



The Red Scare

Chapter 13



Standard

US.76 Analyze the causes and effects of the Red Scare that followed World War II, including Americans' attitude toward the rise of communism in China, McCarthyism, blacklisting, Alger Hiss, J. Edgar Hoover, Estes Kefauver, and the Rosenbergs. (C, P, H, TN)



Red Scare

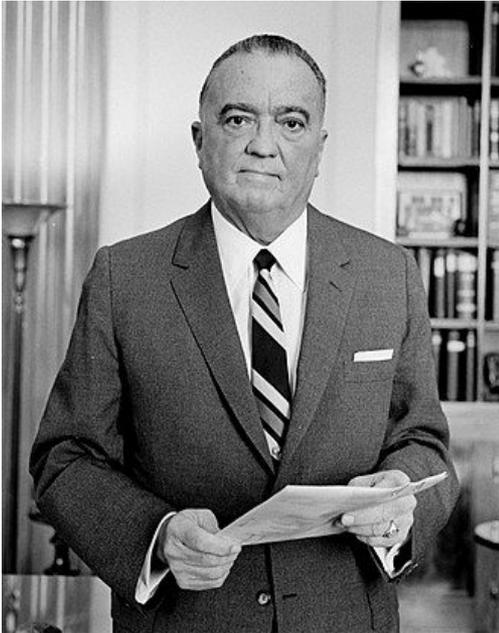
- The Red Scare: hysteria over the perceived threat posed by Communists in the U.S



Concerns about Communism

- March 21, 1947, President Harry S. Truman issued [Executive Order 9835](#), also known as the Loyalty Order, which mandated that all federal employees be analyzed to determine whether they were sufficiently loyal to the government
- [House Un-American Activities Committee \(HUAC\)](#) was formed in 1938. Focused on exposing Communists working inside the federal government or subversive elements working in the Hollywood film industry

J. Edgar Hoover



- Director of FBI
- Aided many of the legislative investigations of communist activities
- An ardent anti-communist, was a key player in the Red Scare



Turn and Talk

Why did they target these two industries? What other industries do you think they might target?



Reds Taking Over

- The advances of communism around the world convinced many U.S. citizens that there was a real danger of “Reds” taking over their own country
- In 1949, the Soviet Union successfully tested a nuclear bomb and communist forces led by Mao Zedong took control of China
- The following year saw the start of the Korean War



Stop and Jot

DO you think Americans took the threat of communism seriously at home? Why or why not?



The Scare Intensifies

- The political climate turned increasingly conservative
- Elected officials from both parties sought to portray themselves as staunch anti-communists

Life at Home



- Many Americans at home feared a nuclear war and bombs





McCarthyism

- Is the practice of making accusations of subversion or treason without proper regard for evidence
- Many people who were accused lost their jobs, were alienated from friends and family and most were falsely accused
- Communist supporters or sympathizers were **blacklisted**
- Accusations and investigations did lead to uncovering of actual spies as well



Lets Discuss!

Do you think political affiliation should warrant this type of treatment?

The Rosenbergs



- Julius and Ethel Rosenberg
- Were American citizens who were convicted, with others, of conspiracy for espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union in the late 1940s
- They were tried, convicted, and executed by the federal government of the United States
- They provided top-secret information about radar, sonar, and jet propulsion engines to the USSR and were accused of transmitting valuable nuclear weapon designs to the Soviet Union