

1950s in the uk

1950s in the uk was a transformative decade marked by post-war recovery, social change, economic growth, and cultural shifts that laid the foundation for modern Britain. This era, often remembered as a time of rebuilding and optimism, saw significant developments across various sectors, from technology and industry to fashion and entertainment. The 1950s also witnessed the beginning of the decline of traditional class structures and the rise of youth culture, shaping the societal landscape for decades to come.

The Socioeconomic Landscape of 1950s Britain

Post-War Recovery and Economic Growth

The 1950s in the UK was a period of rapid economic recovery following the devastation of World War II. The nation faced the challenge of rebuilding cities, industries, and infrastructure damaged during the war. However, the decade also marked the start of sustained economic growth, often referred to as the "post-war boom."

Key points:

- The economy expanded steadily, with gross domestic product (GDP) increasing annually.
- Industries such as manufacturing, coal mining, and shipbuilding began to decline, while sectors like automotive, electronics, and consumer goods grew.
- The government introduced policies to promote full employment and social welfare, including the National Health Service (NHS) established in 1948, which became a cornerstone of British society.

Housing and Urban Development

One of the defining features of the 1950s was the widespread effort to address housing shortages caused by wartime destruction and population growth.

Key points:

- Mass council housing projects were initiated across the country to provide affordable homes.
- The "New Towns" movement aimed to create planned communities outside existing cities, such as Stevenage and Harlow.
- The decade saw the rise of suburban living, with many families moving to newly built houses in the suburbs, facilitated by improved transportation infrastructure.

Cultural and Social Changes

Fashion and Lifestyle

Fashion in the 1950s reflected a shift towards more relaxed and youthful styles, moving away from

the conservative austerity of the immediate post-war years.

Key points:

- Men's fashion included tailored suits, narrow lapels, and greased-back hair, exemplified by icons like James Dean and Marlon Brando.
- Women's fashion saw the popularity of full-skirted dresses, petticoats, and the iconic "New Look" silhouette inspired by Christian Dior.
- The era marked the emergence of teenage fashion and culture, with young people seeking to express individuality.

Music and Entertainment

The 1950s was a pivotal decade for music and entertainment, witnessing the birth of rock and roll and the rise of television as a dominant medium.

Key points:

- The advent of rock and roll brought artists like Cliff Richard and the Shadows to fame.
- The BBC began expanding its television programming, making TV a household staple.
- Cinema flourished, with gangster films, comedies, and epics like "The Bridge on the River Kwai" captivating audiences.

Political Landscape and International Relations

Post-War Politics

The decade was characterized by political stability under the leadership of Prime Minister Clement Attlee and later Harold Macmillan.

Key points:

- The Labour government (1945-1951) laid the foundations for the welfare state and nationalization of key industries.
- The Conservative government, elected in 1951, focused on economic growth and stability.
- The decade also saw the beginning of decolonization, with Britain granting independence to countries like India (1947) and initiating the process for others.

Cold War and International Influence

Britain's position in the Cold War influenced its foreign policy and military commitments.

Key points:

- The UK remained a nuclear power, testing its first atomic bomb in 1952.
- The Suez Crisis of 1956 marked a turning point, highlighting Britain's waning imperial influence.
- The country strengthened alliances such as NATO and the Commonwealth.

Scientific and Technological Advancements

Innovation and Discovery

The 1950s saw significant scientific progress, laying groundwork for future technological revolutions.

Key points:

- The development of the first commercial jet engine improved air travel.
- The discovery of DNA's structure in 1953 by Watson and Crick revolutionized biology.
- Advances in medicine, including the widespread use of antibiotics, improved public health.

Space and Aviation

While space exploration was in its infancy, the decade marked the beginning of Britain's involvement in aerospace technology.

Key points:

- British companies contributed to aircraft design and manufacturing.
- The De Havilland Comet, the world's first commercial jetliner, was introduced in 1952.

