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Kennedy, Kennedy, Kennedy, Kennedy, Kennedy,

Kennedy for me

The Second Term of the Kennedy Presidency began with high hopes after successfully dispatching the troublesome left wing of his coalition and expanding Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, the President was determined to see out his policies of stabilization and isolationism. With a healthy majority of the American people behind him, his electoral opponents languished with their unpopular calls for intervention and conflict, the Communist infested Progressive-Labors and the still unpopular Republicans would spin their wheels as Kennedy built a new coalition to rival the Gilded Age's system. From the business community to the labor movement, Kennedy had succeeded in breaking off elements of it in favor of his designs, depriving his enemies of their united support.

“Muh Party Loyalty”

Indeed, the biggest headache for the President by far was destined to be the usual internal factions of the Democratic Party; “good government” reformers who sought to challenge the machines' grip over northern democratic politics and the ever-present “Dixiecrats” who's regionalism, social politics and constant quest for greater control over committees had long been a fixture of Democratic politics. One portion of these southerners proved to be a growing irritant

for Kennedy, centered around Senator Cordell Hull, these democrats included Wendell Willkie, William J. Fulbright and Henry Morgenthau, with all of them united in the expansion of aid to the allies. Despite purging much of the populist element, many of the party's younger politicians such as Congressman Lyndon Johnson would start to call for greater aid to the allies and Kennedy increasingly felt betrayed.

Et tu, Al?

The greatest of these betrayals was from the powerful Senator Robert Wagner and New York Political Boss Al Smith who would become increasingly anti-Nazi as the Battle of Britain raged across the Atlantic, sponsoring legislation alongside P-Ls in the House and Senate to have thousands of Jewish and Polish refugees brought to New York to escape the chaos in Europe. While this did much to partially dent the increasingly powerful anti-Tammany coalition being constructed by Mayor LaGuardia, it brought about a bitter split within the machine itself between the Kennedy loyalists, dominated by more conservative members and patronage beneficiaries and the reformers around Smith and Wagner. As was often the case in the urban machines, this split was built upon ethnic lines; with the German Wagner and Irish-Italian Smith running up against the predominantly Irish Kennedy loyalists. Stronger in Italian, Jewish and other such wards which were by no means reliable Tammany voters (many support LaGuardia), the Wagner-Smith clique grow dependent on middle class and educated voters to fill the gap, taking up the cause of civil service reform and public safety laws alongside their pro-interventionist bend.

Leftist infighting stops challenge (completed)

When Germany would attack the Soviet Union in September of 1941, calls for intervention grew louder from the left, with the various splitters who abandoned Lovestone and the P-Ls no longer demanding neutrality as was the Moscow line. Hearst's papers would take this opportunity to show the communists as essentially disloyal to the United States, abandoning neutrality and the lives of millions of Americans on the whim of Bukharin.

Citizen Kane goes to the Racism Factory

Hearst's papers, at this point in a budding circulation war with the liberal press over the war, most notably the New York Times and the Daily News would remain strongly pro-Kennedy while continuing their attacks on the left. While Hearst's financial mismanagement caused internal issues, his loyal readership within the Democratic Party avoided any severe collapse and his grand estate of San Simeon continued to grow evermore. Regardless, Hearst would begin to hedge his bets, particularly in his west coast papers where editorial attacks on Japanese-Americans and the threat they might cause to American supremacy became more common, that if there ought to be any war it ought only to be waged in the Pacific.

Nothing bad ever happens to the Kennedys

This state of affairs might have continued on into the 1940s, with the Progressive-Labor Party, populists and the Long Machine (which had suffered setbacks across the south in '38 and '40) slowly collapsing under the strain of the two-party system, voters deserting it for the gradually reforming Democrats as the Republicans recovered. Promises of a proper welfare state, old age pensions and medical expansion once the danger of war passed flowed out of the Democratic party and as the economy slowly recovered, many voters began to listen. The Democratic Party under Joseph Kennedy seemed to have a new lease on life, the protectors of American lives at home and abroad, setting the nation on the course towards a better American Dream.

This Dream would die on a sunny Hawaiian morning in December in Pearl Harbor.

Don't blame me, I'm using TNO Lore

When the attack occurred, sunk alongside the USS Arizona was the vast majority of the Pacific Fleet was the carrier USS Enterprise which would prove to be a critical loss in the early days of the war. Alongside this was the horrendous attack of Pearl Harbor's Oil Reserves where 45 million Gallons of Fuel was lost in flames after a 3rd Japanese attack. The loss of the Enterprise and the massive amount of fuel crippled any naval activity undertaken by the United States in the next few months.

Damn? Fr? Just like that?

Following the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, President Kennedy would call a special session of Congress to declare war on the Empire of Japan. The political fallout of the attacks was almost immediate, particularly after Germany and Italy would declare war just a few days later on the United States. Kennedy's refusal to budge on even the slightest bit of intervention or support for the allies seemed to be bordering on treasonous for large swaths of the country and both then Internationalist Republicans and Progressive-Labor Party kicked into high gear with their rhetoric, launching into attacks on Democrats, Kennedy and the Hearst papers for leaving America vulnerable. Isolationist Progressives and Socialists such as Robert La Follette Jr., Reinhold Niebuhr and Wayne Morris would formally join the P-Ls with that question dead in the water.

“What do you mean Ford said we're making guns for the wrong side”

Across the Labor movement, support for the war effort took different shapes and levels of dedication, with Old John Lewis still as stubborn as ever refusing to budge from his isolationism, threatening to call strikes throughout the course of the whole war. The moderate AFL, aligned with Kennedy and the Democratic Party, would vow a patriotic “no strike pledge” for the entire course of the war. On the other hand the CIO with its outright hostile relationship towards the

Kennedy administration would refuse to sign onto any sort of symbolic pledge to make him look like the “great uniter”, most of their newspapers had been calling for war with the Nazis since Poland. Instead President Hillman of the CIO and other major leaders would dedicate themselves to a 300% increase in productivity towards the war effort, daring private industry to keep up “Unless Henry Ford wants to make weapons for the other side”. Despite this pledge to increase productivity, the CIO would continue to hold short strikes at different times and make demands that various war industries be desegregated and such, while keeping production up.

I’m not the soyjak, your the soyjak

Kennedy, refusing to let himself be cast as the traitor, knew he had 3 whole years to avenge Pearl Harbor and to save Europe from tyranny before his term was up and his legacy forever tarnished. Throwing his back into it, he’d implement massive investments into the military while millions of American boys joined up to fight, with hundreds of convoy ships, tanks, trucks and rifles being churned out across the nation’s factories, with more being opened up day after day. After the capture of Midway and the fall of the Philippines by Japan a few months after Pearl Harbor, the clear focus of the war would clearly be on the Pacific Theater, as concerns about an invasion of Pearl Harbor or Australia growing worse.

Fine I'll help the Angloids

Despite this Pacific focus, American troops would also start to make their way across the Atlantic to reinforce the British and prepare for an invasion of North Africa to link up with French Forces in the region. The Battle for the Atlantic was brutally fought as the German U-Boats had grown experienced hunting the seas and with the vast majority of US Naval production going towards rebuilding the Pacific Fleet there was a dangerous lack of escorts. Regardless, for the time being the United Kingdom seemed secure with reliable amounts of food, supplies and American aircraft flying sorties over the Cliffs of Dover to limit Luftwaffe raids.

“Muh war elections”

The 1942 midterms, with millions in training camps and soon to be abroad, brought back decent showings for the Republicans and P-Ls, but this was far from a blowout as the Democratic Party had rallied to save its majorities, albeit far slimmer than it was before then. None of this would truly matter as was war custom, the various parties would work together for the national defense, though the collapsing Soviet Union would rapidly receive more and more aide thanks to the influence of the Progressive-Labor, Republican and Democratic Senators who were desperate to keep all front open against the Germans, maintaining contacts and lines of support across the Arctic even as it collapsed.

I will return (again)

In the Pacific, the crippled US naval presence resulted in Japanese invasions of Papua New Guinea, where the remaining forces of MacArthur alongside ANZACs fought a brutal jungle campaign against the better supplied Japanese who would soon dominate the island. Soon enough, US Naval and Oil production was high enough that it enabled relief fleets to be sailed directly to Australia via both the South Pacific and around South Africa, allowing for the withdrawal from Port Moresby after months of siege back to Australia and New Zealand. From there reinforcements would pour into the islands, preparing for the looming threat of Japanese invasion as air raids reached as far south as Bundaberg.

Protocols of the Druids of Hibernia

The situation in Europe would turn from bad to worse in mid-1943 as unthinkable happened and the Republic of Ireland would declare war on the United Kingdom, occupying Northern Ireland and Belfast in a Finland-esque alignment with the Germans who took advantage of the exposed Irish Sea to launch their long planned invasion of the United Kingdom in the stunning Operation Sea Lion, with London being evacuated quickly and the “Kingdom of England” under the “rule” of Edward (being held for all intents and purposes hostage by Spain) being declared soon after, encouraging defections and an end to the war. At this point massive amounts of US and Canadian soldiers poured into the Scottish ports of Glasgow and Edinburgh, with Kennedy refusing to take action against Ireland who soon after securing Belfast declared itself “neutral”

and sealed off from the wider conflict. This would infuriate the British government, which had relocated to Edinburgh but generally wasn't in a position to argue over Northern Ireland with hellish urban fighting in London occurring.

