

HARRY TRUMAN



DWIGHT
EISENHOWER

Domestic Issues

Truman's Background

- Born in Missouri in 1884
- Grew up in Independence and family farm
- middle class
- Worked a series of jobs (railroad, farming)



Truman's Background

- ❑ Joined army (World War I)
- ❑ Passed eye exam by memorizing chart
- ❑ Served on Western Front
- ❑ Showed courage and leadership as a soldier



Truman's Background

- ❑ Opened clothing store (haberdashery)
- ❑ Went bankrupt
- ❑ Got involved in local politics
- ❑ U.S. Senator from Missouri in 1934
- ❑ Re-elected 1940
- ❑ Member of Senate Armed Forces committee
- ❑ Vice-President 1945
- ❑ President upon Roosevelt's death



Truman Presidency

- post-war conversion to peacetime economy
- Biggest concern: return to Depression
- Didn't happen because
 - ▣ People had money saved
 - ▣ G.I. Bill
 - ▣ Inflation soared, though
- Employment Act of 1946
 - ▣ Council of Economic Advisors to recommend economic policy
 - ▣ Adjust tax policy to help regulate the economy
 - ▣ More government involvement in the economy

Labor Issues

- High inflation + real wage loss = strikes in 1946
 - Over 5 million
- Truman's reaction
 - Nationalized railroads
 - Threatened to draft strikers
 - Seized coal mines



Sugar workers demonstrate at Olaa plantation during the 1946 strike.

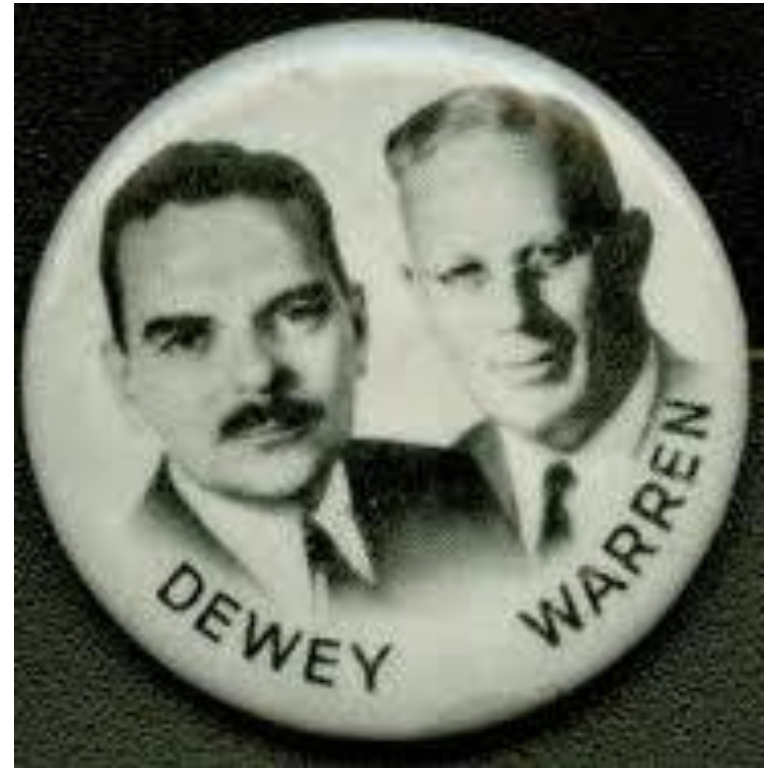
Labor Issues

- ❑ Led to dissatisfaction
 - ❑ Republicans retake Congress (1946)
 - ❑ Push for anti-labor laws
- ❑ Taft-Hartley Act
 - ❑ Outlawed closed shop
 - ❑ Created “right to work”
 - ❑ Unions: no political contributions
 - ❑ President could declare 80 day “cooling off” period
- ❑ Truman vetoed
- ❑ Congress overrode



Election of 1948

- Republicans
- Thomas Dewey (again)
- California Governor Earl Warren for Vice-President
- Running as moderates
 - Keep some New Deal legislation
 - Cautious foreign policy; anti-communist



Election of 1948

- Democrats
- Truman's in trouble
- Democratic party fractured
- Progressives
 - Henry Wallace
 - Support: Liberal Democrats
- Dixiecrats
 - Southerners opposed to Civil Rights
 - South Carolina Governor Strom Thurmond
 - Support: Conservative Democrats