Education and Society

Educational Reforms

The 1950s saw increased investment in education, emphasizing accessibility and modernization.

Key points:

- The Butler Education Act of 1944 began to influence the decade, promoting free secondary education.
- Universities expanded capacity, and new institutions were established.

Social Movements

The decade witnessed the early stirrings of social activism and changing attitudes.

Key points:

- The rise of trade unions and workers' rights movements.
- The beginning of discussions around gender roles, leading to the modern feminist movement in later decades.
- Increased awareness of racial and ethnic diversity within Britain.

Legacy of the 1950s in the UK

The 1950s in the UK is remembered as a pivotal decade that shaped contemporary British society. It was a time of transition from austerity to prosperity, from traditional values to modern cultural expressions. The decade's innovations in technology, social policies, and cultural industries continue to influence Britain today.

Summary:

- Post-war recovery and economic expansion
- Emergence of youth culture and modern fashion
- Advances in science and technology
- Political stability and gradual decolonization
- Cultural milestones in music, film, and television

By understanding the key aspects of the 1950s in the UK, we gain insight into how this dynamic decade laid the groundwork for the social, political, and cultural developments of subsequent generations. Whether exploring the rise of rock and roll, the expansion of suburban living, or Britain's evolving role on the world stage, the 1950s remain a fascinating chapter in British history.

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Frequently Asked Questions

What were the main cultural trends in the UK during the 1950s?

The 1950s in the UK saw a rise in youth culture with the emergence of rock and roll music, the popularity of swing dancing, and the influence of American fashion and movies. It was also a time when British cinema and literature began to reflect post-war realities and social change.

How did post-war austerity affect everyday life in 1950s Britain?

Post-war austerity led to rationing, limited consumer goods, and rebuilding efforts. Despite economic challenges, there was a sense of optimism and gradual recovery, with increased emphasis on suburban living and the rise of a consumer culture towards the late 1950s.

What significant political events took place in the UK during the 1950s?

The 1950s in the UK saw the end of the Labour government with Winston Churchill's return as Prime Minister, the consolidation of the welfare state, and the decolonization of countries like Kenya and Malaya, marking the decline of the British Empire.

Which iconic British films and television shows originated in the 1950s?

Notable films include 'The Quatermass Experiment' and 'The Dam Busters.' Popular TV shows like 'The Goon Show' and 'Hancock's Half Hour' also emerged, shaping British comedy and entertainment.

How did fashion evolve in the UK during the 1950s?

Fashion in the 1950s became more youthful and vibrant, with styles like poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and tailored suits gaining popularity. The decade also saw the influence of Hollywood stars and American fashion trends.

What role did the 1950s play in shaping British music?

The 1950s marked the rise of British rhythm and blues and skiffle music, laying the groundwork for future genres. Artists like Cliff Richard and bands like The Shadows gained popularity, setting the stage for the British Invasion of the 1960s.

How did the 1950s influence British society and social attitudes?

The decade experienced a shift toward more liberal social attitudes, with increased emphasis on leisure, entertainment, and youth culture. It also saw beginnings of movements advocating for civil rights and gender equality, though traditional values still held strong.

What technological and infrastructural developments occurred in the UK during the 1950s?

The 1950s saw the expansion of the National Health Service, the introduction of the British motorway system, and advancements in television broadcasting, making TV more accessible and influencing popular culture.

Additional Resources

1950s in the UK

The 1950s in the United Kingdom stand as a pivotal decade of transformation, marked by recovery from the ravages of World War II, cultural shifts, and technological advancements. Often characterized as a period of transition from austerity to modernity, this era laid the groundwork for contemporary Britain's social, economic, and cultural landscape. As an expert reviewer delving into this dynamic decade, it's essential to unpack the multifaceted aspects that defined 1950s Britain, from its political climate and economic recovery to its cultural innovations and social changes.