Stalingrad but its in a Liverpool Pub

By New Years 1943, the Germans had turned the cities of Birmingham and Liverpool into warzones with intense urban fighting seeing high casualties on both sides as the US and Royal Navies desperately brought over hundreds of thousands of American and Canadian troops. With everything going downhill, on the domestic front it looked as if the Democrats would be slaughtered for losing Europe to the Nazis and Asia to Japan, with most newspapers (aside from Hearst) claiming that whoever the Republican nominee was, that even Herbert Hoover would be able to trounce the gormless Truman. Indeed many would wonder out loud if the Progressive-Labor Party would see Governor Henry Wallace run again, after all they had won north of 6 million votes.

“Vote Blue no matter who”

With this question hanging over the air, Truman and the reformist Democrats would come calling to Iowa to ask for Wallace's help in the upcoming election, to at the very least not run for President with the risk of an isolationist like Taft heading the Republican ticket. Wallace would listen to their pleas, hearing out their grand plans of a national health program, expansion of the new deal and social security for the post war. Wallace counters this with demands that

Democratic Machines not run candidates in several states, instead endorsing the P-L picks, including down in Louisiana where the young Russel Long and his Uncle Earl were attempting to expand their influence across the region and retake the Governor's Mansion.

The Racism Factory

Truman was far less bothered by the requests in the northern states, Minnesota and Wisconsin had long been a lost cause and the congressional delegations from the Great Plains were miniscule. What truly concerned him was an increasingly agitated and power-hungry Southern Caucus, led by the Virginia party boss Harry Byrd, who for years had been growing increasingly paranoid about the influence of populists inspired and funded by the Long machine out of Louisiana. Kennedy's weak New Deal had left money in the hands of political machines far more than actually improving the infrastructure of the Deep South, this paired with Kennedy's Catholicism and the repeal of prohibition made the Democratic establishment weaker.

What do you mean "Fund Black Schools"

What this resulted in, particularly in the poorer areas of the South, was an upswing in populist candidates backed by "Share Our Wealth" clubs alongside the occasional labor union. Even more dangerous to politicians such as Byrd, in states like Tennessee and Texas where Black political machines had been tolerated as long as they were in urban areas like Houston or Memphis, these populists had begun reaching out to them, promising some sort of reform and expanded money for Black Schools (never integration or expansion of the vote). This provoked a severe reaction

from the Southern ruling class, particularly when Truman refused to continue cracking down on the Long machine and soon the Vice President was facing the threat of revolt from the likes of Byrd. Despite this, Truman was of the south and maintained close relationships with politicians such as Fulbright, Hull and Lister who dominated his foreign policy circles and with guarantees from Truman that the Democrats wouldn't endorse any sort of Civil Rights plank, the South would hold going into the convention.

The Little Man on a Wedding Cake

With the Progressives agreement not to run and the South under control, Truman would take to the campaign trail to try and save the hide of the weakened Democratic Party, swearing in speeches that "GI Joe would be planting the American Flag in Berlin and Tokyo soon enough". Soon though, the Republicans would hold their convention in Atlantic City and after several rounds of balloting, the young, handsome Governor of New York Thomas Dewey would triumph over Robert Taft and the isolationists. This shock victory of the internationalists further showed the weakness of the right wing, still plagued by Hoover and Dewey himself presented a far more rigorous threat to Truman.

Still hate Hoover

Polls would show Dewey consistently leading Truman as both candidates visited veteran hospitals, factories and the various volunteer citizen brigades who collected scrap metal and

rubber for the army. Controversy arose when Dewey would be spat at in the face and called a “Hoover Rat Bastard” by one such volunteer, himself a veteran of the Bonus Armies. Truman too would catch flak for Kennedy’s treatment of Labor Unions or alternatively “selling out to the Reds” as bitter Democratic machines saw their campaigns flounder without national support due to the Wallace pact.

“What do you mean they’re not voting blue?”

Wallace and the Progressives for their part held their end of the bargain, at their convention in Chicago they would not put up a Presidential candidate, though they wouldn't support Truman either, allowing PL voters to “follow their conscience on the top of the ticket”. Meanwhile Wallace himself would go thundering across the country, speaking out in support of the veterans, the wounded and labor unions, even traveling south to visit with the Longs in Louisiana, taking the controversial step of meeting with black sharecroppers alongside Norman Thomas and A. Philip Randolph. When asked his opinion on the matter of black unions and Wallace’s meetings, Earl Long would simply say “they do as they wish” and then walk away before any more questions could be launched at him.

Building the American PRI

Instead of focusing on the Presidential race, Wallace and his allies would bolster down ballot races and state affiliated parties, encouraging the mass party model that Farmer-Labor had

adopted from Norwegian and German immigrants in Minnesota where weekly meetings would be held and dues paid for campaigns, picnics, etc. Offering an alternative to the top-down machine patronage of the Democrats and the “go it yourself” attitude of the Republicans, this system rapidly spread across the various Progressive affiliated state parties and locals as a way to ensure your family had food during a bum week while keeping in touch with politicians.

Truman’s promise not to fund Democrats in many midwestern states resulted in significant voter shift across the region, empowering the populists at the expense of not just the Republicans but the Democrats as well.

Momentary German Handwavium Shortage

Truman would seem doomed going into the last few months of the election when suddenly on the war front, like Vicksburg and Gettysburg during the Civil War, military reversals added potency to Truman’s claims of Democratic dedication to victory. General Dwight Eisenhower alongside Field Marshal Montgomery had shattered the 5th army as it was making its way up into the Highlands and this had triggered a full-scale retreat of German forces which had been desperately over extended. In particular, General George Patton, leading the 3rd Tank Army in Operation Hadrian, defeated Erwin Rommel for the first time in the entire war, breaking the myth of the “Desert Fox” after years of lightning victories in Africa and Russia. Operation Hardrian was a complete success, established several defensive and forward lines from Scotland’s border well into Northern England. In the Pacific, the US Navy had won a pyrrhic victory in the Corregidor Islands where it destroyed much of Japan’s naval capacity in the South

Pacific but itself taking heavy losses, retreating to Pearl for repairs. With this, Australia would no longer be subjected to navy raids and was for the time being safe from invasion.

Punished Kennedy

These victories, alongside reports of massive boosts in prosperity, rumors of a Soviet resurgence under the great hero Zhukov and growing Italian discontent with the Germans all flooded the nation with optimism it hadn't had for years. The death of Joseph Kennedy Jr. over the Cliffs of Dover, defending England from German bombers, induced massive sympathy for the President, who in a speech said, "my son, as thousands of sons have, died for the hope of liberty and to strike against tyranny". All of these saw the vote gap narrow more and more as November drew close, but most papers suspected that Dewey would claim victory, with the Chicago Daily Tribune announcing the night before "Dewey Defeats Truman".

:okdewtard:

Truman would narrowly win multiple states with just enough votes to put him over the top as millions of Progressives left the Presidential spot empty or voted for the somewhat progressive Dewey. Despite Dewey winning California and New York along with most of New England, Truman would hold the south and win the vast majority of the Midwest, it all coming down to razor thin margins in Illinois where various local machines "counted" late into the night, with Republican Sheriffs in rural Southern Illinois matching Chicago Ward Captains blow for blow.

To avoid political scandal during the war, Dewey would graciously concede and make no issue of the matter, saying that the nation must unite behind the President as “we struggle onto victory”.

This won't result in the collapse of a 100 year old party...

Across the rest of the country, Progressive-Labor candidates would make up their losses from the earlier years and throughout the Great Plains various Governors, State Houses and more fell into the hands of the increasingly united coalition of 3rd Parties, with Wallace bringing ideas of municipal ownership, railway nationalization and mass party politics from the upper midwest across the rest of the country. Particularly strong was in New York City where La Guardia would lead the Labor Party to reelection victory, picking up a few city council seats though it was still slanted towards the various Tammany factions. In the South, Long backed candidates would recapture the Louisiana State house and pick up seats across the rest of the region, from Tennessee to Georgia, mainly using young war heroes to unseat old Dixiecrats, though generally the Democratic order held.

...As long as we win the war

It was now up to Truman and the Democrats to win the war and save Europe from darkness, with the wind at their backs and the great industry of the United States humming, it seemed like things were finally looking up for Uncle Sam.

:withered:

1948: Oh God, What Do We Do Now?

