

History B357-Spang

# Modern France: Society, Culture, *Politics*

Thirty Modern Years:  
Economy, Society, and Technology in the Post-War Era

St. Laurent Nouan, Loir-et-Cher  
Nuclear Power Plant (1963)



# What is France? summer 1942

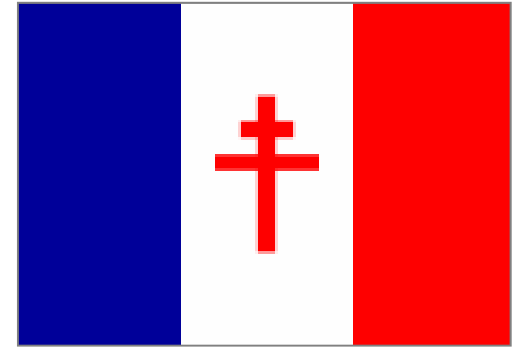


Winston Churchill and  
Charles De Gaulle

Churchill: You say *you* are France.  
But you are not France. You have  
not been recognized.

De Gaulle: Why are you discussing  
this with me, if I am not France?  
I am fighting alongside England,  
but I am not fighting *for* England.

Churchill: The problem is to decide what France is.



Free France flag

“France has lost a battle, but she has not lost the war!...  
One day, the enemy will be beaten and France must be present  
at the victory. Then she will recover her liberty and her greatness.”  
De Gaulle’s “Appel” (Call) to continue fighting, June 1940.

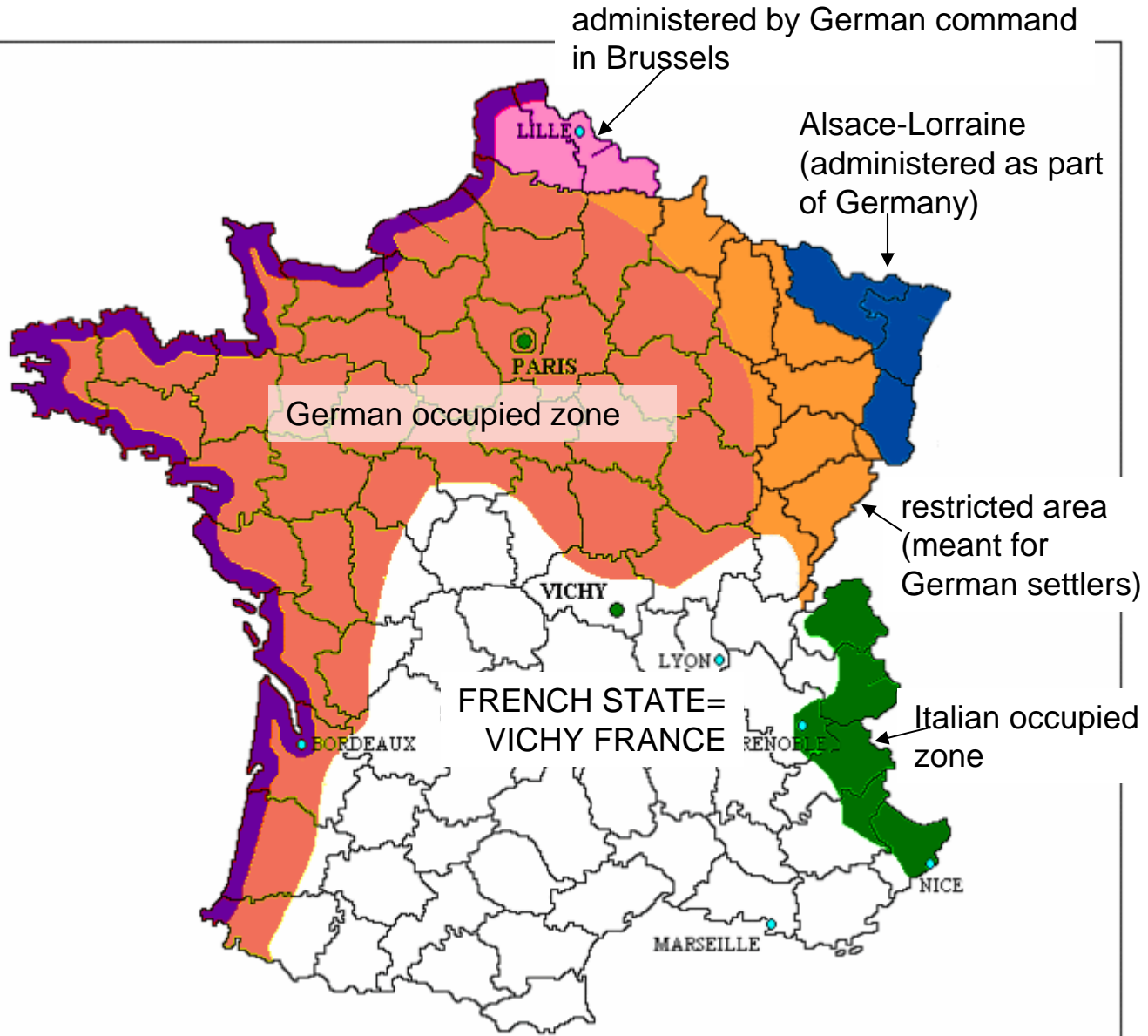
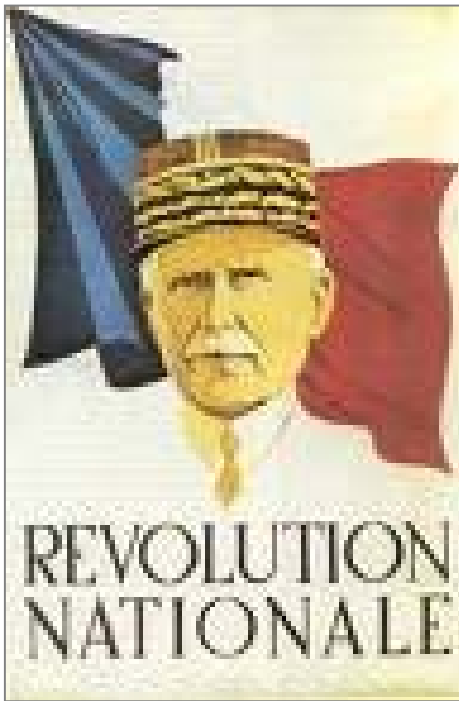