Economic Revival and Post-War Reconstruction

Economic Context and Recovery

The 1950s in the UK can be viewed as a decade of cautious optimism and rebuilding. The immediate post-war period (late 1940s) was characterized by austerity measures, rationing, and a focus on reconstruction. By the early 1950s, the UK was gradually emerging from these hardships, driven by a combination of government policies and international aid, notably the Marshall Plan.

Key features of the economic revival include:

- Gradual Lifting of Rationing: While rationing officially ended in 1954, some restrictions lingered into the early part of the decade, reflecting the ongoing effort to restore supply chains and domestic production.
- Industrial Growth: The manufacturing sector, especially automotive, coal, steel, and textiles, experienced a modest boom, aided by government investment and a move toward consumer goods.
- Housing Boom: The post-war housing shortage prompted extensive council house building, leading to the expansion of suburban areas and the rise of new towns like Stevenage and Crawley.
- Consumer Culture Emergence: Increased disposable income and the availability of new products fostered a burgeoning consumer culture.

Economic Indicators & Challenges:

- GDP growth averaged around 2-3% annually.
- Unemployment remained relatively low, but inflation and wage disputes occasionally caused tension.
- The nationalization of key industries (e.g., coal, steel, railways) aimed to stabilize and modernize the economy.

Major Industries and Technological Progress

The decade was marked by significant technological strides and shifts in industry, including:

- Automobile Industry: Car ownership expanded rapidly, with models like the Ford Anglia and Mini setting the foundation for Britain's car culture.
- Electronics & Appliances: The advent of affordable household appliances—radios, refrigerators, washing machines—began to change domestic life.
- Aerospace & Defense: The UK invested heavily in aerospace, leading to advancements in jet engines and military technology, which also contributed to civilian aviation.

Cultural Renaissance: Art, Music, and Entertainment

Music and Radio

The 1950s marked a seismic shift in British popular culture, especially in music. The decade saw the rise of:

- Skiffle and Jazz: Acts like Lonnie Donegan popularized skiffle, a genre blending jazz, blues, and folk, which became a springboard for future British bands.
- The Birth of Rock & Roll: Although American in origin, rock and roll influenced young British audiences, paving the way for bands like The Beatles.
- Radio as the Mainstay: BBC dominated the airwaves, but pirate radio stations like Radio Caroline emerged toward the late 1950s, offering more rebellious, youth-oriented programming.

Film and Theatre

Post-war cinema flourished, with the British film industry producing notable classics:

- Ealing Comedies: Films such as "The Ladykillers" and "Kind Hearts and Coronets" showcased dark humor and social satire.
- Social Realism: Directors like Jack Lee and David Lean depicted gritty, realistic portrayals of working-class Britain.
- Hollywood Influence: American stars and films remained popular, influencing British filmmaking and culture.

Theatre also thrived, with West End productions drawing large audiences and nurturing new talent.

Literature and Arts

Literature reflected the shifting social landscape:

- Literary Figures: Writers like George Orwell, Graham Greene, and Agatha Christie maintained popularity, with themes exploring morality, politics, and societal change.
- Emergence of the "Angry Young Men": A new wave of writers, including John Osborne and Kingsley Amis, challenged traditional British values and critiqued post-war society.
- Visual Arts: The decade saw the rise of modernist art, with artists like Francis Bacon gaining prominence.

Social Change and Lifestyle Evolution

Class Structure and Society

While the post-war consensus aimed to reduce class disparities, the 1950s still exhibited significant social stratification:

- Welfare State: The establishment of the National Health Service (NHS) in 1948 was a landmark achievement, providing free healthcare and symbolizing social progress.
- Education Expansion: The Butler Education Act of 1944 led to increased access to secondary education, shaping a more educated workforce.
- Changing Gender Roles: Women, who had entered the workforce in large numbers during WWII, faced new expectations. The decade saw the rise of domestic ideals, but also early signs of feminist activism.

