**Unit 4b Vocabulary – D-Day to Doomsday (Domestic)**

1. Baby boom: sharp increase in the birthrate from 1946-1964, a period of economic prosperity following WWII.
2. Consumerism: a preoccupation with purchasing material goods. In the 1950s, companies mass produced goods at lower prices and average incomes rose. While increasing the standard of living for the middle class, this trend also resulted in conformity and “keeping up with the Joneses.”
3. Dixiecrat: southern Democrats who broke off from the Democratic Party in protest of new civil rights policies. Began when Truman was in office, when Dixiecrats formed the States’ Rights Democratic Party to run against him. By the end of the civil rights era, most Dixiecrats had merged with the Republican Party.
4. Espionage: spying to give secret information about another country to your own. During WWII and the Cold War, fear of spies led to Japanese internment and government “witch hunts”.
5. Executive order: a law issued by the President that falls under the scope of his/her power, such as carrying out laws and national security. Subject to judicial review by the Supreme Court.
6. Inflation:  an increase in prices or decline in purchasing power caused by an increase in the supply of money. During WWII, the Office of Price administration used price controls to combat inflation to avoid a post-war drop in prices like after WWI.
7. McCarthyism: mostly unsubstantiated attacks on suspected communists and political opponents led by Joseph McCarthy in the Senate during the Red Scare.
8. Rationing: restriction of people’s right to buy unlimited amounts of particular foods and other goods during a national emergency. During WWII, the Office of Price Administration coordinated ration books for certain things like sugar and gasoline.
9. Suburbia: used to describe the growing middle class population living in the suburbs during the 1950s. Growth was aided by a booming economy, the GI Bill, and increasing access to automobiles.
10. White flight: movement of middle class Americans into increasingly white suburban neighborhoods. This de facto segregation was fueled by unequal access to schools, government benefits, jobs, and housing. Led to neglect of inner cities due to loss of business and tax revenues.

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