







# AN ORDINARY MAN

# HIS EXTRAORDINARY

Harry Truman was a reluctant farmer and a commanding soldier. A struggling businessman and a openswerstall statesman, A devoted fusband and an attentive father. He was an unlikely President, whose paymery to the White House was circustous and unplanned.

But this everytay man changed the course of American history. And his decisions as the 33rd President of the United States have made an enduring impact on our world.





# PLOW TO POLITICS

"I've always had a sneakin' notion that someday maybe I'd amount to something."

- HARRY TRUMAN, IN A LETTER TO FUTURE WIFE, BESS WALLACE, 1911

On April 12, 1945, Harry Truman received an urgent call. President Franklin Roosevelt was dead. Truman was a farmer, a war veteran, a failed haberdasher, and a county judge. He was a little-known Senator from Missouri, and Vice President for just 82 days. Now, he was the President of the United States. The world was at war, and the country questioned if he was ready.

To meet the challenges that lay ahead, Truman leaned on his midwestern background, strong values, diverse life experiences, and close personal relationships.

What in Truman's past prepared him for the Presidency?







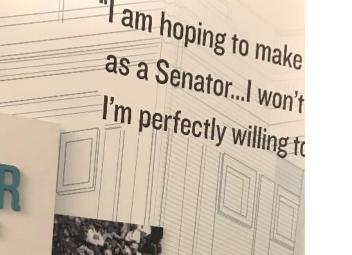












SENATOR FROM MISSOURI

Judge Truman longed to be nominated for Missouri Governor, but the Pendergasts passed him by. Finally, in 1934, the machine delivered. After four other candidates declined, the Pendergasts endorsed Truman for United States Senate. He launched a vigorous campaign – and won. In Washington, Truman thrived in the fraternity of the Senate. He worked hard to distinguish himself. By 1943, he gained national acclaim by uncovering fraud in the defense industry.



## NEW DEAL DEMOCRAT

Truman's Senare campaign platform was single he hacked President Rossevit. Elected in 1952, Frastin Rossevit anacte hold pregoaters, referres, and regulations called the New Deal to pail America out of the Great Copression. The New Deal societies the role of powersheet — and energized the Bennessfor Party. Truman canaptigme that and seen his prinary by 40,000 votes. Some credited Pendengar, Others some a rough campaigne in Thomas. The Democratical and experiment of the Company of t

## COMMON-SENSE COUNTRY BOY

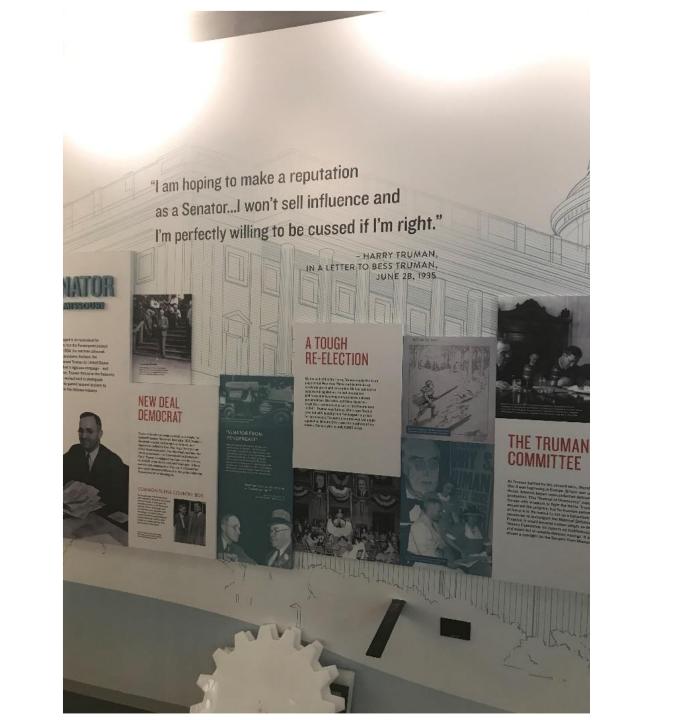
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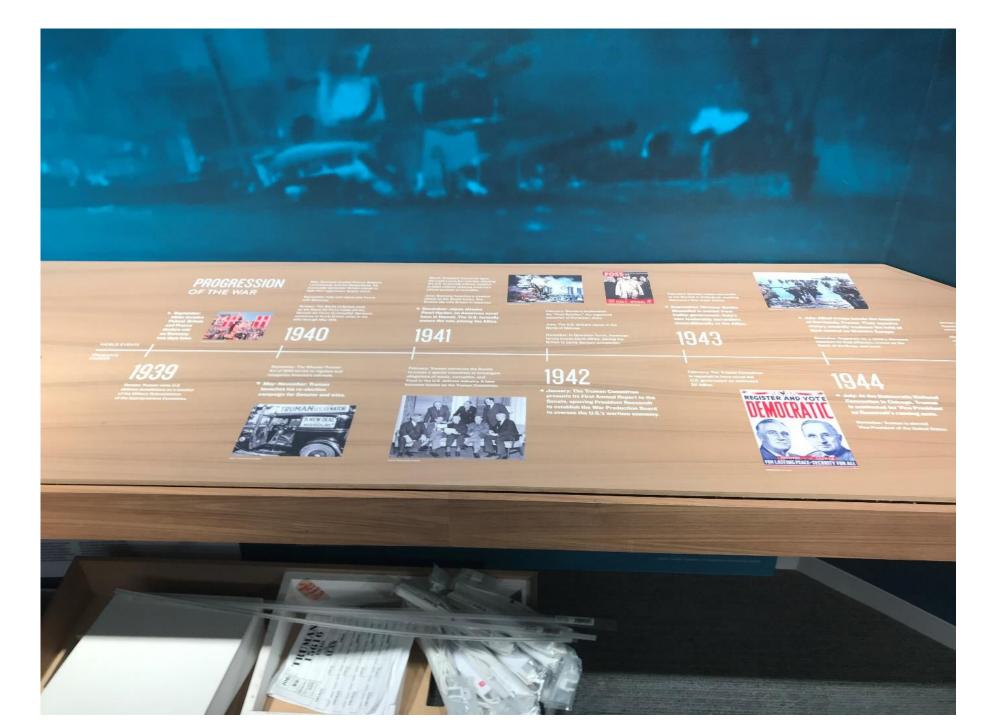


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# PROGRESSION OF THE WAR



1940







January: The Truman Committee
presents its First Annual Rapor to the
Senate, spurring President Rosevelt
to establish the War Production Board
to oversee the U.S.'s wartime economy.





