G.I. Bill
- Most important measure taken in combatting the recession
- Passed by congress in 1944
- Carried onto Truman’s ‘Fair Deal’
- Helped 15 million returning veterans reenter the job market
- Gave the govt grants to any veterans who wished to return to school ($15 in federal grants)
- Set aside an equal amount of money to provide veterans with loans for new homes, farms, and businesses

Postwar Boom
- The US economy recovered quickly from the brief recession (1946-1947)
- Making Americans now the wealthiest people in the world
- Within just a few years almost two-thirds of American families achieved m/c status
- GNP more than doubled during the 1950s, doubled again in the 1960s
- Most American families had a car, a TV, a fridge and owned their by 1960
- This was a big achievement considering the fact that fewer than half of Americans had any of these luxuries just 30 years earlier

Foundations and Prosperity
- Wartime industrial production and unprecedented defense spending during the 1950s and 1960s fueled the economic boom
- Manufacturing infrastructures in Britain, France and Germany had been destroyed by invasion and bombing
- American industries had remained completely untouched and therefore benefitted greatly from the war
- Low oil prices and the Federal Highway Act (1956) also boosted the nation’s overall economic strength
- Improvements in education thanks to GI Bill improved worker’s productivity

Migration and Population Boom
- Improvements in transportation mobilized Americans
- 50s and 60s – millions of American left the East for the west, south and Midwest
- Federal grants to these regions contributed to their development
- Populations rose greatly in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Florida
- By the early 1960s – California had become the most populous state in the union
- The postwar baby boom (1945, 1957) increased the US population rapidly as young Americans took advantage of the postwar peace and their increased wealth to start new families and have children

African-American Migration
- Blacks continued to move in large numbers from the south to northern cities
- The Great Depression, World War 2 and the prospect of jobs in northern cities prompted more than a million black to leave the south
- Improved blacks’ overall economic status
- Helped make the civil rights movement possible

Regional divisions
- NE – traditional, political, financial and educational powerhouse.
- Washington DC, NY and Boston
- Saw itself as more sophisticated than the rest of the country and more responsible for US success in WW2
- 18/32 presidents up to FDR from NE states