

*This is a class set. Please DO NOT write on this this. Answer the questions in the left hand side of your notebook. You do not need to write the question, but incorporate it into your answer. Each answer should be around 2-3 sentences. The title of this assignment is McCarthyism DBQ.

Were the Red Scares a legitimate threat against the American government by foreign radicals, or an unconstitutional invasion of the Government into the lives of its citizens?

Document 1

“The reason why we find ourselves in a position of impotency is not because our only powerful potential enemy has sent men to invade our shores . . . but rather because of the traitorous actions of those who have been treated so well by this Nation. It has not been the less fortunate, or members of minority groups who have been traitorous to this Nation, but rather those who have had all the benefits that the wealthiest Nation on earth has had to offer . . . the finest homes, the finest college education and the finest jobs in government we can give.

This is glaringly true in the State Department. There the bright young men who are born with silver spoons in their mouths are the ones who have been most traitorous. . . .

I have here in my hand a list of 57 . . . a list of names that were made known to the Secretary of State as being members of the Communist Party and who nevertheless are still working and shaping policy in the State Department ...”

Excerpt from a speech given by Senator McCarthy in Wheeling, West Virginia on February 9th, 1950

1. According to Joseph McCarthy, who is responsible for the "impotency", or the inability of the United States to defend itself from Communist aggression?

2. Why would McCarthy's list be damaging to the reputation of the State Department employees?

Document 2

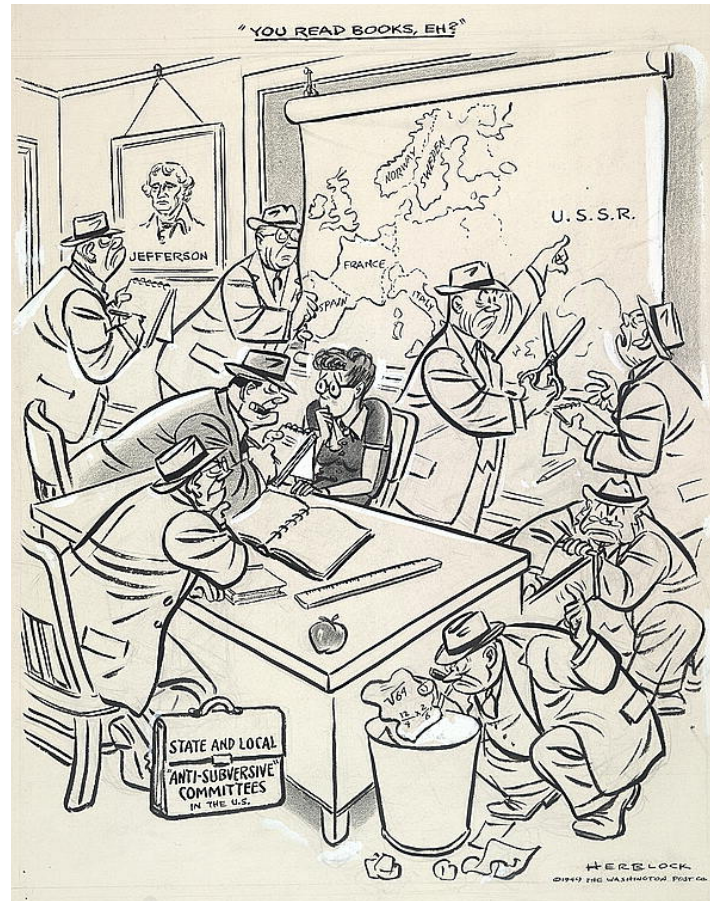


Block, Herbert. *It's okay – we're hunting communists*. 31 October 1947. Drawing on layered paper. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C.

1. What do you think the author's attitude towards Special House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC) is?

2. How do the actions of the car in the cartoon parallel the activities of HUAC at the time?

Document 3



Block, Herbert. *You read books, eh?*. 24 April 1949. Drawing on layered paper. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C.

