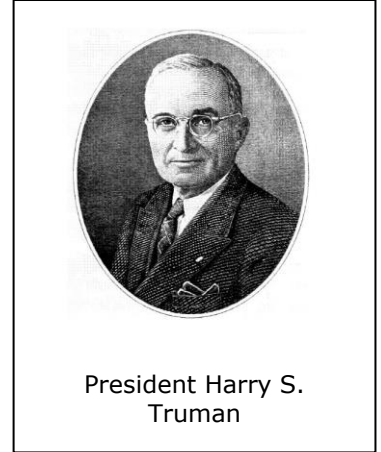


# Eightieth Congress

Jan. 3, 1947-Dec. 31, 1948

## First Administration of Harry S. Truman

Historical Background.....	1
War or Peace? .....	2
Economic Trends and Conditions.....	5
Constitutional Amendments.....	6
Major Treaties.....	6
Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions.....	7
1947 Events.....	7
1948 Events.....	9
Major Acts.....	12



### Historical Background

In the years immediately following the end of World War II, policymakers in the U.S. busied themselves with planning for a post-war order that favored, as far as possible, U.S. interests and influence. Beginning with the articulation of the Truman Doctrine before a joint session of Congress on March 12, 1947, the President requested an appropriation of \$400 million for military and economic assistance to Greece and Turkey on the grounds that "it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressure" wherever such conditions exist. The Congress delivered on Truman's request within a fortnight.

The Foreign Relief Act of May 31, 1947, provided another \$350 million in economic assistance to several of the countries damaged by the effects of the war and the severe winter of 1946-47. Within a year, Secretary of State George C. Marshall's suggested that even more economic aid was needed to assure the postwar recovery of Europe. The massive proposal received congressional approval with passage of the Marshall Plan (Foreign Assistance Act of 1948) on April 3, 1948. Under Marshall's authority, the United States arranged and signed the Rio Treaty of 1947, providing for a collective response to aggressive military attacks upon countries in the Western hemisphere.

Arranging for the reorganization of the U.S. defense establishment in July 1947, Congress approved legislation for unification of the armed forces, and the establishment of the National Security Council, Central Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Resources Board. Also in July the President was authorized to approve a trustee agreement between the

House	Senate
Majority Party: Democrat (246 seats)	Majority Party: Democrat (51 seats)
Minority Party: Republican (188 seats)	Minority Party: Republican (45 seats)
Other Parties: American Labor (1 seat)	Other Parties: none
Speaker of the House: Joseph W. Martin, Jr.	Majority Leader: Wallace H. White, Jr.

United States and the United Nations placing some 2,000 small islands and coral atolls in the Pacific under the international trustee system.

The 80<sup>th</sup> Congress completed two significant actions relating to the Presidential office. Reacting to Franklin D. Roosevelt's four terms, Congress sent to the States on March 21, 1947, a constitutional amendment limiting the tenure of future Presidents to two terms (ratified in 1951). Additionally, in July 1947, President Truman signed a bill placing the Speaker of the House and the President pro tempore of the Senate next in line of succession to the Presidency after the Vice President, ahead of the Secretary of State and other Cabinet members.

The most significant piece of domestic legislation approved was the Taft-Hartley Labor-Management Relations Act, passed over President Truman's veto on June 23, 1947. This bill, which was bitterly opposed by organized labor, outlawed the closed shop, jurisdictional strikes, and secondary boycotts.

International tensions paved the way for congressional approval of the U.S. Information and Education Exchange Act on January 27, 1948, and a peacetime draft law six months later.

Sources:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

Truman, Harry S. [Address of the President of the United States delivered before a joint session of the Senate and the House of Representatives, recommending assistance to Greece and Turkey](#), Committee on Foreign Affairs. House, March 12, 1947. 80<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, H.doc.171. ProQuest Congressional, 11153 H.doc.171



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## War or Peace?

