

# The Second Red Scare

The McCarthy Era

# Bell Ringer

- Have you ever had a lie spread about you that was not true?  
Or have you ever told a lie about someone that was not true?  
What was the result of that lie?

# Big Idea

- As Cold War tensions rose, Americans worked to combat communism influence at home
- The Red Scare intensified as Senator Joseph McCarthy presided over a Senate committee charged with exposing Communists in government.



# Red Scare Begins

- During the 1950s, rumors and accusations of Communists in the United States led to fears that Communists were attempting to take over the world
- What was the fear?  
Communist subversion-an effort to secretly weaken a society and overthrow its government



# How did it start?



- Igor Gouzenko was a clerk working for the Soviet embassy in Canada
- Defected and revealed documents that the Soviets were trying to infiltrate government organizations in the U.S. and Canada

# HUAC-House Un-American Activities

- Created in 1938 to investigate Fascist and Communists activities
- Hoover urged the committee to hold public hearings on Communist subversion
- Once communists revealed, the public would isolate them, ending their influence
- Not just expose communists;
  - Communists sympathizers
- Led to wire taping thousands of phones



# Hollywood Black List

- 1947-HUAC investigated Communist infiltration of the Motion-Picture Industry
- “The Hollywood Ten” a group of writers and directors claiming First Amendment rights, refused to name names of suspected communists or testify before the committee



# Hollywood Black List



- As a result, they were found guilty of contempt of congress and were sentenced to between 6 months and 12 months in prison.
- “The Hollywood 10” were blacklisted, which had a devastating effect on their careers

# Are You a True American?

- In early 1947, Truman established the loyalty review program to screen all federal employees for their loyalty
- The program's aim was to calm Americans. Instead, it led to the fear that Communists were infiltrating government.
- FBI director J. Edgar Hoover went to HUAC to urge them to hold public hearings on Communist subversion. Under Hoover's leadership, the FBI sent agents to investigate suspected groups and to wiretap thousands of telephones

# Alger Hiss

- Time editor Whittaker Chambers (former communist) told HUAC that many gov. officials were former communists or spies
- Alger Hiss was the most prominent: lawyer and diplomat during FDR's administration



# Alger Hiss

- Chambers said Hiss gave him secret documents from the State Department
- Hiss denied everything said he didn't even know Chambers
- HUAC was going to drop the case



# Pumpkin Papers

- Richard Nixon encouraged the committee to continue on Hiss
- Hiss admitted he knew Chambers, but was never a spy
- Hiss sues Chambers
- Chambers provided the documents/microfilm
- Called the “Pumpkin Papers:” hidden them in a hollow pumpkin on his farm
- Hiss convicted of perjury (lying under oath)

# Bell Ringer

- When someone is accused of a crime, what type of evidence should be presented before they are convicted of the crime?

# Rosenberg's

- The search for spies intensified when the Soviet Union produced an atomic bomb
- Klaus Fuchs admitted giving information to the Soviet Union
- This led to the arrest of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were charged with heading a Soviet spy ring
- Many believed them to be innocent, but executed in 1953



# Were they really innocent?

- People that say they were innocent say they were just caught up in the hysteria
- Venona project proved that Julius had ties to the Soviets
- Many people thought Ethel was innocent, but recent evidence proves she was involved

# In search of Commies

- The federal government encouraged
  - Universities
  - Businesses
  - Unions
  - Churches to start finding communists



# Joseph McCarthy



- Freshmen senator from Wisconsin: Seen as the worst senator
- Looking for an issue to help him rise up
- Became the chairman on the Subcommittee of Senate investigations
- He used his position to hunt down communists

# Joseph McCarthy

- McCarthyism is the practice of making accusations of disloyalty, subversion, or treason without proper regard for evidence



# McCarthyism

- McCarthy became the chairman of the Senate subcommittee on investigations
- Turned into a witch hunt as he searched for disloyalty based on poor evidence and fear





# McCarthy Debunked

- 1954-Finally, an army lawyer named Joseph Welch stood up to McCarthy
- Later that year, the Senate passed a vote of censure, or formal disapproval, against McCarthy



# Impact of the Red Scare

- McCarthy faded from public view, but the hysteria he caused lingered throughout the era

