

Teacher Talk

January 2010

America at War: 1950-2010 *Examining Presidential Decision Making in Crisis*

The Harry S. Truman Library and Museum will be offering a summer course for teachers in July. The course will take place at the Truman Library from July 12-16, 2010. The theme will be "America at War: 1950 - 2010."

Presenters will examine the 60th anniversary of the Korean War and discuss its legacy. Teachers will have the opportunity to hear

scholars from around the nation and discuss the latest research on topics such as the Vietnam War, the Iran hostage crisis, the end of the Cold war and present day conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Educators will also create lesson plans and teaching materials based on the presentations.

Speakers include Adrian Lewis, University of Kansas; representatives from nine presidential libraries, Paul Edwards from the Center for the study of the Korean War and Gary Hess, Bowling Green State University.

Teachers will have access to numerous primary sources from the Truman archives during the week-long conference and will be encouraged to share their ideas during the conference. To apply, teachers should download the form at www.trumanlibrary.org/summer2010.htm. The deadline for applications is March 31, 2010.

For teachers from outside of the Kansas City metropolitan area, the Truman Library will pay for the hotel room. All successful applicants will need to pay a \$100 registration fee. If you have questions, please email mark.adams@nara.gov.



Photo caption: Machine gun crew during Korean War. 2007-710. Ca. 1950.

Korean War Teaching Activity

June 25, 2010 is the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War

The following excerpts are from President Truman's diary entries, letters, and memoranda. North Korean troops crossed into South Korea on June 25, 1950. The excerpts below reflect his concerns.

June 30th 1950 diary entry

Was briefed by Col. Acoff at seven o'clock. Called Pace and Louis Johnson and told them to consider giving MacArthur the two divisions he asked for and also to consider the advisability of accepting the two divisions offered by the Chinese Nationalist Government. That gov't is still recognized as the 5th permanent member of the Security Council U.N. Since Britain, Australia, Canada and the Netherlands have come in with ships and planes we probably should use the Chinese ground forces. What will that do to Mao Tse-tung we don't know. Must be careful not to cause a general Asiatic war. Russia is figuring on an attack in the Black Sea and toward the Persian Gulf. Bother prizes Moscow has wanted since Ivan the Terrible who is now their hero with Stalin & Lenin.

Truman traveled to Wake Island to meet with General MacArthur in mid October. The military situation looked favorable with U.S. troops crossing the 38th parallel chasing the invaders into North Korea. Soon afterwards this action would trigger a massive infusion of Chinese "volunteers" to fight the advancing U.S. forces. MacArthur told Truman not to worry and that he would have the troops home by Christmas. He made a serious mistake by splitting his troops in a pincer movement separated by a mountain chain, which the Chinese troops used to their advantage.

November 25th 1950 memorandum

Wake Island

We arrived at dawn. General MacArthur was at the Airport with his shirt unbuttoned, wearing a greasy ham and eggs cap that evidently had been in use for twenty years. ... For more than an hour they discussed the Japanese and Korean situation. The General assured the president that the victory was won in Korea, that Japan was ready for a peace treaty and that the Chinese Communists would not attack. ... The general said that he was sorry for any embarrassment he'd caused [due to his recent planned speech to the VFW that Truman had not approved and ordered him to withdraw], that he was not in politics at the time and that the politicians had made a 'chump' (his word) of him in 1948 and that it would not happen again. He reassured the President that he had no political ambitions. He again said the Chinese Commies would not attack, that we had won the war and that we could send a Division to Europe from Korea in January 1951.

Dec 2nd 1950 diary entry

When I arrived at Blair House I had a call from Sec. of State Acheson. He, General Marshall and General Bradley came to see me. General MacArthur is in serious trouble. He's made some very undiplomatic statements. One I had to force him to withdraw. He made a bad one just before the election and another just after. Now he's in very serious trouble. We must get him out of it, if we can. It looks very bad.

December 5th 1950 diary entry

The British still seem to think that all should be given up in the Far East to save Europe. I said no! We talk some more tomorrow. The position of the British on Asia is, to say the least, fantastic. We cannot agree to their suggestions. Yet they say they will support us whatever we do!