✓ January: The Truman Committee presents its First Annual Report to the Senate, spurring President Rossevelt to establish the War Production Board to oversee the U.S.'s wartime economy. ◆ July: At the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Truman is nominated for Vice President as Roosevelt's running mate.

November: Truman is elected Vice President of the United States

REGISTER AND VOTE

1940

September: The Whoster-Truman Act of 1940 serves to regulate and reorganize America's railroads.

▼ May-November: Truman launches his re-election campaign for Senator and wins.

TRUMANUSSENATOR

February: Truman convinces the Senate to create a special committee to investigal allegations of waste, corruption, and fraud in the U.S. delense industry. It later becomes known as the Truman Committee.

# POLITICS

When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the United States was suddenly thrust into World War II. Franklin Roosevelt, now presiding over a brutal war, decided to run for an unprecedented fourth term in 1944.

Truman did not seek the IS44 Vice-Presidential nomination. He enjoyed the Senate, thriving on the followship and respect of colleagues, Insiders knew the President was gravely ill, and many believed Vice President Henry Wallace was too liberal to assume the reins in wartime. In a backroom meeting, Roosevelt met with Democratic Party bosses. They discussed possible replacements for Wallace, knowing that whomever they chose might soon lead the nation.

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## A DIFFICULT CHOICE

Eight days before the Democratic National Committee, party leaders are President Research at the When House in decays a replacement for Wallace. Albos Burkley, a Benation here Kennicky, was the old Farmer South Carolina Scienter James Bymes had becked anni-junching legislation and was exposited with block within Reduct Harmegan, the Democratic National Committee Charman from St. Louis, Burkle on new possibility, why not drawn from the President bandly remembered him. Thus, the Section was keyall the had no might scientists. Whe Section was keyall the had no might scientists. When set this convention, however, Beoposital in preference was unclear.

### "THE MISSOURI

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PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATION PRODUCTION

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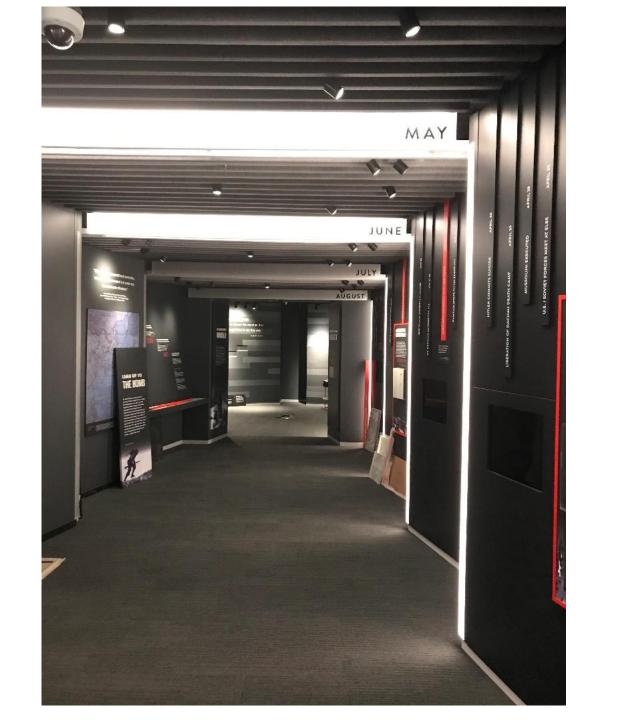


lives in the White House and in the spotlight.

What traits help us handle sudden adversity?

Vice President Truman is sworn in as President of the United States April 12, 1945