OR

1948: Dewey Defeats Truman 2.0

[Bro I can fix it dude I swear](#)

[What do you mean he brought a horse up the Capitol Steps?](#)

[Funni Bomb fixes WWII lore](#)

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Bro I can fix it dude I swear

The Truman administration would be known to history as one of the most chaotic and shameful of the great American chronicle, with defeat in war followed by 3 straight years of societal, economic and political destabilization, but it did not begin that way. Following a string of military victories in the Pacific and the United Kingdom, despite the fall of the Soviet Union

things were looking up for the allies for the first time since the beginning of the war. The Axis powers at this point were desperately overstretched, with the Japanese Empire struggling to replace ships, weapons and supplies as Italy was preoccupied with wrangling its new colonies (later revealed to be a desperate scramble to grab the Middle East before the Germans turned around and began making claims itself). Germany for its part was dominant over all of Europe, its biggest threat little more than partisan movements whose main tool was sabotage, though now it was bogged down in a vicious war on the British Isles where it struggled to resupply its armies as more and more American planes and ships showed up.

What do you mean he brought a horse up the Capitol Steps?

With this optimistic outlook and a rapidly improving war economy (compared to the Depression and the Kennedy peacetime recovery) the Democratic Party with its new standard bearer Harry Truman was delivered once again a majority in the House, but for the first time since the midterm of '34 they had lost the Senate, sitting with 47 seats to the Republican 40 and Progressive-Labor's 9. Henry Wallace and the P-L had not run for President but instead focused on various down ballot races, resulting in several seats being picked up across the country, from Claude Pepper in Florida to the "Singing Cowboy" Glen Taylor in Idaho. While an electoral defeat, during the war it was an afterthought as war votes were unanimous and domestic politics put thoroughly on the backburner.

Funni Bomb fixes WWII lore

This state of affairs, as history sadly recalls, would come to an atomic end over Pearl Harbor on July 4th, 1945, when a long-range German Bomber would drop the A-Bomb over the

Naval installations, destroying much of the Pacific fleet at dock following the Battle of Corregidor. Shocked and horrified, the nation was soon gripped in terror about what city might be annihilated if Hawaii was vulnerable, though the continental United States was far out of range of this bomber (there was no way to know this at the time). Far more realistically threatening was the danger to the roughly 3 million or so US soldiers on the British Isles, supplied only through a few ports in Scotland.

More funni bombs (they lied)

When the Germans announced that they had more Atomic Weapons (testing one for the world to see) and planned on using it on British cities, they requested a ceasefire to negotiate terms for peace in the East and West. With OSS reports showing that the critical ports of Edinburgh and Glasgow were vulnerable to such bombings, therefore possibly cutting off the supplies and lines of retreat for millions of allied troops, including the 3 million Americans, the Truman administration had little choice but to approach the negotiating table. Along with the majority of British High Command, led by Field Marshal Montgomery, the Truman administration and the various governments in exile were unwilling to sacrifice millions of soldiers to starvation, fights to the death and imprisonment for no other reason than to delay the fall of the United Kingdom.

“Muh Scutland”

Able to negotiate the ceasefire line along the border of Scotland and England, Allied Troops would withdraw while the vast majority of the British High Command laid down their

arms and pledged loyalty to King Edward of England, though others would refuse and retreat to Scotland or begin a guerilla war in the south. With the Demilitarized Zone demarcated between Scotland, now home to what remained of the former allied Government (though the Royals would stay in Canada) and England, ruled by the “Royal Party” made up of Conservative MPs and Aristocrats (many of whom had aided the Germans with information and maps), nearly 3 million US Soldier left the British Isles over the next few months, with only a few thousand requested to stay. Some leaders, such as General Patton, were indignant at what they saw was a cowardly betrayal, refusing to step down until Court Martialed and removed from command of the 3rd Army.

“Muh Vegemite”

As this ceasefire was carried out in Europe, Truman would open up negotiations with the Japanese as the Germans made clear that they would not sign a separate peace. These negotiations, held upon the INS Akagi, would outline the terms of peace between the two warring spheres in the Pacific. Following the success of Operation Downfall, the Japanese would agree to recognize the independence of Australia and New Zealand, a small victory that the allies could claim along with backing up the Indian Republic’s status, halting the western expansion of Japan. But aside from that, the terms were slanted heavily in favor of the Japanese, with the territory of Hawaii being annexed alongside all of the Pacific Island holdings from the Aleutians in the north to the French Possessions in the South.

“What’s wrong I thought you wanted LA and San Fran to be removed from the country?”

Most embarrassing however, cited by many historians and political analysts in later years as the main reason for the collapse of the Democratic Party, was the Japanese Occupation of the Ports of San Francisco and Los Angeles. This provision meant that hostile foreign garrisons for the first time since the War of 1812, would be a permanent presence in the United States. While the loss of Hawaii was a considerable blow, it was these Treaty Ports that burned into the minds of every American the words “surrender” and “defeat”.

The Destonkification of the Western Market

With the Akagi Accords signed, World War II would come to an end, with millions of young soldiers coming home to a nation wracked with defeat alongside fleeing hundreds of thousands from Europe, following their Governments in Exile. With the cessation of hostilities, in one moment the near entirety of Europe and its industrial markets would be cut off, alongside the resources of the Middle East, Africa and East Asia, with resources directed inwards towards autarkic economies run from Madrid, Rome and Berlin. As the price of steel, oil, rubber and more spiraled out of control the bond market went into freefall as the question of where French and British debt would go, perhaps now sitting useless in US Banks.

America is Vibing

This, alongside the influx of millions of workers into the economy all at once triggering a massive wage and consumption crisis, triggered the Second Great Depression, one that managed

to nearly as brutal as the first. By the end of the months long collapse when the markets would bottom out in late November, the poverty rate was sitting at 46% nationwide with the most severe rates being in major urban centers and the deep south. This was right along with issues that had never been properly resolved during the moderate Kennedy New Deal, such as the lack of housing for a growing population, an agitated labor market and internal migration from state to state, all of which exploded like never before with the addition of veterans, refugees and recently unemployed workers.

Depression 2: Electric Boogaloo

It was in these dark days of '45 and '46 that many felt the ground shift beneath their feet and the Yankee Leviathan stumble desperately, on the verge of falling into the sort of violence and anarchy not seen since the Civil War. Closed Factories, Defaulting Banks, Shuttered Shops were complimented by millions of workers, farmers, veterans and more with no homes, no jobs and no futures. Labor Unions were no longer gatherings of workers in many cases, rather gatherings of those who recently were workers, with nowhere to go and nothing to do but sit in bread lines and discuss what was to be done with their brothers and sisters. American Legion Halls saw hungry young veterans, betrayed by their President to save their lives, after being on the verge of driving the Nazis into the English Channel. Cities flooded with all sorts of migrants and refugees, from Kansas and Siberia they poured into already cramped, filthy cities begging for jobs that weren't to be found. Words like 'Revolution' and 'Coups', long thrown around newsrooms and coffee houses with joking ease were now being said by more and more voice each day.

And the nation held its breath, as millions began to listen.

R2

Like a slow-motion train crash, the United States spasmed on the ground as riots, street fights and protests broke out across the country, with the National Guard and Regular Army being called out to quell the more severe examples, many of them in California where the murder of Asian-Americans became a deadly and often occurrence regardless of nationality. This redeployment of the Army and National Guard had the bleak benefit of at least taking a few hundred thousand veterans off the street and into barracks where they would not be left to organize themselves. In urban areas, old ethnic tensions threatened to breakout into street fights as local parties, organizations and labor unions desperately attempted to stop repeats of the notorious “Red Summer” of the post-WWI era where black and ethnic neighborhoods were burnt down.

“Muh Food”

The threat of outright mass starvation was countered only by a motley collection of charities, soup lines and such organized by local institutions such as Political Machines, Labor Unions, Churches and with increasing regularity Organized Criminal Syndicates. This would soon be joined by the War Department kicking into high gear the production of Army Rations to be sent out across the nation as soon as possible. The houses of Ward Captains, Churches, Union Halls and American Legion Posts became points of gathering for entire towns or neighborhoods with no work to do and free food handed out.

Long Haired Preachers Come Out Every Night

The political reaction to this immediate crisis overruled anything else and from left to right massive civic undertakings were made via institutions both new and old. On the right you had the traditional conservative apparatuses of the Church's charity as Catholic Parishes, Anglican Pories and Protestant Chapels served thousands. Alongside this was the political machines of Republicans and Democrats alike desperate to stem the tide of riots making provision best they could alongside their "informal contacts" in organized crime. The wealthy, particularly Hearst who had always painted himself as the Great Populist, alongside the old families Rockefeller, Carnegie, DuPont, etc. made donations of millions to Churches and food drives. On the local level Chambers of Commerce would occasionally be led by charismatic leaders such as the recently returned Colonel Goldwater, resuming his post at his market in Arizona and leading the local Chamber in various charitable ventures.