December 9th 1950 diary entry

I've had conference after conference on the jittery situation facing the country. Atlee, Formosa, Communist China, Chiang Kai-shek, Japan, Germany, France, India, etc. I've worked for peace for five years and six months and it looks like World War III is here. I hope not – but we must meet whatever comes – and we will.



January 10th 1951 diary entry

Received the Woodrow Wilson Award today. Didn't deserve it but that's the case in most awards. But not in those Congressional Medals of Honor I awarded yesterday to the survivors of five Korean heroes. Hope I'll not have to do that again. I'm a damned sentimentalist and I could hardly hold my voice steady when I gave a medal to a widow or a father for heroism in action.

April 6th 1951 diary entry

MacArthur shoots another political bomb through Joe Martin, leader of the Republican minority in the House. This looks like the last straw. Rank insubordination. Last summer he sent a long statement to the Vets of Foreign Wars – not through the high command back home, but directly! He sent copies to newspapers and magazines particularly hostile to me. I was furnished a copy from the press room of the White House which had been **accidentally** sent there. I ordered the release suppressed and then sent him a very carefully prepared directive dated Dec 5, 1950, setting out Far Eastern policy after I'd flown 14,404 [miles] to Wake Island to see him and reach an understanding face to face. He told me the war in Korea was over, that we could transfer a regular division to Germany Jan. 1st. He was positive Red China would not come in. He expected to support our Far Eastern policy. I call in Gen. Marshall, Dean Acheson, Mr. Harriman and Gen. Bradley before Cabinet to discuss situation. I've come to the conclusion that our Big General [MacArthur] in the Far East must be recalled.

April 9th 1951 diary entry

Meet with Acheson, Marshall, Bradley and Harriman. Go over recall orders to MacArthur and suggested public statement. Approve both and decide to send orders to Frank Pace, Sec. of the Army, for delivery to MacArthur and Ridgway. General Bradley called about 9 P.M. Said there had been a leak. Discussed the situation and I ordered messages sent at once and directly to MacArthur.

April 10th 1951 diary entry

Quite an explosion. Was expected but I had to act. Telegrams and letters of abuse by the dozens.

June 2nd 1951 letter

[HST explaining why he can't make a reunion] Now this is completely confidential and the reason I can't come. The Secret Service have received more than the usual number of threats to rub me out at the reunion. You know I never worry about those things because you and I have been shot at by experts.

June 21st 1951 diary entry

Had a session with the Sec. of State and Sec. of Defense on a **most** important matter. Russians are tired of the Korean affair and want to quit. Well we'll see. MacArthur is now a 'drug on the market' with the Senate Republicans. His Texas trip was a dud. And the witnesses by telling the truth have left the joint committee [examining the Korean War and MacArthur's firing] with[out] a real headline for weeks.... The facts are too much for the opposition Democrats and the Chiang Kai-shek Republicans. Too bad too bad. Their official mud slinger and Goebbels liar also made a bad blunder when he attacked General Marshall ...What a low ebb for the G.O.P. Well we'll see.

Questions & Activities:

- List the major problems faced by Truman during this time period in regards to Korea.
- He made the decision to fire MacArthur. Why?
- Do you think Truman made the right decision to fire him?
- Was there an alternative he could have chosen?
- Create a timeline of events during the Korean War
- Have students do further Korean War research on the Truman Library website. (http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/korea/large/)

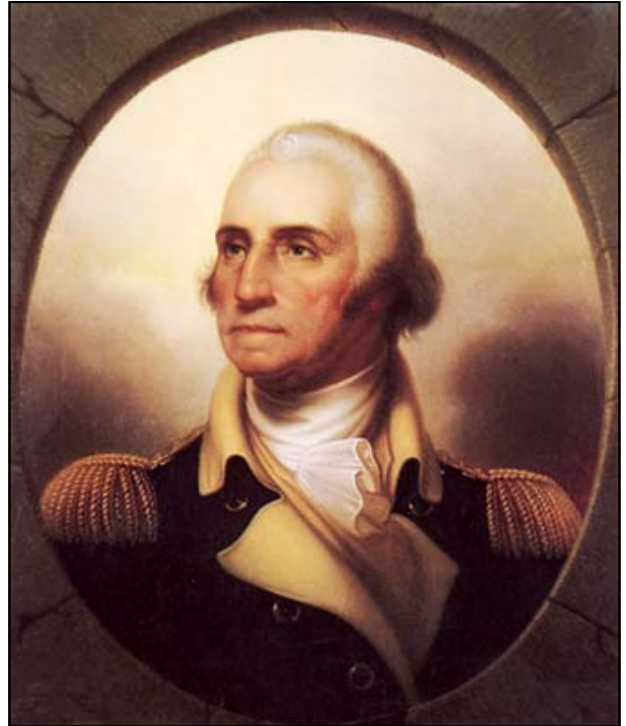
**“Life, Leadership & Legacy: George Washington & Harry Truman”
Teacher Workshop
June 4 & 5, 2010; Truman Library**