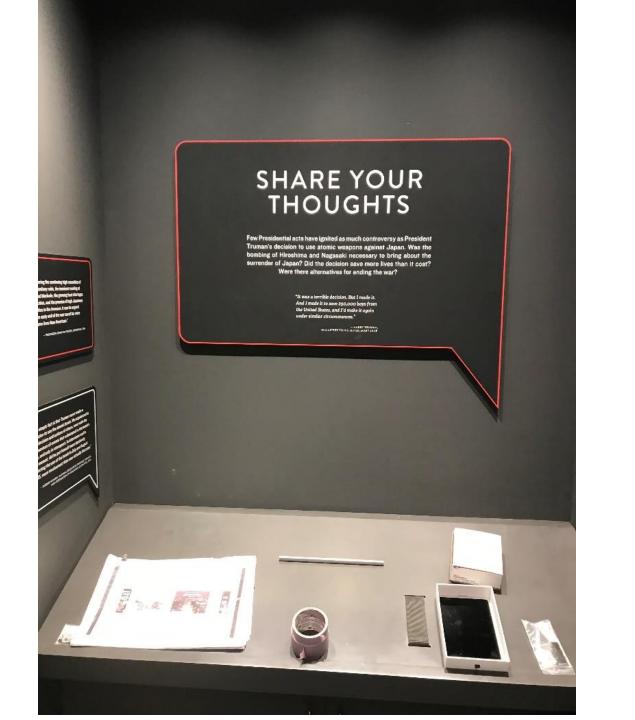


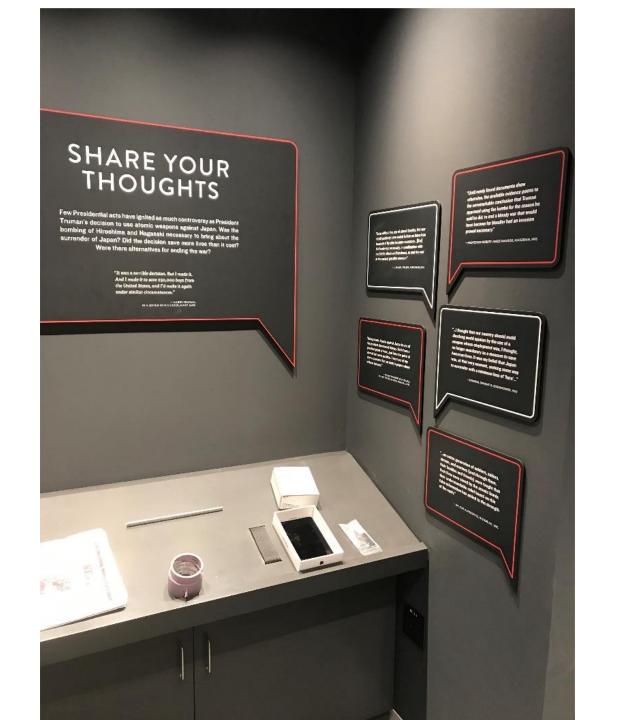




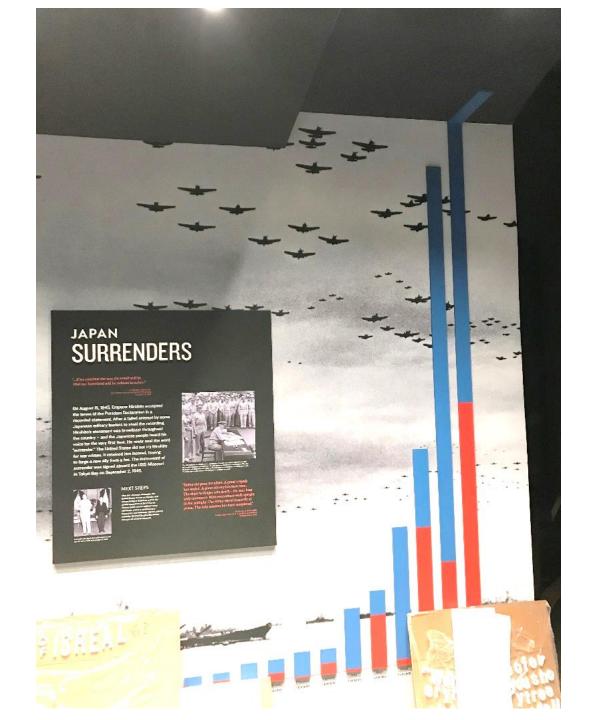


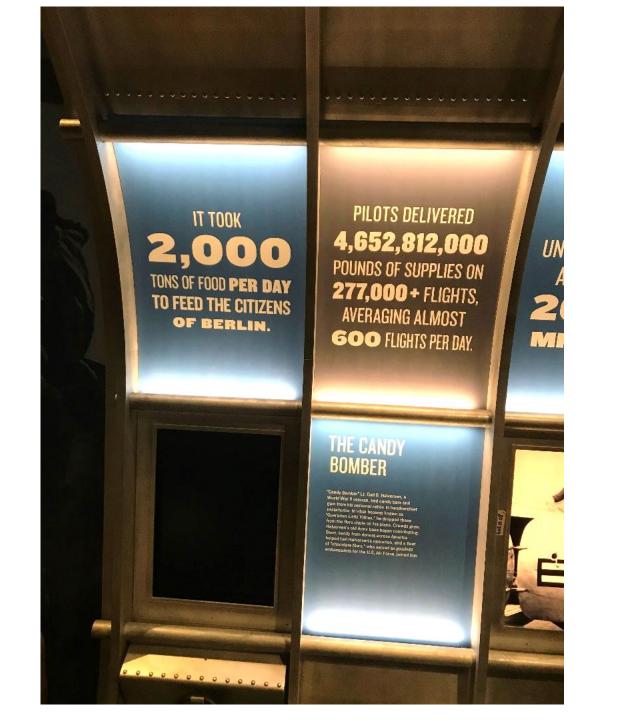


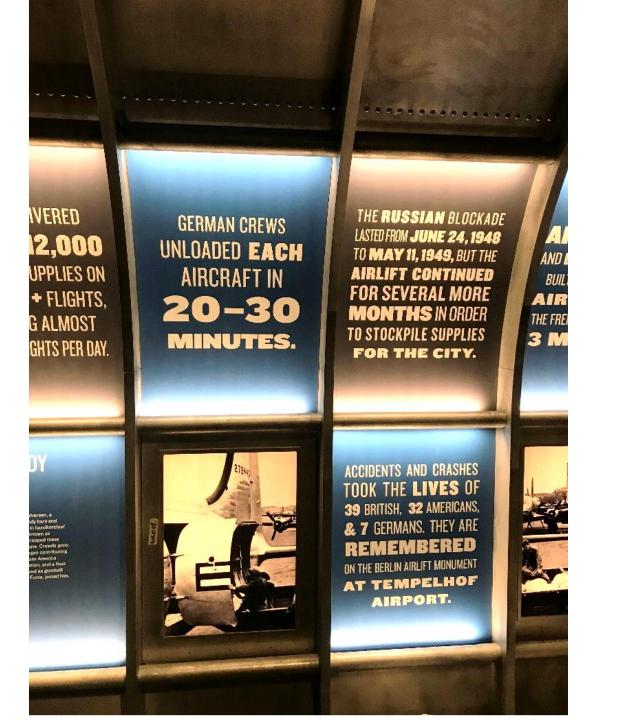


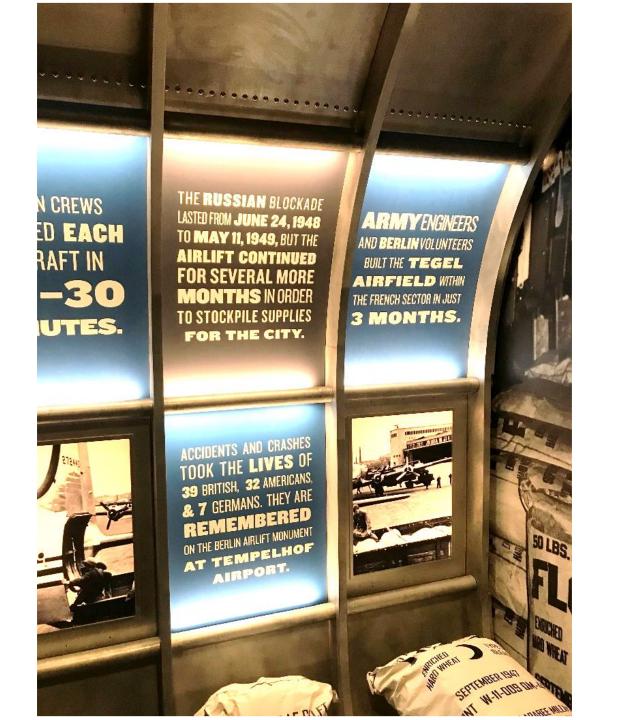


















A NEW THREAT

"... an iron cur across the Co

"...it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures. If we falter in our leadership, we may endanger the peace of the world...and we shall surely endanger the welfare of this Nation."

PRESIDENT TRUMAN, IN AN ADDRESS
BEFORE A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

Following strong American protests, the Soviet Union had refluctantly withdrawn its troops from Iran in 1946. But by 1947, Communist governments ruled Poland, Romania, and Bulgaria. Communist Yugoslavia pressed Italy for control of Trieste, Great Britain, near bankrupts, withdrew from Grecoe and Turkey, and both nations faced strong Communist pressure. Truman saw this as a threat to national security. If Grecoe and Turkey fell, he reasoned, Western Europe would be next. He secured \$400,000,000 in aid during an emergency joint session of Congress. The use of aid to "Contain" Soviet expansion became the basis of the Truman Doctrine.

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### KENNAN AND THE "LONG TELEGRAM"

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### CHURCHILL'S "IRON CURTAIN' SPEECH

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### NATO: M DEFENSI

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# TRUMAN DOCTRINE AND CONTAINMENT

A NEW THREAT



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In the name of Mariston Step acrificed every single entarial value in their mantinets and tractics. Teday they current dispense with it, it is figned of Other mornal and resolutional especialships."

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### CHURCHILL'S "IRON CURTAIN" SPEECH

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### NATO: MUTUAL DEFENSE

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# IRON CURTAIN





## **POSTWAR**

The Truman Doctrine articulated America's approach to Soviet expansion in Europe. Yet policy toward Communism in Asia was less defined. The legacy of colonialism and World War II left deep scars on the region. Truman and his advisors sometimes misunderstood longstanding historical conflicts. They also incorrectly assumed Stalin was the driving force behind Communist movements in China and Korea. Truman received heavy criticism for failing to stop the spread of Communism in Asia. In a matter of years, it would be here, too, that the Cold War would turn hot.



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with conditions. To receive aid, the nation gave favored access

the war to reward its legalty, but independence would come

to American military and commercial imprests. The CIA siss

exercised influence through covert operations.

