

# Summary: Peacetime Industries

## Defense and Space Industries

After the war, the Soviet Union took over several small nations and was making powerful weapons. The United States was worried about a Soviet threat. For this reason, the defense industry continued to grow. Factories in California developed missiles as well as faster and new kinds of airplanes.

Then in 1957, the Soviet Union began the space race by sending the first satellite into space. Each country now wanted to be first to reach the moon. California played a big role in winning the space race. California's aerospace industry researched ways to reach space and developed equipment for the space program. By 1965, half a million Californians were working in the aerospace industry. Satellites were built, and the first space probe to land on the moon was developed and built in California. The United States boosted astronauts to the moon in 1969.

## The Leading Farm State

Agriculture continued to grow after the war. In 1947, California became the leading farm state, with about 300 different types of produce, including almonds, artichokes, figs, and olives. California also grew about one-third of the country's fruit.

In California, large companies owned huge farms with thousands of acres of land. They usually grew only one or two crops, and the owners wanted to increase productivity. Researchers invented machines to help pick crops, such as tomatoes and nuts. Fewer workers were needed. But grape and lettuce growers still needed many farm workers to harvest more fragile crops.

During the war, Congress had made an agreement with Mexico to allow farm owners to use Mexican workers, called braceros. They were given food and shelter but little money. After the war, some soldiers wanted their jobs back. But the farm owners did not want to give up the braceros. By 1957, nearly 200,000 braceros worked on the farms. The bracero program did not end until 1964.

### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**aerospace industry** *noun*, designs and makes rockets and spacecraft  
**bracero** *noun* (Spanish), a strong-armed person  
**space race** *noun*, during the 1950s and 1960s, the competition between the United States and the Soviet Union to be the leader in space exploration

### After You Read

**REVIEW** Why did the defense industry continue to grow in California after World War II? Circle the sentences that tell which industries grew and why.

**REVIEW** In what ways did new machines help California farms? Underline the sentences that explain how the machines aided farm owners.