

## Lecture 53 and 54 Review

### *Summaries:*

#### *Lecture 53:*

In American Politics of the 1940s to the 1960s, there was a wide range of issues that were important in the elections that took place during that time. In the year of 1939, the major issue was whether America would intervene in the war in Europe or not. Roosevelt was the president during this time, and he wanted to help the Allies but stay neutral. In the election of 1940, Republican nominated Wendell L. Willkie, solely because he was an interventionist. Democrats re-nominated Roosevelt because they felt that the world needed Roosevelt in its crisis. In the election of 1944, Roosevelt ran again only because he felt it was his duty. Although he won, he died shortly after his inauguration, and Truman, the vice president, became president. He made the Fair Deal to make sure the government gives everyone a fair deal. He proposed broader social security, increased minimum wage, aid to education, and more. The plan was to be carried out with full employment, public housing, and farm price support. However, the Do-Nothing Congress of 1946 did not pass many of Truman's plans. They passed the Taft-Harley Act instead, which took away powers from unions. It permitted businesses to hire nonunion members. The Congress of 1946 also passed the 22<sup>nd</sup> amendment, which limited presidential terms to only two terms. Truman was reelected in 1948. He did this by making speeches and blaming the do-nothing congress for problems. He was also for civil rights. Eisenhower cut off government spending on economy. Next, in the election of 1960 Republican Richard Nixon ran against Democrat John F. Kennedy. This election had the first televised presidential debates where Kennedy was more charismatic and appealing to the public people.

#### *Lecture 54:*

1963 marked a new beginning for politics when John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. His Vice President Lyndon Baines Johnson then took the responsibility. Until then, LBJ lived in the shadows of Kennedy although he was characterized by Texan aggression. Then, he won the election of 1964 against Barry Goldwater; it was a clear Democratic victory with the coattail effect. (Presidential success affects the majority in HOR/Senate.) With this, LBJ began the Great Society program which included federal aid to education, a national health insurance system, immigration reform, extended Civil Rights, and much more. Indeed, it seemed to assure an ideal society with medicare for the elderly and medicaid for the poor, too. However, people eventually became tired of LBJ's program and refusal to accept political defeat, so LBJ decided to not run for a second term in 1968. Hawk candidate Eugene McCarthy and undeclared Robert Kennedy instead ran as Democrats against George Wallace of the American Independent Party and Richard Nixon of the Republican Party. As a result, Nixon won and began his New Federalism domestic program; it supported state powers and gave money back to them so states could deal with their own problems at the local level. Nixon's first term was relatively successful, and a second nomination was assured. However, Nixon became desperate for 1972 victory and created the Committee to Reelect President (CRP), which eventually caused the decline of Nixon. It was because in 1972, a set of burglars hired by the CRP broke into the Democratic National

Committee headquarters in the Watergate Office Building in Washington, D.C. That itself was not a problem for Nixon until he tried to cover-up a police investigation. The climax of this scandal was exposed when a court case revealed some tapes that proved Nixon's guiltiness. Consequently, talks of impeachment resided, but Nixon resigned before it could happen.

*Key Terms of Lecture 53 and 54:*

- Harry S. Truman – A democrat who became president after Roosevelt died. Truman was more moderate. Truman vetoed the Taft-Harley Act, but Congress overrode his veto.
- Fair Deal – Made by Truman. Make sure everyone got a fair deal from the government. Some of the goals were broader social security, increase minimum wage, and more. Some of these goals were met and others were not
- Dwight D. Eisenhower – Republican president. He wanted liberation of all people held captive by communist rule. He returned back to normalcy and the government stayed out of economic issues.
- New Normalcy – The government did not get involved in economic issues. By Eisenhower
- Richard M. Nixon – A Republican. Ran in 1960. He wanted to reduce government spending and also stay ahead of the Russians.
- John F. Kennedy – Democratic candidate of 1960. Catholic. Won because he appealed to the public in his televised debates
- New Frontier – An age of exploration. They explored space and ways to fix problems. Eased tensions in foreign countries and expanded economy.
- Thomas Dewey – Republican that ran against Truman
- Adlai Stevenson – A democratic candidate that was politically connected but lost to Eisenhower
- Wendell Willkie – A republican candidate against Roosevelt nominated because he was interventionist in the election of 1940
- Coattail effect – When the president wins by a large amount and the effects carry onto Congress
- Ticket Balancing – When a liberal candidate is paired with a more moderate running partner to gain as much support as possible
- CRP – Committee to Reelect the President. Independent of the Republican Party. Caused the Watergate Scandal

*1<sup>st</sup> set of Multiple Choice Questions: (answers are after all questions)*

- 1) Which best explains Franklin D. Roosevelt's foreign policy in 1940?
  - a) bipartisan support for Allies
  - b) Lend- Lease Act of 1941
  - c) everything short of war
  - d) isolationism rather than interventionism
- 2) How was Wendell L. Willkie significant? In other words, why was he nominated?
  - a) Most Republicans were interventionists
  - b) Republicans wanted an unnamed, "clean" figure in politics
  - c) Most Republicans were isolationists