# REVOLUTION NATIONALE



FRANCE and COMPANY  
gambling, capitalism, Jewishness, Communism, greed,  
freemasonry, fear, bribes, anti-militarism  
LAZINESS, DEMAGOGY, INTERNATIONALISM

FRANCE  
school, artisans, peasants, Legion [of Veterans]  
discipline, order, savings, bravery  
WORK, FAMILY, FATHERLAND



# Resistances

*maquis* (literally refers to the scrublands of Corsica)—  
men in hiding in the countryside

PCF (French Communist Party)—had been staging  
armed attacks in the Occupied Zone from 1941

newspapers: *Libération-Sud* (copies printed/issue)  
June 1942 20,000 July 1943 120,000  
Dec. 1942 60,000 Aug. 1944 200,000



*Combat*  
1942 10,000  
Nov. 1943 50,000  
1944 100,000-200,000



Jean Moulin, 1899-1943

Moulin and the *croix de Lorraine* (Lorraine cross) on a two-franc coin, 1993

# Liberation?

Paris! Outraged Paris! Broken Paris! Martyred Paris, but liberated Paris! Liberated by the people of Paris with help from the armies of France, with the help and support of the whole of France, of the France which is fighting, of the only France, the real France, eternal France. ...The nation knows that to conquer, to reconstruct and to be great all Frenchmen are needed. The nation well knows that the sons and daughters of France - all the sons and daughters except for a few unhappy traitors who gave themselves over to the enemy and who are tasting or will taste the rigours of the law - yes ! all the sons and daughters of France must march towards France's goal, fraternally and hand in hand.

De Gaulle, Paris Hôtel de Ville, Aug. 25, 1944.



