

# OKLAHOMA!



## Land of

# Opportunity

Chapter 15:

Wars and Baby Boomers

STUDY PRESENTATION







**Section 1: World War II**  
**Section 2: Social Change**  
**Section 3: The Postwar Period**



# Section 1: World War II

- Essential Question:
- How did the events of WWII have an effect on Oklahomans?



# Section 1: World War II

- What terms do I need to know?
  - dictator
  - ration



# Introduction



# Tensions Increase in Asia and Europe

- Japan, Germany, and Italy were led by dictators – planned to improve their economies and strategic power by taking territory and resources from nearby countries
- Adolf Hitler (Germany) blamed Jewish citizens for the country's problems and began plan to remove them from society
- Germany invaded Rhineland (1936) and Austria (1938)
- By 1940, Germany and Italy had acquired much of the land around their countries, and Germany had taken Paris, France



# War Engulfs the United States

- Most Americans wanted to stay out of the troubles in Europe; still in recovery from WWI and the Great Depression
- 1939: U.S. began rebuilding the army and navy; U.S. continued to assist Russia and Britain
- December 7, 1941: 180 Japanese planes attacked the navy base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii – over 2,400 killed, 12 ships sunk, 188 aircraft destroyed
- The U.S. joined the Allied powers three days later





# A Nation Mobilizes

- Oklahoma's climate, location, and workforce made it a good location for arms and ammunition plants and military training centers
- April 1941: Oklahoma City named site of supply and maintenance depot; Tinker Field opened 1942
- Douglas Aircraft built military planes at Tinker and Tulsa





# A Nation Mobilizes: Oklahoma Military Facilities

- 80 military facilities built in Oklahoma including: Camp Gruber, Air Corps Basic Flying School, Clinton Naval Air Station, and Altus Army Air Field
- British flying school also in OK
- U.S. Army accidentally bombed Boise City (July, 1943)



# A Nation Mobilizes: Oklahomans in the War

- Nearly 200,000 Oklahomans enlisted for the war – 300,000 drafted
- Women joined the Army and Navy Nurse Corps, Women's Army Corps (WAC) and other groups
- 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division formed of men from OK, NM, and AZ (the Thunderbirds)
  - Over 20,000 of these men were killed
  - 8 received Medal of Honor
  - One regiment helped liberate Dachau Concentration Camp
  - Bill Mauldin: Thunderbird who won Pulitzer Prize for his wartime cartoons
- 90<sup>th</sup> Infantry most Texans and Oklahomans (T-O)
  - landed on Utah Beach at Normandy
  - Battle of the Bulge





# A Nation Mobilizes: World War II

## Code Talkers

- Different groups of Indians were used to code messages due to success of the method in WWI
- Navajo used in the Pacific
- Comanche used in Europe
- The codes of these unwritten languages remained unbroken



# A Nation Mobilizes: Oklahoma Camps

- Many Japanese Americans were moved to relocation camps
- Government was sure of their loyalty to the U.S.
- Fort Sill, McAlester, and Stringtown were relocation camps in Oklahoma
- Prisoner of War (POW) camps also in Oklahoma – 5,000 prisoners from Germany and Italy at Alva camp





# A Nation Mobilizes: The Home Front

- While soldiers were at war, others took over their jobs at home
- Women took jobs that had been men's jobs – “Rosies” for Rosie the Riveter represented those in factories
- Victory gardens encouraged to supplement food supply
- Goods were rationed to make sure there was enough to go around
- Many patriotic movies and posters



# The War Ends

- June 6, 1944: D-Day, Allies began attack on the Axis at Normandy, France
- 3,000,000 Allied troops poured in and after 2 months liberated Paris
- The march continued until April 1945 with Allied capture of Berlin
- War in Pacific pushed Japanese back toward their homeland
- Manhattan Project: secret U.S. effort to develop nuclear weapon
- President Truman ordered bombings of Japan with nuclear weapons (Hiroshima and Nagasaki)
- Over 100,000 killed and Japan surrendered
- More than 62,000,000 killed including over 6,000 Oklahomans





# Section 2: Social Change

## ➤ Essential Question:

- What social changes made life in Oklahoma different after World War II?



# Section 2: Social Change

- What terms do I need to know?
  - suburbs
  - baby boomer





# Introduction



# Postwar Society

- Steady jobs with good incomes and hours were found in or near cities
- These jobs were more reliable than farming
- 1944: Servicemen's Readjustment Act (GI Bill) gave war veterans money for education, home and farm loans
- Urban growth caused growth in housing
- Many children born after the war – 1946-1964 called “Baby Boom”; nearly one million babies born in Oklahoma
- More children increased need for schools
- Number of schools has declined as small schools closed and combined to make larger ones
- Penicillin invented to fight infections (1940s)
- Polio vaccine stopped the spread of this crippling disease
- Smallpox vaccine rid nation of this killer (1950s)



# Popular Entertainment

- Television grew in popularity in 1950s; more affordable for homes, so more stations created
- Half of homes had TV by 1954; 90% in 1964
- 1949: WKY-TV channel 4 in Oklahoma City
- 1953: First state education channel KETA channel 13
- Rock-and-roll music was new style made popular by Elvis Presley
- Invention of pocket-sized transistor radio spread access to music radio stations
- KOMA was large rock-and-roll format station





# Prosperity

- Gilcrease Museum: opened in 1949; displays over 10,000 works of art
- Cowboy Hall of Fame opened in 1955; now National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
- Mickey Mantle, Allie Reynolds and Warren Spain famous Oklahoma baseball players
- Coach Henry Iba's Oklahoma State University won national basketball championships in 1945 & 1946



# Segregation Laws Challenged

- Blacks began to demand more equality after WWII
- Ada Lois Sipuel of Chickasha was black woman denied admission to University of Oklahoma because she was black
- Sipuel's lawsuit and others led to the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision outlawing segregated schools
- George W. McLaurin won case in 1950 that Oklahoma University could not treat him differently because of his race; he had been forced to sit outside the main classroom for lectures
- 1949: Nancy Randolph Davis – enrolled in Oklahoma A&M College but had to sit in the back of the room or in the hall



# Section 3: The Postwar Period

## ➤ Essential Question:

- In what ways was the Cold War different other American wars?