### Rebuilding War-Torn Europe

After the conclusion of the war in Europe in spring 1945, leaders of the allied nations met in Potsdam, outside Berlin, to decide how postwar Germany was to be administered. The United States, operating under premises articulated by Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., advocated for a policy of eliminating Germany's ability to wage future wars by dismantling its military industrial base. This policy, adopted by the allies during the Potsdam Conference, while certainly limiting Germany's ability to wage war, also proved a hindrance to kickstarting the devastated European economies in the immediate postwar period. As the rivalry between the United States and Western European nations on the one hand and the Soviet Union on the other continued to heat up, American policymakers reasoned that the best way to assure a strong, allied Western coalition would be to take an active role in rebuilding the economies and infrastructure of the states within its sphere of influence. The new policy on postwar economic recovery, officially the European Recovery Program, though best known as the Marshall Plan,

after Secretary of State George Marshall, was drafted during a meeting of participating European nations in June 1947 and implemented in the United States by the passage of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1948.

The first countries to receive assistance under the Marshall Plan were Turkey and Greece, as these were considered the front-line in U.S.-led efforts to contain the expansion of Soviet-style communism. In all, seventeen countries received aid under the Marshall Plan, including Great Britain, West Germany, France, Belgium, Austria, Denmark, and Italy. In total, the U.S. government appropriated over \$13 billion over the life of the program.

### **A New, Cold War**

In a speech before a joint session of Congress in which he advocated for assistance to the governments of Greece and Turkey, President Harry S. Truman articulated a new U.S. foreign policy rubric that would come to be known as the Truman Doctrine. Put simply, Truman's argument was that because totalitarian states attempted to coerce free peoples through arms or other means, they are by their very nature a threat to global peace. The President argued that "it must be the policy of the United States to support free people who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or outside pressure." The policy was, in all but name, a declaration of outright hostility to the Soviet Union, becoming the first philosophical salvo in the Cold War.

The significance of Truman's speech and this turn in U.S. foreign policy was not lost on the country's erstwhile allies in Moscow. In the immediate postwar period, the vanquished Germany was divided into zones of occupation roughly corresponding to the positions of the allied armies at the time of Germany's surrender. Berlin, too, was divided into four zones of occupation—U.S., France, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union—though the capital city was also roughly 100 miles within the Soviet zone of occupation. This practical situation, coupled with the lack of consensus on what a postwar Germany would look like, led to the first great crisis of the incipient Cold War: the Berlin Blockade. The blockade began in June 1948 as a result of Soviet displeasure over the introduction of a new currency, the Deutsche Mark, in the Western, U.S./British/French occupied zones. The Soviets blocked all surface traffic to and from the Soviet zone of occupation in an attempt to squeeze the residents of West Berlin and force the Western governments to capitulate. Instead, the Western governments, led by the United States, calculated that by using the three air corridors available for delivering supplies to and from West Berlin, an airlift could be organized, sufficient to supply the Western sectors of the city, and wait out the Soviet blockade.

Though the airlift got off to a shaky start, by the Spring of 1949 the airlift was bringing more freight into the city daily than was brought by rail prior to the blockade. On May 4, 1949 an agreement between the four occupying powers was announced and the blockade was lifted on May 12, 1949.

The deteriorating relations between the United States and the Soviet Union manifested itself on the domestic front in the form of a reprise of the “Red Scare” that followed the end of the First World War and the Russian Revolution. In March 1947, President Truman issued Executive Order No. 9835, which created the Federal Employees Loyalty Program, which established loyalty review boards within the Federal bureaucracy, which monitored the “Americanism” of government employees. At the same time, in Congress, the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC), and the associated Senate committees of Republican Senator from Wisconsin Joseph McCarthy began their enthusiastic campaign to root out Soviet spies and communist ideologues from all areas of American Society.