died. The U.S had vowed to grant the nation independence after

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region for one Palicetan. This partition made more than 14

mallion people religious edirection where they lived. Heretic,

targe-male pistience erupted, resulting in the deaths of up to

two million propile and creating a resenter refuges priors.

### OCCUPIED JAPAN

General Douglas MacArthur eversaw America's ecceptation of Japan and was revered for his shoost importal style and his caution and to degrace the Japanese. Political prisoners were freed. The emperor was reduced from givine to mortal status. The government was placed under MucArthur's supervision. The general authored a new constitution that secured free elections, women's right to vote, collective hargaining, and gred liberties. It also included a "se war" clause. Japan was disarmed and depended on the United Status for its defense.

### KOREA DIVIDED

Japan scouped Karea until 1945. When the Boviets joined the war, U.S. military officials show an arbitrary line on a map at the 38th Parallel, dividing Korea roughly in half. The line assigned occupation zunes in the event of surrender. Above the line, Japanese forces would surrender to the Soviets. Below the Sins, they would surrender to the Americans. The wor ended less than a week later after the storic burnling of Nagasaki. Tension between the Soviets and Americans eventually lad to the creation of two separate nations. North and South Korea, divided by what was intended to be only a temporary boundary love at the 20th Parallel

### CONFLICT IN CHINA

Girlf war had plagued China for decades, but the Japanese invasion of 1937 forced rivals Cleang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong into an uneasy partnership. Their cooperation ended after World War II. Man's Communists believed Chiang was a pupper of the U.S. They promoted land reform and recruited support from the pessants of the countryside. They also took advantage of the war-weakened position of Chang's Nationalists. Madame Chang, the general's wife. comparigned for American support against Mac General George C Marshall traveled to China in 1947 in an attempt to broker peace between the two factions - but he did not succeed.

### VIETNAM AND THE LEGACY OF COLONIALISM

The French colonized present-day Victoam in 1687, and Japan setzed control in 1941. After World War II, He Chi Minh, the Vietnamese Communist leader, petitioned President Truman for Vietnam's independence, citing the "self-determination" goals in the Allies' Arlantic Charter Truman did not respond. Violence broke out between Ho Chi Mirm's forces and the French, who struggled to regain control of their former colony, in 1990. Stalin and Man backed Ho Chi Minh's independence movement. In the context of the Cold War, the United States, instead of supporting He Chi Minh's independence movemen backed the French efforts as a means to contain Soviet and Chinese arfluence in the region.