1. How would you describe the tone of this cartoon?

2. How do the actions of the men in the picture parallel the activities of HUAC at the time?

Document 4

Sentencing of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg
Judge Irving Kaufman
April 5, 1951

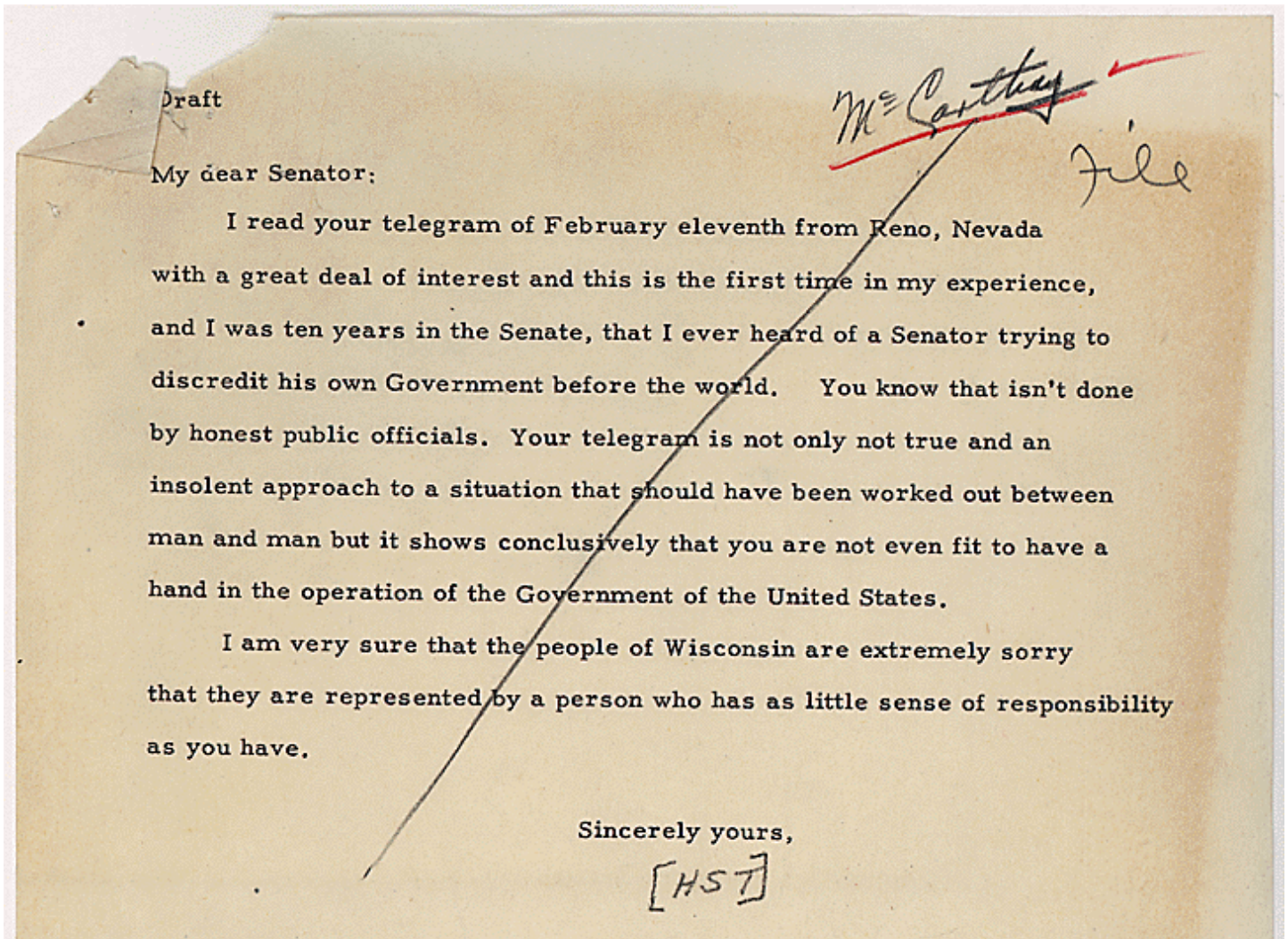
“... I consider your crime worse than murder. Plain deliberate contemplated murder is dwarfed in magnitude by comparison with the crime you have committed. In committing the act of murder, the criminal kills only his victim. The immediate family is brought to grief and when justice is meted out the chapter is closed. But in your case, I believe your conduct in putting into the hands of the Russians the A-bomb years before our best scientists predicted Russia would perfect the bomb has already caused, in my opinion, the Communist aggression in Korea, with the resultant casualties exceeding 50,000 and who knows but that millions more of innocent people may pay that price of your treason. Indeed, by your betrayal you undoubtedly have altered the course of history to the disadvantage of our country.”

William K. Klingaman. *Encyclopedia of the McCarthy Era*. New York: Facts on File, Inc., 1996.

1. *What aspect of the Rosenbergs' crime made it so much "worse than murder" to Judge Kaufman?*

2. *In what ways did the Rosenbergs endanger the lives of Americans?*

Document 5



Reply from President Harry S. Truman to Senator Joseph McCarthy. 1950. Telegram. Harry S. Truman Library, Independence.