In China, the end of the Second World War led to the renewal of the conflict between General Chiang Kai-Shek’s nationalist Kuomintang (KMT) and the Communist Party of China (CPC) of Mao Zedong for the future of the world’s most populous nation. After maintaining the momentum in the conflict through much of 1947, Chiang’s KMT began to lose ground in the conflict the following year. The conflict would continue to go in the favor of Mao’s CPC into 1949, when Chiang and his Kuomintang would be forced to retreat to the island of Formosa, today’s Taiwan, which would become the home of the opposition Republic of China.

In the Middle East, on May 14, 1948, the Jewish population in the British mandate in Palestine declared the independent State of Israel. The previous November, the United Nations adopted Resolution 181, also known as the Partition Resolution, that would have divided Palestine into independent Jewish and Arab states. The Palestinian Arab population rejected the resolution, however, prompting the Jewish population to unilaterally declare Israel’s independence. The following day, an alliance of five Arab states, Egypt, Transjordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq, invaded the fledgling state. The invasion proved disastrous for the Arab allies, with Israel preserving all of the territory allotted to it under the United Nations plan, adding 60% of the land allotted to the Palestinian Arabs.

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Committee on Foreign Relations. Senate. [\[U.S. Occupation of Berlin\]](#), Senate. Apr. 13, 1948. 80<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, 80 SFo-T.68. ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1948-FOR-0047

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Truman, Harry S. [Prescribing procedures for the administration of an employees loyalty program in the executive branch of Government.](#) Numbered Executive Orders. Mar. 21, 1947. Executive Order No. 9835. ProQuest Congressional. 1947-EO-9835

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## Economic Trends and Conditions

The process of adjusting the U.S. economy to postwar realities continued in 1947, as wartime price controls and other economic regulations were dismantled, veterans continued to flow into the workforce, and production and spending on consumer goods rose. Employment and personal incomes reached new highs, but inflation and labor-management discord were areas of concern.

At the end of the war, some 25% of the U.S. labor force was unionized. During the war, most labor unions vowed not to strike or otherwise interrupt production so as not to impede the war effort. Those promises were now moot, and lawmakers opposed to organized labor worked to enact legislation that would hamper the ability of unions to obstruct industry. The result was the Taft-Hartley Labor-Management Relations Act, enacted June 23, 1947. The Act placed a number of restrictions on the activities of labor unions, including bans on a number of types of labor stoppages, including jurisdictional strikes, political strikes, and secondary boycotts. It also ended the practice of closed shops, i.e. workplaces that required employers to hire only union laborers. The law was vigorously opposed by President Truman, who called it a “dangerous intrusion on free speech.” Despite his opposition, and his veto, the act managed to garner significant support within the President’s Democratic Party, allowing supporters to override the Presidential veto.

With a robust industrial base and broad labor supply at home, the great focus of economic policy in this period was on rebuilding the war-ravaged economies of Europe and, to a lesser extent, east Asia. The passage of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1948 made the Marshall Plan official U.S. policy and opened up billions of aid and development dollars to rebuild the economies of recipient nations with a view to establishing a western-oriented trade and military alliance to compete with the Soviet sphere of influence.

The first *Economic Report of the President* was released in January of 1947, as required by the Employment Act of 1946 that also created the Council of Economic Advisers to advise the President on economic affairs. The Employment Act of 1946, enacted during the 79<sup>th</sup> Congress, placed responsibility for managing the U.S. economy, including labor supply and conditions, as well as fiscal policy, with the Federal government. The first Economic Report of the President documented the highly encouraging footing of the U.S. economy in the immediate postwar period. During 1946, civilian employment reached 58 million—several million higher even than the wartime peak. Peacetime economic production, too, reached historic levels during 1946: \$170 billion in 1944 dollars, down from the wartime high of \$198 billion in 1944, and up from the prewar, 1939 total of \$112 billion.

