This chapter discusses the postwar political scandals and the changing atmosphere in the post–World War I United States. This “boom” period brought about new technologies that spurred economic growth and cultural changes that shaped an era.

**Origins of the Cold War**
- In 1944 the United Nations and the Human Rights Commission were formed.
- In 1945 the International Military Tribunal prosecuted Nazi leaders for war crimes.
- Churchill and Roosevelt agreed to recognize the Polish communist government.
- The Declaration of Liberated Europe stated all nations had the right to choose their governments.
- Germany was divided by the Allies.
- Tensions between the Soviets and the United States led to the Cold War.
- Truman and Stalin met in Potsdam.
- Truman insisted that Germany’s industry be allowed to recover.
- Soviets set up governments in Eastern Europe creating the Iron Curtain.
- The Cold War spread beyond Europe into Asia; Chinese communists captured Beijing.
- In June 1950 North Korean troops invaded South Korea.
- MacArthur was fired by Truman.
- In 1951 peace negotiations began with the armistice signed in 1953.
- The United States signed the SEATO agreement.

**The Cold War and U.S. Society**
- Fear of communism led to the Red Scare.
- The Loyalty Review Program screened federal employees.
- The House Un-American Activities Committee began a “witch-hunt” focused on the film industry.
- Alger Hiss and the Rosenbergs were convicted of spying.
- The Soviets tested the hydrogen bomb, Americans built fallout shelters, and nuclear fears influenced books and movies.

**Eisenhower’s Cold War Policies**
- Eisenhower believed in “massive retaliation.”
- Brinkmanship was a bargaining tool.
- Covert operations contained communism.
- The Space Race began when Sputnik was launched; NASA was founded.
- Soviets shot down a U.S. U-2 spy plane.