Patton's REALLY GOOD IDEA

Legion Posts became makeshift shelters for hundreds, in some cases thousands of veterans who soon began to drill, march and appoint leaders of their own as the Posts themselves garnered funds for food, clothing and shelter for returning veterans. General George Patton, with both his own money as well as donations from Hearst and other magnates he had developed relationships with over the years, toured many of these Posts himself as he delivered goods, giving speeches condemning Truman and the entirety of the political establishment. While many of these Posts and Organizations soon began to form themselves into what would soon become the radical bedrock of the Patriot Party, others leaned away from this trend, oftentimes led by older veterans or other political conditions. In particular, many Veterans of the Bonus Army,

following the death of Smedley Butler and led by the War Hero Joseph Angelo, had over the years drifted towards the left and when flooded with the veterans from the war, pointed them towards the rising Progressive-Labor trend. This trend was deeply rooted in the returning white ethnic and black soldiers, oftentimes ran out violently from WASP dominated Posts during the rising tension of the post-war.

Liberal Cringe

Liberal State Governments, oftentimes with Democrats and Progressive Republicans united in their efforts, implemented emergency poverty aide administered directly rather than via the political machines, as was the standard in Kennedy's term. The most famous of these were the actions of Governor Thomas Dewey of New York and Earl Warren in California, though Warren just as regularly had to call in the national guard over and over again to repress race riots and mob attacks on the arriving Japanese soldiers to avoid a massacre. While there was collaboration with other strains such as the political machines, private charities, etc. much of these government's focus was on a clean, efficient system beyond any attempt to engage outside of this.

TNO Leftist Bias

Finally there was the Left and all of its different strains, while nominally contained within the Progressive-Labor Party it was of course several different elements. Within the Party itself, organized along its Mass Participation lines; party halls would become the place of food, shelter and meeting for many as Governor Henry Wallace and others in the Midwest implemented huge programs of direct food purchases designed by Rexford Tugwell. Organizing

small farmers, many at them at risk of failing as banks desperately calling in loans, into various organizations such as the Grange, Farmer's Alliance and the newly founded Farmer's Union, price floors would be set and state governments, labor unions and P-L machines would buy them via funds. This food would be brought then to the overcrowded cities, oftentimes by the farmers themselves riding atop trucks filled with food stuffs and then distributed via those very same organizations. Thousands gathered as unemployed workers, internal migrants and now refugees, rejected by most other forms of charity house, sought food and supply, with trade unionists organizing men into "workmen's unions" to ensure that when the factories reopened all might find fair work.

Yock and Hall Torture Retro

Ever present in the ranks of these impoverished masses and disgruntled veterans of course was the growing urge of political radicalism on both the left and the right. The acceptance of the Communists within the P-L as an element saw pamphlets, speeches and calls for action grow louder as louder as the economy worsened. While on the right, appeals to racial violence and community solidarity grew louder, particularly as the fight over jobs and housing became more intense with the influx of millions.

Oh yeah Truman is President

The Truman administration this entire time had its back against the wall, desperately trying to stabilize the economy, bring home millions of soldiers and prevent massive defaults

across the banking system by attempting to maintain trade lines with allied nations. With its minority rule in the Senate and the entire nation calling for his resignation, Truman and the Democrats found little aide from the Progressive-Labor Party nor its own Southern wing, both of which spent most of their time filibustering bills to expand Federal Powers or the National Guard. It was under these conditions that Truman would increasingly turn to the Republican Party to break filibusters and pass essential bills despite the sometimes-brutal compromises it took.

Republicans do a little trolling

Civil Rights provisions to ensure that blacks in the south received aide within packages infuriated the Dixiecrats, with young radicals like Strom Thurmond screaming at “the death of party unity” and “the repression of southern liberty” while austerity included from hardliners like Taft saw the Progressive Senators cry greed and brutality. Truman and the Democrats would see the walls close in on them with every single vote, the left and right flanks of their party raising hell and crying betrayal as compromise after compromise was shoved through to eek out passage. The long-standing political curiosity of the Democratic Party, which at the same time had managed for nearly a century to include within it both oftentimes the furthest right and left elements of American politics, seemed to be losing its bearings as more and more defections occurred every single day.

“Muh elections”

This was the condition in which the nation found itself heading into the midterm of 1946 and the results would show as much. The Democratic Party, in 7 out every 10 races it ran a candidate,

would lose in overwhelming numbers to what was an increasingly chaotic electoral opposition, with the vast majority of the Solid South running on the “States Rights” ticket before affiliating themselves with the Democratic Party while others won on Long’s “America First” party ticket, including the young George Wallace. While the Republicans would pick up some seats, buoyed by the popularity of the Governors Dewey and Warren, it won far less than it was expecting going into the race as third parties and populists surged. From the Progressive-Labor party, with many openly claiming the mantle of Socialism and winning to various War Heroes who ran with the backing of Veteran groups and other such organizations, populists flooded into State Houses, Congressional Seats and even Senate Seats.

America does a little trolling

Violence at the polls and on the streets was common as increasingly militant and rowdy Americans, many of whom had their livelihood tied not to jobs but to the informal support networks around machines, Posts and unions took it upon themselves to “guarantee” victory. Attempts by Black and Jewish Veterans to vote in many areas, including in Northern cities, was met with repression and violence, which were in turn driven back by “Union Guards” and the such. Police forces and National Guard units struggled at the sheer number of incidents occurring across urban and rural areas as representatives from banks would be lynched or shot by farmers, their deaths promptly not followed up on by State Governments across the Upper Midwest and Deep South.

The writer of this mod had no bias against Robert Taft

In the halls of Congress the situation wouldn’t be much better than it was out in the streets, with the Senate descending into chaos as the Democratic and Republican Parties combined barely

cleared enough Senators to halt filibusters while the House was now a rat's nest representing up to 8 different parties and "parties", with many independents from a region or of agreement forming into voting cliques. Only two things seemed to be in agreement across the whole of the legislature; that something ought to be done and that none of it should be done with that rat bastard Harry Truman. With this the Federal Government ground to a standstill as the various factions, many predicated exclusively on opposition to the President, squabbled and fought (sometimes physically, as Senator Robert Taft got his jaw broken by Glen Taylor over comments regarding Idaho Farmers) and turned bills into pork-barreled messes of patronage money and bribes. The few bills that were passed oftentimes were dependent on constant collaboration between the remaining Democrats and the more numerous Republicans, a dynamic that grew more common as the months went on, particularly as they clung onto Committee Assignments and positions of influence against populist interlopers.

Harry Soyman

This was the state of affairs for the last two miserable years of the Truman Presidency, unable to pass nearly anything, increasingly dictated by factors outside his own collapsing parties and economic interests, Truman retreated into the White House. Attempting to focus on Foreign Policy, his one area with any prerogative, he attempted to suggest monetary exchange systems and a renewed alliance with the old allies, but these suggestions were met with skepticism as the Truman administration seemed to be headed towards an early grave, possibly to be replaced by a fervent isolationist. With this, Truman could do little but watch the country stagger its way forward, with a somewhat stabilizing economy and large amounts of people returning to work

(an instance that only brought with it strikes, strike breaking, paramilitaries, mob violence, bombings and more as Americans competed over a limited amount of jobs).

Vote Blue No Matter...where is everyone?

With that, the election of 1948 rolled about with Truman holding onto the nomination after a vicious convention where fights over the addition of a Civil Rights Plank to the party finally shattered whatever unity was left. Introduced by Hubert Humphrey, attempting to bring the Progressive-Labor moderates away from the radicals, Truman felt he had to at least have it put up for a vote as to not alienate what could be his only chance of victory. But even this was too much for the Dixiecrats, infuriated at even the suggestion of Civil Rights, took the opportunity to leave the convention and announce that Senator Richard Russel of Georgia was to be the nominee of the State's Rights Party. Regardless of this walkout, the opposition from Kennedy allies in the Irish Machines and Dixiecrats who remained such as Fulbright engineered the narrow defeat of the Civil Rights plank, triggering a further implosion on the left flank of the party.

Dewey's back

The Republicans saw a rematch of Dewey vs. Taft, with the isolationists emboldened by a distrust of world markets and calls to defend all else American interests and corporations while Dewey attempted to present the need for international collaboration. After a long contest at the convention, Dewey would once again beat Taft by narrow margins, arguably aided by the influx of defecting Democrats and Progressives worried about the radical direction of the P-Ls.

Dewey's personal progressiveness and leadership as Governor of New York had many see him as the front runner heading into 1948 despite the polling follies of '44.

Wholesome 100 Big Chugus Leftist Bias

The Progressive-Labor Party, swollen with defecting Democrats and millions of others after the successes and programs of Tugwell once again nominated their champion Henry Wallace who took to the stage and cried out for an America for the Worker, the Farmer and Worldwide Liberty, vowing to support any fighting against Fascist tyranny across the globe. Openly Socialist elements rallied, garnering the support of millions for the first time since the days of Eugene Debs while backing Wallace and Hubert Humphrey, seen by many initially as a traitor for approaching the Democrats, brought with him significant chunks of voters following the debacle and after a roaring speech was warmly embraced by Wallace. Led by Paul Robeson, Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger, the Convention closed with the twin songs "This Land is your Land" and "Solidarity Forever", hymns that would become intimately associated with the Progressive-Labor and later its successors in the National Progressive Front and eventually the Centre, sung at the close of each Conference in the tradition of the Labour Party's 'Jerusalem' and 'Red Flag' (attempts to add the Internationale as well were thwarted).

