Agreed to extend social security to more people
- Cabinet had wealthy corporate lawyers and business executives
- Encouraged private enterprise and private development of natural resources
  - Lowered federal support for farmers; removed Truman’s wage and price controls, opposed creation of new social service programs
- 1956 Federal Highway Act built infrastructure
- 1954: Congress held Army-McCarthy hearings; decline of McCarthyism
- Nuclear threat encouraged US-SU to avoid direct confrontation, focus on 3rd world
- SoS Dulles was an aristocratic corporate lawyer who believed containment was too passive
  - Wanted liberation → rollback of comm expansion
  - Massive retaliation through nuclear weapons rather than traditional military conflict (less expensive, more bang for the buck ok Dulles)
- 1953: Panmunjom agreement ended hostilities in Korea
  - 1954 Geneva conference: ceasefire and permanent border
- Fr had been attempting to restore authority over Vietnam, a colony it lost to Japan during WW2
  - Ho Chi Minh fought against Fr; had hoped for US support based on Atlantic Conference’s anti-colonial rhetoric and US help during WW2
  - Was both a nationalist and a communist; Truman supported Fr (Cold War ally)
  - Vietnam aided by China and SU
- US refused to intervene in helping Fr
- 1954 Geneva Conference divided Vietnam along 17th parallel; north would be governed by HCM, south by pro-Western regime
  - Democratic elections would be the basis for unifying in 1956
  - End of Fr commitment, beginning of expanded US presence
  - US established gov headed by Ngo Dinh Diem who refused to permit the '56 elections knowing he would lose and would be backed by US anyway
- 1948: after years of Zionist efforts and UN decisions, Israel proclaimed independence
  - Truman recognized its legitimacy
- US concerned about Arab regimes in oil-rich M.E; investments
  - Mohammed Mossadegh, nationalist Iran PM, resisted presence of Western corporations in 1950s
    - CIA joined forces with Iranian rebels to stage a coup against MM
  - Replaced him with Mohammed Reza Pahlevi as absolute ruler
- Egyptian leader Nasser developed trade relationship with SU
  - Dulles unhappy, withdrew US assistance in building Aswan Dam across Nile
  - Nasser seized Suez canal from GB to use income and build it himself
- 1956: Israeli forces attacked Egypt