

# Role of baby boom in america

Economics



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## **The Big Boom**

After World War II many soldiers were filled with glee as they returned to their loved ones with hope of a sense of normality. During the war they faced many obstacles and experienced tragic moments in their lives. The postwar boom, also known as the “ Baby Boom”, occurred after World War II in the United States. A baby boom is when the birth rate temporarily increases significantly. This event drastically changed family life as well as the economy in 1946.

Nine months after World War II ended the birth rate significantly increased twenty percent from 1945. There was a total of 3. 4 million “ baby boomers” born in 1946, the start of the “ boom”. By 1964 there was a total of 76. 4 million babies born. At the time, they made up forty percent of the nation’s population. There are many theories as to what caused this postwar boom. Some historians say that it was a plan to outnumber communists in a Cold War campaign. Others argue that many people aspired to have children postwar because of the prosperity and comfort of their future. Many individuals got married at a younger age and had more children than the average couple during 1946-1964. Not only did this effect the population, but the economy as well.

Businesses grew larger and profitable, while laborers received better wages and benefits. Consumer goods were in an abundance and were easily affordable. Economy was boosted greatly and new technology was being invented. William Levitt, a developer, purchased land outside of the city and began his work of building inexpensive tract housing. For returning soldiers it

was usually cheaper to buy one of these houses than to rent an apartment in the city. These houses were particularly great for young families. They included a large family room and a nice backyard. Due to more children needing care, women were brought back to their roles of wives and mothers rather than working in the workforce.

As the “baby boomers” grew up most of them were outspoken folk who fought for equality for everyone whether it be African Americans, Hispanics, gays, lesbians, or women. They did demonstrations against the Vietnam War in parks, colleges, and other public places. Uprisings occurred in American cities such as Los Angeles and Newark in the 1960’s. Others decided to outcast themselves from everything, growing their hair long and moving as far away from William Levitt’s tract houses as possible.

Today, these “baby boomers” would be in their 60’s. They have experienced prosperity, opposition, drugs, and new technologies in their lifetime. They were brought into this life by individuals who wanted them to live better lives than their parents did during the Great Depression in the 1940’s. We can interpret from this significant event that when things seem to have a bright future we want to have not only ourselves, but our children to experience it with us.