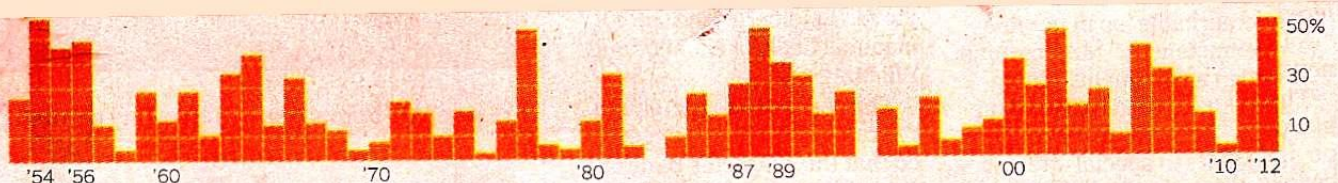



Percentage of the U.S. with moderate to extreme drought in June, based on the Palmer Drought Index



The **mid-1950s** were characterized by prolonged periods of extensive drought, causing crop yields to drop as much as 50 percent in some areas.

Drought's Footprint

More than half of the country was under moderate to extreme drought in June, the largest area of the contiguous United States affected by such dryness in nearly 60 years.

 Areas under moderate to extreme drought

Source: National Climatic Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

GRAPHIC BY HAEYOUN PARK AND KEVIN QUEALY THE NEW YORK TIMES
07/20/2012

Much of the 1980s and 1990s were characterized by unusual wetness, but a three-year drought from **1987 to 1989** was among the costliest natural disasters in United States history, causing \$39 billion in losses in energy, water, ecosystems and agriculture.

June 2012 was among the warmest and driest Junes since the 1950s, and nearly 1,300 counties across 29 states have been declared federal disaster areas.

