

EQ: How did the United States change after World War II?

After World War II, soldiers returned home to America. Many young men married, started families, and watched to buy new homes. There was a trend in homebuilding in which developers bought large areas of land on the outskirts of town. They divided the land into hundreds of small plots on which new houses were built. These new communities were called the suburbs. Because of the greater availability of the automobiles, people were able to live farther from work. Americans began leaving the cities where they worked to buy homes in these new suburban developments and commute (or travel) to work. America also created a new highway system that linked major cities.

As mass media (radios, television, and movies) become more popular, advertisers used these tools to spread their message. As television became the center of American family entertainment, many customers were enticed by television advertisements and wanted to buy the new and improved products of the 1950s. Soon, everyone wanted to buy the same goods, like slinkies, Barbie dolls, and hula hoops. The popular music of the time-period was Rock and Roll, which was spread throughout American cities and suburbs by radio.

Technology continued to develop and change during this time-period. Changes to the automobile made them safer and easier to drive, such as power steering. Changes to airplanes, like jet engines, made them faster. Telephone service was improved and now Americans could communicate over long distances by using telephones. Air conditioning became widely available, which made the South a more attractive place to live and establish businesses. Air conditioning also changed Southern culture, moving the family off the front porch and inside, in front of the television.

1. What are suburbs? Suburbs are small plots of land on the outskirts of town (not downtown, and not farmland)
2. Why did everyone want to buy the same products in the 1950s? many people wanted to buy the same products in the 1950s, because customers were enticed by television advertisements.
3. What types of technology were developed after World War II? Name at least three.
 - Power steering (for cars)
 - Jet engines made airplanes faster
 - Telephone service was improved
 - Air conditioning

Answer the EQ: How did the United States change after World War II? Use at least 3 sentences to answer this question.

You will answer this question on your own.