

# 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



# Tensions continue

**Attorney General compiled a list of fascist or subversive organizations in the U.S.**

**Smith Act-** Unlawful to teach or advocate the violent overthrow of the U.S.

# 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**