

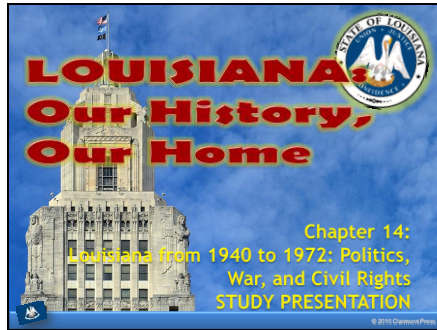
Louisiana: Our History, Our Home

Chapter 14: Louisiana from 1940 to 1972: Politics, War, and Civil Rights

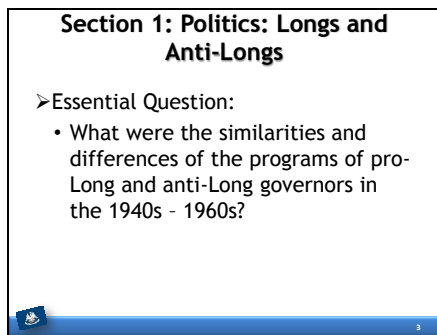


Quick Notes

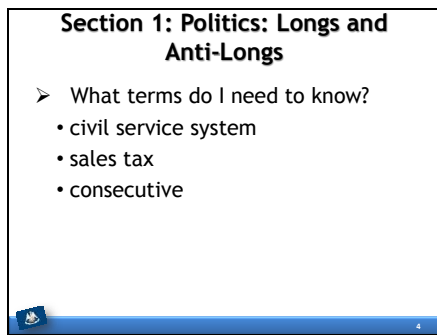
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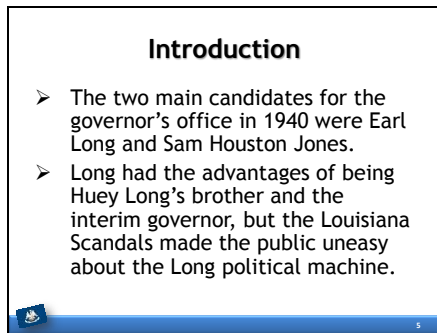
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The Governorship of Sam Jones

- The election of Jones as governor reflected the public's view.
- Jones promised to keep many of the popular programs without additional corruption.
- Jones got rid of the deduct system and also promoted legislation that set up the **civil service system**, which was designed to ensure that state jobs went to people on the basis of their experience and qualifications, rather than on the basis of political patronage.
- Although he was only partially successful as a reformer, Jones brought dignity and stability back to the governor's office.

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Jimmie Davis, the Singing Cowboy

- In 1944, Jimmie Davis defeated Earl Long for the governorship.
- Davis was best known as an entertainer.
- He caused no scandals during his term, but many argue that was because he spent so much time out of state pursuing his entertainment career.
- He released five songs and filmed the movie *Louisiana*, which premiered in his hometown Shreveport in 1947.

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Earl Long Becomes Governor

- Earl Long served his first elected term between 1948 and 1952.
- Long repealed civil service reforms and brought back patronage hiring of state employees.
- During his term, the state **sales tax** (a tax paid on the purchase of goods and services and collected by the seller) doubled.
- Earl created new taxes but his attempt to reestablish the absolute control over state government fell short.

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Robert Kennon's Term as Governor

- Robert Kennon was elected governor in 1952.
- Kennon pushed for more careful accounting of state spending.
- He worked to rebuild the state system of civil service that Earl Long had damaged.
- Though he was a modern governor, Kennon rejected the order to integrate schools in 1954, and pledged to defend segregation.

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Earl Long's Chaotic Second Term

- Earl Long sought another term and became governor again in 1956.
- He put African Americans back on the voting rolls, and this angered many who encouraged segregation.
- In 1959, Earl went on a rambling tirade defending voting rights, and he was committed to a state mental hospital in Mandeville.
- Despite all the chaos, Earl tried to find a way to have a **consecutive** (following without interruption) term but failed.
- Earl did win the Democratic primary for a U.S. Congress seat, but died not long after, on September 5, 1960.

