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## **Unit 6 Study Guide: 1950s - 2001**

**Note: The test will be on \_\_\_\_\_.**

### **MAJOR EVENTS**

#### **Jim Crow Laws**

Racial segregation of public facilities (transportation, schools, restaurants, hotels, parks, drinking fountains, restrooms, etc.) from 1877 – 1965. These laws were said to give African Americans “separate but equal” status. In reality, facilities for blacks were inferior. These laws also prevented blacks from voting through poll taxes, literacy tests, and residency requirements.

#### **Brown vs. Board of Education**

Oliver Brown wanted his 7 year old daughter, Linda Brown, to attend a local white school in Topeka, Kansas. It was the closest elementary school to their home. However, the school wouldn't allow Linda to attend because of the color of her skin. So, Oliver Brown took his case to court. Thurgood Marshall was Brown's lawyer. The case ended up going all the way to the Supreme Court. In 1954, the Court declared overturned Plessy vs. Ferguson (1896), which said blacks were “separate but equal.” They determined this to be unconstitutional. As a result, public schools were no longer allowed to be segregated. They were required to begin integrating.

#### **Montgomery Bus Boycott**

Public transportation was also segregated for many years. In many southern states, Jim Crow Laws kept people of color from sitting at the front of the buses and streetcars. If no seats were available, black people were forced to stand, while white people could sit. In 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama. As a result, she was arrested. Black organizations and churches advocated a boycott of city buses in Montgomery. Martin Luther King, Jr. was also heavily involved in this peaceful protest.

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### **March on Washington**

In 1963, African-American leaders called for a “March on Washington.” Around 250,000 people met at the Lincoln Memorial, demanding improved social and economic opportunities and equality for African-Americans. Dr. King delivered his “I Have a Dream” at the march. As a result, civil rights leaders like Dr. King were invited to meet with President John F. Kennedy to discuss civil rights issues.

### **Civil Rights Act**

Three months after the March on Washington, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, but President Lyndon B. Johnson took his place. He continued working with civil rights leaders and helped pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which ended discrimination based on race, color, religion, gender or national origin.

### **Voting Rights Act**

In 1965, congress passed and President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act. This act outlawed state laws that required poll taxes and literacy tests.

### **Space Exploration**

The United States and the Soviet Union became a major competitors have WWII. One competition was the “Space Race”. The Soviets launched a man into space first, but the United States, but the United States became the first country to put a man on the moon. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon on July 20, 1969.

### **Collapse of Soviet Union**

In 1981, Ronald Reagan became president of the United States. At first he emphasized building up the military and weaponry to scare the Soviets. Later, he changed his foreign policy. He worked to improve his relations with the Soviet Union by encouraging Mikhail Gorbachev to enact reforms in his country and he pursued arms reduction agreements. He wanted to end the cold war with the Soviet Union. At the same time, Mikhail Gorbachev was beginning to increase personal freedoms and was providing more economic opportunities to Soviet citizens. Some citizens did not like this because they wanted to remain communist. They even tried to take over the country, but were unsuccessful. In 1989, the Berlin wall was taken down, and two years later, the Soviet Union dismantled into 15 countries.

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## **9/11**

On September 11, 2001, terrorists took control of several airplanes, forcing them to crash into the World Trade Centers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington D.C. Nearly 3,000 people were killed that day, and more than 6,000 were injured. The terrorists belonged to a group from the Middle East called Al Qaeda. The leader of this group was Osama bin Laden. Because of these attacks, U.S. troops entered Afghanistan. In 2003, President Bush continued the “War on Terrorism” by invading Iraq. He believed the Iraqi government, under Saddam Hussein, was supporting terrorists. Conflict continues in the Middle East today.

## **INVENTIONS**

### **1. Television**

Television became popular in the 1950s and 1960s. It allowed people to “SEE” what was happening around the world. Elections were influenced as people watched candidates speak. More money was spent on advertising to consumers. Important events like the Civil Rights Movement, the War in Vietnam, and the assassinations of key leaders were also televised. Historians have noted that news coverage of President Kennedy’s assassination is credited as when television overtook newspapers as the chief media outlet for information in America.

### **2. Personal Computer**

Since 1975 personal computers have become more affordable and accessible to average Americans. Before that, their size and cost limited their use to scientific and industrial purposes. Today, computers are essential for nearly all professions. They make tasks easier and more efficient.

### **3. Internet**

At first the internet was a small network of research computers that communicated with one another. The internet became more widespread in the 1990s. Today it is used by ordinary people worldwide. Although the internet has enhanced the speed of communication and has allowed people to access information quickly, it also has negative consequences. Examples of negative consequences include security issues, internet addictions, and inactivity.

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## **KEY PEOPLE**

### **Thurgood Marshall**

- Civil Rights activist
- Oliver Brown's lawyer in Brown vs. Board of Education
- Supreme Court Justice
- Member of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)

### **Rosa Parks**

- Civil Rights activist who refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus
- Member of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)

### **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

- Civil Rights activist and leader who promoted social change through non-violence
- Helped lead events such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the March on Washington
- Assassinated by a convicted felon named James Earl Ray in 1968

### **President John F. Kennedy**

- President of the United States from 1961-1963
- Dealt with the Cuban Missile Crisis during the Cold War
- Met with civil rights leaders to discuss racial and social issues after the March on Washington
- Assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald in 1963

### **Robert Kennedy**

- John F. Kennedy's brother
- Politician who advocated for the civil rights movement
- Opposed the Vietnam War
- Democratic candidate for President in 1968
- Assassinated in 1968 by Sirhan Sirhan, a Jordanian citizen who was angry over Kennedy's support of Israel.

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### **Cesar Chavez**

- Civil Rights activist who helped improve life for farm workers
  - ✓ Better pay
  - ✓ Better working conditions
  - ✓ Better treatment
- Stressed nonviolent forms of protest such as boycotts, marches, and hunger strikes
- Most famous boycott was against grape growers

### **President Lyndon B. Johnson**

- President of the United States from 1963-1969
- Assumed the position after President Kennedy was assassinated
- Helped pass civil rights legislation such as the Civil Rights Act & the Voting Rights Act
- Heavily involved in the Vietnam War

### **President Ronald Reagan**

- President of the United States from 1981-1989
- Involved in the collapse of the Soviet Union

## **PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. In what ways did the Civil Rights movement change the lives of Americans?
2. How did the conflict of the Montgomery Bus Boycott create change?
3. How did the March on Washington create positive changes in America?
4. How did Thurgood Marshall help create change for African Americans in his positions as a member of the NAACP and United States Supreme Court?
5. How did Martin Luther King Jr. influence others by his actions?
6. How did Cesar Chavez impact the lives of migrant farm workers?
7. How did the Voting Rights Act impact African Americans?
8. How did the assassination of JFK and RFK affect America?
9. How did the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. affect the Civil Rights movement?
10. Why was the invention of the television important to society?
11. Why was space exploration so important to the United States?
12. What events have occurred as a result of the attack on America on September 11, 2001?
13. How have Americans' lives changed as a result of the personal computer? Internet?