Staff from George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens will join with staff from the Truman Library to present this unique workshop.

Both Presidents Washington & Truman will come under close scrutiny as their early life, influences, military careers and presidency will be compared.

This two-day workshop will be a one-time offering and numerous primary sources and ready-to-use teaching materials will be supplied. In addition to excellent content, teaching strategies and methods will be discussed.

This outstanding opportunity will only be available to a limited number of teachers. For an application form or for more information contact mark.adams@nara.gov or call 816-268-8236 or check the Library’s education webpage for the latest updates: www.trumanlibrary.org/education.htm.



Students Practicing History at the White House Decision Center

More than 45,000 students have experienced the White House Decision Center since its opening in the fall of 2001. In 2009, the Truman Library added a fourth decision, “Ending the War Against Japan” to the other three popular decisions – the 1948 Berlin Airlift, opening days of the Korean War, and desegregation of the armed forces.

The 2010 Spring semester is sold out until late May but we will be taking reservations for the 2010-2011 school year from current schools beginning March 1st and from new schools starting March 15th. The teacher evaluations have been very positive regarding the historical knowledge and higher level thinking skills gained in the Decision Center classroom modules and on-site session where students sit in a West Wing setting, take on the role of real advisors reading primary source documents, and advise President Truman on a course of action.



You can view a seven minute video of students going through the classroom activities and on-site session at the Decision Center at www.trumanlibrary.org/whdc/

Email tom.heurtz@nara.gov if you need more information.



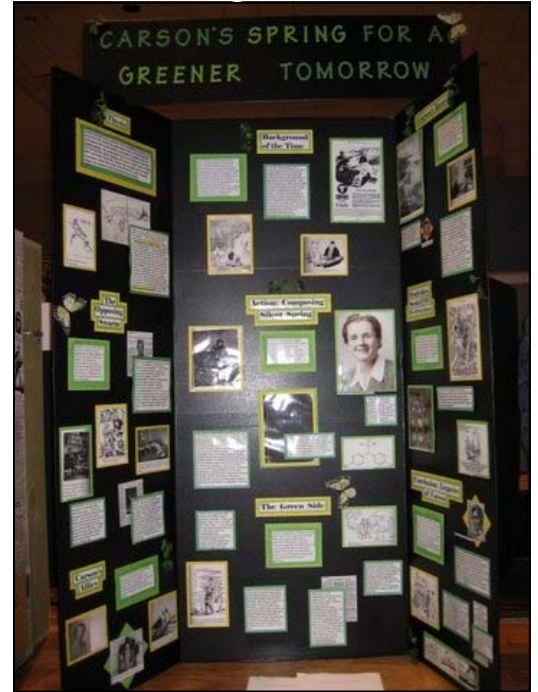
NATIONAL HISTORY DAY 2010 INNOVATION IN HISTORY

Each year, more than half a million students participate in the National History Day (NHD) contest. Students choose historical topics related to a theme and conduct extensive primary and secondary research. Students present their work in original papers, websites, exhibits, performances and documentaries. These products are entered into competitions in the spring at local, state and national levels where they are evaluated by professional historians and educators.

The Truman Library coordinates the first round of competition in the Greater Kansas City area (Missouri).

In addition to discovering the exciting world of the past, NHD also helps students develop the following attributes that are critical for future success:

- critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- research and reading skills
- oral and written communication and presentation skills
- self esteem and confidence
- a sense of responsibility for and involvement in the democratic process



Important Dates

Regional Contest

Saturday March 13, 2010 at the Truman Library.

Missouri State Finals

April 10, 2010, University of Missouri-Columbia

National Finals

June 13-17, 2010, University of Maryland –College Park

Deadline for entries

February 12, 2010.

