

The Cold War: The Home front

» Mrs. Majask
US History

Intro – Cold War: Home front

- ▶ Fear of communism – enormous domestic impact
 - Second Red Scare & the rise of McCarthyism
- ▶ other factors also shaped the home front
 - The Cold War
 - Rising income and affluence
 - Many older Americans had grown weary of depression and war.
 - Younger Americans were often apolitical.

1950's

- ▶ "American Dream" = a home in the suburbs, job security in a large corporation, and a new car every few years.
- ▶ Middle-class success shown on television.
- ▶ Americans = eager to pursue the politics of tranquility, best represented by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.



The Military-Industrial Complex

- ▶ "American Dream" supported by expanded military investment
- ▶ Social critics = U. S. had established a permanent wartime economy.
- ▶ Eisenhower warned – relationship between defense contractors and the federal government posed a threat = "military-industrial complex"



Second Red Scare

- ▶ Loyalty checks of government workers begun in 1947 because of fear of communist infiltration
- ▶ *House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)* – established to investigate American Communists and Fascists
- ▶ During WWII, HUAC focused on labor unrest
- ▶ After WWII HUAC turned focus to very liberal citizens that may hold communist sympathies.



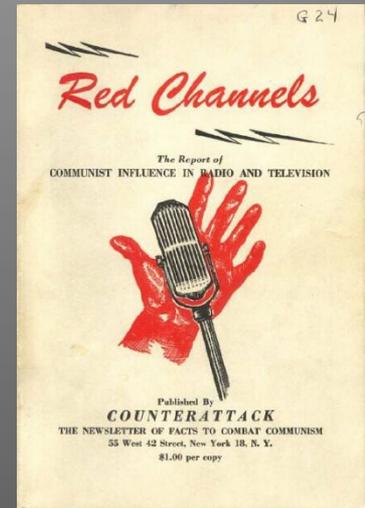
A 1947 comic book published by the Catechetical Guild Educational Society warning of the supposed dangers of a Communist takeover.

Blacklist

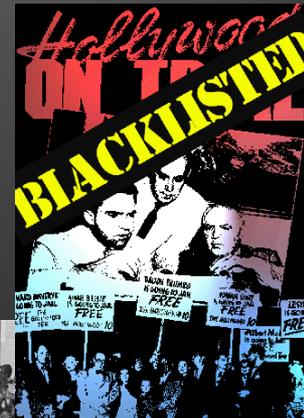
- ▶ A *blacklist* = list or register of people who, for one reason or another, are being denied a particular privilege, service, work in a particular field, mobility, access or recognition.

- ▶ HUAC

- Held numerous public hearings
- Investigated the Communist influence on the motion picture industry
- Created a “list” of those thought to be tied to communism



Red Channels, a 1950 publication claiming to document "Communist influence in radio and television"



Victims of McCarthyism

A few of the more famous people who were blacklisted or suffered some other persecution during McCarthyism are listed here:

- ▶ [Leonard Bernstein](#), composer and conductor^[48]
- ▶ [Charlie Chaplin](#), actor^[48]
- ▶ [Aaron Copland](#), composer^[48]
- ▶ [Bartley Crum](#), attorney^[49]
- ▶ [Jules Dassin](#), director^[48]
- ▶ [W.E.B. DuBois](#), civil rights activist and author^[50]
- ▶ [Howard Fast](#), author^[51]
- ▶ [Lee Grant](#), actress^[48]
- ▶ [Dashiell Hammett](#), author^[48]
- ▶ [Lillian Hellman](#), playwright^[48]
- ▶ [John Hubley](#), animator^[48]
- ▶ [Langston Hughes](#), author^[52]
- ▶ [Sam Jaffe](#), actor^[48]
- ▶ [Gypsy Rose Lee](#), actress^[53]
- ▶ [Philip Loeb](#), actor^[54]
- ▶ [Joseph Losey](#), director^[48]
- ▶ [Burgess Meredith](#), actor^[53]
- ▶ [Arthur Miller](#), playwright and essayist^[53]
- ▶ [Zero Mostel](#), actor^[48]
- ▶ [Clifford Odets](#), author^[48]
- ▶ [J. Robert Oppenheimer](#), physicist, "father of the atomic bomb"^[55]
- ▶ [Linus Pauling](#), chemist^[56]
- ▶ [Paul Robeson](#), actor, athlete, singer, author, political and civil rights activist^[57]
- ▶ [Edward G. Robinson](#), actor^[53]
- ▶ [Waldo Salt](#), author^[48]
- ▶ [Pete Seeger](#), folk singer^[52]
- ▶ [Artie Shaw](#), jazz musician^[52]
- ▶ [Howard Da Silva](#), actor^[48]
- ▶ [Paul Sweezy](#), economist and founder-editor of [Monthly Review](#)^[58]
- ▶ [Tsien Hsue-shen](#), physicist^[59]
- ▶ [Orson Welles](#), actor, author and director^[53]