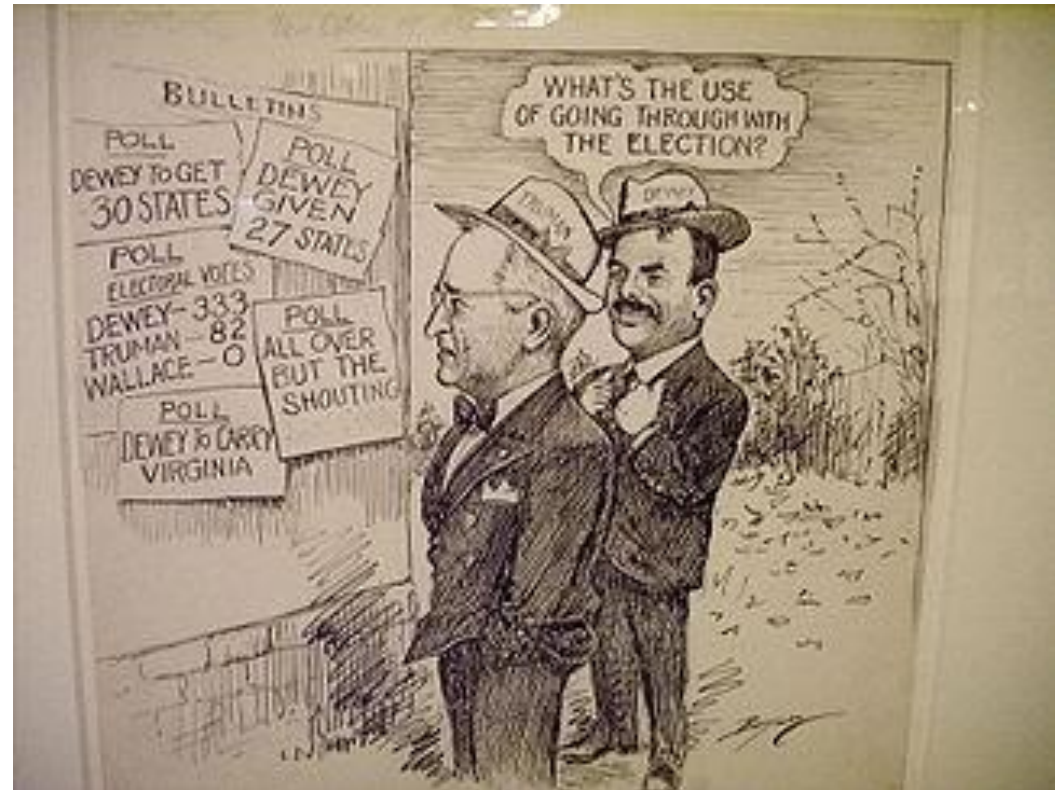
Election of 1948

- Truman gets nomination
- Platform
 - ▣ Expanding social security
 - ▣ More funding for public housing
 - ▣ Civil rights legislation
 - ▣ Government health care
 - ▣ Education
- Cross country campaign
- “Give ‘em hell, Harry!”