The Gaming Caucus

The States' Rights Party, while rooted in Southern regionalism above all else, soon became a vehicle for any Democratic Southerner who didn't want to get wiped out in '48, including the deep-seated rivals of the Dixiecrats in the form of the Long Machine and its "America First" Party. Holding them at arm's length, the States Rights Party would attempt to

minimize populism and emphasize the strong nationalist tendencies found within American First, fitting them in well with the overall Party Platform. Deep seated rivalries between the populists and the Bourbons would be too much for many though and despite the best efforts of Senator Russel, many would defect back to the Democrats, sit out the election or even bolt to the P-Ls, including the War Hero Sid McMath who had been recruited by the populists in the state to challenge the sitting Arkansas Governor Jack Holt, who ended up in the States Rights Party. McMath, now running openly on Civil Rights and pro-union planks in the South, was widely considered to be a dead letter running little more than a suicidal charge against impossible odds (McMath would win in an upset victory, backed by farmers, labor unions and veterans).

4 Way Election in a 2 party System

With this, there were four major candidates backed by powerful political parties running for President in 1948, a fact which meant that the election would most certainly be decided by the House of Representatives barring some complete collapse. Such a collapse did not come as November drew into sight, with the States' Rights and Progressive-Labor party coalitions holding and even the Democratic Party showing rare signs of life. On election night, state after state came in for Dewey, Wallace, Russel and even some for Truman, showing a deeply fractured map with many states decided on how hard votes were split and whose coalition held the best.

Democrats Delenda Est

While many expected the Democratic Party to tumble in the polls, the results were nonetheless shocking when it came in that Henry Wallace and the Progressive-Labor Party would end up winning over 2 million more votes than the Democratic Party, coming in at 12,000,000

with 101 Electoral Votes, cutting a Green Swath across the north all the way to the Pacific. Dewey stood the closest to victory with a healthy 7 million vote lead over Wallace and the P-LS, needing only a few dozen electors to stop it from going to a hostile House. Embarrassingly for the Dixiecrats and Russel, the State's Rights Party would barely win more than 3 million votes, with Truman nearly trouncing them across the Deep South and outright beating them in Tennessee, Texas, Kentucky and a few other states. Truman and the Democrats, backed up by the ever-loyal urban machines and Irish vote, would come in 4th in the Electoral College despite winning 22% nationwide.

Republicans and Democrats working together? What next, some sort of National Progressive Party?

It was up to Truman then to be the humble Kingmaker when Thomas Dewey came knocking, not wanting to risk a House decision which might see, horror of horrors, Henry Wallace eek his way in with the backing of densely populated urban districts. For 4 years Dewey had been one of the only reliable partners he had pushing for international institutions and moderation in the face of radicalism, with Kennedy's blessing he would gladly signal electors to vote for him. Indeed, after four years of chaos, defeat, riots and shame, Truman nearly broke down crying in joy as he felt the burden of the Presidency, a job he never proper wanted, being lifted off him.

It was now up to the charismatic Dewey to try and staunch the bleeding and bring America back from the edge.

:okdewtard:

1952: Please Save Us Mr. Eisenhower

Turns out losing WWII causes things to change

On that note, let's start with the Republican-Democratic Party, who for 10 years has dominated American Politics as a single party under the Eisenhower Administration; 10 years which saw the American Economy, Society and Politics brought back from the realm of collapse, despair and extremism which was bred by the Post War Period and the Second Great Depression. Following the 1948 Election, many thought that Dewey's solid victory over Truman and the Democrats in the Electoral College would provide enough of a mandate for the new President to try and start rebuilding the nation. But as Dewey triumphed and the Democrats became increasingly impotent, what replaced them in State Legislatures, Governor's Mansions, etc. we're not Republicans loyal to Dewey but rather an increasingly radical collection of regional parties.

These political conditions were inflamed the worsening Economic Depression triggered by a near complete lack of trade with Europe, the Middle East and East Asia; leading to violence in the streets while Dewey's Republican Party struggled to get anything done in the Legislature, their reforms deemed cruel or insufficient by the minor parties. As a result, even as the Democratic party would further collapse following Truman's defeat and the cut off of Federal Aid and support to local/state machines, the Republican Party would become increasingly dependent on the remaining Democratic Congressmen and Senator to pass anything. The moderates led by Dewey would collaborate with liberals, encouraged by Kennedy Sr. who remained influential within the machines and professional class that dominated this wing of the party. Alternatively, the small government Conservatives, led increasingly by Senator Robert Taft, would work with Southern and Western Democrats on matters of regulation, States Rights and Military spending.

Firebrands in the Senate

This collaboration, at first informal and quid pro quo, would grow more and more consistent as the leaderships negotiated and vote traded for Committee Assignments, Bills and Funding for projects; with the established political class determined to keep the extremist parties out of important assignments, positions of influence or from derailing what they saw as critical legislation. Aside from this, there was a severe culture clash that occurred in both Washington as well as across the nation in State Houses; the old system of private clubs, lunch rooms and in particular the Senate traditions of respect and friendship (embodied by baseball games and parties) was now put into direct tension with a collection of firebrands, populists, ideologues and neophytes who were just as quick to threaten and denounce each other as they were the political establishment. Southern Demagogues, Young Veterans raw from the War and for the first time in history pronounced Socialists populated the Senate, frozen out of positions by the wary establishment who saw them as a direct threat to the Republic and its traditions.

American Gaming on Technicolor TV

None of this tension was lessened by the increasing amounts of violence being introduced into American Politics; for while the nation had always had its assassinations, mobs and lynching, it had long been focused on the local levels. Following the end of the war and with the collapse of the two party system; the United States saw millions of its young men return from the war to a rapidly contracting economy and little in the way of aid from the beleaguered Truman and Dewey

administrations. This led to various paramilitaries forming across the political spectrum as riots, crime and directed violence became more common as claims of election fraud were followed by assassinations and burnt out buildings rather than the average grumbling of the pre-war era.

This chaos and tension, reported on by newspapers, radio and now increasingly on Television, began to cement a paranoia across the various strains of America's middle class: from Ivy League Intellectuals, established professionals/business owners, lawyers and politicians who saw the political system breaking down around them under assault from these new parties and the chaos brought with them. As respect for longstanding institutions, such as the Courts and political norms, began to disappear, much of the informal glue which had maintained the Constitutional order was no longer holding. All of this provided yet another incentive for the Republicans and Democrats to work together to ensure that threats to ignore Court Orders, Federal Laws and Election Results were curbed by an organized resistance made up of various interest groups.

Tricky Dick respects the troops

All of this began to come to head as Dewey's lackluster first term shrugged its way to the midterm elections of 1950 which saw the Former General George Patton begin to campaign heavily across the United States, particularly on the West Coast, calling for the immediate retaking of the Treaty Ports and Hawaii as well as surging US military support to Scotland to begin a campaign to retake the British Isles and restore the ailing King George to the Throne (many of Patton's speeches spoke on the subject of his personal capacity to beat General Bernard Montgomery). Patton's cries for war came alongside plans for mass military build up and the expansion of benefits for veterans, with the threat of Nuclear attack still restricted to long-range bombers (many of which could not reach the US) rather than unstoppable ICBMs many saw it as just another risk of warfare. One man who agreed with Patton on these matters was the head of the newly reorganized OFN Combined Forces, General Douglas MacArthur who despite instructions not to began to also make speeches, most infamously at a massive rally alongside Patton in Los Angeles which drew nearly a million people.

The result of this was a surge in support for candidates for the so called "Patriot Party", with Governor Earl Warren barely holding onto power despite his popularity with nearly every other race going for their candidates (the only exception being the brutal and meanspirited campaign between the film star John Wayne and Congressman Richard Nixon, with Nixon claiming he was a draft dodger, chicken hawk and most controversially saying that Wayne "would have forgotten which side he was fighting for" if placed in the European Theater. Nixon's attacks, military service and equally violent rhetoric against the Japanese allowed him to squeak out a victory against Wayne by less than a percent however.). Aside from on the West Coast, the Patriot Party picked up seats across the nation, gaining support from populists, businessmen and veteran organization who increasingly called for Patton and MacArthur to end the corrupt and ineffective Presidency of Dewey "one way or another".

Is this a motherfucking Kaiserreich reference?