### GERMANY **POSTWAR** DIVIDED The Allies divided Germany and its capital, Berlin, into four occupation zones after the war. The French British, and Americans controlled West Germany GENERAL GEORGE EUROPE and West Berlin. The Soviet Union controlled East Germany and East Berlin. Berlin lay in ruins in the C. MARSHALL heart of Soviet East Germany. Having won the Battle of Berlin, the Soviets took apart city infrastructure Truman chose Secretary of State George C. Marshall as his advocase for the Marshall Plan. In World War I, Marshall had commanded all American forces – including Truman's own artillery battery – in the final offensive of the as reparations. Berliners had to acquire food and GERMANY supplies on the black market. Postwar Europe suffered poverty, starvation, and political unrest. Floods, drought, and bitter winter war. Admired for his leadership and integrity, he was also a skilled bipartisan negotiator. Marshall presented the idea for the Plan in a June 1947 storms worsened the situation. As the Soviets OCCUPATION ZONES annexed Eastern Europe, Communists in France speech at Harvard University. He gathered support for the Plan from Republican majorities SOVIET IEAST GERMANY) and Italy gained strength. Great Britain's food AMERICAN (WEST GERMANT) shortages and looming bankruptcy threatened other key European allies. President Truman sent former BRITISH (WEST GERMANY) FRENCH (WEST GERMANY) President Herbert Hoover to assess the situation. Upon his return, Hoover advised supplying food to Western Europe. His report became part of the rationale for the Marshall Plan. Truman trusted Hoover. He also knew that, as a Republican, Hoover was key to securing bipartisan support for the WHY NO MARSHALL costly international aid program. A DIVISIVE PLAN IN ASIA? SOLUTION The Marshall Plan provided assistance only to Europe, leaving critics like Republican Congressman Walter Judd to wonder why it was not offered "In all the history of the world, we are the first great nation to feed and support the conquered...our in Ania. Judd had traveled with Senator Truman in 1943 to prostote the United Nations, and he struggling countries in Europe was clear, but the Marshall Plan proved neighbors are not afraid of us. Their borders have no forts, no soldiers, no tanks, no big guns lined up." supported the Marshall Plan and the Truman Doctrine. Yet he believed that Dean Acheson, controversial. Opponents HARRY TRUMAN, IN AN UNDELIVERED SPEECH, 1948 Marshall's successor as Secretary of State, did not adequately support the Doctrine's aims in Asia. cost of the program would severally damage the domestic economy. Why fid China, Japan, and others receive less aid? Judd biamed racism and Eurocentrism - but he perspective conveyed in this 1948 political carrion by Joseph Parrish of the also believed in America's obligation to promote "Christian democracy" around the world.

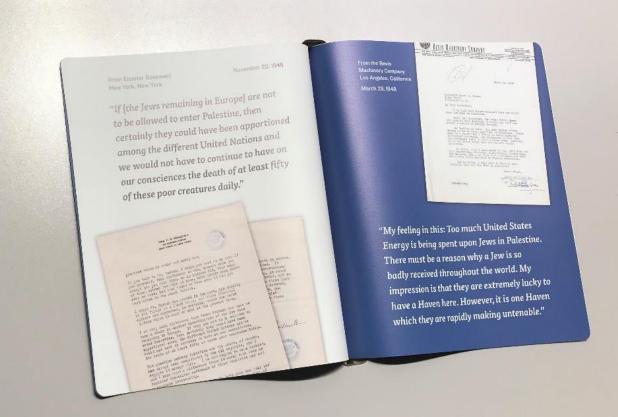






## N PALESTINE

within Truman's political inner circle utside of it. He received impassioned s, postcards, and telegrams from a y of citizens and organizations; even r First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt wrote re her thoughts. Arguments in favor of tablishment of a Jewish state focused pathy for displaced Jews and concerns ongoing war. Opposing arguments on everything from human rights rns for the people of Palestine ant anti-Semitism.



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sed erns From Edward R. Place

"...the Jewish people have absolutely no moral right or legal right to land which their ancestors have not controlled politically for more than 2000 years. The civil rights of the Arabs must be observed."

gton, D.C.

"We absolutely approve of your new plan to settle the Palestinian muddle and do away with the partitioning of Palestine into two states. For partitioning would create a tremendous number of enemies from among the Mohammedans, as well as no real satisfaction among Jewish people. It is exceptionally wise to create a trust of the Holy Land, for Palestine has become a very important political center in the world, and the Jewish People have never shown the ability to maintain a permanent state."

> From the Diocese of Harrisburg

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

April 2, 1948



### WHATIS FAIR?

"I am not asking for social equality, because no such thing exists, but I am asking for equality of opportunity for all..."

- HARRY TRUMAN, AUGUST 18, 1948

Harry Truman's own modest background, reinforced by his appreciation for the shared sacrifices of ordinary fellow Americans during the Second World War, led him to endorse initiatives favoring the common man over business elites. The idea of "fairness" was a guiding principle for Truman. After the war, he sought to hold corporations accountable and address inequality. Yet Congress rejected his ambitious 2I-point domestic agenda. In 1948, his growing awareness of racial violence led him to desegregate the military and civilian Federal Government workforce by Executive order. This marked a historic turn in the Democratic Party toward support for civil rights. Truman stunned the nation when he won his 1948 re-election campaign. As President in his own right, he re-branded his agenda the "Fair Deal."

How does a President balance general welfare and personal liberty?

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How does a President balance general welfare and personal liberty?

Members of the Negro Labor Committee was to greet President Truman, October 1952





### TO SECURE THESE RIGHTS

In 1947, the President's Committee on Civil
Rights put forth its report, To Secure These
Rights. Drawing its name from the Declaration
of Independence, the report exposed differences
between America's promise and its reality: while
the country served as a global beacon of freedom
and equality, many Americans were actually being
denied their Constitutional rights. The Committee
used infographics and charts to illustrate its
findings, which were based on public hearings,
witness testimony, and existing staff studies.

SUFFRAGE IN POLL TAX STATES



POTENTIAL VOTERS WHO VOTED IN THE 1944 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

B POLL TAX STATES ---- 18.31%



40 NON-POLL TAX STATES - 68,74%



FIRST STOR

Storey at Jewe of Desc.

"...there are many backwaters in our political life where the right to vote is not assured to every qualified citizen."

