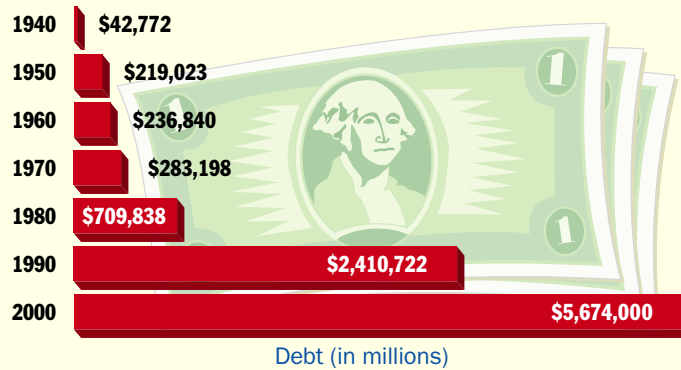




## The Public Debt, 1940–2000



Debt (in millions)

\*Public debt does not include money the government owes itself.

Source: Stanley and Niemi, *Vital Statistics on American Politics, 1999–2000* (Washington, D.C.: CQ Inc., 2000); Bureau of the Public Debt, 2001.

### Critical Thinking

The public debt increased by more than \$2 trillion from 1940 to 1990. **During which decade did the amount of debt increase the most?**