Sources:

Truman, Harry S. [\*Message from the President of the United States transmitting the President's economic report to the Congress, as required under the Employment Act of 1946\*](#). Committee on the Economic Report. Joint, Jan. 8, 1947. 80<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, H.doc.49 (Pr33.10:947). ProQuest Congressional, 11157 H.doc.49

Truman, Harry S. [\*The economic report of the President. Message from the President of the United States transmitting the economic report to the Congress, as required under the Employment Act of 1946\*](#). Committee on the Economic Report. Joint, January 14, 1948. 80<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, H.doc.498 (Pr33.10:948). ProQuest Congressional, 11245 H.doc.498

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## Constitutional Amendments

**Twenty-Second Amendment.** Limited the tenure of future Presidents of the United States to two terms; and prohibited a person who had served as President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term, from being elected President more than once. Proposed Mar. 21, 1947. Ratified by the requisite number of States Feb. 27, 1951. ([61 Stat. 777](#))

Sources:

Costello, George A. and Johnny H. Killian. [\*Constitution of the United States of America, Analysis and Interpretation\*](#). Senate, Jan. 1, 1996. 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, S. Doc. 103-6. ProQuest Congressional, 14152 S.doc.6

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## Major Treaties

### **Trusteeship Agreement for the Territory of the Pacific Islands.**

Authorized the President to approved a trusteeship agreement between the United States and the United Nations Security Council, placing an area known in the Pacific known as Micronesia ("land of small islands"), embracing the three archipelagoes-the Carolines, Marianas, and Marshall under the international trustee system. Under the U.N. agreement, the United States accepted obligations to the U.N. for the political, economic, social, and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory. The United States was authorized to establish military bases in the territory and to close all or part of the area for security reasons. A report on the administration of the Trust Territory was to be submitted by the United States to the U.N. annually. Approved July, 18, 1947. ([61 Stat. 397](#))

**Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Rio Treaty).** Pledged the signatory countries (the United States and 18 Latin American countries) to aid any American State that became the victim of attack in the Western Hemisphere with collective political and economic actions; to be decided by a two-thirds vote. Concluded September 2, 1947. Ratified by the Senate Dec. 8, 1947. ([62 Stat. 1681](#))

Sources:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

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## Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

*Everson v. Board of Education*, applying the establishment clause in the U.S. constitution to state law, ruling that public funds could not be used for the support of religious schools, 330 U.S. 1 (1947)

*United Public Workers v. Mitchell*, held that the provision in the Hatch Act which prohibited the participation of executive branch members from engaging in political management or campaigning was constitutional, and that the Supreme Court has jurisdiction over the appeal, even though the proper appeals process of docketing the appeal within 60 days did not occur, 330 U.S. 75 (1947)

*United States v. United Mine Workers*, held that a federal district court was within its rights to issue restraining orders and injunctions in a Government suit that prevented a mining union from participating in a nationwide strike, as it did not violate the Clayton Antitrust Act or the Norris—La Guardia Act, 330 U.S. 258 (1947)

*Adamson v. California*, held that the Fourteenth Amendment's due Process clause was not valid for defendants exercising the Fifth Amendment right not to testify on their own behalf, 332 U.S. 46 (1947)

*McCullum v. Board of Education*, ruling that the use of public school facilities give religious instruction to school children violates the establishment clause of the First Amendment, 333 U.S. 203 (1948)

*Shelley v. Kraemer*, held that a racially restrictive covenant which prevented African and Asian Americans from living in or moving to a Missouri neighborhood was not in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment, in that it was a private action, rather than a state action, 334 U.S. 1 (1948)

Sources:

Costello, George A. and Johnny H. Killian. [Constitution of the United States of America, Analysis and Interpretation](#). CRS, Library of Congress, Jan. 1, 1996. 103rd Congress, 1st Session, S. Doc. 103-6 (Y1.1/3:103-6). ProQuest Congressional, 14152 S.doc.6