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Politics after the Long Era

- By the time Earl died, racial equality and civil rights issues dominated politics.
- Jimmie Davis won his second term as governor in 1960, pledging to protect the "southern way of life."
- By the end of his second term in 1964, the issue of integration of schools and public places were matters of federal, not state, law.

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John J. McKeithen's Two Terms

- John J. McKeithen was elected governor in 1964.
- McKeithen defended segregation in the state.
- In the same year, President Johnson signed important civil rights and voting rights acts.
- Though he came into office as a segregationist, Governor McKeithen worked hard to bring the racial tensions to an end.
- His popularity led him to become the first governor in the 20th century to serve two consecutive terms.
- McKeithen's leadership spared the people of Louisiana some of the violence that accompanied those same changes in Mississippi and Alabama.

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Section 2: World War II

- Essential Question:
 - How did World War II affect Louisiana?



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Section 2: World War II

- What terms do I need to know?
 - reparations
 - isolationists
 - maneuvers
 - rationing
 - victory garden
 - war matériel
 - GI Bill

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Introduction

- Between 1940 and 1972, political disputes in Louisiana focused on Longism and segregation.
- Events far beyond Louisiana, however, would profoundly shape the state.

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Causes of World War II

- Countries around the world suffered economic depressions.
- Germany suffered especially because it had agreed to high reparations payments following World War I.
- Struggling Germans took comfort in Adolf Hitler's message, and he began a series of military actions designed to reclaim lands that he thought belonged to Germany.
- Neighboring European nations watched with concern until Germany invaded Poland in 1939.
- This caused France and the United Kingdom to declare war on Germany.
- Japan's aggression led to declarations of war in the Pacific region.
- Worldwide struggle was underway by 1939.

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The United States Avoids War

- The United States was reluctant to go to war as many Americans were **isolationists**, people who wanted to avoid international political and economic relations.
- Many felt America's distance from Europe made us an unlikely target for attack.
- This idea was called **Fortress America**, however, the United States Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor was stationed outside of that fortress.

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Pearl Harbor

- On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked American airfields and the fleet of battleships at Pearl Harbor.
- The next day, the U.S. declared war on Japan.
- Three days later, Germany declared war on the U.S.
- America was drawn into both the Pacific theater and the European theater.



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World War II Countries

Axis Powers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Germany• Italy• Japan• Bulgaria• Hungary• Romania• Slovakia	Allied Powers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australia• Brazil• Canada• New Zealand• South Africa• Soviet Union• United Kingdom• United States• and others
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Military Preparedness and the Louisiana Maneuvers

- One reason the United States delayed becoming involved in the war was because of the poor military preparedness.
- George C. Marshall hoped that news coverage of military **maneuvers** (large-scale armed forces training exercises) would make the nation's people and policy makers aware of the Army's needs.
- The army chose central Louisiana as the headquarters for military training and maneuvers in 1939.
- The terrain was good testing for the Army's new tank technology.
- The Louisiana Maneuvers spread out across central Louisiana and into Mississippi, Arkansas, and Texas.




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Soldiers in Warfare

- The maneuvers prepared the nation's troops for the rigors of warfare.
- They also brought badly needed economic activity to Louisiana.
- Once soldiers were trained, they traveled to faraway places and fought enemies, but their mission offered them moral clarity in the chaos of war.



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Home Front Activities

- Citizens actively supported the war.
- Mandatory wartime **rationing** (limiting the consumption of scarce resources or supplies) went into effect.
- People in cities dug new gardens and grew their own food in **victory gardens**.
- Consumer goods became scarce, as they were now used to make **war matériel** (equipment and supplies used by soldiers).

Louisiana in World War II

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Economic Impact of the War

- The war industries that developed in Louisiana brought new energy to the economy.
- Women and African Americans were drawn into manufacturing jobs in New Orleans since so many men were serving overseas.
- Many African Americans did not want to give up the economic rewards of jobs in industry after the war.

