

CHAPTER
19

GUIDED READING *Postwar America*

Section 1

A. As you read this section, describe the solutions offered to deal with postwar problems.

1. Problem: Millions of veterans thrown out of work as they return to civilian life	
Solution offered by the Truman administration and Congress	
2. Problem: Severe housing shortage	
Solution offered by developers such as William Levitt	
Solutions offered by Congress under the Truman and Eisenhower administrations	
3. Problem: Runaway inflation	
Solution offered by the Truman administration and Congress	
4. Problem: Labor strikes that threaten to cripple the nation	
Solution offered by the Truman administration	
5. Problem: Discrimination and racial violence	
Solutions offered during the Truman administration	

B. On the back of this paper, explain the significance of **suburb**, **Dixiecrat**, and **Fair Deal**.

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RETEACHING ACTIVITY *Postwar America*

Section 1

Finding Main Ideas

The following questions deal with events on the home front during World War II. Answer them in the space provided.

1. What factors were behind the country's post war economic boom?

2. How did President Truman advance the cause of civil rights?

3. How did midterm elections of 1946 have an unfavorable impact on organized labor?

4. Why did President Truman refer to the 80th Congress as "do-nothing"?

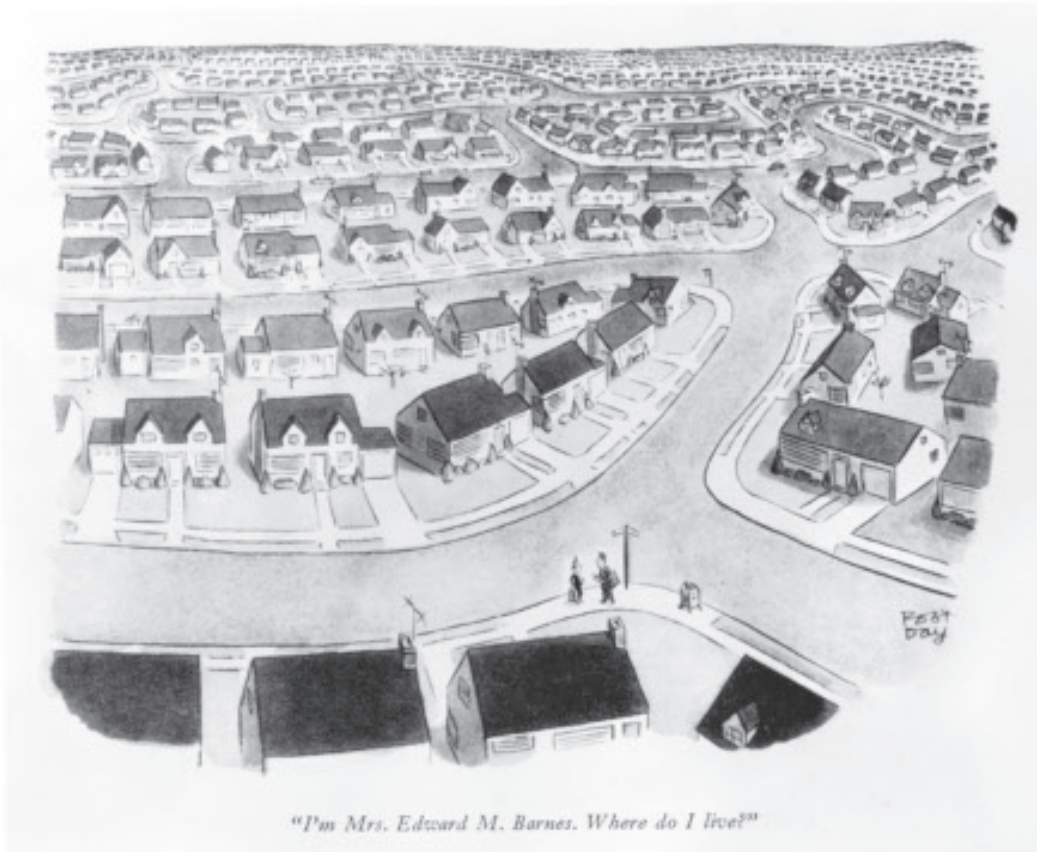
5. In what ways did Truman's New Deal meet with mixed results?