If you wish to enter students, email mark.adams@nara.gov for the most up-to-date information.

Online registration is available at:

<http://www.trumanlibrary.org/histday.htm>



Bradley Dice, teacher Inga Kelly, and Emily Duncan. Bradley and Emily, both from Liberty Junior High, placed in the top 10 at the National History Day finals in 2009.

“Memories of Korea”

On display at the Truman Library
March 27 – December 31, 2010

June 25, 2010 marks the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. For the people of Korea, the war was a cause of great suffering as families were separated and as the land was laid to waste. Although American men and women were once more called upon to fight in a foreign land, to most Americans it was a “forgotten war” that intruded only peripherally on their desire to build the good life in a booming post-World War II economy. To American policy makers, the war was the first test of the nation’s new role at the head of the world’s democracies. For President Truman, Korea represented a particular challenge to demonstrate that nations, acting in concert through the United Nations, had the responsibility to halt the kind of aggression that had triggered two world wars in his lifetime.

This exhibition recalls the region, the war, and the war’s legacy through the eyes and memories of the people who lived there, who fought there, and whose lives were permanently changed by the experience. The story of Korea is told with their letters, diaries, photographs, films, and personal memorabilia. Organized around four chronological areas – Culture and History, Antecedents, War, and Legacy – the exhibition explores the rich culture of Korea, the political winds that led to the conflict, and the sixty years of division and divergence that have characterized the two Koreas since the war. One of the last remaining vestiges of the Cold War, divided Korea is a reminder of the clear political boundaries that once divided the world itself into East and West.

Culture and History

Korea’s historical place in the world and its rich cultural traditions establish the setting for the story. Its ancient interactions with its East Asian neighbors, its initial contact with the West, and its renown for fine arts and crafts are illustrated.

Antecedents

The occupation of Korea by Japanese military forces in the 20th Century was the precursor to the divided Korea that emerged from the ashes of World War II. As Soviet and American forces accepted the surrender of Japanese forces on opposite sides of Korea’s 38th Parallel, the line came to symbolize the growing Cold War hostility between the superpowers. The flashpoint came in late June 1950.



A black lacquer box with pearl inlaid design. A gift from Mrs. Syngman Rhee to Bess and Margaret Truman.

Key artifacts include:

- Notification of arrival of U.S. forces in Korea to accept surrender of Japanese forces south of the 38th Parallel, 1945
- Letter Syngman Rhee to President Truman, November 20, 1948, expressing concern over the removal of American troops
- Framed photograph of Syngman Rhee inscribed to President Truman, Christmas 1949

War

As the Korean War raged from June 1950 to July 1953, it had profound effects on those who were caught up in it. The exhibition brings the complexity of the war down to a personal level. An American soldier writing home to his parents and complaining about the frigid cold. Memories of a Korean woman whose family ended up on the other side of the 38th Parallel. A pilot recalling a dogfight with a Russian pilot in a MIG fighter. A President, writing in his diary of the difficult decisions he has to make. Their individual stories bring rich colors to the larger story of the war, which, in the nation's memory today, is largely only a series of black and white images. Key artifacts and documents include:

- Cartoons depicting the daily life, frustrations, fears, and sorrows of typical soldiers. Examples of cartoons drawn by Patrick Flaherty. These cartoons will form the centerpiece of this section of the exhibition. These are on loan from the Center for the Study of the Korean War, part of a collection of 168 cartoons by Flaherty.
- South Korean flag, autographed by various Korean and American officials aboard ship while observing the Inchon Landing, September 15, 1950
- President Truman's handwritten diary entries
- Typewriter used by Vernice Anderson to type the Wake Island Communique, the official statement issued by President Truman and General Douglas MacArthur following their meeting in the Pacific on October 15, 1950.
- Recorded interviews with Korean War veterans recounting their experiences.



Medal of Honor, awarded posthumously to Sergeant Charles R. Long of Independence, Missouri.

