

**The Cold War****Lesson 3****The Cold War at Home****Key Terms and People**

**House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)** Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives that investigated people thought to be Communists

**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** Attacks on suspected Communists in the early 1950s

**Before You Read**

In the last lesson you read about the conflicts with Korea and China. In this lesson you will read about the effects of the Cold War at home.

**As You Read**

Use a chart to take notes on the ways that anti-Communist fear gripped the United States.

**FEAR OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE**  
**How did Americans react to the threat of Communist influence?**

Many Americans felt threatened by Communist governments in Europe and Asia. Some felt that Communists could threaten the government in the United States, too.

Republicans accused the Truman administration of being “soft on communism.” So Truman set up a Loyalty Review Board that investigated over 3 million people. About 200 were fired. Many people felt that these investigations were unconstitutional because the accused were not allowed to

see the evidence against them or to face their accusers.

In 1947 Congress set up the **House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)** to look for Communists both inside and outside government. HUAC concentrated on the movie industry because of suspected Communist influences in Hollywood and the belief that propaganda was getting into films.

Many people were brought before HUAC. Some agreed that Communists had infiltrated the movie industry.

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

Lesson 3, *continued*

**Hollywood Ten**, and they were accused of disloyalty and of being Communists. They were sent to prison for their refusal.

In response to the HUAC hearings, Hollywood executives named some 500 people they thought were Communists, including the Hollywood Ten. Executives refused to hire people on this **blacklist**. Many people’s careers were ruined.

In 1950, Congress passed the McCarran Internal Security 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 Americans reacted to fear of communism?

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**SPY CASES STUN THE NATION**

**How did spies increase fear of communism?**

Two spy cases added to the fear of communism sweeping the nation. One involved State Department official **Alger Hiss**. A former Soviet spy accused Hiss of being a Soviet spy and giving away government documents. He claimed that documents implicated Hiss. Hiss said the documents were forgeries. Too much time had passed for Hiss to be charged with espionage. But he was convicted of perjury, or for lying about the documents, and went to jail.

In 1949 the Soviet Union tested an atomic bomb. A German-born 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 appealed for clemency for the Rosenbergs. They said the evidence against them was weak. The Supreme Court refused to overturn the decision. The Rosenbergs were executed in 1953.

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

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**MCCARTHY LAUNCHES HIS “WITCH HUNT”**

**Who was Senator McCarthy?**

In the early 1950s Republican senator **Joseph McCarthy** claimed that Communists were taking over the government. He may have been motivated by the desire to be reelected, because he blamed the Democrats for allowing this to occur. McCarthy’s accusations fed on the American public’s fear and suspicion of communism.

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

Many Republicans encouraged McCarthy because they wanted to win the 1952 elections. But some said 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. People watched McCarthy bully witnesses but produce no evidence. McCarthy lost public favor. The Senate criticized him for improper conduct.

**Lesson 3, *continued***

Communist witch hunts in the early 1950s met with much support. Many people were forced to take loyalty oaths to get jobs. States passed laws making it a crime to speak of overthrowing the government, which violated first amendment rights.

3. What are two meanings for the term *McCarthyism*?

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Complete the chart below by writing answers to the questions in the appropriate boxes.

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

<b>MCCARTHYISM</b>		
4. What seems to have motivated it?	5. Why did it succeed at first?	6. Why did it fall out of favor?