

8/14/45 - VJ Day

twice a month, huge Ocean liners (Queen Mary, etc) brought home soldiers - spring 1946 = high point in city history

post-war, mfg \$ went to other regions, pulling the bottom out of NYC economy

Fall 1952 - UN building opens → ↑ office space

↓
architecturally significant

internat'l corporations move into midtown

Robert Moses

Urban Renewal - Title I

eminent domain evicted poor slums, → all bldgs in area destroyed and rebuilt
builders put up housing for middle-class people; non-whites removed, relocate to Bed-Stuy and Harlem (poor ghettos w/ shabby rental mkts.)

(Title II → devel. of suburbs, meaning gov't programs were anti-city)

Also contributing to city's downfall was destruction of neighborhoods to build highways, esp. in the Bronx (X-Bronx Xpressway)

1956 - Allen Ginsburg reacts to Urban renewal, calling it Moloch.

by 1960 - people notice that pub works projects wiped out factories, so no more mfg jobs. Neighborhoods begin to decline and flight to suburbs gets faster - white middle class people flee in droves, more poor minorities replace them w/ little chance for mobility.

Also, NY as port ↓, loss of shipping related jobs.

By 1962, NY began to lose its way.

Demolition of Penn Station. - 10/28/63, demo starts.

took 3 yrs total to tear down (dumped in meadowlands)

(loses to philosophy that new is better, mvmnt against traditions, symbolizes triumph of auto over rail)

↳ Larger protest mvmnt, mvmnt for preservation

Jane Jacobs - book published in 1961



Urban renewal → shattered communities → explosion of crime in the city

Jacobs advocated West Village building project with emphasis on rehab

Village resists being bulldozed to make highways

⇒ activism in the WVill. in early 60s

Moses wanted to build Manhattan Expressway

Neighborhood banded together

Apr. 1965 - Landmarks Preservation Committee

1960s - huge building boom, but also financial crisis as ghettos expand, crime ↑, race relations ↓, fewer resources, as everyone (Whites) moved to suburbs, deficit spending

1964 - riots in Harlem & Bed-stuy

+ strikes of municipal employees, transit strikes

↑ civil rights movmnt, War in Vietnam drains resources

city = microcosm of country-wide tensions

not enough resources, crumbling buildings

⇒ crisis in early 70s. (The Bronx was burning)

by 1973, much of the south Bronx had been destroyed

Landlord arson on LES, too.

Mayor wouldn't cut public programs → bigger fiscal crisis

⇒ Banks stopped lending NYC money ↑ debt

(NYC = \$6 billion in debt)

city applies to Fed gov't for emergency aid

⇒ Ford to city: Drop Dead

National sentiment was against the city

Graffiti starts showing up on the subway in the 70s - colorful trains against gray neighborhoods

Rap comes out of this, too: we can rebuild, optimism creativity from the ruins.

City began to turn around; Ford reversed decision so, city cut services, balanced budget by 1981

Mayors: Wagner, Lindsay, Abe Beame, Koch