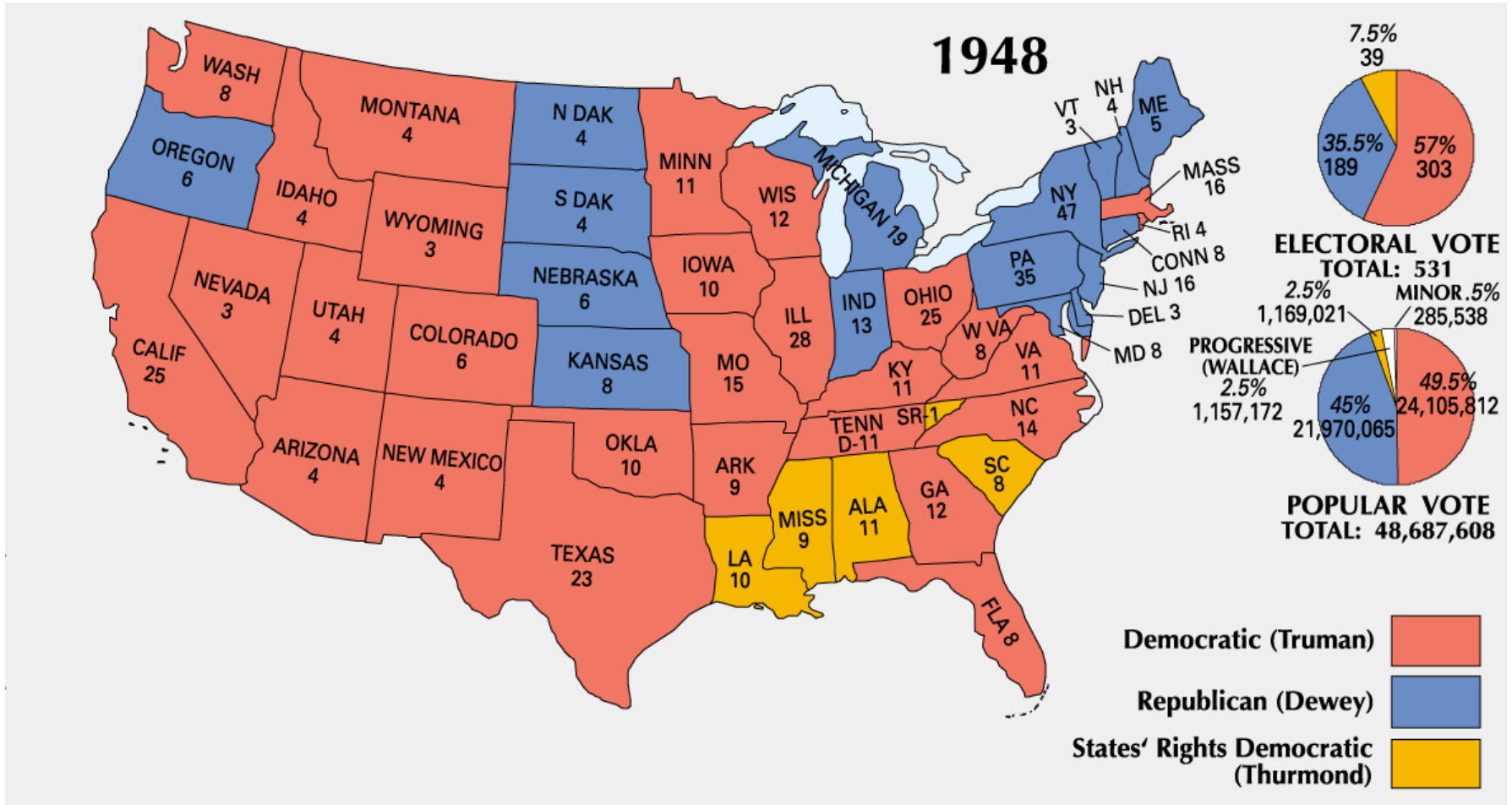


Election of 1948

- Truman
 - Blamed Congress: “Do Nothing Republican Congress”
 - Focused on successes
 - Middle American background and values
- Experts: no chance



Election of 1948



Election of 1948



The Fair Deal

Democrats retook Congress

Conservative Democrats and Republicans able to block much legislation

SUCCESSSES

- Minimum wage: from 40¢ to 75¢
- 10 million added to Social Security
- Low income housing

FAILURES

- Civil Rights legislation
 - ▣ Anti-lynching law
 - ▣ Protect voting rights
 - ▣ Equal employment opportunities
- National health care
- Repeal of Taft-Hartley Act

Civil Rights

- 1946 – National Civil Rights Commission
- 1947 – Jackie Robinson
- Truman desegregated military (executive order)
- 1948 – *Shelley vs. Kraemer*
 - illegal to have housing discriminate on race or religion



The Red Scare

- “The Great Fear”
- Republican tactic to discredit Truman/ Democrats
- Started with House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)
- Began in late 1930’s (investigate fascist/communist activities)



The Red Scare

- Hollywood: Communist “subversion” in movies (writers and directors)
 - ▣ 5th amendment
 - ▣ jailed for contempt
 - ▣ blacklisted
 - ▣ Known as “The Hollywood Ten”
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3MlaFlzCw8>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJCJGvd7t2c&NR=1>



The Red Scare

- Unions targeted, many leaders cooperated
- Taft-Hartley Act
 - ▣ Leaders had to take oaths
 - ▣ CIO expelled leaders who refused
- Truman's reaction
 - ▣ Loyalty oaths
 - ▣ Security checks on "risky" federal government employees
- State/local governments made employees take oaths
- Civil rights groups targeted
- Liberals in general targeted
 - ▣ Many former FDR New Dealers

The Red Scare

LOYALTY REVIEWS

President Truman began loyalty reviews in 1947 to screen federal employees for Communist infiltrators. With the federal government setting the example, many other organizations and businesses began searching for Communists.