Legacy

In the years following the Korean War Armistice of July 1953, nothing has changed and everything has changed on the Korean peninsula. The war never actually ended. No formal peace treaty was ever signed. South Korean and American troops still face North Korean troops in a tense encounter along the 38th Parallel. Yet, in the intervening years, South Korea has grown into a vibrant democratic and economic power along the Pacific rim. North Korea has stagnated under an oppressive and secretive central government, become a pariah nation in the eyes of the world as well as a dangerous and precarious nuclear power. President Truman's goal of stopping communist aggression in Korea succeeded. But the broader goal of creating a stable, peaceful, and economically viable Korean peninsula remains a challenge to today's world leaders. The Korean War will not truly end until this challenge is accomplished.

Key artifacts and documents include:

- Medallion: The National Order of Merit for National Foundation Joong Jang, awarded to former President Truman on June 25, 1964 by the Korean Ambassador to the United States, on behalf of Korean President Park Chung-Hee
- Video and audio interviews with Koreans and Korean Americans

The Truman Library will be partnering with the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library and with the Center for the Study of the Korean War on aspects of this exhibition and on other programs that will mark the 60th anniversary of the Korean War in 2010 through 2013.

Reserve a school tour to see this exhibit now!

Teachers can schedule tours of this exhibit now. You will receive extensive teaching materials geared towards your students grade level to help prepare them before your visit to our museum. Call 816-268-8221 to reserve your tour or book online at: www.trumanlibrary.org/reservation.php.

Harry S. Truman Library & Museum Educational Programs

| Grades | Program | Description |
|----------|--|--|
| 8-Adult | White House Decision Center | Students role play President Truman and his advisors as they face major decisions in post WWII history. A five module experiential curriculum with a day in the White House Decision Center. A unique, skill building experience. An adult version is also available on request for companies, agencies, and civic groups. (contact Tom) |
| K-12 | Footlocker (Free) | The footlocker contains Truman-related artifact replicas, documents, photographs and teaching activities. It is available for a two-week loan period and maybe picked up on weekends & evenings by arrangement. (email: Truman.education@nara.gov) |
| 4-Adult | Website (Free) | The award-winning site (www.trumanlibrary.org) contains 27,000 pages of primary sources, photographs, & teaching activities for many audiences. (contact Mark) |
| 4-9 | Truman Places Map (Free) | Students locate KC area sites linked to Truman on a colorful map. An outstanding map interpretation skill lesson. A set of maps and activity templates sent upon request. (email: Truman.education@nara.gov) |
| 4-12 | Guided tours | Arrange a docent led tour and receive a museum curriculum guide. The admission fee for school groups is \$2.00 per student with one free adult per 10 students. You must call four weeks in advance to book a guided tour. (call 816-268- 8221 or 1-800-833-1225 x88221) |
| 6-12 | National History Day (Free) | Missouri students compete regionally each March at the Truman Library. Finalists in the four categories proceed to the state and national levels. (contact Mark) |
| 8-12 | Spy's Dilemma (Free) | Students serve as members of a 1945 Soviet spy ring reading and analyzing once secret U.S. documents. Teaching guide and student templates available upon request. (email: Truman.education@nara.gov) |
| 8-12 | Top Secret: WWII (Free) | Students in this activity act as U.S. World War II intelligence agents as they classify documents related to U.S. actions in the war. Teaching guide & templates available upon request. (email: Truman.education@nara.gov) |
| 8-12 | Presidential Decision Making Kit (Free) | Students review a critical situation. Students analyze the crisis from several points of view and make a recommendation to "President Truman." (email: Truman.education@nara.gov) |
| Teachers | Video Library (Free) | More than 120 videos related to Truman, WWI, WWII, the Cold War, and the 1940s & 1950s are available for a two-week loan. A list of available videos is online at: http://www.trumanlibrary.org/educ/video.htm |

