

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

Remember that during World War II, many women began working outside the home since American men were away fighting as soldiers. When the war ended, the men came home. Many women returned home from the work they had been doing for the war effort. They once again worked as homemakers.

Also during World War II, American factories had switched to making products for the war effort. When the war ended, the factories switched back to making consumer goods, things that Americans wanted to buy.

The American economy boomed during World War II, with many workers working overtime hours and making extra money. This increase in jobs and production necessary for World War II lifted the nation out of the Great Depression. These wartime workers had money to spend after the war was over. This post-war prosperity (good, successful times) allowed many people to spend money on new American products.

American culture was dominated by consumerism. Americans had savings with which to purchase many new products like automobiles, televisions, and radios, which had not been available during the war. As Americans had more money to spend service industries like dry cleaners and restaurants expanded. An increase in the use of automobiles and the nation's new highway system gave rise to motels and fast food restaurants. The use of credit cards also began.

1. How did women's lives change once the men returned from war? Many women returned home and became homemakers again
2. How did factory production change once the war was over? Factories switched back to make consumer goods (things that Americans wanted to buy)
3. Why did people have extra money to spend after World War II? During WWII many workers worked overtime in order to have more money. After the war, they had this extra money to spend.
4. What types of businesses grew after World War II? Name at least three.
 - New products like automobiles, televisions, and radios
 - New industries like dry cleaners, restaurants, motels, and fast food restaurants
 - Use of credit cards

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.