 The Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights

Every citizen in the United States is guaranteed the right to participate in the political process, but the Committee found that many state laws intentionally made voting more difficult for certain segments of the population. Eight states that required payment to register to vote (known see a poli tax) were enforcing it selectively, in a way that discriminated against non-white citizens. This greatly reduced voter turnout in those states.



test. The United States uncovered spies in its own atomic weapons program, and Communist forces threatened to prevail in China. These events prompted anti-Communist paranoia in the U.S. Panic and insecurity ripped through American culture, politics, and society. Truman hoped to preempt anti-Communist hysteria with his 1947 "Loyalty Order." But fear was too powerful a political tool for lawmakers like Senator Joseph McCarthy.

How does a nation balance national security with individual privacy?

Background images, right to left

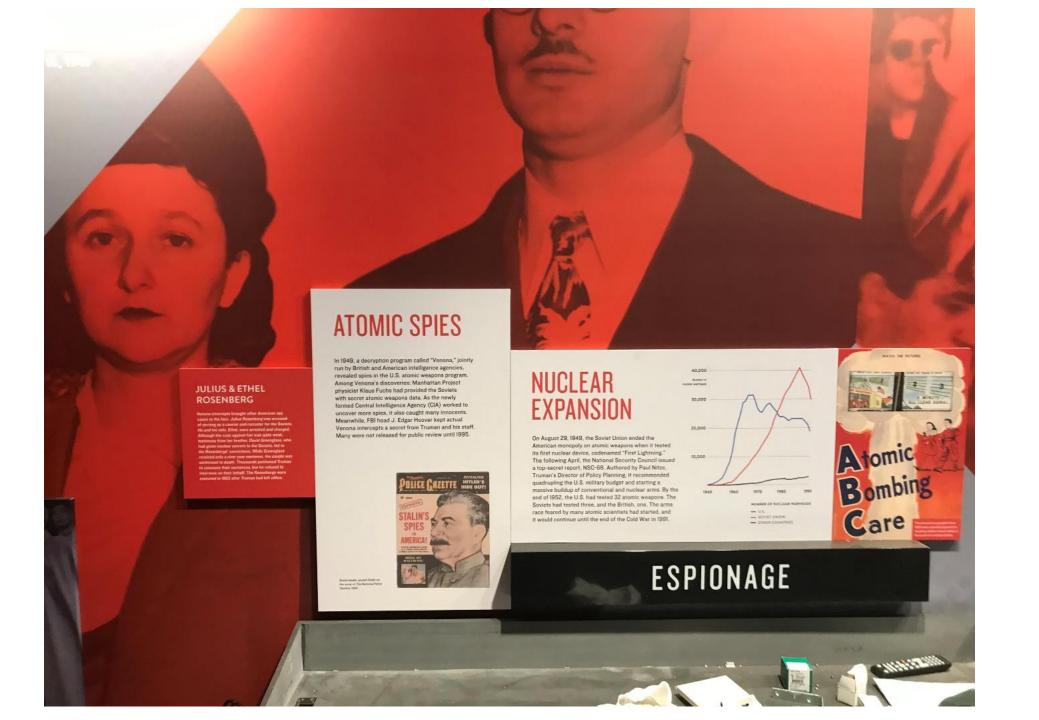
Alger Hiss, accused of Communist espionage, taking an oath during hearings before the House Un-American Activities Committee. August 1, 1948

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, 1951

Mao Zedong, leader of the Chinese Communist Party. 1949

Senator Joseph McCarthy in front of the U.S. Capitol building.





### HISTORY THE HUAC

"It will be sheer folly to spend...\$400,000,000 to stop the Communists in Greece, if our Department of Justice is not going to face this issue squarely at home."

CONGRESSMAN J. PARNELL THOMAS, CHAIRMAN OF THE HUAC, IN A LETTER TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN, APRIL 23, 194

In 1938, the House of Representatives formed the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) to probe alleged disloyalty and subversive activity. During World War II, it backed forced detention of Japanese Americans. During the Truman administration, it investigated State Department official Alger Hiss and many famous writers, actors, and activists. The HUAC folded in 1975. Its duties moved to the House Judiciary Committee.



"... Hoover would give his right eye to take over and all Congressmen and Senators are afraid of him. I'm not and he knows it. If I can prevent [it] there'll be no NKVD or Gestapo in this country. Edgar Hoover's organization would make a good start toward a citizen spy system. Not for me."

THE LAVENDER SCARE

after, during the so-called "Lavender Scare," thousands of gay Foderal employees were fired or ferced to resign. Others were cofused Federal employment or feethated to apply.

nism, subversion, and blackmall, homosexuals also targets of toar and suspicion during the McCarthyis

HARRY TRUMAN, IN A LETTER TO BESS TRUMAN, SEPTEMBER 27, 1947

### UN-AME

An Executive order issued by President Truman in 1947 created a loyalty program for Federal employees. It also directed Attorney General Tom Clark to create a list of "subversive" groups. When published, the list was used to bar individuals from both public and private employment. Those on the list received little due process, and Truman drew fierce criticism from civil liberties groups. From 1947 to 1956, more than 5,000,000 Federal workers underwent screening by loyalty review boards. This led to an estimated 2,700 dismissals and 12,000 resignations but few confirmed subversives.

### POLITICAL CALCULATIONS

In the 1964 midsterm, Republications had street book his beause of Congress, in part due to both houses of Congress, in part due to the congress of the congre

### **PUMPKIN PAPERS**

In 1948, Time editor and former Communist Whittaker Chambers made a startling claim before the House Un-American Activities Committee: Alger Hiss, a former Truman official, was part of a Communist conspiracy. Hiss sued for libel, but Chambers had proof. He retrieved microfilm copies of State Department documents from a hollowed-out pumpkin on his Maryland farm. Hiss was indicted for perjury after an initial mistrial, and when Truman dismissed the charges, Republicans accused



