

Abundance and Anxiety: America, 1945-1960


By Gary A. Donaldson

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The United States had tremendous opportunities after World War II. The nation's industrial might, geared to defeat Germany and Japan, could now be focused on domestic production. Real wages were up, the GNP was on the rise, industrial production was up, and inflation was under control. The future looked bright for the average American. But this abundance was punctuated with anxiety. Within four years of the end of the war, the Soviet Union had become the new enemy: they had the bomb and China and Eastern Europe had fallen into the Soviet sphere of influence. These two points, the abundance of the growing economy and the anxiety of the Cold War, defined the period from 1945-1960.

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Abundance and Anxiety: America, 1945-1960 By Gary A. Donaldson Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #4175121 in eBooks
- Published on: 1997-05-21
- Released on: 1997-05-21
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

About the Author

GARY A. DONALDSON is Associate Professor of History at Xavier University in New Orleans. In 1991 he spent a year as a Fulbright Scholar in the People's Republic of China. He is the author of *America at War Since 1945: U.S. Involvement in Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf War* (Praeger, 1996), and *A History of African Americans in the Military* (1991).

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