

Harry S. Truman		

Background

- ◆ Democrats
- ◆ Truman grew up pampered and protected
- ◆ His father owned a farm
- ◆ In 1917, Truman joined artillery regiment
- ◆ Truman transported Battery D from a rowdy Bunch into a battle ready group
- ◆ He never lost a man in the war
- ◆ He earned a reputation for efficient, honest performances
- ◆ Won elections to commissioner of Jackson County to the U.S. Senate

Chief Legislator

- ◆ passed 22nd Amendment
- ◆ civil rights legislation
- ◆ National Security Act (1947)
- ◆ Truman Doctrine
- ◆ Foreign Assistance Act 1948 (Marshall Plan)
- ◆ Overturned veto of the Taft-Hartley Bill (Labor-Management Relation Act) and The Immigration and Nationality Act
- ◆ Most of the Fair Deal did not pass through Congress

Chief Diplomat

- ◆ Established NATO
- ◆ Marshall Plan: an effort to stop the spread of communism
- ◆ Helped create Israel become a nation
- ◆ Truman Doctrine
- ◆ Failed to stop the aggression of Stalin diplomatically
- ◆ Pushed Communist Korea behind 38th parallel and provoked China

Guardian of the Economy

- ◆ Fair Deal: an effort to rectify the poor economy
- ◆ New Deal Democrat: followed the ideals that FDR established
- ◆ Truman fought hard against stubborn labor unions (his main constituents)
- ◆ Many strikes and shortages of consumer goods made the economy very weak
- ◆ Truman's nationalization of the steel industry declared unconstitutional

Commander in Chief

- ◆ used the first atomic bomb on Japan
- ◆ Signed a proclamation declaring the end of WW2
- ◆ Truman Doctrine to fight the spread of communism in Turkey and Greece
- ◆ Established NATO
- ◆ Investigated national defense program
- ◆ Created the National Military Establishment, the CIA, and the National Security Agency
- ◆ Korean War: many casualties, failed war
- ◆ used the first atomic bomb on Japan

Head of State

- ◆ “whistlestop” campaign trips: made 275 speeches
- ◆ Truman did surprisingly well speaking to crowds
- ◆ Pulled a great political upset against favored Republican Thomas Dewey
- ◆ Lacked both the political vision and charismatic style of his predecessor

Chief Executive

- ◆ Berlin Airlift: great success
- ◆ Very decisive as a leader
(Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, NATO, use of atomic bomb, aggressive stance against strikers and unions)
- ◆ Supported Civil Rights against a lot of opposition
- ◆ Great leader as a commander in the military
- ◆ Too quick to jump into the Korean War
- ◆ Use of atomic bomb is highly questioned

Chief of Party

- ◆ Stuck to Democratic economic ideals
- ◆ Democrats lost midterm election due to poor economy
- ◆ Splintered the party along the lines of racial equality with Civil Rights activism
- ◆ Poor leadership with party in Congress
- ◆ Was in constant war (a lot of military spending)

Grades

- ◆ Chief Legislature - B: Many of the legislations and Acts were signed but president's veto was overturned by Congress
- ◆ Commander in Chief - C+ : worked well with the military but his decisions made during the war were poor
- ◆ Chief Executive - A : Use of atomic bomb is highly questioned but he was a great leader as a commander in the military
- ◆ Head of State - B+ : Great public speaker
- ◆ Chief of Party - D : poor leadership and economy led to lost in election
- ◆ Guardian of The Economy - C : strikes made the economy weak but he worked hard to rectify the economy
- ◆ Chief Diplomat - D : created a doctrine but he was in a constant war

Overall Grade : B-

Sources

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