1. Why does President Truman believe that Senator McCarthy is acting in an improper manner?

2. Why does President Truman suggest that Senator McCarthy is trying to “discredit his own Government”?

Document 6



Kirby. "Coming Out of the Smoke." Online. *New York World*. 11 October 1919.

1. Who does the artist blame for the steel strike? Why?

2. Why did some consider strikes, such as the one pictured in the cartoon, dangerous and subversive?

Document 7

1. What evidence is there that John Howard Lawson is a communist?

2. Given Lawson's occupation, why did some consider it dangerous for him to be a communist?

"Information from the files of the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, On the Communist Affiliations of John Howard Lawson

John Howard Lawson is a screen writer and one of the most active Communists in the Hollywood movie industry... The files of the House Committee on Un-American Activities show that –

1. Rena M. Vale, a former member of the Communist Party and a screen writer, testified before the Special Committee on Un-American Activities on July 22, 1940, that Mr. Lawson had been identified to her at a Communist Party fraction meeting. She further testified that Mr. Lawson during the meeting gave advice on inserting the Communist Party line into drama. "

Bentley, Eric, ed. *Thirty Years of Treason*. New York: Nation Books, 2002.

Document 8

When William Frauenglass, a Brooklyn school teacher, was subpoenaed to testify before Congress, he turned to famed scientist Albert Einstein for advice on the matter. Below is Einstein's response, in the form of an open letter that was later published in the New York Times in 1953.

"The problem with which the intellectuals of this country are confronted is very serious. The reactionary politicians have managed to instill suspicion of all intellectual efforts into the public by dangling before their eyes a danger from without. Having succeeded so far, they are now proceeding to suppress the freedom of teaching and to deprive of their positions all those who do not prove submissive, i.e., to starve them.

What ought the minority of intellectuals to do against this evil? Frankly, I can see only the revolutionary way of non-cooperation in the sense of Gandhi's. Every intellectual who is called before one of the committees ought to refuse to testify, i.e., he must be prepared for jail and economic ruin, in short, for the sacrifice of his personal welfare in the interest of the cultural welfare of this country.

This refusal to testify must be based on the assertion that it is shameful for a blameless citizen to submit to such an inquisition and that this kind of inquisition violates the spirit of the Constitution. If enough people are ready to take this grave step they will be successful. If not, then the intellectuals of this country deserve nothing better than the slavery which is intended for them.

P.S. This letter need not be considered 'confidential.'"

Rowe, David and Robert Schulman. *Einstein on Politics: His private thoughts and public stands on nationalism, Zionism, war, peace, and the bomb*, Princeton University Press, 2007.

1. What is the "danger from without" that Einstein refers to in the first paragraph?

2. Einstein describes the consequences of non-cooperation by stating that one could face "jail and economic ruin." Knowing that these are the consequences, why would one choose non-cooperation?

DBQ Rubric

10 Points:

- Thoroughly addresses all aspects of the task by accurately analyzing and interpreting four or more of the documents
- Incorporates relevant outside information
- Richly supports ideas with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Is a well-developed essay, consistently demonstrating a logical and clear plan of organization
- Uses information from the documents in the body of the essay, but does not copy document
- Includes a strong introduction and conclusion

8 Points:

- Addresses all aspects of the task by accurately analyzing and interpreting 3 or more of the documents
- Incorporates relevant outside information
- Includes relevant facts, examples, and details, but discussion may be more descriptive than analytical
- Is a well-developed essay, demonstrating a logical and clear plan of organization
- Includes a good introduction and conclusion

6 Points:

- Addresses most aspects of the task or addresses all aspects in a limited way; uses some of the documents
- Incorporates limited or no relevant outside information
- Some facts, examples, and details, but discussion is more descriptive than analytical
- Is a satisfactorily developed essay, demonstrating a general plan of organization
- the theme in the introduction and concludes with a simple restatement of the theme

4 Points:

- Attempts to address some aspects of the task, making limited use of the documents
- Incorporates no relevant outside information
- Presents few facts, examples, and details; simply restates contents of the documents
- Is a poorly organized essay, lacking focus
- Has vague or missing introduction and/or conclusion

2 Points:

- Shows limited understanding of the task with vague, unclear references to the documents
- Presents no relevant outside information
- Attempts to complete the task, but essay demonstrates a major weakness in organization
- Uses little or no accurate or relevant facts, details, or examples
- Has vague or missing introduction and/or conclusion

0 Points:

- Fails to address the question
- Is illegible
- Is missing; a blank paper is handed in