EMPLOYEES	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Total number	6 million	11,000
Investigated by the FBI	14,000	none
Quit during the review	2,000	none
Fired for "questionable loyalty" or refusal to sign a loyalty oath	212	157

The Red Scare

- ❑ Alger Hiss -- lawyer in State Department (FDR)
- ❑ Whitaker Chambers: accused Hiss of being a spy; claimed he hid microfilm in pumpkins
- ❑ Hiss denied it
- ❑ Could no longer be tried for espionage
- ❑ tried for perjury
 - ❑ First trial: hung jury
 - ❑ Second trial: guilty
 - ❑ 44 months in prison
- ❑ Maintained innocence for rest of life



The Red Scare

- Joseph McCarthy
- Senator from Wisconsin (1946)
- Up for re-election (1952)
- Hadn't done much
- Attacked Truman and Democrats



The Red Scare

- “In my hand, I have a list of names”
- Fear builds . . .
- Truman called out McCarthy
- Eisenhower elected President (1952)
 - ▣ Dislikes McCarthy but keeps quiet
 - ▣ *The Crucible?*
- McCarthy re-elected
- Time to stop?

The Red Scare

- Meanwhile . . .
- Ethel and Julius Rosenberg
- Accused of selling atomic secrets
- guilty (1951) death penalty (1953)
- Much testimony by David Greenglass (Ethel's brother)
 - worked on Manhattan Project
 - Sacrificed sister to protect self & family
- Fueled McCarthy



The Red Scare

- McCarthy's downfall
- 1954 Army-McCarthy hearings
 - ▣ Accused Army of harboring communists
 - ▣ Eisenhower's mad!
- Saw real person (TV): a bully
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IIS0ZkLVGA>

The Red Scare

- End of McCarthy
- Censured by Senate
- Fear had subsided
 - Korean War over
 - Stalin had died
- Term “McCarthyism”
 - Unsubstantiated accusations against someone for personal revenge
- McCarthy dies in 1957



Dwight D. Eisenhower

- Born and raised in Abilene, Kansas
- Played football in high school and college
- Graduated from United States Military Academy (West Point) in 1915
- Married Mamie in 1916



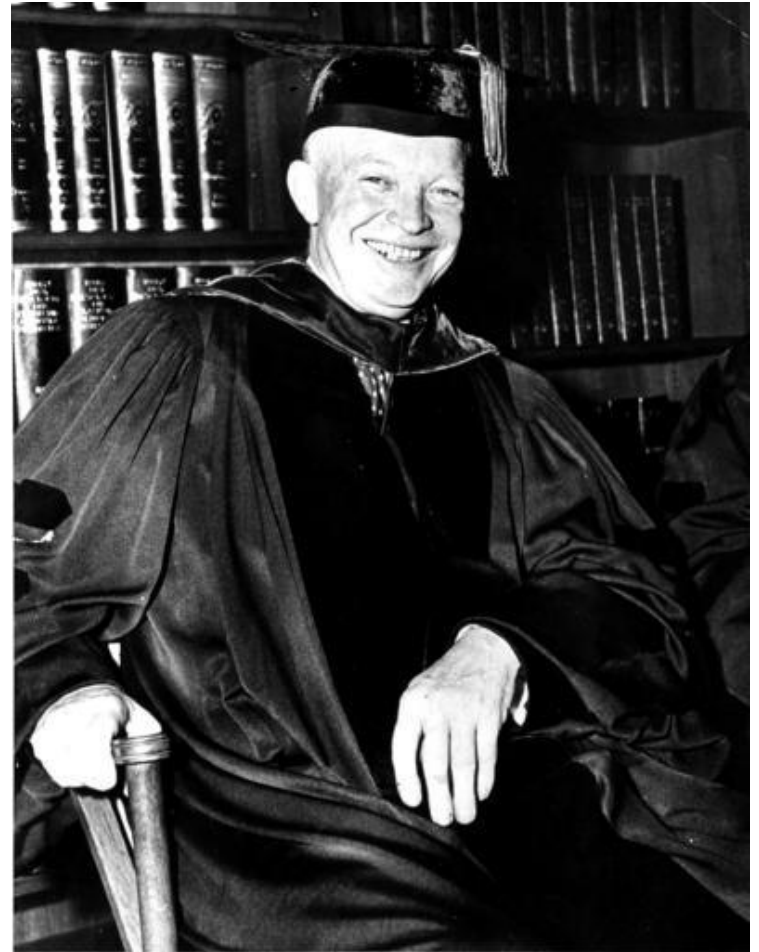
Military Career

- World War I
 - ▣ Head of tank corps
 - ▣ Never saw combat
- Between the wars
 - ▣ Variety of positions
 - ▣ Aide to Douglas MacArthur
 - ▣ Career languished
- World War II
 - ▣ Headed American forces in North Africa
 - ▣ Became Supreme Allied Commander
 - ▣ Carried out D-Day invasion
 - ▣ War hero in all Allied nations