| Grades | Program | Description |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 8- College | Student Research Files (Free) | These primary documents cover 53 topics. Twelve student research files are available online and all are available at the Truman Library, UMKC, Longview Community College, Graceland University-Independence Campus, and the Mid-Continent Library System. (Email: Truman.education@nara.gov) |
| 9-Adult | Special Presentations | Presentations are available on topics such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Thomas Hart Benton's Mural · Truman's Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb · Truman and Boss Tom Pendergast · Harry Truman: A Man of Character · Captain Harry Truman in WW I · Truman's Planes, Trains, and Automobiles · Harry S. Truman and civil rights · Give 'Em Hell: The 1948 Election Upset · Behind the Scenes Tour of the Truman Library · Truman and Atomic Energy · Truman in Retirement · Truman Places: Independence & Kansas City · The Love Story of Harry and Bess Truman · Truman's Senatorial Campaigns · Harry Truman At School 1892-1901 (contact Tom) |
| Teachers | <i>Teacher Talk</i> (Free) | This printed newsletter, containing education related news, is published twice during the school year. To add your name to the list contact Lisa.sullivan@nara.gov |
| Teachers | E-Talk (Free) | This e-mail bulletin presents the latest educational news, exhibit openings, upcoming public programs and more. To add your name to the list contact Lisa.sullivan@nara.gov |
| Teachers | In-Service | We offer teacher in-service programs. Presentations at the Truman Museum include activities using our exhibits. We are available to share our resources at school district in-services and resource fairs. (contact Mark) |
| Teachers | Workshops | See our workshop information in this issue |

Need more information? Contact:

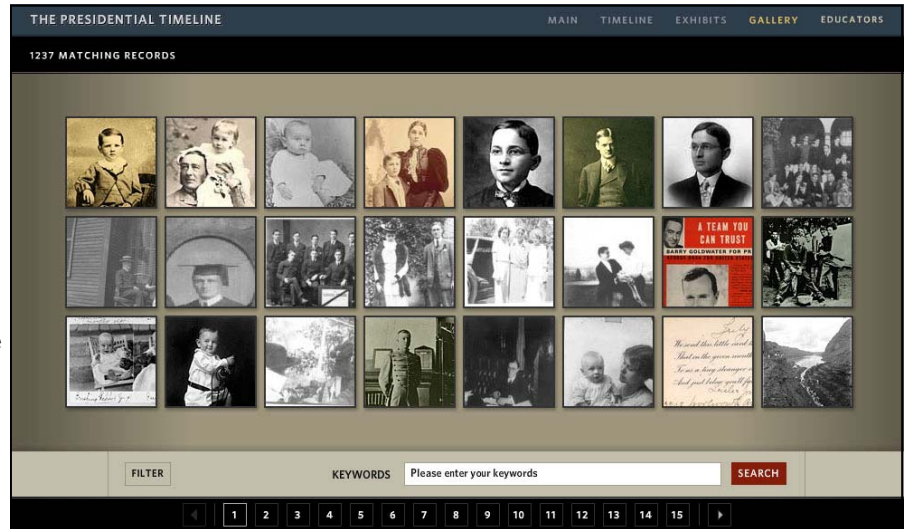
Mark Adams (Mark.adams@nara.gov) 816-268-8236 or 1-800-833-1225 x88236

Tom Heuertz (Tom.heuertz@nara.gov) 816-268-8241 or 1-800-833-1225 x88241

The Presidential Timeline: A Collaborative Website

Explore the lives and administrations of twelve Presidents of the United States through the Presidential Timeline. The Presidential Timeline was designed and developed by the Learning Technology Center in The University of Texas at Austin College of Education, in conjunction with the Presidential Libraries and Terra Incognita Productions.

The Presidential Timeline provides a single point of access to an ever-growing selection of digitized assets from the collections of the twelve Presidential Libraries of the National Archives. Among these assets you'll find documents, photographs, audio recordings, and video relating to the events of the presidents' lives. The goal of the project is to make these resources readily and freely available to students, educators, and adult learners throughout the world.



Educational activities for the Presidential Timeline focus on using original documents, photographs, audio and video to provide students with an in depth understanding of historical events related to the presidents. The Resources section includes a collection of links and resources related to teaching with primary source documents, presidential history, and technology-related issues. The Multimedia section provides links to download all multimedia (audio and video) assets from the Presidential Timeline for use in educational activities. To learn more access the Timeline at www.presidentialtimeline.org.