Louisiana in World War II

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The Costs of War

- More than 70,000,000 men and women served in militaries around the world.
- About 15,000,000 of them died in the six years of war.
- The number of civilians killed was a staggering estimated 45,000,000.
- World War II brought on great tragedy, but it also gave way to acts of bravery, sacrifice, and nobility.

Louisiana in World War II

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The United States and Louisiana at War's End

- After the war ended, America emerged as one of the war's most victorious nations and as the most powerful nation on earth.
- Louisiana benefited from the economic activity of wartime production.
- The state's people changed as a result of World War II: many African Americans continued earning money with industrial work, and many women continued in the workforce.
- Returning soldiers also needed employment, and the GI Bill, which gave a scholarship to anyone who had served in uniform during the war, helped them readjust to civilian life.
- Many African American veterans returned with a new kind of restlessness and discontent.
- Postwar life gave new energy into their quest for equal rights.

National World War II Museum, New Orleans

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Section 3: Civil Rights

➤ Essential Question:

- How did the civil rights era impact Louisiana?




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Section 3: Civil Rights

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- boycott
- *Brown v. Board of Education*
- Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Voting Rights Act of 1965



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Introduction

➤ World War II was a new spark in the long-term struggle for civil rights.

➤ African Americans had sought an equal place in the United States since the end of the Civil War.

➤ The *Plessy* “separate-but-equal” decision in 1896 began an era of segregation and inequality that would continue until the years following World War II.




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Civil Rights in the Military

➤ America’s armed services were among the first places where segregation came to an end.

➤ On July 26, 1948, President Truman signed Executive Order 9948, which was intended to end racial segregation in the military.



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Civil Rights in Louisiana

- Longer-term legal pursuits for social equality gained momentum after Truman's order.
- In Louisiana, local chapters of the NAACP challenged segregation laws in court.
- The NAACP relied on white lawyers until the late 1930s, though, believing they would be more effective in the South's judicial systems.




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The Influence of A.P. Tureaud

- Louisiana-born A.P. Tureaud became the most prominent civil rights attorney in the state.
- From the 1940s to his death in 1972, Tureaud served as chief lawyer for most civil right cases in Louisiana.
- His perseverance and commitment ultimately led to many legal victories.




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The Baton Rouge Bus Boycott

- In 1953, African Americans in Baton Rouge staged a **boycott** (when people refuse to buy certain goods or services as a form of protest) of the city-run buses in response to their unequal treatment.
- Ultimately, the boycotters and the city reached a compromise of better treatment and more access to seats.
- Their partial victory provided a model for other civil rights advocates around the country.




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The Slow Process of Integrating Schools

- A major civil rights victory was achieved in 1954 in ***Brown v. Board of Education***, which was a Supreme Court case that overturned "separate-but-equal."
- It was not until 1960 that public schools in New Orleans began to integrate.
- The strategy of fighting back against the new federal requirement to desegregate was given the name "massive resistance."
- Although whites' hostility to integration was strong, eventually federal legislation pushed southern states into compliance.



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President Johnson and Civil Rights

- Though he supported segregation, President Johnson signed two of the most important pieces of civil rights legislation: the **Civil Rights Act of 1964** and the **Voting Rights Act of 1965**.
- The Civil Rights Act of 1964 required that people be given equal access to public facilities regardless of their race.
- The Voting Rights Act of 1965 required southern states to allow African Americans to return to the voting rolls. It also outlawed poll taxes.
- These two pieces of legislation led to profound shifts in society and in the electorate, especially in southern states like Louisiana.

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Changes Come to Louisiana

- By 1964, the federal government passed legislation outlawing segregation, which began a momentous transition in Louisiana.
- Governor McKeithen worked to reduce bad feelings and violence in order to create a more racially integrated state.
- The return of large numbers of African Americans to the voting rolls after 1965 reshaped Louisiana's electorate and its politics.
- Beginning in the 1970s, Governor Edwin Edwards began pursuing the votes of African Americans, and his success in doing so would have a significant influence on recent Louisiana history.