# Section 3: The Postwar Period

- What terms do I need to know?
  - Cold War
  - sit-in



# Introduction



# The Cold War

- After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union were the two big superpowers; both had nuclear missiles
- Political differences caused divisions between the two – result was Cold War
- The United States wanted to stop Soviet communism from spreading
- U.S. supported South Korea against communist North Korea in police action known as the Korean War
- 400,000 U.S. troops participated; 450 Oklahomans were killed
- Fears of nuclear attack caused many to build nuclear shelters and practice nuclear attack drills





# Political Leaders

- Gov. Johnston Murray – all state employees had to swear an oath of loyalty to the U.S. and Oklahoma due to communist scare; women were allowed on juries
- Gov. Raymond Gary – improved Interstate highways and abolished segregation laws
- Clara Luper led sit-ins to break down segregation; arrested 26 times
- Gov. J. Howard Edmondson – voters repealed prohibition (1959)

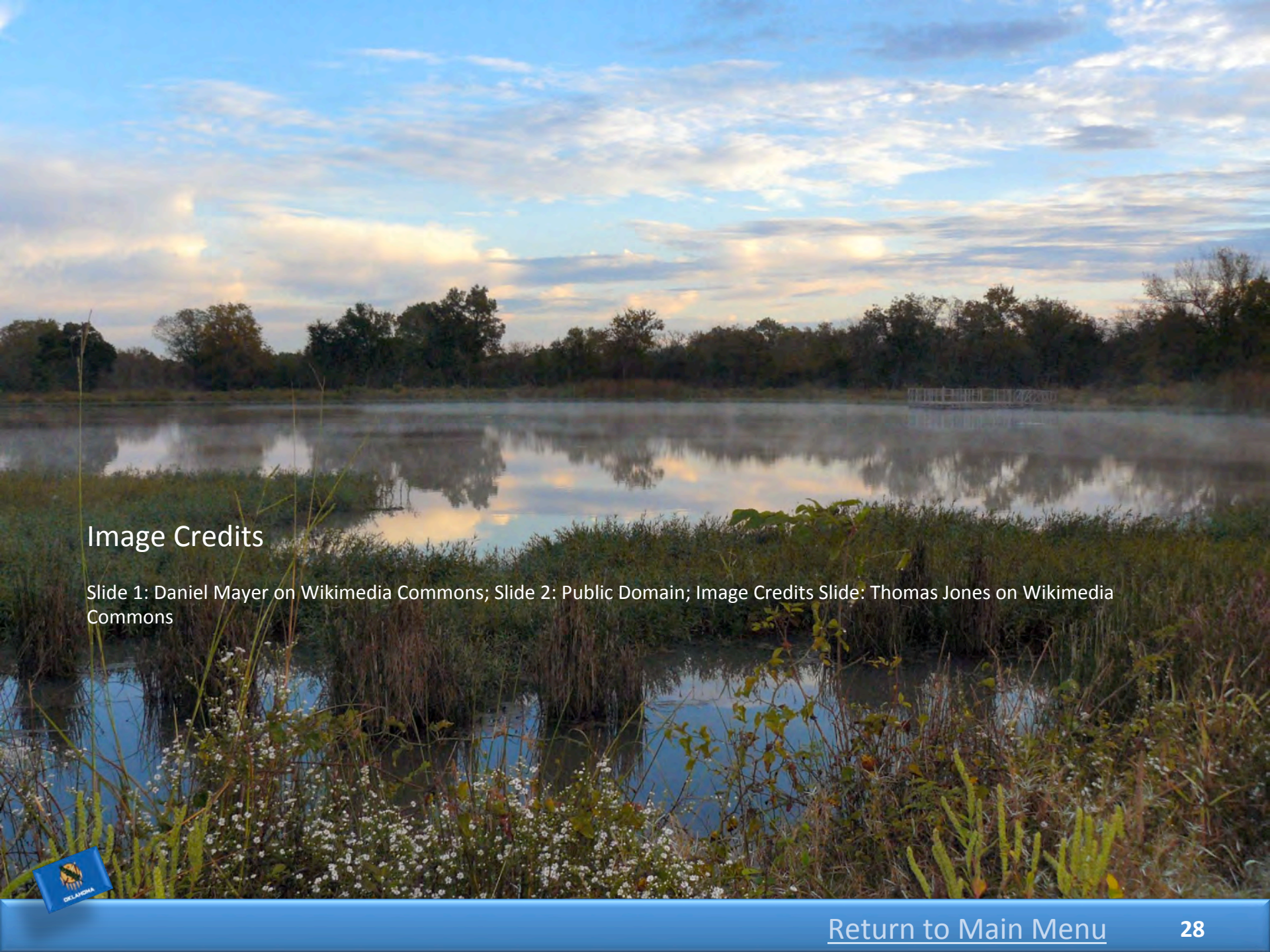


# The Space Age Dawns

- 1957: Soviet Union launched first satellite: *Sputnik 1*
- U.S. feared getting behind and a space race occurred
- 1958: *Explorer* satellite launched by U.S.; NASA created
- Mercury: first man in space
- Capt. Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr. of Shawnee was pilot of Faith 7
- Geraldyn M. “Jerrie Cobb of Oklahoma successfully completed screening to be Mercury pilot, but rules were changed to block women astronauts







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