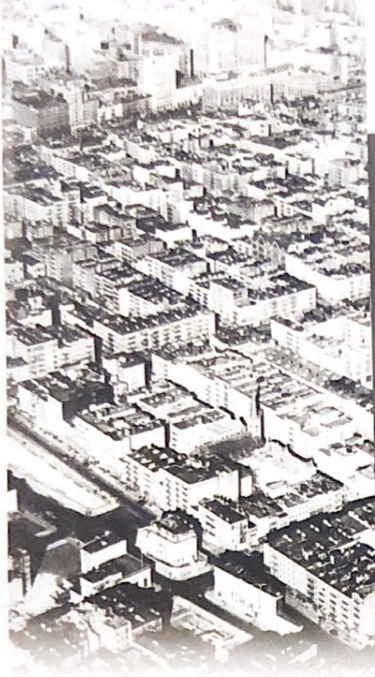


LIFE BY THE  
SQUARE FOOT



vs.

LIFE BY THE  
ACRE



This advertisement encouraged people to move to the suburbs. ❶

## B A New Way of Life

A new kind of American town developed after World War II. It was called a **suburb**—a smaller community very close to a larger city. People moved to the suburbs because houses were affordable and there were open places for children to play. One of the first suburban housing areas was called Levittown, on Long Island. Houses in Levittown were exactly alike, built on an assembly-line system.

### Suburbs

Families and children were an important part of life in the suburbs. Schools, shopping centers, and parks were built to meet the needs of families. People who lived in the suburbs depended

on automobiles because distances between homes, schools, and shops were longer than in the city. People also used automobiles to **commute**, or travel regularly to work. American life changed as more and more people settled in suburbs.

### Television

Can you imagine a world without television? The first televisions were sold in stores just after World War II. Television soon became the main source of news and entertainment for most people. In the 1950s New York City became a center for television and it remains a broadcasting center today.

## A War Without Guns

The United States faced a new enemy in the 1950s. Its wartime ally, the Soviet Union, became an enemy because its armies threatened western Europe. This period of time is called the Cold War. A Cold War is a war of suspicion and angry words. The Soviet Union and the United States acted like countries at war.

At the end of World War II, an organization called the **United Nations**,

or UN, was set up to help keep peace in the world. It met at Lake Success, on Long Island, from 1946 to 1950. In 1952 the UN moved into its new headquarters in Manhattan. The UN continues to work for peace and equality around the world.



### QUICK CHECK

What was one effect of the growth of suburbs in the 1950s? *Cause and Effect*

The flags of every member nation fly in front of UN headquarters in New York City. ©

