15.4

Cold War Fears at Home



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- Describe the efforts of President Truman and the House Un-American Activities Committee to fight communism at home.
- Explain how domestic spy cases intensified fears of communist influence in the U.S. government.
- Analyze the rise and fall of Senator Joseph McCarthy and the methods of McCarthyism.

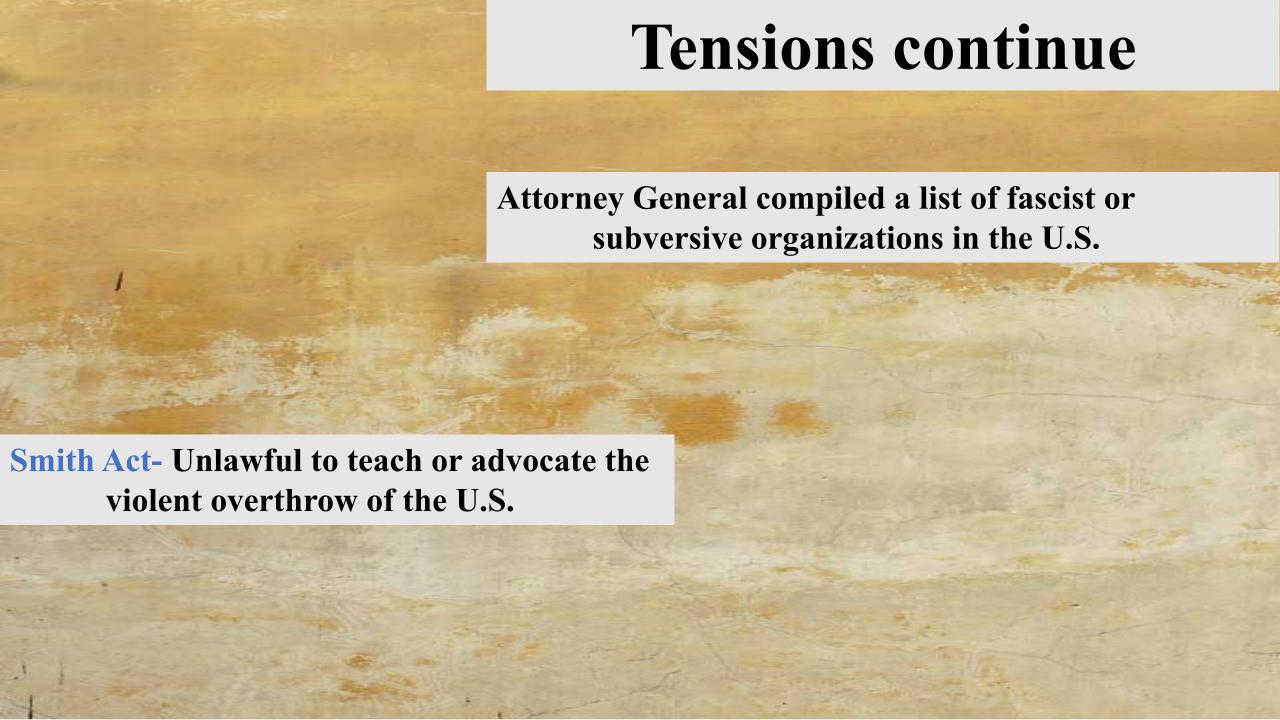
Cold War Tensions Rise at Home

The Cold War began to infiltrate life at home & the Soviet Union, encompassing everything

Red Scare- Fear that communists inside & outside U.S. were trying to destroy the country

People began to fear that some U.S. officials were disloyal to the country & worked for the "Reds"

Federal Employee Loyalty Program- Government security agencies had to screen employees for disloyalty



HUAC!!!

House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) was created to investigate subversive activities of the general public

Hollywood Ten- Group of Hollywood producers, writers, & directors who refused to answer questions over communism

They were sent to prison & movie executives created the Blacklist- list of entertainment figures who shouldn't be hired due to communist ties

Watkins V. United States- Witness could not be forced to name radicals

Social commentary was erased from films & movies only focused on entertainment to avoid controversy

Increased Fears

People were arrested or lost jobs for just associations with people thought to be communist

Alger Hiss was a government servant, but Whittaker Chambers claimed he worked with communists espionage agencies

He denied the charges, but Richard Nixon pressed the case proving he did have communist ties

He was found guilty of perjury & spent 5 years in jail raising concerns for the nation

Rosenberg Trials

Julius & Ethel Rosenberg were a poor couple in Manhattan arrested for conspiracy

Charged with conspiring to pass secret information about nuclear science to USSR

They continued to claim innocence but were found guilty & electrocuted in 1953

Venona Papers- Released in 1995, confirmed the names of people convicted of communism

McCarthyism

Joseph R. McCarthy- Senator who charged the State Department was infested with communist agents

Claimed he had a list of people, but could never produce the names on the list

McCarthyism- Extreme, reckless charges of communism

McCarthy became the chairman of an investigation committee, ruining peoples reputations by giving lies

McCarthy loses support

Senators began to fear the support of McCarthy as he laid claims after claims

Claims against the army began to be televised & the public turned on McCarthy

The Senate eventually censures him & removes him from all committees