

Cold War Conflicts**Section 3****The Cold War at Home****Terms and Names**

HUAC House Committee on Un-American Activities

Hollywood Ten People called before HUAC who did not cooperate

blacklist List of people in the Hollywood film industry who were refused jobs because they did not cooperate with HUAC

Alger Hiss Former State Department official

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg Activists in the American Communist Party who were executed as spies

Joseph McCarthy Republican Senator who claimed Communists were taking over the federal government

McCarthyism Term used to refer to tactic of accusing people of disloyalty without producing evidence

Before You Read

In the last section, you read about the Cold War abroad. In this section, you will read about the effects of the Cold War at home.

As You Read

Use a web diagram to take notes on the ways that anticommunist fear gripped the United States.

FEAR OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE

(Pages 616–618)

How did Americans react to the threat of Communist influence?

Many Americans felt threatened by the rise of Communist governments in Europe and Asia. Some even felt that Communists could threaten the U.S. government from within. These fears increased when people found out about some spies selling U.S. government secrets to the Soviets.

Republicans accused the Truman administration of being “soft on communism.” In response to this pressure, Truman set up a Loyalty Review Board. The Board investigated over 3 million people. About 200 were fired. Many

people felt that these investigations were unconstitutional. The accused were not allowed to see the evidence against them or to face their accusers.

In 1947, Congress set up the House Committee on Un-American Activities (**HUAC**). Its purpose was to look for Communists both inside and outside government. HUAC concentrated on the movie industry because of suspected Communist influences in Hollywood. Many people were brought before HUAC. Some agreed that there had been Communist infiltration of the movie industry. They informed others to save themselves.

Ten people called before HUAC refused to testify. They said the hearings

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were unconstitutional. The **Hollywood Ten**, as they were called, were sent to prison for their refusal.

In response to the HUAC hearings, Hollywood executives created a list of some 500 people they thought were Communist-influenced. They refused to hire the people on this **blacklist**. Many people's careers were ruined.

In 1950, Congress passed the McCarran Act. It outlawed the planning of any action that might lead to a totalitarian dictatorship in the United States.

1. What are three ways that the United States reacted to fear of communism at home?

SPY CASES STUN THE NATION

(Pages 618–620)

How did spies increase fear of communism?

Two spy cases added to the fear of communism sweeping the nation. One involved an official of the State Department named **Alger Hiss**. A former Soviet spy accused Hiss of spying for the Soviet Union. He had documents that implicated Hiss. Hiss claimed the documents were forgeries. Hiss was convicted of perjury—for lying about the documents—and went to jail.

In 1949, the Soviet Union tested an atomic bomb. Most people thought that it would take the Soviets much longer to develop their own atomic bomb. A British scientist admitted giving the Soviets secret information about the American bomb. He also implicated two Americans: **Ethel and Julius Rosenberg**.

The Rosenbergs were members of the American Communist Party. They denied the charges of spying. But they were convicted and sentenced to death. People from all over the world appealed for clemency for the Rosenbergs. They said the evidence against them was weak. The Supreme Court refused to overturn the decision, and the Rosenbergs were executed in 1953.

2. What two spy cases increased fear of communism in the United States?

MCCARTHY LAUNCHES HIS "WITCH HUNT" (Pages 620–621)**Who was Senator McCarthy?**

In the early 1950s, Republican Senator **Joseph McCarthy** made headlines. He claimed that Communists were taking over the government. He also said the Democrats were guilty of treason for allowing this Communist infiltration.

McCarthy never produced any evidence to support his charges. These unsupported attacks on suspected Communists became known as **McCarthyism**. Later, McCarthyism also came to mean the unfair tactic of accusing people of disloyalty without producing evidence.

Many Republicans encouraged McCarthy. They thought that a strong anti-Communist position would help them win the 1952 elections. But some complained that McCarthy was violating people's constitutional rights.

In 1954, McCarthy made accusations against the U.S. Army. The Senate hearings were broadcast on national television. The American people watched McCarthy bully witnesses but produce no

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evidence. McCarthy lost public favor. The Senate voted to condemn him.

There had been much support for Communist witch hunts in the early 1950s. Many people were forced to take loyalty oaths in order to get jobs. States passed laws making it a crime to speak of overthrowing the government. These laws violated the constitutional right of free speech. But people became afraid to speak

their views. Fear of communism made many Americans willing to give up their constitutional rights.

3. What was McCarthyism?

Section 3, *continued*

As you read this section, fill out the charts below by writing answers to the questions in the appropriate boxes.

	a. What were they accused of?	b. How were they affected by the accusations?	c. Do the accusations seem to have been fair? Explain.
1. The Hollywood Ten			
2. Alger Hiss			
3. Ethel and Julius Rosenberg			

McCarthyism		
4. What seems to have motivated it?	5. Why did it succeed at first?	6. Why did it fall out of favor?