Following the election, the Patriot Party would only gain steam as Patton would soon after announce his candidacy for the White House, getting millions in funding from various sources as well as the endorsement of established politicians and more significantly military leaders. Head of the Air Force Curtis LeMay made several speeches describing the positive chances of the US surviving a German/Japanese Nuclear Attack as MacArthur became more and more vocal about returning to the

Philippines to support the increasingly powerful insurgents, many of whom were in fact Americans led by Wendell Fertig. MacArthur began to directly communicate with members of Congress, many of them in the Patriot Party, to send weapons and supplies to the U.S.F.I.P. despite statements of neutrality from Dewey (the CIA was giving supplies, but covertly to avoid scandal and crisis), leading many to believe that MacArthur was directly contradicting the President.

Patton, LeMay and MacArthur's statements increased in boldness as polls in 1953 began to show the Patriot Party not only surpassing the left-wing National Progressives but indeed topping the Democratic Party who continued to freefall. This shock, that a third party which had appeared little more than a year ago was now threatening to become the main competitor was compounded by more polls just a few months later which saw Patton begin to approach Dewey. Part of this was triggered by recent revelations around the newly formed CIA and their role in the overthrow of Carlos Prio of Cuba in favor of Fulgencio Batista, who then promptly began to trade with the Fascist Dictators of Spain, Italy and Portugal. This came alongside their failure to stop the domination of German interests in Iran following the collapse of British authority, with oil shortages in the US inflamed by the fall of Mossadegh as the Imperial Government began to align ever closer with Nazi Germany, cutting off trade with the US.

Thomas Soywey vs. Ike Chadenhowser

All of these scandals around the CIA led to claims from both the right and the left that the organization was riddled with Nazi spies and saboteurs, directly helping the enemy overthrow democracies via either their inaction (as was claimed by the right) or outright preference for dictators (as was claimed by the left). All of this made Dewey look weaker and weaker going into the 1952 election with MacArthur beginning to openly question Civilian Oversight of the Military as political violence increased and America's opponents in the Cold War won victory after victory. It was under this context of failing poll numbers, political chaos and increasing fears of a rogue military (Le May had threatened to bomb Havana as Batista began to align more with Italy, going as far to fly B-52s over the coast before recalling them) that Dewey privately decided he would not stand for reelection.

From here, he began to enter into secret talks with former President Kennedy, Richard Russel of Georgia and several other politicians to ask former General Dwight Eisenhower to stand as a "National Unity" Candidate for both the Republican and Democratic Parties. Eisenhower's political moderation as well as his personal animosity towards Patton and MacArthur led to him agreeing to stand, though only if both parties nominated him with an understanding of co-operation between the two of them. The Old General, while never holding office, had no intention of letting his Presidency turn into the chaotic mess which defined Dewey's incapacity to do nearly anything, attempting to leverage the two parties to compromise.

Convincing the Parties

When Eisenhower was draft in both the Democratic and Republican primaries, the nation thought little of it as he was the popular war hero who led the stubborn defense of Scotland and North England, indeed he had been nominated at the Patriot Party's convention by a few delegates, much to Patton's chagrin. It was only when Eisenhower made the announcement that he would not deny the nomination process that the nation was thrown into fervor as he began to win primary after primary (controlled by State Machines in most cases). The Democratic machines, seeing their way

out of the political jungle, easily approved of the merger as many doubted they would survive another election cycle tied to the party of Truman and Kennedy.

The Republican Party however, with Conservative resistance led by Robert Taft, was far more divided over the matter of hitching their party to the urban machines and Ivy League Progressives of the Democrats who they had for nearly a century stood in opposition to. From the liberal side, Dewey himself as well as Governor Warren of California were wary of embracing the Dixiecrats who made up much of the Senate's senior ranks. This would lead to a highly contested nomination process with Taft leading organized resistance while California and New York Delegates threaten to nominate Warren as well, all of which could lead to Eisenhower being denied the nomination on the first ballot and turning the Convention into a slugfest.

The pressure from within the party then, with Dewey being increasingly unpopular, would come from figures such as Prescott Bush and W.A. Harriman who despite their different party affiliations had long standing personal connections as well as from below. In particular, the freshman Senator Richard Nixon was instrumental in being a "hatchet man" for Eisenhower at the Convention, threatening, blackmailing and convincing the California delegation into supporting Eisenhower on the first ballot over Taft or Warren. Without his base in California and Nelson Rockefeller working to convince the New York Delegation, many thought that Governor Warren would endorse Eisenhower in a speech outside the State House in Sacramento on July 14th.

Patriot Party has a Gamer Moment

However, as Warren stepped up to the podium amidst the cheering crowds of supporters, a young man stepped out from behind a pillar wielding a semi-automatic pistol. Before anyone could act, Governor Earl Warren was shot 4 times through the neck and chest as the assassin was tackled to the ground. Holding on for 3 days, Warren in his moments of lucidity making contradictory statements as to what he meant to do in his speech, ultimately passing away on the 17th surrounded by his family.

The young man, John Richards Dougal, was taken into custody and it was soon revealed that he was a member both of the Patriot Party, attending the great Los Angeles rally and partaking in strike breaking with a paramilitary, as well as several fringe anti-communist groups which were claiming that Eisenhower and the R-D merger was a communist plot forwarded by Jewish Professors and Bankers to stop Patton from saving the country. Dougal had served in the Pacific and had been radicalized by the mass poverty that he and other veterans were plunged into following the end of the war, with his political affiliation switching around from the Communist Party, to the States Rights to finally Patton's Patriot Party. Deemed insane by a California Court, he was sentenced to life without parole in San Quentin Prison (he would be beaten to death 3 days in).

Responding to the Gamer Moment

Despite the lack of clarity as to Warren's statements, Republican Newspapers (lead by W.R. Hearst), Movie Studios and Nixon himself would paint the fallen Governor as a martyr for the Republic, vowing all good men of the nation to support Eisenhower on his deathbed to save it from the bloodthirsty populists. This lionization (despised by Warren's family, who would never forgive Nixon for his role in using the tragedy) gave Eisenhower the boost he needed to see Taft and his allies turned away on the first ballot of the convention by the narrowest of votes. With both parties

approving it on the first ballot, so ended the Democratic and Republican parties and so began the merger of the Republican-Democratic Party as a unified force under the war hero.

This assassination soured much of the American Public on the Patriot Party, with its leadership and politicians attempting to avoid the media and shut them out of rallies alongside the increasing amounts of protestors. Their use of the paramilitaries who grew up alongside the Patriot Party as security resulted in several clashed with the protestors and claims of undue violence being carried out against people, which the media immediately picked up on and reported as further assaults on democracy. Patton's most controversial moment in the 1952 election came as a protestor broke through his guards and began shouting him down over the Warren Assassination, with Patton striking him with a baton and shouting something in the ensuing chaos. The protestor would claim that Patton said that "at least Dougal was a patriot who served his nation and deserves respect for that" while Patton and his aides would deny this, claiming that the General had said that the man the protestor had knocked down was a veteran and deserved more respect than that.

The Next Generation

Regardless of what was said, this latest controversy did little to help Patton in the polls and across the nation the newly formed Republican-Democrat machines took advantage of not having to campaign against their traditional opponents to then focus on decrying the upstarts. Hostile Newspapers began uncovering reports of corruption, scandal and violence within the Patriot Party as protestors began to show up more and more at their rallies. Meanwhile, the next generation of what was now the R-Ds began to make their bones in the campaign of 1952; the young son of former President Kennedy, John Fitzgerald, had been in the Congress since 1947 and would go across the country making speeches in support for Eisenhower.

Nixon, for his part in securing the Republican Convention, had expected to be nominated as Vice Presidential candidate but was passed over in favor of Illinois Governor Adlai Stevenson due to the influence of the Chicago Machine and the need to bring in the Eastern Liberals. This would breed a deep sense of resentment and distrust in Nixon who felt he had been betrayed and embarrassed by the "winners" of the merger, but nonetheless he would set to work building connections and reinforcing the party to take what was rightfully his one day. In Texas, Senator Lyndon B. Johnson and the son of Prescott Bush, George, would work to see off the Patriot Party's significant inroads into the Oil Industry and Texas politics.

You like Ike, I like Ike

Eisenhower for his party would go across the country making speeches, participating in parades and attempting to breed a sense of unity and hope at each place he would visit. On the Left, the National Progressive Front, made out of the merger of Henry Wallace's Progressive Party, several minor parties such as Farmer-Labor and the SPA and most controversially the Communist Party under Jay Lovestone who had entered into the NPF as a "united front". This direct association with the Communists, despite being relatively few in number compared to the other portions of the party and the lack of directly violent rhetoric, harmed the NPF's Presidential Campaign as the R-Ds began to promise Veteran Benefits, Welfare Programs and Infrastructure projects to alleviate poverty, pulling back many of the middle class liberals and moderate who had moved toward the NPF.

Labor Unions for their part saw the different Federations breaking different ways, with the more conservative AFL backing Eisenhower directly while the CIO under Walter Reuther backed Senator Glen Taylor of the NPF, though he allowed locals and union reps to maintain positive relationships with elements of the RDs, sensing their imminent and not wanting to be left out in the cold. Eisenhower came out in support of Labor Protections and vowed to govern with balance between management and unions so many found his appeal alongside his status as a War Hero. This was further encouraged by RDs such as Jacob Javits and Robert Wagner who long had positive relationships with more moderate elements of the labor movement.