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## 1947 Events

- **Jan. 1:** [Atomic Energy Act of 1946 takes effect, transferring control of the development of nuclear technology from the U.S. military to the civilian Atomic Energy Commission](#)
- **Jan. 15:** The body of Elizabeth Short ("The Black Dahlia") is found in Los Angeles, California

- **Feb. 10:** *World War II* - [The Paris Peace Treaties are signed negotiating the details of the peace treaties between the Allied Powers, Italy and the minor Axis Powers; Italy cedes most of Venezia Giulia to Yugoslavia](#)
- **Feb. 17:** [Voice of America begins radio broadcasts into the Soviet Union](#)
- **Feb. 20:** Earl Mountbatten of Burma appointed as last viceroy of India to oversee the move to independence
- **Feb. 25:** Allied Control Council formally proclaimed the dissolution of Prussia
- **Feb. 28:** *Feb 28 Incident* - [Anti-Government uprising in Chinese controlled Taiwan \(Kuomintang, KMT\). The civil disorder results in the massacre of 30K civilian lives and the implementation of martial law](#)
- **Mar. 12:** [In a speech to a joint session of Congress, President Truman lays out what will become known as the Truman Doctrine](#)
- **Mar. 21:** [US President Harry Truman signs Executive Order 9835 requiring all federal employees to have allegiance to the United States](#)
- **Mar. 24:** John D. Rockefeller Jr donates NYC East River site to the United Nations
- **Apr. 15:** [Jackie Robinson plays first major league game with the Brooklyn Dodgers](#)
- **Apr. 30:** [The Boulder Dam is renamed in honor of Herbert Hoover](#)
- **May 3:** Japan's post-war constitution goes into effect, granting universal suffrage, stripping Emperor Hirohito of all but symbolic power and outlawing Japan's right to make war
- **May 11:** Laos accepts constitution for parliamentary democracy
- **May 22:** U.S. fires its first ballistic missile
- **June 5:** [U.S. Secretary of State George Marshall, outlines the 'Marshall Plan' to rebuild Western Europe](#)
- **June 25:** Anne Frank's Diary is published in the Netherlands
- **July 6:** The AK-47 goes into production in the Soviet Union
- **July 7:** Alleged Roswell UFO incident occurred
- **July 18:** King George VI signs Indian Independence Act
- **July 26:** [The National Security Act reorganizes the military and intelligence establishments, establishing the Department of Defense as well as the Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Council](#)
- **Aug. 14:** Pakistan gains independence from Great Britain
- **Aug. 15:** India gains independence from Great Britain, remains a dominion until 1950 India becomes a sovereign and democratic nation, independent from the United Kingdom
- **Sept. 17:** [James Forrestal sworn in as 1st U.S. Secretary of Defense](#)
- **Sept 18:** [The U.S. Air Force is established as a separate service branch within the Department of Defense, distinct from the Army](#)
- **Nov. 24-25:** [The US House of Representatives Committee on Un-American Activities finds "Hollywood 10" in contempt because of](#)



[their refusal to reveal whether they were communists, resulting in the 1st systematic Hollywood blacklist](#)

- **Nov. 29:** [Resolution for the partition of Palestine is passed in the U.N. General Assembly](#)

