Why did shopping become a new pastime for Americans?

2. Who was Dr. Benjamin Spock?

READING CHECK

Name the medical advancement that helped control infectious diseases.

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *nevertheless* mean in the underlined sentence? Circle any words or phrases in the paragraph that help you figure out what *nevertheless* means.

READING SKILL

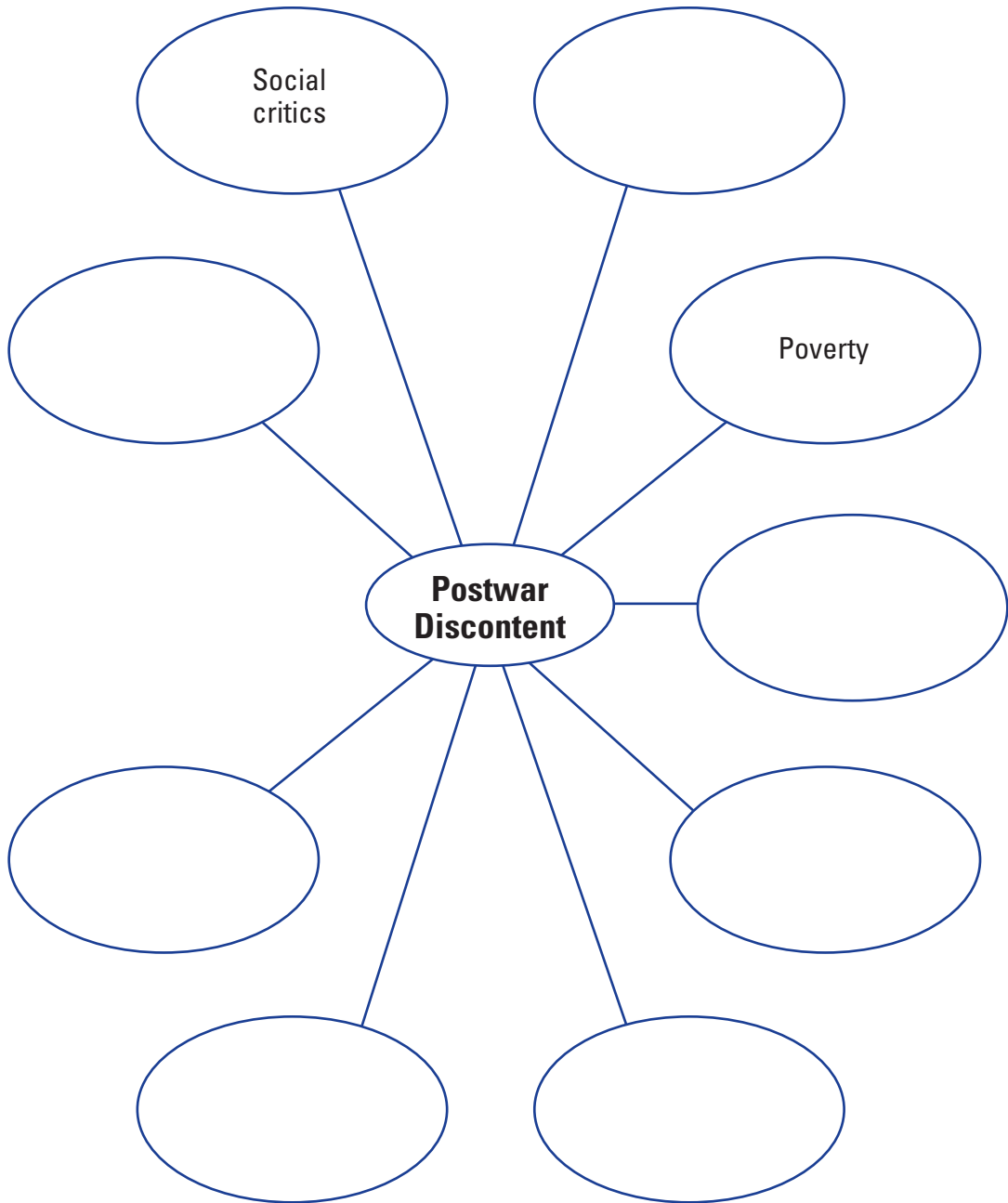
Identify Main Ideas How did television and rock-and-roll impact postwar American society?

CHAPTER
13
SECTION 4

Note Taking Study Guide
DISSENT AND DISCONTENT

Focus Question: Why were some groups of Americans dissatisfied with conditions in postwar America?

Record the main ideas and supporting details.



CHAPTER
13
SECTION 4

Section Summary

DISSENT AND DISCONTENT

Despite the prosperity of the 1950s, not everyone benefited from it. Some Americans were dissatisfied with the changes brought by affluence. Social critics and a small group of writers and artists known as **beatniks** criticized what they viewed as the crass materialism and conformity of the American middle class. The theme of alienation, or the feeling of being cut off from mainstream society, dominated many of the era's popular novels.

Hidden behind this prosperity were urban slums, desperate rural poverty, and discrimination. Michael Harrington's influential book *The Other America* (1962) opened America's eyes to the fifty million people, one fourth of the nation, living in poverty. Many of the "invisible" poor were inner-city African Americans, rural whites, and Hispanics in migrant farm camps and urban barrios.

As the middle class moved from cities to the suburbs, cities lost revenue and political clout. Minorities moved in great numbers to cities in search of better economic opportunities. Strained city services such as garbage removal deteriorated. Crime increased in what was now called the **inner city**, further encouraging middle-class Americans to flee. Government-funded **urban renewal** projects tried to reverse this trend by creating developments they hoped would revitalize downtowns. Many failed, pushing people from their homes into already overcrowded areas. To ease the overcrowding and provide affordable housing, the federal government constructed public housing, often in poor neighborhoods. Poverty and associated problems such as crime became further concentrated.

Many of the rural poor also relocated to cities. Small farmers slipped into poverty when they could not compete with the corporations and large-farm owners dominating farm production.

Efforts to overcome housing and employment discrimination became central to the struggle for civil rights. Latinos and Native Americans struggled with many of the same problems. In 1953, the federal government enacted the **termination policy**, a law that sought to end tribal government and to relocate Native Americans to the nation's cities. Proponents of the policy argued that it would free American Indians to assimilate into American society.

Review Questions

1. List three problems that many minorities faced in the postwar era.

2. Discuss how cities changed during this period.

READING CHECK

Who were the beatniks?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *affluence* mean in the underlined sentence? The terms *prosperity* and *material comfort* are synonyms of *affluence*. Use the synonyms to help you figure out the meaning of *affluence*.

READING SKILL

Identify Main Ideas Why did government efforts fail to improve life for minorities?