Everybody likes Ike for President

When November came, the lopsided victory of Eisenhower over both the Patriot Party and National Progressive Front saw the seeds of the new party system planted as the Republican-Democrats recovered massive ground off the coattails of Ike and the PP and NPF were dismayed and outraged over what many saw as the political establishment destroying democracy. The Eisenhower administration would see much economic and political stability returned to the United States as the economy would begin to grow moderately as the European Crisis of the mid-50s would see German Hegemony crippled as the US. This would also be the era of the Grey Scare, the formation of the Nationalist Piss Party and the building complacency and corruption of the Republican-Democrats as they dominate US politics for 10 years.

1960: You can't lick our Dick

Following the landslide election of 1956 with President Eisenhower cruising to an easy victory, where the Old General took 63% of the vote and over 400 Electors, the political chaos that had engulfed the country from the signing of the Akagi Accords to the Grey Scare had formally come to a close. Paramilitaries had been weakened and disarmed while the Patriot Party without the charismatic leadership of George Patton began to shift towards more moderate rhetoric safe within the boundaries of electoral politics. Eisenhower's policies of legal mediation between the labor movement and corporate America, while angering his right flank, brought about what might be described as labor peace, with the number of strikes decreasing and violence on the picket line hitting an all time low.

This, paired with a stabilized economy that furthered Kennedy Senior's banking reforms, healthy pension programs for Veterans, moderate farm subsidies, and the military centered Interstate projects saw the US economy growing at a healthy rate for the first time in years. A small but robust middle class; forged out of the growing corporate sector, the military industrial complex, small business owners and the revitalized old middle class from before the Depression was growing across the country; moving into the old streetcar suburbs and rowhouse neighborhoods of major cities. On the International front, the groundwork Truman and Dewey had laid for the foundation of the Organization of Free Nations were bearing fruit as trade increased and US military bases opened across the world.

The recently formed NSA and CIA meanwhile had seeded itself across the Russian Anarchy, where reports on various movements and statelets were finally flowing in with some level of reliability after nearly a decade of radio silence. This, along with CIA meddling to make the German chaos during the 1950s worse culminated with the massive diplomatic/economic win of Turkey, Iberia and most crucially the Empire of Italy breaking away from the German sphere of influence to form the Triumvirate. While still fascist, territorial and wont to support challengers to US hegemony (particularly in Latin America in the case of Paraguay, Guatemala and Argentina), the Triumvirate's existence and willingness to do limited trade meant that the flow of oil, resources and good from the Southern Mediterranean and Middle East would flow into American ports.

These foreign policy wins began to silence the isolationists as the Eisenhower Doctrine showed the United States capable push back against Japan and Germany while not triggering nuclear war, instilling a sense of patriotism as the US economy kept growing as the Germans fell into pure chaos. All of these elements, domestic and international, contributed to the

overwhelming victory of Eisenhower at the polls, giving the RDs boons as the NPF and Patriot Party bled support, though not huge amounts as many voters did split ballots. Eisenhower's policies saw the liberal wing of the RDs pick up most of the seats, though this would predictably correspond to regionalism.

Despite this, the nature of the Senate still allowed various coalitions of interest groups to block major legislation and Eisenhower's policy of hands-off consensus stopped any great push gaining momentum, all things carefully managed by the "Master of the Senate" himself, Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson. Eisenhower for his part was content to govern over the reforms he had made, attempting to instill a sense of stability and normalization rather than pushing forwards during his second term. A growing economy, relatively low taxes and foreign policy victories meant that the country "liked Ike" as many of the most intense elements that had destabilized politics and the economy since 1945 faded as extreme rhetoric grew stale in the face of gradually improving standards for most Americans.

This happy status quo, like all things in history and politics, would soon be challenged by brand new hot button issues as it turns out, the status quo was none too happy for many people. Fiscal Conservatives around Senator Goldwater challenged the orthodoxy of the Eisenhower administration, siding with business groups calling for the return of limited government influence. While these voices were ignored, much similar to the constant protestations of Taft until his death, the rhetoric of tax cuts and personal responsibility resonated with many of the rising middle class as well as small business owners who were influential in local politics. At the very same time, the labor peace Eisenhower had governed over since the beginning of his Presidency began to fray as Reuther and the CIO, began to consolidate and push harder and harder for pro-union legislation and larger benefits.

Outside the traditional issues which had plagued the nation since the late 19th century such as tariffs, taxes and labor disputes, brand new ones began to arise with as questions of Civil Rights and cultural matters began to rear their head. Supported by the CIO (Reuther alongside other leaders had long been deeply invested in Civil Rights, with Secretary Treasurer Mike Quill spending most of the 1950s encouraging stronger ties between white and black workers via the rank and file.), radicals working outside the context of the parties and led increasingly by the influential Pastor Martin Luther King Jr., marches across the South and North had been met with violence and national attention. While Eisenhower enforced the Supreme Court's ruling on Brown vs. the Board of Education by deploying soldiers to countermand Governor Faubus' calling out of the National Guard, he balked at pushing the question much further.

Increasingly the right flank of the Patriot Party; traditionally split between nationalists, Long style populists and segregationists, was increasingly becoming enthralled by the inflammatory rhetoric of Governor George Wallace, who managed to combine populism with charged racial and cultural politics. With the Southern flank of the RDs increasingly irritated with Eisenhower following the Little Rock integration and refusals to allow for segregated public housing (a fact which resulted in increasingly mixed, poor neighborhoods even in the urban south due to the ongoing housing crisis), the President would follow the advice of Senator Bennett to avoid pushing the matter until the next election.

The biggest matter above all though was the looming question of a second coalition party forming alongside the Republican-Democrats, to be forged out of the merger of the left-wing National Progress Front and the nationalist Patriot Party. While these parties had flourished in the chaotic days of the late 40s and early 50s where elections were decided by only thousands of votes as the traditional machines laid crippled, the US electoral system remained fundamentally

unchanged. Its 'first-past-the-post' vote system and other electoral laws leaned towards broad coalition parties and when the Republican-Democrats formed in 1952, no matter how much the NPF and PP hollered "corruption" and "violation of the democratic process", the scales would always be tilted in favor of the RDs.

From that point on it was a slow bleed of support as various state houses, congressional districts and Senate seats fell to the reorganizing RDs under the popular Eisenhower, a process accelerated by the death of Patton, the Grey Scare and internal fights within the NPF. But just as the Republican-Democrats had their roots in informal agreements over committee assignments, vote trading and foreign policy before becoming an actual party, the same was true in the case of the NPF and PP across the country as they came to be the standard bearers for left and right populism respectively. Governors such as Sid McMath, himself a veteran though a member of the NPF, worked more and more with Long populists and PP mainliners despite protests from more segregationist elements. Similarly, in West Virginia where Miner Unions dominated the lines between the NPF and PP were always blurred since the early 1950s.

This relationship grew and grew overtime, particularly as resentment towards the dominating Republican-Democrats skyrocketed as the two parties saw their political project's collapse before their very eyes in slow motion due to the entire establishment moving to crush them. The 1956 election, despite both parties running their own candidate, increasingly saw their attacks not directed at each other's candidates but rather towards Eisenhower and the RDs despite long standing issues over attitudes towards corporations and civil rights. When the election entered its last weeks, there were several cases of both NPF and PP candidates who were polling poorly dropping out and insisting that their voters back the other populist, with many of these cases proving to be some of the only successes during the '56 RD landslide.

With these examples, along with lingering bitterness of how the Grey Scare turned into seemingly a partisan assault on both the NPF and PP which targeted veterans, pacifists and eventually even trade unionists, the gap between the two parties narrowed even more as the nation seemed to be moving towards having a second coalition party, somehow more ideologically varied than the RDs. When negotiations between moderates in both the parties began in earnest, radicals on both sides began to split off or at the very least openly denounce the idea, with the CIO threatening withdrawing support from the NPF and various Patriot Party state governments threatening to split off. Following massive amounts of bribes, threats, negotiations and compromises however, the splitters would be limited to a variety of hardliners whose distaste for the electoral system saw them unlikely to defect to the RDs either.

With this, Margaret Chase Smith, Russel Long, Hubert Humphrey and Scoop Jackson would announce the finalization of negotiations forming the National Progressive Party, bringing the Senatorial and House Caucuses of the two parties together into one under the leadership of Senate Minority Leader Russel Long. While some in the RDs reacted with rage, most merely snided and joked about the impossibility of holding together such a deranged coalition, after all their criticism could not be too deeply seated given the nature of their very own party. Much of the rhetoric from the Grey Scare, though dampened, of the NPF and PP being funded by Berlin to destabilize the United States, was now directed towards the infant NPP, painted in the RD Press (Hearst and otherwise) as a directionless collection of bomb throwers, fascists and communists.

