

America at midcentury

Business



Thesis: The postwar prosperity of America in the 1950s caused a skyrocketing in commercial goods and new trends leaning toward creating the perfect white American suburbia, while simultaneously creating an era of heightened American defense against suspected Communist forces, such as the Soviet Union.

Body Paragraph 1: • Many people gained comfortable middle-class status thanks to post-ww2 financial aid • Rise of white suburban communities; Racially mixed communities discouraged • Marriages reached an all-time high; many women becoming engaged during or after college, getting an Mrs. Instead of a PhD • Baby Boom- Rise in Reproduction • Strong religious resurgence • Media becomes capable of manipulating audiences through advertising • Anything but Communism • Rise in defense spending • Arms Race

Body Paragraph 2: • ? Promiscuous music trends: Elvis Presley and? Rock- and- Roll • New inventions in youthful rebellious artistry against conservative commercial conformity • Trend toward depictions of rebellious youth: Rebel Without a Cause • Rise of teenagers: driving towards independence and discovering sexuality • Beatnik Movement • Conclusion: Primarily, the 1950s in America consisted of the American public focusing on creating the nuclear family and conservative, white communities, while the political atmosphere consisted of American idealism of protecting democracy while backing up funding for espionage, Arms Race, and the Cold War. However, America was not one strictly homogenous social landscape with the onset of arising adolescent maturity and creative expression/entertainment through beatnik styles, “ black music”, and new trends in art and literature. While the 1950s was particularly known for its

conformity in conservative culture and national political, the rebellious youth of America broke trends of gender and adolescent conventions through art, music, and behavior.