

<p>Name _____ Date _____ Class _____</p> <h3>The Cold War at Home</h3> <p>Not only did the Cold War shape U.S. foreign policy, it also had a profound effect on domestic affairs. Americans had long feared radical subversion. These fears could at times be overzealous, and used to justify otherwise unacceptable political restrictions, but it also was true that individuals under Communist Party discipline and many "false transfer" hangers-on gave their political allegiance not to the United States, but to the International Communist movement, or, practically speaking, to Moscow. During the Red Scare of 1919-1920, the government had attempted to remove perceived threats to American society. After World War II, it made strong efforts against Communists within the United States. Foreign events, espionage scandals, and politics created an anti-Communist hysteria.</p> <p>When Republicans were victorious in the mid-1950s congressional elections of 1946 and appeared ready to investigate subversive activity, President Truman established a Federal Employee Loyalty Program. It had little impact on the lives of most civil servants, but a few hundred were dismissed, some unfairly.</p> <p>In 1947 the House Committee on Un-American Activities investigated the motion-picture industry to determine whether Communist sympathies were</p> <p>being reflected in popular films. When some writers (who happened to be secret members of the Communist Party) refused to testify, they were cited for contempt and sent to prison. After that, the film companies refused to hire anyone with a marginally questionable past.</p> <p>In 1948, Alger Hiss, who had been an assistant secretary of state and an advisor to Roosevelt at Yalta, was publicly accused of being a Communist spy by Whittaker Chambers, a former Soviet agent. Hiss denied the accusation, but in 1950 he was convicted of perjury. Subsequent evidence indicates that he was indeed guilty.</p> <p>In 1950 the United States shocked Americans by testing its own atomic bomb. In 1950, the government uncovered a British-American spy network that transferred to the Soviet Union materials about the development of the atomic bomb. Two of its operators, Julius Rosenberg and his wife Ethel, were sentenced to death. Attorney General J. Howard McGrath declared there were many American Communists, each bearing "the germ of death for society."</p> <p>The next vigorous anti-Communist warlike was Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, a Republican from Wisconsin. He gained national attention in 1950 by claiming that he had a list of 205 known</p>	<p>Name _____ Date _____ Class _____</p> <p>Communists in the State Department. Though McCarthy subsequently changed this figure several times and failed to substantiate any of his charges, he struck a responsive public chord.</p> <p>McCarthy gained power when the Republican Party won control of the Senate in 1942. As a committee chairman, he now had a forum for his crusade. Relying on intensive press and television coverage, he continued to search for treachery among second-level officials in the Eisenhower administration. Enjoying the role of a tough guy doing dirty but necessary work, he pursued perceived Communists with vigor.</p> <p>McCarthy overstepped himself by challenging the U.S. Army when one of his accusers was drafted. Television brought the hearings into millions of homes. Many Americans saw McCarthy's erratic tactics for the first time, and public support began to wane. The Republican Party, which had found McCarthy useful in challenging a Democratic administration when Truman was president, began to see him as an embarrassment. The Senate finally censured him for his conduct.</p> <p>McCarthy in many ways represented the worst domestic excesses of the Cold War. An American repudiated him, it became natural for many to assume that the Communist threat at home and abroad had been greatly overblown. As the country moved into the 1950s, anti-Communism became increasingly suspect, especially among intellectuals and opinion-shapers.</p>
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