Mantes-la-Jolie, after Allied bombing, August 1944



De Gaulle enters Paris  
August 26, 1944

# Defining Collaboration, Blaming Collaborators



photo from US National Archives

1944-1951 trials for collaboration  
approx. 2500 death sentences; 767 executions  
1950: 40,000 people in jail for collaboration  
after 1951 amnesty: 1,570  
after 1953 amnesty: 62

1944-1945 *épurations* (purges)  
10,000 people shot as “collabos”

1949: 97% of Vichy civil servants and experts  
still in their jobs

# France in 1945



- railroads 50% unusable
- imports 5x > exports
- *franc* at 1/6 its pre-war value
- many of those who returned from STO or deportation found marriages had collapsed but no mutual consent divorce (1973)



bread (*pain*) ration coupon

Unhampered trade dovetails with peace; high tariffs, trade barriers, and unfair economic competition, with war...if we could get a freer flow of trade...freer in the sense of fewer discriminations and obstructions...so that one country would not be deadly jealous of another and the living standards of all countries might rise, thereby eliminating the economic dissatisfaction that breeds war, we might have a reasonable chance of lasting peace...

U.S. Secretary of State Hull, 1944.

Today it is no longer just our material comfort, our standard of living, but our entire weight and role in the world that depends on production. Yesterday, there was no greater national duty than that of fighting. Today there is no greater duty than producing.

de Gaulle, radio address, March 1945.

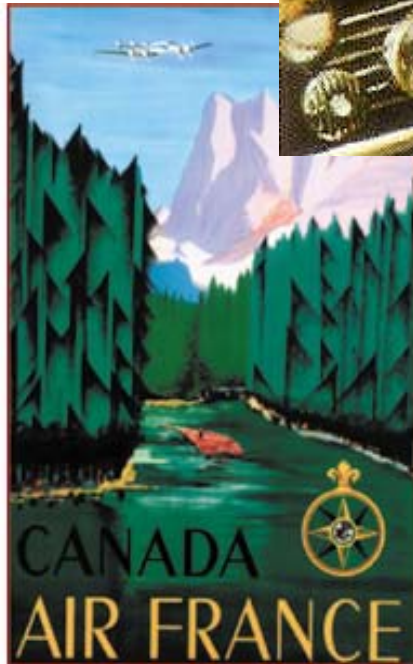
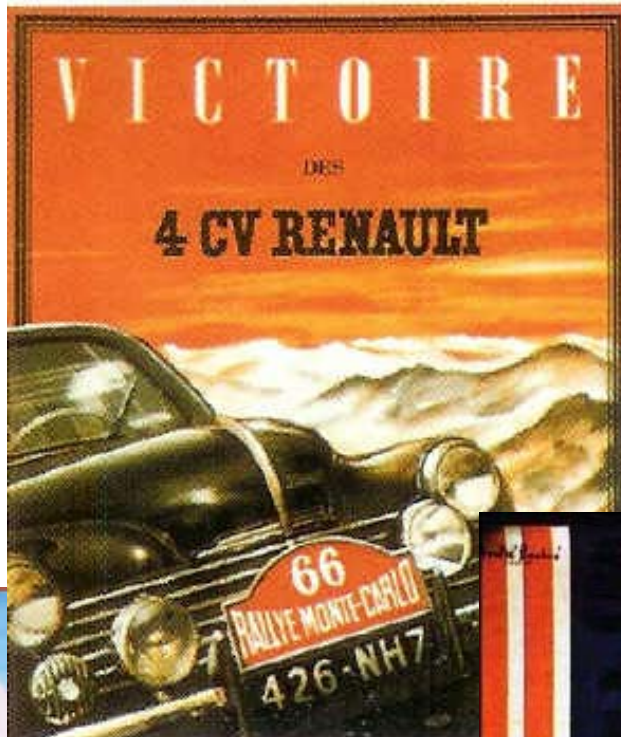
In the years to come, our domestic comfort will be a direct result of our economic policy. Ah, yes! These great problems of imports and exports, these electrification plans—all of these questions that seem to be above your head, Madame—all have a direct influence on the agreeability or difficulty of your daily life ... So? Do not be disinterested in politics...

