



Georgia Studies

Unit 8: Modern Georgia and Civil Rights

Lesson 1: Post-World War II Developments

Study Presentation



Lesson 1: Post-World War II Developments

- **ESSENTIAL QUESTION:**
 - How has technological change affected agricultural methods and production?
 - How did the post WWII economic climate provide opportunities for entrepreneurs?
 - How do Georgia's transportation systems affect economic growth and development?

New Technology

- Television use expanded in the 1950s
 - ABC, CBS, NBC were major networks
 - Entertainment was important
 - Entertainment was important; People could now watch news events almost as they happened
- Transformation of Agriculture:
 - New synthetic (man made) fabrics became popular.
 - Examples: Rayon and Nylon
 - Reduced the need for cotton; as the demand for cotton fell other crops/plants began to be grown in place of cotton; trees, peanuts, soybeans, and corn were some of the major examples
 - New farming technology (i.e. tractors and harvesters) helped improve the amount of products that farmers could grow.

Industries Move into Georgia

- Businesses continued to move into the state
- Air conditioning began to be installed making year round work more comfortable
- Georgia's low taxes were attractive to workers and businesses
- Lockheed became largest employer
- CDC: Centers for Disease Control – Atlanta headquarters established

The Cold War

- Relations between the US and USSR became tense
- Cold War: a war of words and diplomacy
- US and USSR were world's most powerful countries
- USSR kept eastern Europe in communism behind the "iron curtain"
- Containment of communism led to war in Korea and Vietnam

The Korean War

- Korea was divided after WWII
- 38th parallel was line between communist North and democratic South
- June 25, 1950: North Korea invaded South Korea
- United Nations countries sent troops to assist South Korea
- 25,000 Americans killed; 500 Georgians
- Peace declared in July 1953; no winner
- Many businesses benefited from doing business with the military bases and armed forces

The Three Governors Episode

- Newly re-elected governor Eugene Talmadge died before taking his 4th term of office in 1946
- The previous governor, **Ellis Arnall**, the Lieutenant Governor, and Talmadge's son, Herman, fought over who would govern
- The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that a special election must be held
- Herman Talmadge was elected governor in 1947

Georgia Governors

- Melvin Thomas: purchased Jekyll Island to build a state-owned resort; established UGA Veterinary School
- **Herman Talmadge**: Strict segregationist. Minimum Foundation Program for Education Act – established 9-month school year raised standards for schools
- Marvin Griffin: began educational television; oversaw purchase of Stone Mountain for park

Georgia Governors (Cont.)

- Carl Sanders: elected in 1962; worked to diffuse racial violence; increased spending on education; used television ads to campaign
- **Lester Maddox**: elected 1967; surprise winner; appointed more African Americans to state office than all other governors combined; integrated the State Patrol; “People’s Days” – any Georgian could visit and talk with the governor

Atlanta's Mayors

- **William Hartsfield**: Served as Atlanta's mayor longer than any other person (6 terms from 1937-1961). Presided over many building projects including expressways and parks throughout the city. After his death in 1971 the Atlanta airport was renamed after him.
- **Ivan Allen, Jr.**: Served as Atlanta's mayor from 1962-1970. Only politician from the South to speak in favor of the Civil Rights Act. Helped to bring the Braves from Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Atlanta.

Major League Sports Teams

- **Atlanta Braves**: Moved to Atlanta in 1966. Bought by Ted Turner in 1976. Braves games began being broadcast nationwide on TBS. Won the World Series in 1995 (first professional title in Atlanta's history).
- **Atlanta Falcons**: Played their first NFL game in 1966. Played in the Super Bowl in 1998.
- **Atlanta Hawks**: NBA team, moved from St. Louis, Missouri to Atlanta in 1968.

Ellis Arnall

- Elected Georgia's governor in 1942
- Helped to fix the accreditation issues with the University of Georgia (during Eugene Talmadge's time as governor) by helping the board of regents become a separate body from the governor's office.
- Removed Georgia's prison system from under the control of the governor.
- Under Governor Arnall, Georgia became the first state in the Union to grant 18-year olds the right to vote.

Transportation Systems

- **Interstate Highway System:** Makes transportation through the city easier. Interstates, such as I-20, I-75, and I-85, go through the city of Atlanta. I-95 goes from Florida to Maine and I-75 goes from Miami to Michigan.
- **Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport:** One of the busiest airports in the world. Named after two Atlanta mayors (William Hartsfield and Maynard Jackson).
- **Georgia's Deepwater Ports:** Two major deepwater ports (Savannah and Brunswick). Goods (products) made in Georgia are frequently shipped to other parts of the world through these ports.
- **Railroads:** Allowed for efficient transportation of people and products over land.
- These four transportation systems are important to GA's economy as they allow people and goods to move throughout the state.