

Title: California post World War II

Question: What are the most significant economic and social consequences in California that originated post WWII?

Introduction

Thesis: After World War II, California was impacted drastically with economic and social consequences which created a growth in federal funding, joblessness, culture, demographics, living structures, families and education.

Status of CA after WWII

Economic consequence #1: (Federal Funding)

- Pre existing military facilities/presence (CD)
 - San Diego, LA and SF
- Finding increases dramatically
 - House military and their ships
 - Production of (CD)
 - Ammunition, shipbuilding, aircraft
 - LA was aircraft capital during this period
 - Why? -> plenty of land for airships
 - California becomes a staging ground
- Computers & Biotech (S.F., San Diego, Southern California) (CD)
 - Talented inventors were brought to Stanford, established a research institute and a industrial park (Starr, pg. 264)
 - During the war they created weapons with electronics to help aid during the war, created atomic energy which would then be used to create atomic bombs
 - Oppenheimer directed this project in Los Alamos, New Mexico which consisted of staff from Berkeley (Starr, pg. 263)
 - HP had contracts with the military for military devices, which detected and analyzed enemy radar signals (Annalee Saxenian, "The Origins and Business Culture of Silicon Valley", pg. 401)
- Education and industrial
 - UC & CSU systems (CD)

Economic consequence #2:

- Joblessness
 - Priority employment went to returning soldiers
- Women
 - Women from all ethnicities and backgrounds were able to join industries which

they were previously banned from (Chapter 12: The Changing of Lives and Minorities, 1940's-1950's, pg.325)

- Found it hard to hold on to their gains post war period (Chapter 12: The Changing of Lives and Minorities, 1940's-1950's, pg.326)
- Women became electricians, steamfitters, welders, chemists (Joan M Jensen and Gloria Ricci Lothrop, "Women's Wartime and Postwar Experiences", pg. 354)
 - These jobs helped with their self esteem and lives, they could do other jobs than stay at home to tend to their families
- "At the end of the war, the percentage of women holding better-paying defense jobs plummeted from the wartime peak of forty three percent to nine percent." Women became electricians, steamfitters, welders, chemists (Joan M Jensen and Gloria Ricci Lothrop, "Women's Wartime and Postwar Experiences", pg. 354)
- African Americans
 - Suffered at a disproportionate amount of unemployment than any other population while being concentrated randomly on shipyards (Chapter 12: The Changing of Lives and Minorities, 1940's-1950's, pg.326)

Social consequence #1: (Culture & Demographics)

- War -> people/laborers (Ethnic diversity) What changes?(CD)
 - 2nd Great Migration
 - Movement of African Americans out of the South (CD)
 - LA: Black Middle Class, Watts Riot 1964
 - Oakland: Black Middle Class, Black Panthers
 - Richmond: Urban Ghettos, Black Middle Class
 - S.F.: Black Middle Class
 - Berkeley: Black Middle Class
 - Black Power Movement, Chicano Movement, United Farm Workers of America
 - Migration/Immigration(CD)
 - Push/Pull factors(CD)
 - Push: Opportunity, perceived tolerance
 - Pull: Deep South, Jim Crow
 - Bracero Program(CD)
 - Government founded labor pipeline from Mexico
 - Pay for transport
 - Subsidized farmers
 - They were not welcomed to the USA even when they were the backbreaking labor that Americans needed during and after the war time period (Chapter 12: The Changing of Lives and Minorities, 1940's-1950's, pg.326)

Social consequence #2: (Living structures, families and education)

- Industrialized mass education (CD)
 - Used federal money

- Rise in student enrollment after World War II (G.I. Bill)
- Nature of Education (CD)
 - Class size grew, 15 to 20 and eventually 40 to 50
 - Singles to Quads
- Racism
- Community destruction
 - War on crime/drugs
 - Lack of community investment
 - Value of communities goes down
 - Urban ghettos start to grow
- Women
 - Stand up for themselves, don't allow their husbands to control every aspect of their lives, specifically the aircraft industry Women became electricians, steamfitters, welders, chemists (Joan M Jensen and Gloria Ricci Lothrop, "Women's Wartime and Postwar Experiences", pg. 354)
 - Japanese women faced incarceration, broken homes and families
 - Chinese families enjoyed going back and forth from China to the United States but this ended once World War II started as they had to carry a identification card anytime they entered back to California
 - Americans couldn't distinguish Japanese from Chinese

Conclusion

- Summarize consequences
 - federal funding, joblessness, culture, demographics, living structures, families and education
 - How did they affect their way of living, earning wages, respected as individuals
 - They created change on how women could work, technology can be incorporated, racial divisions were still prevalent
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/26/business/nato-european-union.html>
 - There is a threat on the creation of NATO which was created to instill peace through a military agreement after World War II. There is a threat of growing Nationalism under the threat of the United States which is now under President Trump. National interests have become a challenge, many saying its a threat to their democracy. He has made NATO not a primary interest.