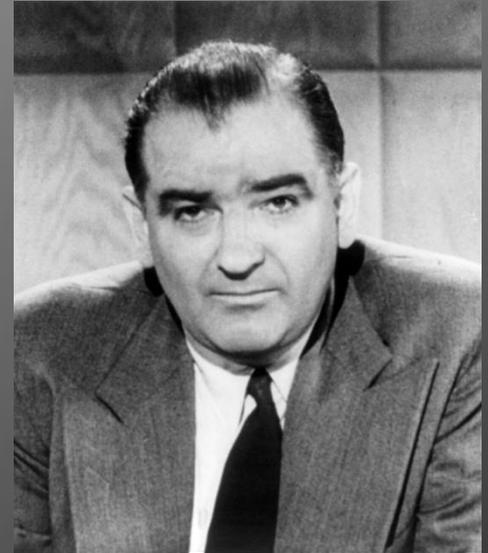
Alger Hiss

- ▶ Alger Hiss, former State Dept. diplomat, accused of disloyalty by Whittaker Chambers, a confessed Soviet spy.
 - Hiss sued Chambers for libel, but was convicted of perjury in 1950
 - Democrats, many of whom supported Hiss, were seen as soft on communism

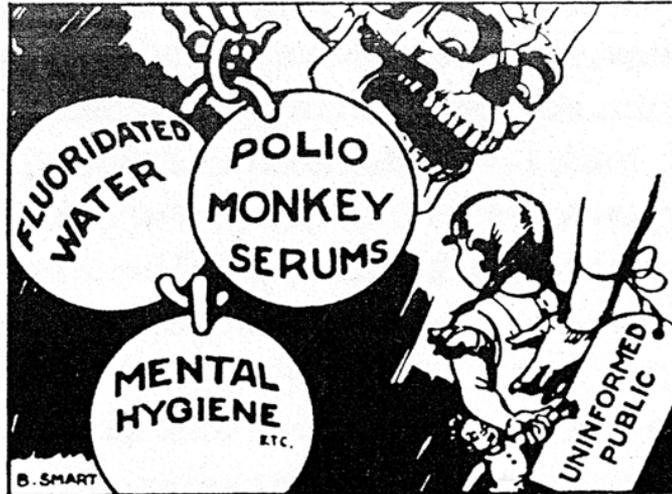


McCarthy & McCarthyism

- ▶ Sen. Joseph McCarthy –
 - Spoke out against communist influence in the government
 - February 1950 said that the State Dept. was riddled with communists
- ▶ McCarran *Internal Security Act (1950)* required communist and "communist-front" organizations to register with the Justice Dept.
 - Truman vetoed the bill as "a long step toward totalitarianism" but it was passed over his veto.



At the Sign of THE UNHOLY THREE



Are you willing to PUT IN PAWN to the UNHOLY THREE all of the material, mental and spiritual resources of this GREAT REPUBLIC?

FLUORIDATED WATER

1—Water containing Fluorine (rat poison—no antidote) is already the only water in many of our army camps, making it very easy for saboteurs to wipe out an entire camp personnel. If this happens, every citizen will be at the mercy of the enemy—already within our gates.

POLIO SERUM

2—Polio Serum, it is reported, has already killed and maimed children; its future effect on minds and bodies cannot be gauged. This vaccine drive is the entering wedge for nation-wide socialized medicine, by the U. S. Public Health Service, (heavily infiltrated by Russian-born doctors, according to Congressman Clare Hoffman.) In enemy hands it can destroy a whole generation.

MENTAL HYGIENE

3—Mental Hygiene is a subtle and diabolical plan of the enemy to transform a free and intelligent people into a cringing horde of zombies.

Rabbi Spitz in the American Hebrew, March 1, 1946: "American Jews must come to grips with our contemporary anti-Semites; we must fill our insane asylums with anti-Semitic lunatics."

FIGHT COMMUNISTIC WORLD GOVERNMENT by destroying **THE UNHOLY THREE !!!** It is later than you think!

KEEP AMERICA COMMITTEE
Box 3094, Los Angeles 54, Calif. H. W. Courtols, Secy. May 16, 1955

Flier issued in May 1955 by the Keep America Committee urging readers to "fight communistic world government" by opposing public health programs

The Rosenberg's

- ▶ Ethel and Julius Rosenberg arrested, tried, and executed in 1951 for providing atomic secrets





1950s School bomb drill