Truman Podcasts

Since May 2007, the Truman Library has hosted Truman speeches on its website through a series of "Truman Podcasts". These speeches are available for both Windows Media Player and iTunes format and users can subscribe to the whole series of speeches or download one speech at a time. The most recent additions to the series of Truman speeches include:

Truman's Address on Conference on Children and Youth (1950)
Truman's Address at National Conference of Christians and Jews (1949)
Address at Convention Hall, Philadelphia, Pa. (1948)

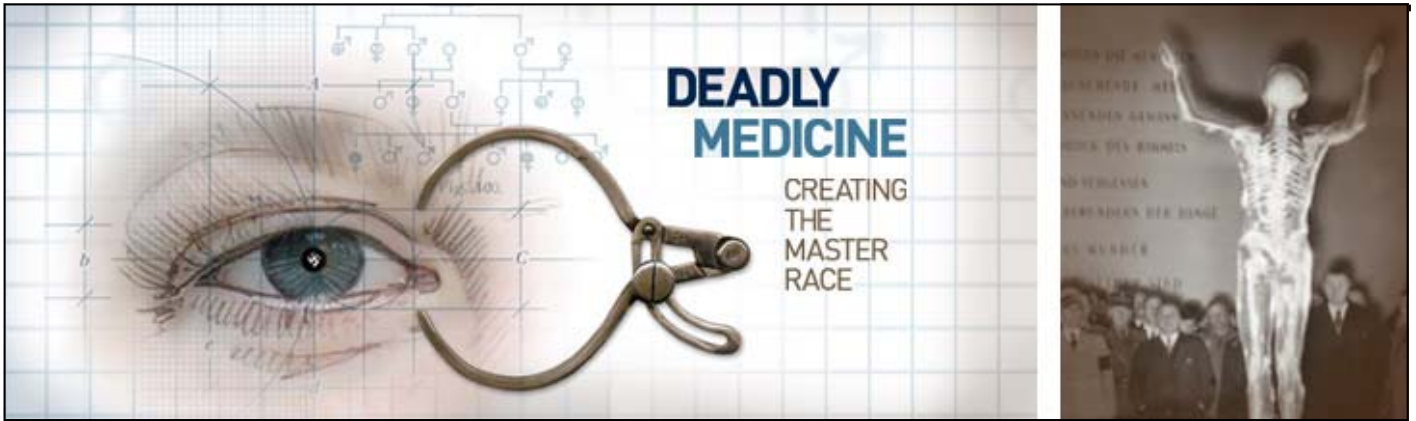
You can access the Podcast at: <http://www.trumanlibrary.org/audio/podcasts.php>

Museum Scholarships are available through the end of the school year. These provide free tours and cover bus costs.

Scholarships cover most schools in the KC metro area. Contact mark.adams@nara.gov for more information.

Did you know?

You can access Truman's presidential appointment calendar online. That means you and your students can access any day of Truman's presidency and see what appointments he had. You can check who he was meeting with, if he made any speeches or if he was on vacation or traveling. To access this amazing searchable calendar visit the Truman Library website at: www.trumanlibrary.org/calendar/



Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race will be on display from March 16 - June 10, 2010 at the National Archives at Kansas City.

From 1933 to 1945, Nazi Germany enlisted the help of physicians, scientists, public health officials and academic experts to develop racial policies aimed at “cleansing” German society of individuals viewed as biological threats to the nation’s “health.” What began with the mass sterilization of “genetically diseased” persons resulted in the near annihilation of European Jewry.

To relate this history and explore its contemporary implications, the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, in partnership with the National Archives at Kansas City and in cooperation with the Center for Practical Bioethics, will present the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s traveling exhibition ***Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race***, featuring original artifacts, photographs, documents and historic film footage illustrating how Hitler’s Nazi regime attempted to implement its vision of an ethnically homogeneous community through a program of racial eugenics that culminated in the Holocaust. Appropriate for high school age and above, *Deadly Medicine* will be on display at no charge at the new National Archives and Records Administration facility in the former Adams Express Building, part of the Union Station complex in Kansas City, Missouri.

Teachers interested in more information may contact MCHE at 913-327-8190 or the National Archives at Kansas City at 816-268-8000.

Please print. You will receive education news updates.

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“ The papers of the presidents are among the most valuable sources of material for history. They ought to be preserved and they ought to be used. ”

Harry S. Truman

Harry S. Truman Library & Museum *Free Admission for Educators*

One coupon required for each educator.
Must show valid school identification and complete the information on the reverse of this coupon. Non-educator members of party will be required to pay museum admission.

500 West U.S. Highway 24
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816-268-8200

Museum Hours
Monday-Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sundays: Noon - 5:00 p.m.

Museum Admission
Adults: \$8 Seniors: \$7 Children (6-15): \$3 Under age 5: Free

Duplicate Coupons Accepted

Expires December 31, 2010