“The Perfect Housekeeper,”

*La Femme (Woman, weekly magazine)* 1946.



Vespa scooter advertising poster, 1955.



# Political Spectrum, 1946

<b>LEFT</b>		<b>CENTER</b>		<b>RIGHT</b>
Communists	Socialists	MRP (Popular Republican Movement)=Christian democrats	“Radicals”	RPF (“Rally of the French People”)= De Gaulle

Why doesn't France after the Second World War become Communist?





European Coal and Steel Community,  
1952-2002



Jean Monnet and Robert Schuman

World peace cannot be safeguarded without making creative efforts. An organized and living Europe can make an indispensable contribution to civilization... By taking upon herself for more than twenty years the role of champion of a united Europe, France has always had peace as her essential aim. A united Europe was not achieved and we had war...

The coming together of the nations of Europe requires the end of the age-old conflict between France and Germany. With this aim in mind, the French Govt proposes that action be taken immediately on one limited but crucial point. It proposes that Franco-German coal and steel production be placed under a common High Authority... The solidarity in production thus established will make it plain that any war between France and Germany would be not only unthinkable but materially impossible.

May 9, 1950.

Le Corbusier  
Cité Radieuse, Marseilles, 1945-1952



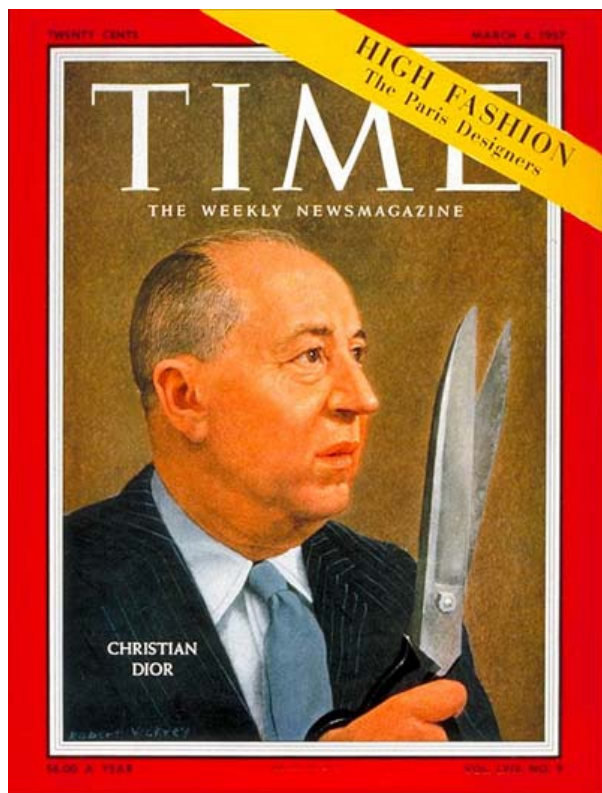
HLM

*habitations à loyer modéré*