- d) he hated the New Deal programs
- 3) What was the problem with the FDR running for presidency in 1940?
- a) he would not accept unless Truman was VP
  - b) he was unpopular, but he won anyway (statistics: 27 million to 22 million)
  - c) people believed it should be illegal
  - d) it just never happened in previous decades.
- 4) Which best describes what the general public thought of Truman's administration?
- a) he gave all American people a "Fair Deal"
  - b) he never did anything
  - c) he began the Cold War
  - d) his popularity was passed on from FDR
- 5) Which of these Presidents does not match their program?
- a) Eisenhower- New Conservatism
  - b) Reagan- New Federalism
  - c) Johnson- Great Society
  - d) Kennedy- New Frontier
- 6) How are LBJ and Nixon tragic figures?
- a) both had difficulty pursuing their domestic programs
  - b) their downfall was caused by a character flaw
  - c) their pessimistic personality caused them to make bad decisions
  - d) Aristotle said so
- 7) Who of these was not as affected by FDR's philosophy of government as others?
- a) LBJ
  - b) Truman
  - c) Eisenhower
  - d) Kennedy
- 8) Which one of these is not a Civil Rights achievement by the Warren Court?
- a) Korematsu v. US
  - b) Brown v. Board of Education
  - c) Mapp v. Ohio
  - d) Gideon v. Wainwright
- 9) Which election does not match the event?
- a) 1944: "Give him hell Harry"
  - b) 1960: separation of church and state
  - c) 1964: Ag H<sub>2</sub>O
  - d) 1968: "Hey, hey, LBJ, how many kids did you kill today?"
- 10) Nixon's impeachment would have been caused by:
- a) his inability to compromise liberalism and conservatism
  - b) association with the CRP
  - c) denying any affiliation with the Democratic Convention break-in

d) the Watergate affair tapes that were kept by Nixon

*Answers:*

1) In 1940, the US was generally neutral in that they did not physically fight, but interventionist in that they strongly favored the Allies. Roosevelt called it “American” rather than bipartisan, and the Lend-Lease Act of 1941 was only a portion of the legislation supporting the Allies. C) is the right answer.

2) Willkie was nominated because he was an interventionist. Many of the Republicans at the nominating convention were interventionists, so they voted for him. A) is the right answer.

3) FDR was very popular, and running for 3<sup>rd</sup> term was perfectly legal until a few years later after FDR’s long administration. D) is the right answer because the only problem was that running for longer than 2 terms was unprecedented.

4) Truman tried to continue FDR’s New Deal plan, but Congress did not allow it. He called the 88<sup>th</sup> Congress the worst in history. The answer is b).

5) a) is the right answer because Eisenhower supported New Normalcy

6) b) is the only answer; all others are false to all extent.

7) c) is correct. Eisenhower, a Republican, was least affected because he did not spend as much effort to support those programs as the others.

8) a) *Korematsu v U.S.* did not happen during the Warren Court (1953-). It was about the Japanese internment camps. a) is the right answer.

9) a) is correct because the slogan was used in 1948, and 1944.

10) Nixon was about to be impeached because he tried to cover up any association with the burglars. The answer is c).

*2<sup>nd</sup> set of Multiple Choice Questions:*

1. What was not part of Roosevelt’s policy?
  - a. Wanted to help the Allies
  - b. Mostly neutral
  - c. Isolate extreme isolationists
  - d. Help poor people**
  
2. What was Roosevelt’s reason for running again in the fourth term?
  - a. He felt it was his duty to the American people**
  - b. He wanted to
  - c. He nominated himself
  - d. He was afraid that if he did not run, he would be in danger

3. What was not one of the goals of the Fair Deal?
  - a. Broader Social Security
  - b. Increase in minimum wage
  - c. Aid to education
  - d. **Decrease taxes**
  
4. What did the Taft-Harley Act effectively do?
  - a. **Took away some powers of the Unions**
  - b. Let people strike without notice
  - c. Prevent court ingressions
  - d. Let Congress pass laws without Presidential consent
  
5. What is the coattail effect?
  - a. A conservative group
  - b. **The effect when the president won by a large majority which affected seats in congress**
  - c. When the president made a veto, the Congress followed his decision
  - d. None of the above
  
6. What was the difference between Medicare and Medicaid?
  - a. Medicare was the president's proposal while Medicaid was proposed by Congress
  - b. **Medicare was healthcare for the elderly while Medicaid was healthcare for the poor**
  - c. Medicare was healthcare for the poor while Medicaid was healthcare for the elderly
  - d. Both were the same; they just had different names.
  
7. What case did the Brown v. Board of Education overturn?
  - a. **Plessy V. Ferguson**
  - b. McCulloch v. Maryland
  - c. Topeka
  - d. It did not overturn any
  
8. What did Truman do to win the election of 1948?
  - a. Blame the Do-Nothing Congress for all of the problems
  - b. Travel around America to visit the people in their homes
  - c. Do nothing
  - d. Get rid of the Taft-Harley Act
  
9. Why did the advancement of technology help Kennedy win the election of 1960?
  - a. Kennedy had invested in the technology
  - b. People were happy with the technology and he promised more
  - c. **They had the first televised debates where Kennedy was much more charismatic and appealing to the people than his opponent**
  - d. Advanced voter ballots

10. Who formed the American Independent Party?

- a. George Wallace
- b. John F. Kennedy
- c. Thomas Payne
- d. Eisenhower