Post-War Career

- Both parties wanted him as presidential candidate
- Never declared political loyalty
- President of Columbia University in 1948
- At Truman's request, commander of NATO in 1950



Election of 1952

- Declares candidacy as Republican
- Biggest competition: Senator Robert Taft (Ohio) – “Mr. Conservative”
- Eisenhower gets nomination
- Chooses Richard Nixon as Vice-President
- Nixon accused of receiving illegal campaign contributions
- Gives famous “Checkers” speech
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjHoH2m3iKA>



Election of 1952

- Slogan becomes
K₁ C₃
 - ▣ Korea
 - ▣ Communism
 - ▣ Corruption
 - ▣ China



Election of 1952

- The Democrats
- Truman eligible to run again
 - ▣ 22nd amendment had passed
 - ▣ Popularity as low as 23%
 - ▣ Not really interested
- Anti-communist activities hurt
- Corruption within administration
- Adlai Stevenson of Illinois
 - ▣ Continue New Deal-Fair Deal programs
 - ▣ Supported by liberals and labor
 - ▣ Vice-Presidential candidate, John Sparkman, (Alabama – Southern votes)

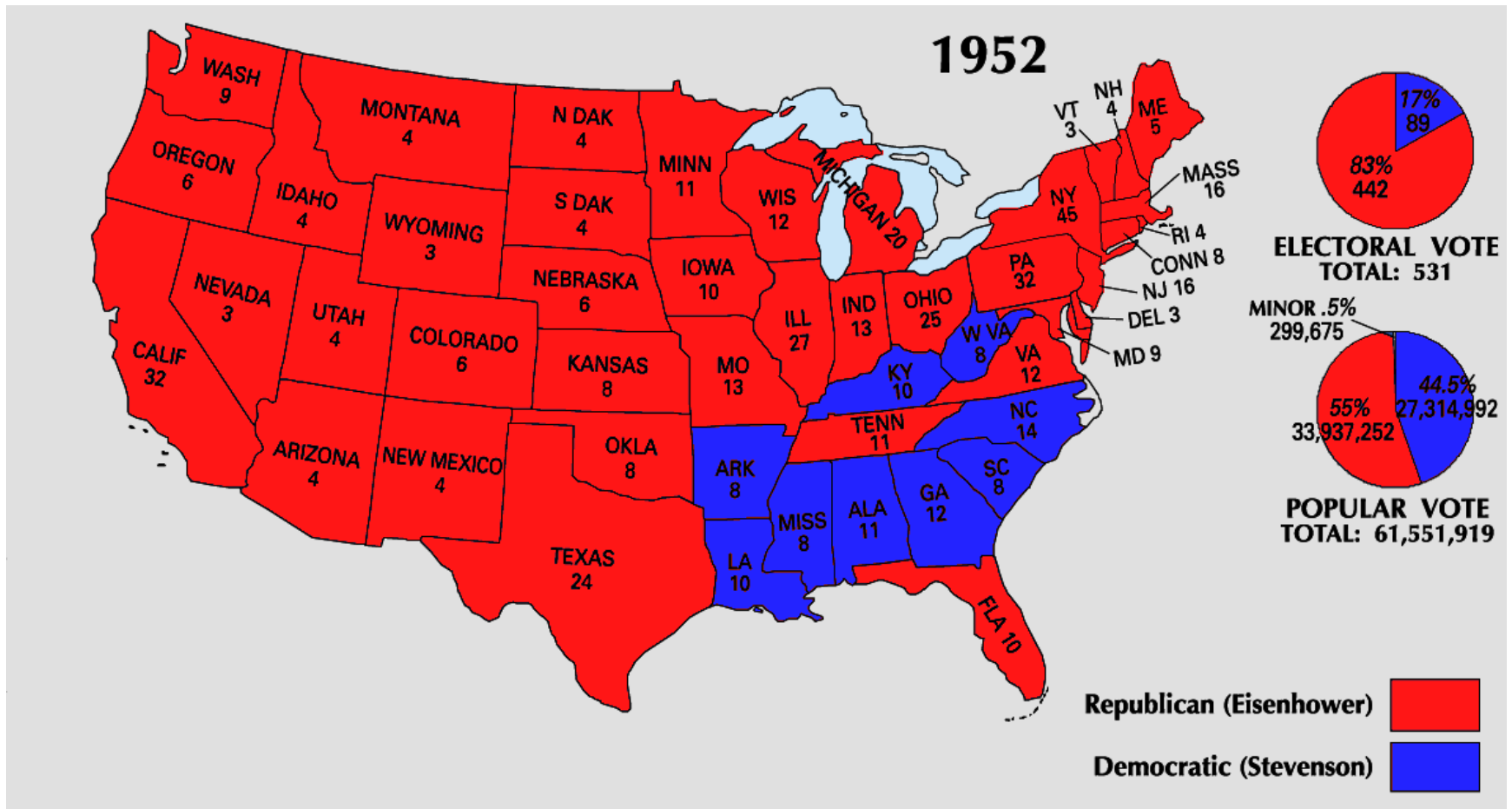


Election of 1952

Eisenhower: “If elected, I shall go to Korea”