## 1948 Events

- **Jan. 17:** Trial of 11 U.S. Communist party members begins in New York City
- **Feb. 1:** [Soviet begin jamming of Voice of America radio broadcasts](#)
- **Feb. 2:** [President Truman urges Congress to adopt a civil rights program](#)
- **Feb. 4:** Sri Lanka declares independence from the United Kingdom
- **Feb. 15:** *Chinese Civil War* - [Mao Zedong's Red Army occupies Yanan](#)
- **Apr. 3:** [Marshall Plan \(Economic Cooperation Act of 1948\) enacted](#)
- **Apr. 7:** [World Health Organization formed by the United Nations](#)
- **Apr. 9:** Massacre at Deir Yassin occurs, when 120 Zionist fighters attack a Palestinian Arab village near Jerusalem
- **Apr. 18:** [International Court of Justice opens at The Hague Netherlands](#)
- **May 1:** North Korea proclaims itself Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- **May 4:** The Hague Court of Justice convicts Nazi SS officer, Hans Rauter, in the Netherlands of Crimes Against Humanity
- **May 7:** Nazi collaborator V-Mann Antonius van de Waals sentenced to death
- **May 14:** [British Mandate over Palestine expires, State of Israel proclaimed](#)
- **May 15:** *First Arab-Israeli War* - First Arab-Israeli War begins when Arab states Egypt, Jordan and Syrian invade the new State
- **May 18:** *First Arab-Israeli War* - Arab Legion captures fort on Mt. Scopus; Saudi Arabia joins invasion of Israel
- **May 23:** *First Arab-Israeli War* - Ramat Rahel gateway to Jerusalem is repossessed by Israel
- **May 24- July 18:** *First Arab-Israeli War* - Battles of Latrun, a series of battles occurred between Israel and the Jordanian Arab Legion
- **May 26:** South Africa elects a nationalist government with an apartheid policy
- **June 11:** *First Arab-Israeli War* - Israel & Arab Legion agree to a ceasefire lasting for 28 days
- **June 20:** *Berlin Blockade* - Deutsche Mark introduced in West Germany, including West Berlin
- **June 24:** *Berlin Blockade* - [Soviet Union begins the West Berlin Blockade, blocking Allie's access to railroad, road, and canal access in response to the Deutsche mark](#)
- **June 24:** [Selective Service Act takes effect](#)
- **June 25:** *Berlin Blockade* - U.S. military aircraft begin airlift flights to West Berlin

- **July 2:** Soviet Union rejects participation in the Marshall Plan
- **July 15:** *First Arab-Israeli War* - Israel bombs Cairo
- **July 26:** [President Harry Truman issues Executive Order No. 9981 to desegregate the US armed forces, directing "equality of treatment and opportunity" in the military](#)
- **Aug. 4:** [Southern States filibuster for 5 days succeeds in maintaining America's poll tax](#)
- **Aug. 5:** *Red Scare* - [Alger Hiss appears before HUAC and denies charges of being a communist](#)
- **Aug. 15:** [Republic of Korea \(South Korea\) established](#)
- **Aug. 25:** *Red Scare* - [Alger Hiss and Whittaker Chambers both testify in a televised hearing of the House Un-American Activities Committee in first time any congressional hearing is televised](#)
- **Oct. 15:** *Chinese Civil War* - Red army occupies Chinchov
- **Oct. 18:** *First Arab-Israeli War* - Operation 10 Plagues - Israeli offensive against Egyptian army
- **Oct. 24:** [Bernard M Baruch introduces term "Cold War"](#)
- **Oct. 27:** *First Arab-Israeli War* - Israel recaptures Nizzanim in Negev
- **Nov. 2:** President Truman wins election to full term, defeating Thomas Dewey
- **Nov. 12:** War crimes tribunal in Tokyo sentences seven Japanese to death for war crimes committed during WWII, including Hideki Tojo
- **Nov. 30:** Soviet Union set up a separate municipal government in East Berlin
- **Dec. 8:** *First Arab-Israeli War* - Jordan annexes Arabic Palestine
- **Dec. 9-10:** UN General Assembly unanimously approves Convention on Genocide and Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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## Major Acts

**Greek-Turkish Aid Act.** Provided \$400 million in financial and military aid to the governments of Greece and Turkey, both of which were then engaged in defending heavy Soviet encroachments. Approved May 22, 1947. ([61 Stat. 103, Chap. 81; PL80-75](#))