Fashion and Domestic Life

Fashion in the 1950s reflected a move towards modernity and a more casual style:

- Men's Fashion: Suits, fedoras, and tailored shirts remained popular, but casual wear and sports jackets gained ground.
- Women's Fashion: The iconic "New Look" with cinched waists and full skirts was replaced by more practical styles, including shift dresses and cardigans.
- Domestic Technology: The proliferation of household appliances transformed domestic routines, with vacuum cleaners, washing machines, and refrigerators becoming commonplace.

Leisure and Sports

Leisure activities expanded, with sports playing an important social role:

- Football: The sport remained Britain's national obsession, with clubs like Manchester United and Arsenal enjoying massive followings.
- Cinema & Music Halls: Going to the cinema was a primary leisure activity, with films providing escapism amid economic recovery.
- Travel & Tourism: Increased affluence and improved transportation allowed more Britons to vacation within the UK and abroad.

Political Climate and International Relations

Government and Politics

The decade was dominated by the Labour government under Clement Attlee and then the Conservative government under Winston Churchill and Harold Macmillan:

- Post-War Policies: Focused on rebuilding, nationalization, and establishing the welfare state.

- Suez Crisis (1956): Marked a turning point, exposing Britain's diminished global influence and prompting reevaluation of foreign policy.
- Decolonization: The process of granting independence to colonies accelerated, notably in Africa and the Caribbean.

Foreign Relations and the Cold War

Britain navigated the complex landscape of Cold War politics, maintaining alliances with the US and NATO, while also managing its relations with the Soviet Union.

- Nuclear Deterrence: Britain developed its own nuclear arsenal, becoming the third nuclear power after the US and USSR.
- European Integration: The UK was cautious about joining the European Economic Community, reflecting a desire to retain sovereignty.

Technological and Scientific Innovations

The 1950s set the stage for future technological progress:

- Computers: Early developments in computing, such as the Manchester Mark I, laid groundwork for future digital revolution.
- Medical Advances: Improved vaccines and antibiotics increased life expectancy.
- Transportation: The introduction of the British Rail High-Speed trains and advancements in aviation technology transformed travel.

Conclusion: The Legacy of the 1950s in Britain

The 1950s in the UK encapsulate a period of profound transition—recovering from wartime austerity, embracing new cultural identities, and laying the groundwork for modern Britain. It was a decade that balanced traditional values with emerging trends, reflected in its music, fashion, and social policies. Despite economic challenges, the era fostered resilience and innovation, setting the stage for the social revolutions and cultural shifts of the 1960s.

As an expert analyzing this decade, one can appreciate how the 1950s served as a crucible of change, blending continuity and innovation. The enduring impact of its technological advancements, social policies, and cultural innovations continues to influence Britain today, making it a fascinating and foundational chapter in the nation's history.

1950s In The Uk

1950s in the uk: Science Fiction Cinema and 1950s Britain Matthew Jones, 2017-11-30 For the last sixty years discussion of 1950s science fiction cinema has been dominated by claims that the genre reflected US paranoia about Soviet brainwashing and the nuclear bomb. However, classic films, such as *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956) and *It Came from Outer Space* (1953), and less familiar productions, such as *It! The Terror from Beyond Space* (1958), were regularly exported to countries across the world. The histories of their encounters with foreign audiences have not yet been told. *Science Fiction Cinema and 1950s Britain* begins this task by recounting the story of 1950s British cinema-goers and the aliens and monsters they watched on the silver screen. Drawing on extensive archival research, Matthew Jones makes an exciting and important intervention by locating American science fiction films alongside their domestic counterparts in their British contexts of release and reception. He offers a radical reassessment of the genre, demonstrating for the first time that in Britain, which was a significant market for and producer of science fiction, these films gave voice to different fears than they did in America. While Americans experienced an economic boom, low immigration and the conferring of statehood on Alaska and Hawaii, Britons worried about economic uncertainty, mass immigration and the dissolution of the Empire. *Science Fiction Cinema and 1950s Britain* uses these and other differences between the British and American experiences of the 1950s to tell a new history of the decade's science fiction cinema, exploring for the first time the ways in which the genre came to mean something unique to Britons.