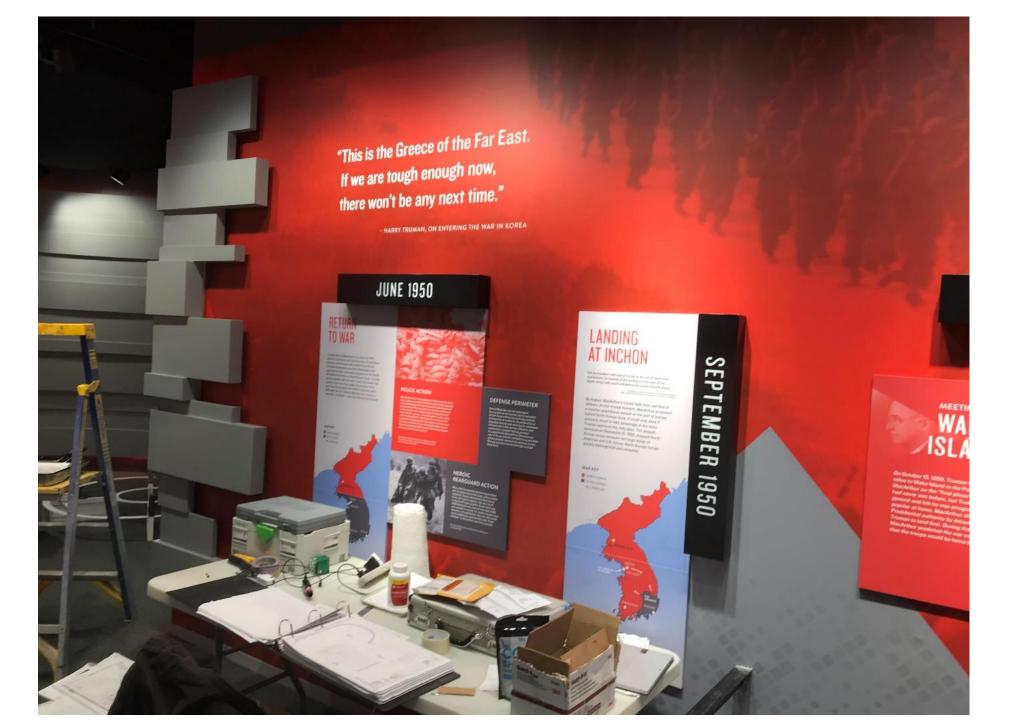
### RICHARD NIXON

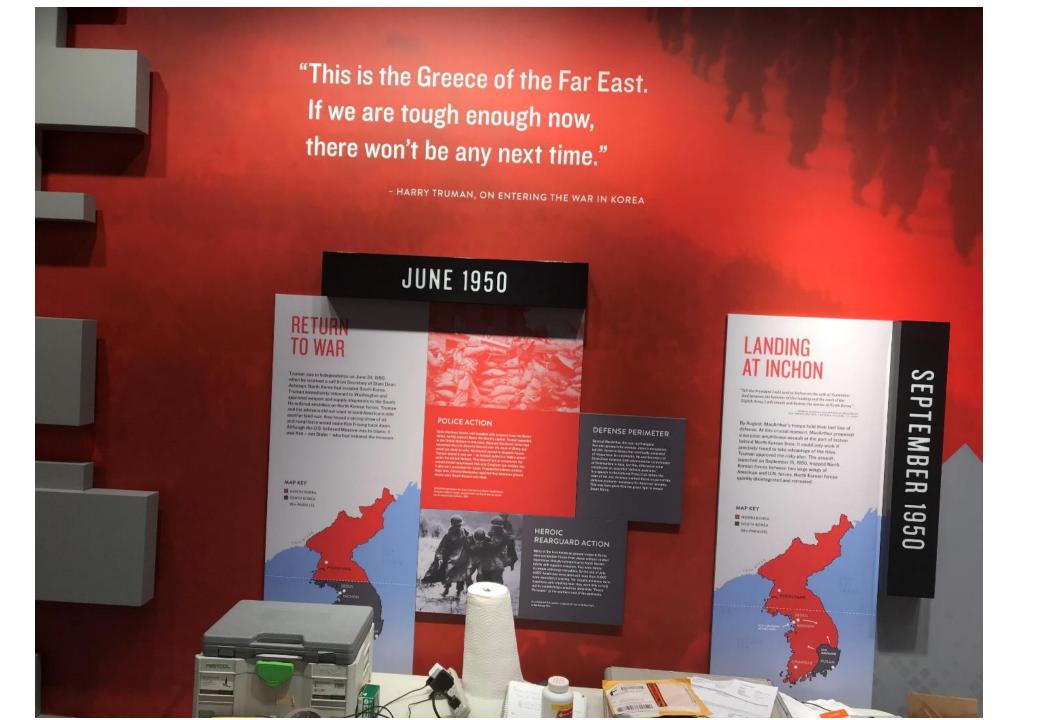
The Alger Hiss case propelled freshman Congressman Richard Nixon into the spotlight, It also scaled his reputation as a loading anti-Communist. The only lawyer on he House Un-American Activities Committee, he was tenacious in pressing the case against Alger Hiss. After Hiss's indictment for