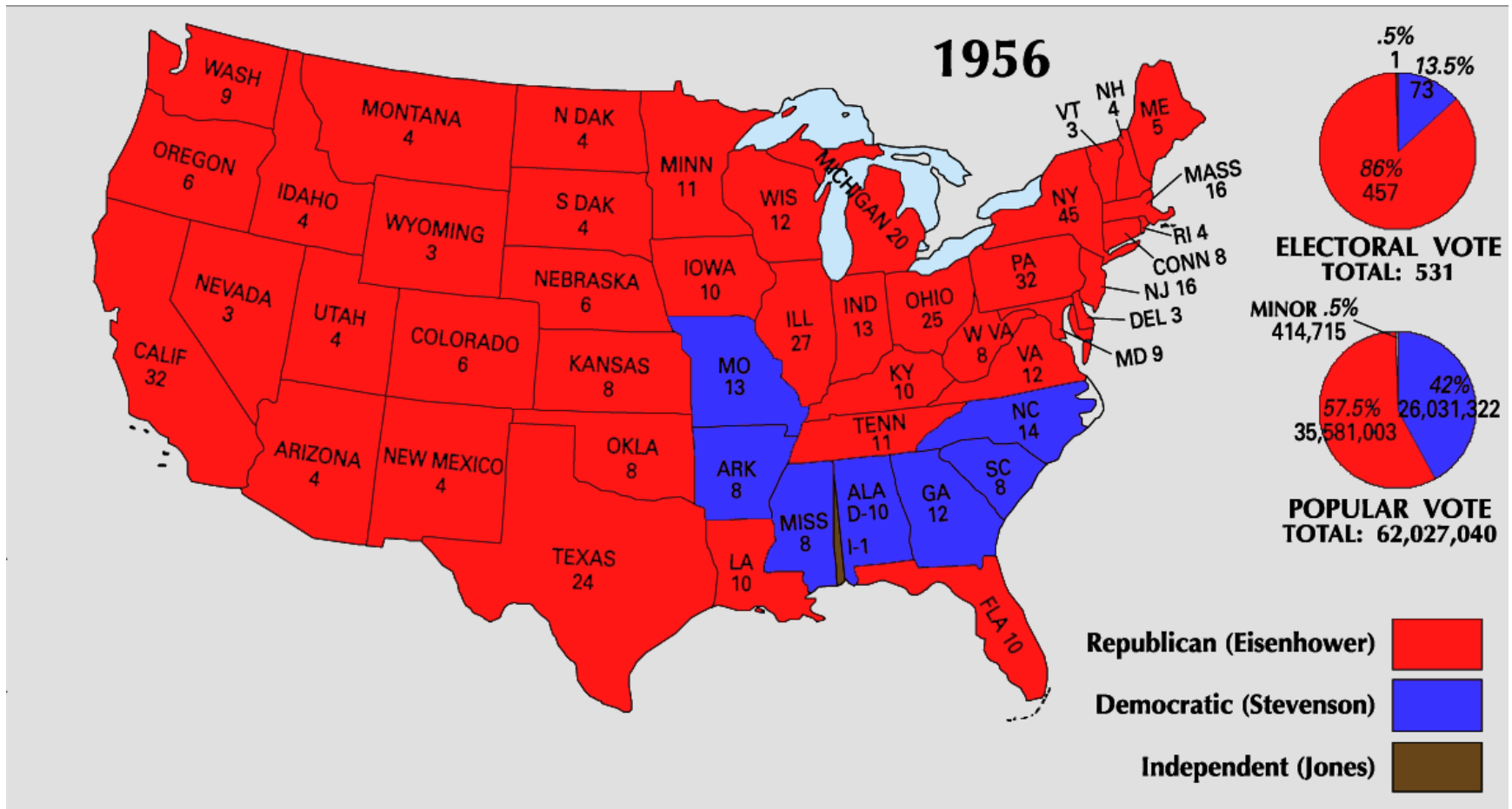
1952 Results



Election of 1956

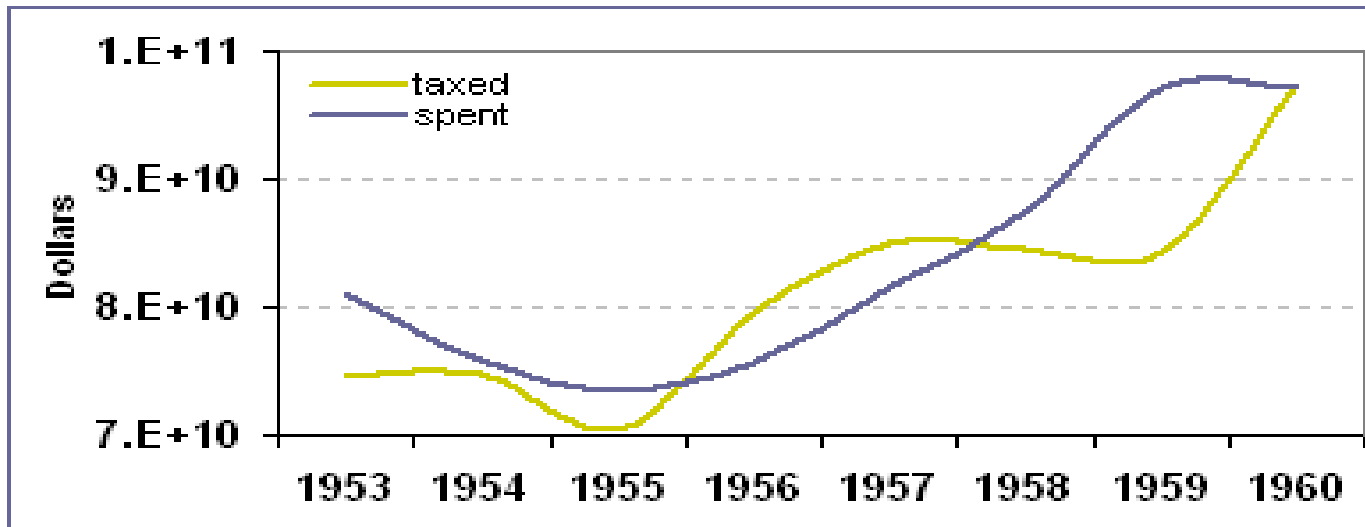
- Eisenhower and Nixon vs. Stevenson and Estes Kefauver (Tennessee) in a rematch
- <http://www.livingroomcandidate.org/commercials/1956>

1956 Results



Eisenhower presidency

- “Modern Republicanism”
 - ▣ Ok with some government intervention
 - More involvement than 20’s, less than the 30’s
 - ▣ Balanced budgets
 - ▣ Cold War focus
 - ▣ Increase defense spending
 - ▣ Republican party moderate until Reagan (1980’s)



Eisenhower presidency

- Lower tension
- Main domestic issues
 - ▣ Race relations
 - ▣ Space race
 - ▣ Social programs
 - ▣ Transportation
- Needed time to golf



Race Relations

- Native Americans
 - ▣ Reverses New Deal policies
 - ▣ Back to Dawes Act
- Appoints Earl Warren to Supreme Court
 - ▣ *Brown vs. Board of Education* (1954)
 - ▣ “Biggest damn fool mistake I made”