1950s in the uk: The 1950s Nick Bentley, Alice Ferrebe, Nick Hubble, 2018-09-06 How did social, cultural and political events in Britain during the 1950s shape modern British fiction? As Britain emerged from the shadow of war into the new decade of the 1950s, the seeds of profound social change were being sown. Exploring the full range of fiction in the 1950s, this volume surveys the ways in which these changes were reflected in British culture. Chapters cover the rise of the 'Angry Young Men', an emerging youth culture and vivid new voices from immigrant and feminist writers. A major critical re-evaluation of the decade, the book covers such writers as Margery Allingham, Kingsley Amis, E. R. Braithwaite, Rodney Garland, Martyn Goff, Attia Hosain, George Lamming, Marghanita Laski, Doris Lessing, Colin MacInnes, Naomi Mitchison, V. S. Naipaul, Barbara Pym, Mary Renault, Sam Selvon, Alan Sillitoe, John Sommerfield, Muriel Spark, J. R. R. Tolkien, Angus Wilson and John Wyndham.

1950s in the uk: Britain's Economic Performance Tony Buxton, Paul G. Chapman, Paul Temple, 1998 This latest edition provides a unique assessment of the current state of the supply-side of the economy, and is written by a team of highly experienced, policy oriented applied economists.

1950s in the uk: 1950s Childhood Janet Shepherd, John Shepherd, 2014-02-10 Children of the 1950s have much to look back on with fondness: Muffin the Mule, Andy Pandy, and Dennis the Menace became part of the family for many, while for others the freedom of the riverbank or railway platform was a haven away from the watchful eyes of parents. The postwar welfare state offered free orange juice, milk and healthcare, and there was lots to do, whether football in the street, a double bill at the cinema, a game of Ludo or a spot of roller-skating. But there were also hardships: wartime rationing persisted into the '50s, a trip to the dentist was a painful ordeal, and at school discipline was harsh and the Eleven-Plus exam was a formidable milestone. Janet Shepherd and John Shepherd examine what it was like to grow up part of the Baby Boomer generation, showing what life was like at home and at school and introducing a new phenomenon – the teenager.

1950s in the uk: British Petroleum and Global Oil 1950-1975 James Bamberg, 2000-08-31 Dramatic narrative, arresting analysis and original research are combined in this book, which addresses the history of one of the world's biggest oil businesses between 1950 and 1975. Assessing BP's comparative performance, the book focuses on how BP responded politically, economically and culturally to the rise of new competitors, the decline of Britain's imperial power, and the determination of nation states to assert national sovereignty over the vital commodity, oil. Climaxing

with the OPEC crisis which shook the world in the 1970s, the book - authorised by BP with uniquely unrestricted access to its records - is of wide interest and relevance, especially for those interested in big business, globalisation and nationalism, international affairs, OPEC, the Middle East, and oil.

1950s in the uk: *British Cinema in the 1950's* Ian MacKillop, Neil Sinyard, 2003-06-28 This book offers a startling re-evaluation of what has until now been seen as the most critically lackluster period of the British cinema. Twenty writers contribute essays that rediscover and reassess the productions of the Festival of Britain decade, during which the vitality of wartime film-making flowed into new forms. Topics covered include genres such as the B-film, the war film, the woman's picture, the theatrical adaptation and comedy; also social issues such as censorship and the screen representation of childhood.

1950s in the uk: *The British Nuclear Weapons Programme, 1952-2002* Douglas Holdstock, Frank Barnaby, 2003 In this book, scientists, doctors, peace researchers and others assess the military value, political impact, health effects and legality of the British Nuclear Weapons programme.