**Foreign Relief Act.** Provided for \$350 million in American economic assistance to several countries damaged by the effects of World War II and the severe winter of 1946-1947. Not more than \$15 million of the funds authorized were to be available to countries or territories other than Austria, Hungary, Greece, Italy, Poland, Trieste, and China. Approved May 31, 1947. ([61 Stat. 125, Chap. 90; PL80-84](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Labor Management Relations Act, 1947 (Taft-Hartley Labor-Management Relations Act).** Amended the Wagner National Labor Relations Act of 1935; outlawed the closed shop, jurisdictional strikes, and secondary boycotts, and provided for a 60-day moratorium before a strike could be called against industries engaged in interstate commerce. Required that union finances be made public, prohibited unions from contributing to political campaigns, and prohibited Communists from holding union offices. Approved June 23, 1947. ([61 Stat. 136, Chap. 120; PL80-101](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Presidential Succession Act.** Changed the order of succession in the event of the death of the President of the United States, making the Speaker of the House of Representatives and then the President pro tempore of the Senate next in the line of succession to the Presidency after the Vice President. Approved July 18, 1947. ([61 Stat. 380, Chap. 264; PL80-199](#))

**Pacific Islands Territory Trusteeship Agreement.** Designated the Pacific Islands Territory as a United Nations trust territory, aiding in the security and advancement of the political, economic, social, and educational aspects of the territories residents. The trusteeship territory included the islands of the Carolines, the Marshalls, and the Marianas. Approved July 18, 1947. ([61 Stat. 397, Chap. 271; PL80-204](#))

**National Security Act of 1947.** Replaced the War and Navy Departments with a National Military Establishment consisting of separately administered Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force under the "general direction, authority, and control" of a Secretary of Defense (but no Department of Defense); designated the Joint Chiefs of Staff as the "principal military advisers" to the President and the Secretary and authorized a Joint Staff of 100 officers. Also created a War Council, composed of the Secretary of Defense, the three Service Secretaries and the three chiefs of staff to advise the Secretary "on matters of broad policy relating to the armed forces," a Munitions Board to coordinate procurement and production planning; and a Research and Development Board, to prepare a complete and integrated, program of research and development for military purposes. In addition, it established the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Council. Approved July 26, 1947. ([61 Stat. 495; PL80-253](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**U.S. Informational Exchange and Education Exchange Act of 1948 (Smith-Mundt Act).** Established an information service within the State Department including the Voice of America "to disseminate information about the United States, its people, and policies promulgated by the Congress, the President, the Secretary of State, and other responsible officials of the Government." Also created an educational exchange service to cooperate with other nations in exchanging people, knowledge, and skills. Both programs were to be administered by the Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs. Approved Jan. 27, 1948. ([62 Stat. 6, Chap. 36; PL80-402](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Foreign Assistance Act of 1948 (Marshall Plan).** Created the European Recovery Program, implementing the Marshall Plan. Established the Economic Cooperation Administration and authorized \$5.3 billion for the first year of economic assistance to 16 European countries. Also provided \$275 million for military aid to Greece and Turkey, \$463 million for economic and military aid for China, and \$60 million for a U.N. fund for children. Approved Apr. 3, 1948. ([62 Stat. 137, Chap. 169; PL80-472](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Selective Service Act of 1948.** Restored the Selective Service System providing for the registration of all men between 18 and 25 years of age, with induction restricted to those between 18 and 25, for up to 21 months. Approved June 24, 1948. ([62 Stat. 604; PL80-759](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Displaced Persons Act of 1948.** Admitted certain European displaced persons into the United States for permanent residence after the political, social, and economic instability following World War II. This law also created the Displaced Persons Commission to regulate the settlement of the newly admitted citizens. Approved June 25, 1948. ([62 Stat. 1009, Chap. 647; PL80-774](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Agricultural Act of 1948.** Provided for the continuation of modified price-support programs initiated during World War II due to demands for a surplus of agricultural commodities both domestic and abroad. Focused on providing price support specifically for cotton, wheat, corn, tobacco, rice, and peanuts. Approved July 3, 1948. ([62 Stat. 1247, Chap. 827; PL80-897](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Sources:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

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