This commentary however ran up against the electoral results of the 1958 midterms which saw, much to the shock of RD politicians and pollsters who expected the complete collapse of support as the two party's bases abandoned them for betraying their values, NPP politicians

rally to retake multiple seats and hold onto many others. The heaviest losses for the NPP came in the Deep South where Conservative RDs exploited the long-standing Civil Rights advocacy of the NPF to now paint the entire NPP as such, denting their numbers. But outside of that region, the machines, unions and voters of the NPF and PP held their noses and voted the party line, turning what were blowouts by the RDs into closely contested races as politicians focused on the corruption, elitism and failures of the RDs.

With these results, the NPP's focus rapidly turned to the 1960 Presidential election, seen as their best chance to break the RD hegemony over Federal Politics and soon their rhetoric turned towards foreign policy. Since Henry Wallace's pro-Soviet interventionism all the way back in the 1930s and the constant revanchism of the Patriot Party since its birth, Foreign Policy was one of the few areas that the NPP could reliably speak on in detail without risk of triggering on of the dozens of intra-party nerve points. Turning towards the great embarrassment of the Treaty Ports, the NPP pressed hard on the "do nothing" Eisenhower administration who had lost Iran to the Nazis, left the Western Revolutionary Front out to dry and increasingly seemed incapable of stopping Latin American Caudillos from aligning with the Triumvirate. This was a particularly sensitive matter as the Dictator of Cuba Fulgencio Batista, just 77 miles to the south of Florida, moved more and more towards embracing Iberian and Italian investments over US investments.

The Eisenhower administration struggled to combat these claims, as the vast majority of the successes of the CIA and NSA were highly covert and in many cases ongoing, running the risk of triggering a nuclear or diplomatic crisis if revealed. And regardless, no matter how many trade deals were signed with Canada or how strongly South Africa would be reinforced, the black stain of Japanese Occupation on the continental United States hung over the nation like an

ominous cloud, feeding revanchism like nothing else. The NPP, heading into the early months of 1960, would see its poll numbers creep upwards as it rampaged on about the Treaty Ports, Corruption, RD apathy and more.

This upswing in what was expected to be a blowout victory for the RD, indeed the hope was that it would kill off one or in fact both the NPF and PP, shook up the internal power struggle for Eisenhower's successor. The initial favorite was Henry Cabot Lodge, deeply invested in the development of the CIA and OFN and incredibly qualified, satisfactory to both the blueblood Conservatives and moderate liberals. But as the NPP was formed and the rhetoric began to take its toll on the RD's lead, Party leaders began to doubt Lodge's capacity to get down in the mud and counterbalance the surging NPP.

It was in these moments of doubt that the embittered Senator Richard Nixon, who had full expected to be chosen as the Vice President of Eisenhower in 1956 but hid his resentment to keep in good graces with the old man, made his move. Going across the country, making speeches condemning the NPP while holding secret meetings where he claimed Lodge was a choke artist who'd fail to step up; after all who was always there for you when you needed "help"? Soon Lodge would see himself boxed in, expecting an easy primary season, being defeated in New Hampshire and Iowa by the insurgent Nixon who rode off of strong rhetoric and personal ties to various figures. Knowing he would need backing from the very people he hated, the elites of the party, to ensure Lodge couldn't screw him out via some trickery like he had been in '56, Nixon would approach one of the earliest funders of his first campaigns, the former President Joseph Kennedy.

Kennedy, following the defeat in 1945, had retreated from public politics, seen by many to be directly responsible for the loss in the war, so blinded by his isolationism that he let the country be attacked in 1941. His influence, however, was still wide reaching through his old connections in the Press (as close with Hearst Jr. as he was with the father), the loyalty of the Irish-American Vote and now via the proxy of his sons John, Robert and Edward who all were severing in the Senate, House or Government. John, known as one of the strongest hawks within the RDs, with his soaring rhetoric, charm and handsome demeanor, was considered to be a rising star within the party, though far too young to run for President. Nixon however was desperate for the backing of Kennedy and the wide reaching influence that inferred, and after a visit to Hyannis Port, Nixon would promise that John would be his Vice Presidential pick come Convention time.

With this, Mayors and Governors would suddenly begin to endorse the rising Nixon, most influential being Mayor Richard Daley, Boss of the Chicagoland machine. Lodge would meet personally with Nixon, offering to drop out of the race in exchange for the role of Secretary of State, with Nixon agreeing in order to make his victory run easy (he lied, appointing William Rogers instead). With this, Nixon would sail to victory at the Convention in Baltimore, announcing as his Vice-Presidential running mate the young, handsome Senator John F. Kennedy who would make the nominating speech for Nixon himself. From here, Nixon would seize control of the RDs national campaign apparatus, firing various staffers and replacing them with upstarts and loyalists to him.

The NPP, in their first national convention, had already settled on the compromise candidate of Senate Minority Leader Russel Long, the son of the famous Huey Long and a moderate on Civil Rights, tolerable to both the right and left of the party. Wayne Morse, the NPF

candidate for President in 1956 was chosen as his Vice President and soon the campaign took on a very populist tone, with both hailing from farmer-heavy political constituencies. Despite an uncontroversial convention held in New Orleans, polls showed the NPP beginning to slip as Nixon and Kennedy made their way across the country promising a return to American Greatness and the safeguarding of democracy.

Nixon, who had made his career in politics as the middle-class son of simple Quakers as a “hatchet man” for the “self-righteous, holier than thou blue bloods” at the top of the party, would soon get to work on his old tricks. Working with private investigators and agents of both the CIA and FBI he had forged relationships with, Nixon would begin to bug and compromise various NPP campaigns across the country, leaking embarrassing information to the Hearst papers and cutting deals with RD bosses to ensure their “full support”.

Indeed, all across the country the various RD machines had grown very accustomed to years of easy rule under Eisenhower, for the most part left to their own devices as the Old General focused on foreign policy and stability. The formation of the NPP, with their constant cries for reform and investigation of RD corruption, left many uncomfortable with the prospect of dealing with what was sure to be vengeful opponents who had suffered under years of split votes, police repression and the Grey Scare. When in 1958 the Jersey City Government had been overtaken by the NPP wave, the inheritors of Frank Hauge’s machine found themselves under political and legal persecution as ties to the mafia and illegal patronage deals were revealed after audits of city records of the last 30 years.

Soon enough the RD machine was running at full strength, in ways both legal and illegal to beat back the coming tide of NPP insurgents and soon Eisenhower was flooded with begging requests

to do something about Japan and the Treaty Ports. Eisenhower grew increasingly irritated but when the CIA and NSA revealed that Japan was on the verge of dealing with border conflict on its western expanse with a Soviet remnant, he decided it was time to lunge at the throat.

Eisenhower would do the NPP, who had been demanding mainly the return of the Port cities, one better by announcing in the last month of the campaign that Hawaii was to be readmitted into the Union, now as a State following the approval of the Senate (Johnson would wrangle the votes the next day).

Cries of abuse of office and RD deceit, faded into the background as cheering crowds watched the American flag lifted over Honolulu on television as Japanese garrisons fell back to military bases across the island, awaiting reinforcements. Japan's response, predictably, would be one of corresponding escalation but what would become known as the Hawaiian Missile Crisis would not come to fruition until February of next year and the only thing the American public could see was that the Old War Hero and the RDs had taken the first step of making America whole again. With this, in the final days of the campaign and the NPP already trailing nationally, the National Progressive were left without their favorite cudgel and soon were on the back foot as RD politicians brandished their great victory right up to election day.

Via a combination of fraud, love for Eisenhower, reactions to Hawaii's readmission, media bias and a solid campaign by both Nixon and Kennedy, the election of 1960 was nothing less than a massive blowout for the RDs, winning over 10 million votes more than the NPP. Across the country NPP machines faltered in the face of RD upswings, sometime by ridiculous margins that would soon become the subject of investigative journalists and court cases. While many expected a victory for the RDs regardless, with the economy improving and America becoming safer by the day, the absolute blowout was shocking to many observers.

The NPP, in seeking a middle course between its right and left, lost much of its potency on the national level with a vague and disorganized vision for the country, causing millions of voters to defect (at least when voting for President) to Nixon and Kennedy. This was especially true as the NPP performed far better on the local and state levels, where parties were usually dominated by the old NPF or PP coalitions rather than being split, or if they were evenly split they had focused on common goals. While suffering a massive defeat on the Federal level, there were few calls for the dissolution of the party, as the case for separate parties seemed as pointless as ever given that multiple states were very close contests.

It was with this blowout victory that Richard Nixon would be inaugurated in January of 1961, though he would have little time to celebrate as soon the chickens came home to roost concerning the Readmission of Hawaii. Japanese Nuclear Submarines had been spotted near Midway while more and more Imperial Troops were deployed to the Islands to secure it, causing Nixon to then escalate by moving the 4th Fleet to San Diego. The Hawaiian Missile Crisis had begun and soon the world would hold its breath for the next year as the two great powers of the Pacific came ever closer to the Eve of Destruction.