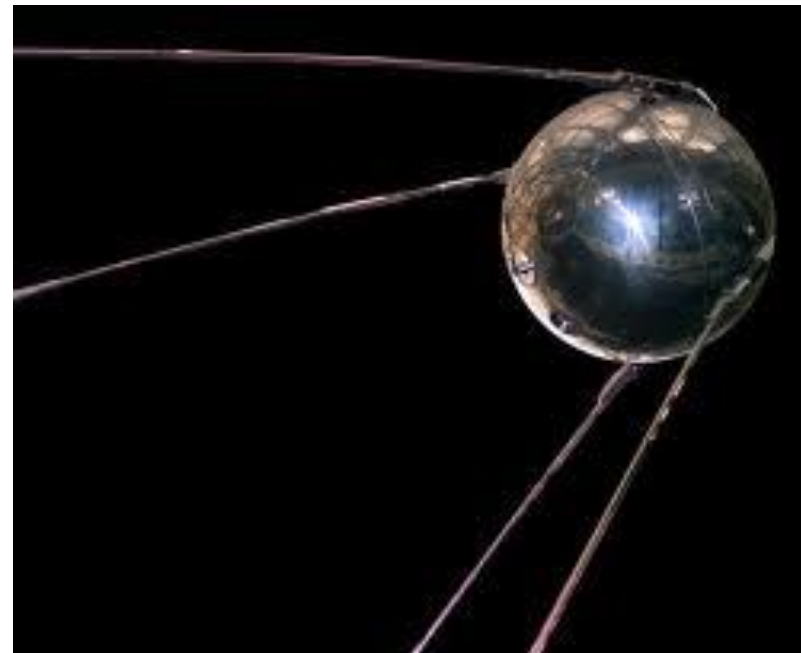
Race Relations

- African-Americans
- *Brown vs. Board*
 - ▣ Reversed *Plessy vs. Ferguson*
 - ▣ “separate but equal” is “separate is inherently *unequal*”
- Civil Rights Act of 1957
 - ▣ Allowed government to investigate
 - ▣ Little Rock



Space Race

- ❑ October 1957
- ❑ Soviets launch Sputnik
- ❑ Fear: falling behind
- ❑ Led to
 - ❑ NASA
 - ❑ math and science education
 - ❑ Fear of nuclear war
 - ❑ Federal funding for college education, and research and development



Space Race

“Wonder Why We’re Not Keeping Pace?”



HERBLOCK
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Space Race

The Space Race

Spacecraft	Sputnik I	Explorer I	Vanguard I	Vostok I	Mercury
Country	Soviet Union	United States	United States	Soviet Union	United States
Date	October 4, 1957	January 31, 1958	March 17, 1958	April 12, 1961	May 5, 1961
Size	23 inches in diameter	80 inches long	6 inch sphere	16 feet	9.5 feet tall
Weight	184 pound satellite	31 pound satellite	3 pound satellite	10,000 pounds	3000 pounds
Highest altitude reached	589 miles	1529 miles	2453 miles	203 miles	116 miles
Orbited for	3 months	through 1967	6 years	single orbit of 108 minutes	15 minutes, 22 seconds
Accomplished	transmitted data for 21 days about temperature inside the satellite	detected zone of intense radiation inside Earth's magnetic field	obtained data about Earth's shape and variations in its gravitational field	first person in space: Yuri Gagarin	first American in space: Alan Shepard

Source: Valerie Neal, et al., *Spaceflight: A Smithsonian Guide*, Macmillan USA, New York, 1995; *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., Chicago, 1993.

Social Programs

- Continued some New Deal/Fair Deal programs
 - More for veteran's benefits
 - More for Social Security
 - More for unemployment compensation
 - More for low cost housing
 - Increased minimum wage to \$1
- Department of Health, Education and Welfare
 - Consolidated many social programs

Transportation

- St. Lawrence Seaway
 - ▣ Coordinated with Canada
 - ▣ Linked Great Lakes with Atlantic Ocean
- Interstate Highway Act (1956)
 - ▣ Largest public works project in history
 - ▣ Larger than any New Deal program
 - ▣ Created interstate highway system

St. Lawrence Seaway Map



- Inspiration
 - ▣ Transcontinental Motor Convoy (1919)
 - ▣ Adolph Hitler and the autobahn

Transportation



Transportation

- Impact of Interstate Highway Act
 - ▣ Military could move easier
 - ▣ Evacuation of cities easier (nuclear attack)
 - ▣ Created A LOT of jobs
- Economy of the 1950s: very strong
 - ▣ Only mild recessions

**WHERE IS AMERICA
DOMESTICALLY BY 1960?**