6. What was President Eisenhower's "dynamic conservatism" approach?

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PRIMARY SOURCE **Cartoon**

This cartoon spoofs the housing developments of the 1950s that gave Americans the cookie-cutter homes and neighborhoods they craved. According to the cartoon, what was one negative aspect of postwar suburban developments?



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Discussion Questions

1. What words or phrases would you use to describe the housing development depicted in this cartoon?
2. How do you think the woman in the cartoon, Mrs. Edward M. Barnes, feels about living in a suburban development?
3. Why do you think Americans in the 1950s wanted to live in a housing development like this one? Cite evidence from your textbook to support your opinion.

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AMERICAN LIVES **Jackie Robinson**
Driven to Break Barriers

"There were [in 1949] other blacks in baseball—and we suffered much abuse ourselves—but [Jackie] was still the man who integrated baseball, and he lived under more pressure than any human being I met in my life (and that includes Martin Luther King, Jr.)."—former Dodger teammate Don Newcombe (1994)

All his life, Jackie Robinson struggled to break down racial barriers. In 1947, he did so in a spectacular way by becoming the first African American to play major-league baseball. His will to win baseball games made him one of the top stars of the sport.

Robinson (1919–1972) was a star athlete in high school and college, where he excelled in seven sports. When World War II broke out, he entered the army. He applied for officer training school but was refused because of his race. Robinson protested the injustice and won: he and other African Americans were admitted to the school. Later in his army career, he refused to move to the back of a bus simply because he was black. He was court-martialed but acquitted.

After the war, Robinson began to play professional baseball. However, he played for a team in the Negro Leagues, because regular major-league baseball had a ban on African-American players. At about this time, though, Branch Rickey, co-owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers, decided to end that ban, and he started looking for just the right African-American ballplayer to break the color line. He had to be talented, with a background beyond criticism—including smoking and drinking. He had to have unshakable self-control. He had to have a “must-win” attitude. Rickey felt that Jackie Robinson would be ideal—if he would take the responsibility.

Rickey asked for a meeting with Robinson. To test Robinson’s response to what he would hear from fans and opposing players, Rickey heaped verbal abuse and confrontations on him for nearly three hours. Robinson finally asked Rickey if he wanted “a ballplayer who’s afraid to fight back.” Rickey answered, “I want a player with guts enough not to fight back.” Robinson accepted the terms and promised there would be no incidents. Rickey then signed him to play second base for the 1946 season with the Montreal Royals, a Dodgers team in the International League.

Robinson’s performance in the minor leagues was sensational. He had the highest batting average

in the league and led his team to the Junior World Series Championship.

In 1947, Robinson joined the Dodgers. Throughout the season, he endured hate mail and threats from strangers, foul names and taunts from fans, and close pitches and hard slides from opponents. Remembering his promise, he responded simply by outplaying his opponents. With timely hitting, bold baserunning, and steady fielding, he became a leader. Some of his teammates were reluctant to play with him at first. However, his talents changed their minds. As one recalled, he was accepted “because everybody wanted to win.” Win they did. Robinson helped lead the Dodgers to a National League pennant in 1947 and won baseball’s award as rookie of the year.

Robinson continued to play winning baseball. Daring baserunning was his trademark. Nineteen times he stole home, a difficult feat. In ten years, he led the Dodgers to six league pennants and a world championship.

Robinson retired in 1957, and in 1962 he was voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. He died from complications of high blood pressure and diabetes at age 53, a few weeks after his uniform number was retired by the Dodgers, now based in Los Angeles. As a tribute for the 50th anniversary of his milestone, major-league baseball dedicated its 1997 season to Robinson. All players and umpires wore a “Breaking Barriers” arm patch, and all teams used special baseballs with the commemorative logo in their home openers.

Questions

1. Many people agree that Robinson was not the best player in the Negro League in the mid-1940s. If so, why did Rickey choose him?
2. Do you think professional sports would be the same today if it had not been for Robinson?
3. Do you think Robinson’s success with the Dodgers had any impact beyond sports?