1950s in the uk: *British Cinema, Past and Present* Justine Ashby, Andrew Higson, 2013-05-13 *British Cinema: Past and Present* responds to the commercial and critical success of British film in the 1990s. Providing a historical perspective to the contemporary resurgence of British cinema, this unique anthology brings together leading international scholars to investigate the rich diversity of British film production, from the early sound period of the 1930s to the present day. The contributors address: * British Cinema Studies and the concept of national cinema * the distribution and reception of British films in the US and Europe * key genres, movements and cycles of British cinema in the 1940s, 50s and 60s * questions of authorship and agency, with case studies of individual studios, stars, producers and directors * trends in British cinema, from propaganda films of the Second World War to the New Wave and the 'Swinging London' films of the Sixties * the representation of marginalised communities in films such as *Trainspotting* and *The Full Monty* * the evolution of social realism from *Saturday Night, Sunday Morning* to *Nil By Mouth* * changing approaches to Northern Ireland and the Troubles in films like *The Long Good Friday* and Alan Clarke's *Elephant* * contemporary 'art' and 'quality' cinema, from heritage drama to the work of Peter Greenaway, Derek Jarman, Terence Davies and Patrick Keiller.

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1950s in the uk: *Popular Music and the State in the UK* Martin Cloonan, 2016-04-22 In an era of the rise of the free market and economic globalization, Martin Cloonan examines why politicians and policymakers in the UK have sought to intervene in popular music - a field that has often been held up as the epitome of the free market form. Cloonan traces the development of government attitudes and policies towards popular music from the 1950s to the present, discovering the prominence of two overlapping concerns: public order and the political economy of music. Since the music industry began to lobby politicians, particularly on the issue of copyright in relation to the internet, an inherent tension has become apparent with economic rationale on one side, and Romantic notions of 'the artist' on the other. Cloonan examines the development of policy under New Labour; numerous reports which have charted the economics of the industry; the New Deal for Musicians scheme and the impact of devolution on music policy in Scotland. He makes the case for the inherently political nature of popular music and asserts that the development of popular music policies can only be understood in the context of an increasingly close working relationship between government and the cultural industries. In addition he argues that a rather myopic view of the music industries has meant that policy initiatives have lacked cohesion and have generally served the interests of multinational corporations rather than struggling musicians.

1950s in the uk: *Life in 1950s London* Mike Hutton, 2014-09-15 From austerity to rock 'n' roll - the story of a fascinating decade for the world's greatest city

1950s in the uk: *The Secret History of UK Security Vetting from 1909 to the Present* Daniel

Lomas, 2025-05-15 Using newly available government records, private papers, and documents obtained through Freedom of Information, this book tells the secret story of UK security vetting from 1909 to the present. Although Britain avoided American-style red-baiting and McCarthy-like witch-hunts, successive UK governments have, like their 'Five Eyes' allies, implemented security procedures to protect government, defence and industry from so-called 'subversives' and 'fellow travellers'. Officially, from 1948 the British government applied political tests to civil servants, a process extended to 'character defects' in the early 1950s with the introduction of 'positive vetting'. However, an unofficial purge had taken place for much longer, facing political backlashes as an infringement of 'civil liberties' and suppression of free speech. Although it's been argued that Britain's secret purge had little impact, this study looks at the experiences of those removed from the 'secret state', those LGBT and BAME individuals discriminated against by government, and the impact of government policy generally, while studying the responses of Ministers and civil servants to spy scandals and international events. Drawing from newly released archival material, Freedom of Information releases and interviews, this book offers new insights into the scope of government security checks on civil servants, defence contractors and armed forces personnel from Edwardian 'spy scares' and the inter-war period, to the Cold War and present day.