STIGATIONS

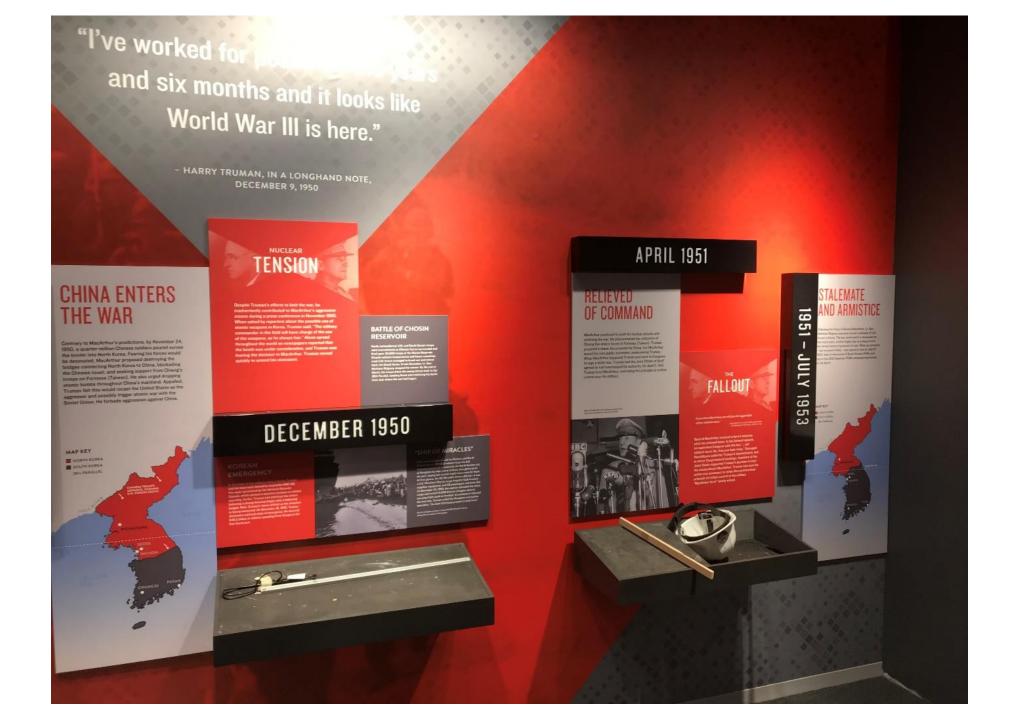
RISE OF TH MILITARY-II COMPLEX

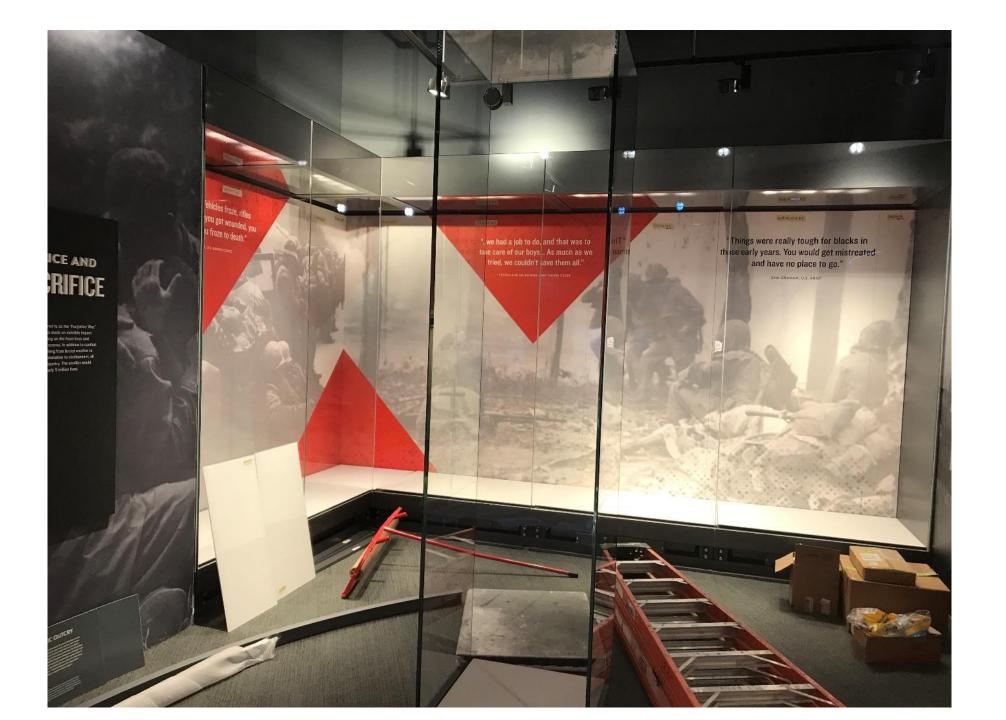
















### TRUMAN'S CABINET 1945 1945 1946 1947

MENERAL PROPERTY







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### EXECUTIVE BRANCH

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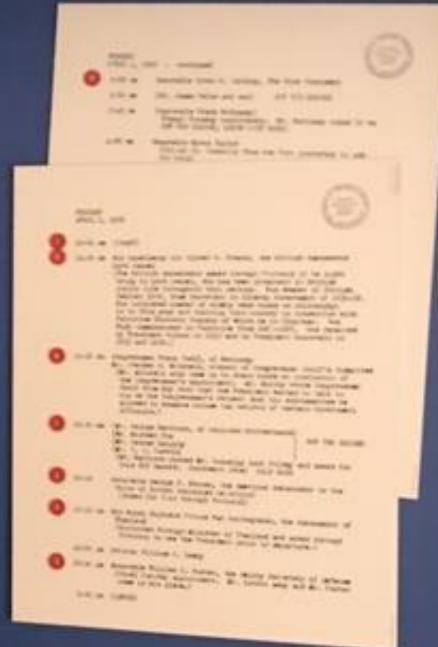


### THE SIX JOBS OF THE PRESIDENT

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THE REAL PROPERTY.

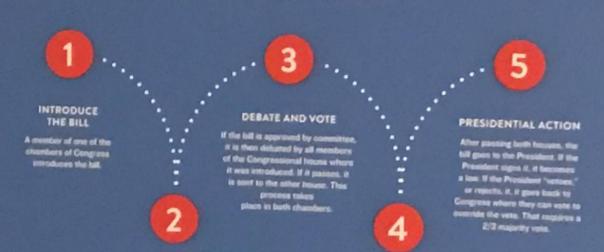


## LEGISLATIVE



The legislative branch, also known as Congress, drafts, revises, and passes laws. It is composed of two chambers – the Senate and the House of Representatives – both of which can introduce legislation. Bills, or proposed laws, often face a long and challenging road to passage. Members of Congress go through a rigorous process of research, writing, debate, editing, and, finally, voting. After this process, some bills end up being more than 1,000 pages long!

HERE IS WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN FOR A BILL TO BECOME A LAW:



### GO TO COMMITTEE

If the bill is selected, a small group from that chamber cents to discuss its details, conduct research, and make charges. They decide if the bill abould continue on to the next step.

### RECONCILE DIFFERENCES

If the two chambers of Congress each pass a different vireien of the bill, a Conference Committee consisting of members of both chambers works out a compression that must then pass in both the House and Senate.