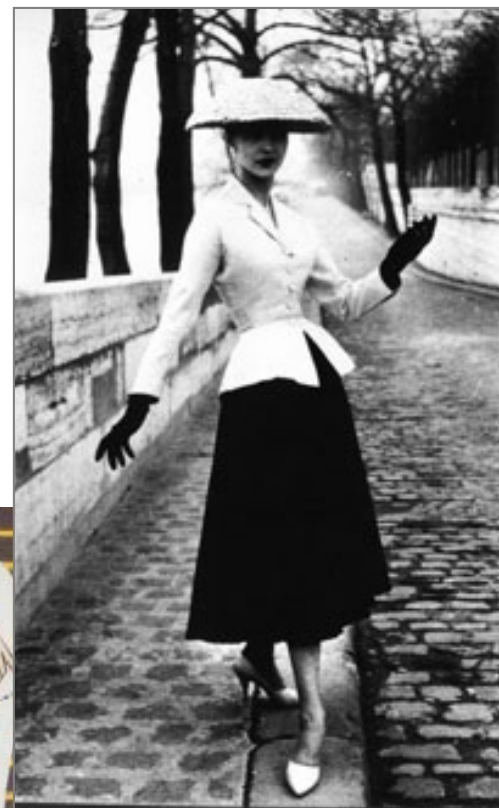
=low-rent housing



# The "New Look" (1947)



Christian Dior on the cover of *Time* magazine, 1957



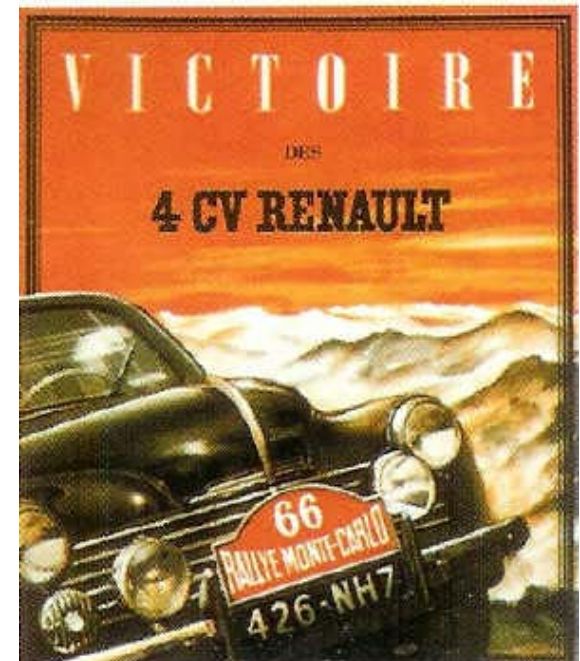


“Do what I did! You can buy your Renault *right now*, thanks to exceptional credit offers for winter 1954-1955.”

	<u>Paris population</u>		
	city	urban area	greater urban area
1936	2.8 million	6 million	
1962	2.79	7.38	
1975	2.3	8.55	
1999	2.13	9.65	11.1

### Cars in the Paris region

1939	500,000
1960	1,000,000
1965	2,000,000



Jean Fourastié,  
*Les trente glorieuses, ou la révolution invisible* (1979).



Pompidou Center, Paris

# TGV = *trains à grande vitesse* (High-speed trains)



1978-present



trains built by ALSTHOM (French, German, British conglomerate)

# Poujadisme

UDCA = Union for the Defence of Shopkeepers  
and Artisans

1954 called for new Estates General

opposed: income tax; urbanization; Americanization;  
immigrants; parliamentary compromise

1956 53 UDCA representatives elected to National  
Assembly (including Jean-Marie Le Pen)

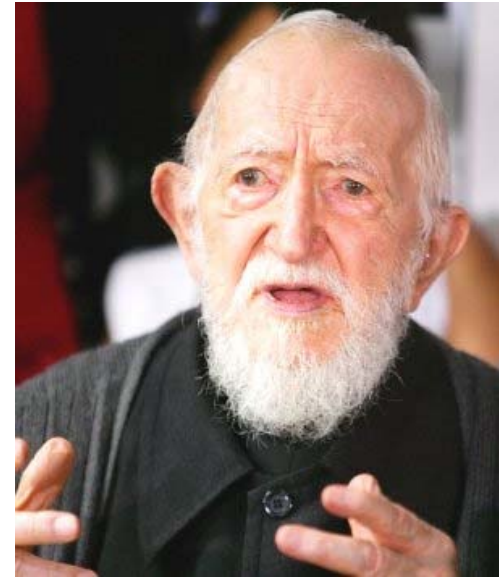


Pierre Poujade, 1920-2003

“act so that every person, every society,  
every nation can live and fulfil itself in equal dignity,  
sharing and exchanging with others”

Universal Manifesto of Emmaüs

abbé Pierre [Henri Antoine Grouès], 1912-2007





\$1.00 US

Dec. 1945 119.11 French francs

Oct. 1948 263.52

Sep. 1949 350

Aug. 1957 420

Dec. 1958 493.71

Jan. 1960 4.93