1950s in the uk: Business in Britain in the Twentieth Century Richard Coopey, Peter Lyth, 2009 This collection of fresh, incisive scholarship, by some of the leading business historians, critically examines the nature of economic recovery in Britain in recent years. Covering the key issues for business history in this period, the book confronts the traditional literature on conclusions of relative decline, and monocausal, simplistic explanations. It provides an impressive range of studies forming a platform for a new debate on the nature of British business in the 20th century. Themes include productivity, management, research and development, marketing, regional clusters and networks, industrial policy, the use of technology, and gender. Sector studies include newer, post-war hopefuls and successes including: * aerospace, * IT, * retail, * banking, * overseas investment, * the creative industries. The book demonstrates that our understanding of the historic strengths and weaknesses of business in Britain, and the shifting balance between sectors of the economy, has until now been poorly understood, and that British business history needs a fundamental reappraisal.

1950s in the uk: Britain's Retreat from Empire in East Asia, 1905-1980 Antony Best, 2016-09-13 The decline of British power in Asia, from a high point in 1905, when Britain's ally Japan vanquished the Russian Empire, apparently reducing the perceived threat that Russia posed to its influence in India and China, to the end of the twentieth century, when British power had dwindled to virtually nothing, is one of the most important themes in understanding the modern history of East and Southeast Asia. This book considers a range of issues that illustrate the significance and influence of the British Empire in Asia and the nature of Britain's imperial decline. Subjects covered include the challenges posed by Germany and Japan during the First World War, British efforts at international co-operation in the interwar period, the British relationship with Korea and Japan in the wake of the Second World War, and the complicated path of decolonisation in Southeast Asia and Hong Kong. Chapter 3 of this book is freely available as a downloadable Open Access PDF at <http://www.taylorfrancis.com> under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-No Derivatives (CC-BY-NC-ND) 4.0 license.

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book will be of interest to students of modern European history and to economists interested in economic growth, European economic integration, and reform of the Bretton Woods institutions.

1950s in the uk: *Anglo-American Media Interactions, 1850-2000* Joel H. Wiener, Mark Hampton, 2007-07-11 This volume reveals the complicated ways in which British and American media have influenced each other over the past two centuries. In doing so, it adds an important transatlantic dimension to media scholarship, while demonstrating the crucial and varied ways in which media have helped build an Anglo-American 'special relationship'.

1950s in the uk: *The Decline of Sterling* Catherine R. Schenk, 2010-05-27 The demise of sterling as an international currency was widely predicted after 1945, but the process took thirty years to complete. Why was this demise so prolonged? Traditional explanations emphasize British efforts to prolong sterling's role because it increased the capacity to borrow, enhanced prestige, or supported London as a centre for international finance. This book challenges this view by arguing that sterling's international role was prolonged by the weakness of the international monetary system and by collective global interest in its continuation. Using the archives of Britain's partners in Europe, the USA and the Commonwealth, Catherine Schenk shows how the UK was able to convince other governments that sterling's international role was critical for the stability of the international economy and thereby attract considerable support to manage its retreat. This revised view has important implications for current debates over the future of the US dollar as an international currency.

1950s in the uk: *Cassell's Dictionary of Slang* Jonathon Green, 2005 With its unparalleled coverage of English slang of all types (from 18th-century cant to contemporary gay slang), and its uncluttered editorial apparatus, Cassell's Dictionary of Slang was warmly received when its first edition appeared in 1998. 'Brilliant.' said Mark Lawson on BBC2's *The Late Review*; 'This is a terrific piece of work - learned, entertaining, funny, stimulating' said Jonathan Meades in *The Evening Standard*. But now the world's best single-volume dictionary of English slang is about to get even better. Jonathon Green has spent the last seven years on a vast project: to research in depth the English slang vocabulary and to hunt down and record written instances of the use of as many slang words as possible. This has entailed trawling through more than 4000 books - plus song lyrics, TV and movie scripts, and many newspapers and magazines - for relevant material. The research has thrown up some fascinating results

1950s in the uk: *De-Industrialization Foreign* R. E. Rowthorn, 1987-11-01

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