

# Good Morning (or Afternoon)!

- Please grab your binder and open up your Cold War Review from Lecture # 2 when the bell rings.
- **Bell Ringer: Make sure you have answered Short Answer #7, #9 and #10 from your Cold War Review.**
  7. Explain the Truman-MacArthur controversy.
  9. Why was the Korean War a major turning point in the Cold War?
  10. The 38<sup>th</sup> parallel has been called “the most dangerous place on Earth.” Why do people use this description?

# The Cold War

*Lecture 3: The Cold War & Society*

# A New Red Scare

- During the Cold War, rumors and accusations spawned fears that Communists were trying to take over the world.
- In 1945, a clerk for the Soviet Embassy exposed that the Soviets had been making an effort to infiltrate government agencies in Canada and the United States, with the specific goal of obtaining information about the atomic bomb.
- This implied that spies had infiltrated the American government – creating a new Red Scare.
- Soon, the search for spies escalated into a general feat of Communist **subversion** (a systematic attempt to overthrow a government by using persons working secretly within).

# The Truman Loyalty Review Program

- In early 1947, President Truman established a **loyalty review program** – a policy established that authorized the screening of all federal employees to determine their loyalty to the U.S. government.
  - The committee looked for evidence of “un-American activities” like being in the Communist Party.
  - A person might become a suspect for reading certain books, belonging to various groups, traveling overseas, or seeing certain foreign films.
  - Between 1947 and 1951:
    - Over 6 million federal employees were screened
    - 2,000 quit their jobs and 212 were fired for “questionable loyalty”
- This seemed to confirm suspicions that Communists had infiltrated the government and added to fears that communism was sweeping the nation.

# H.U.A.C.

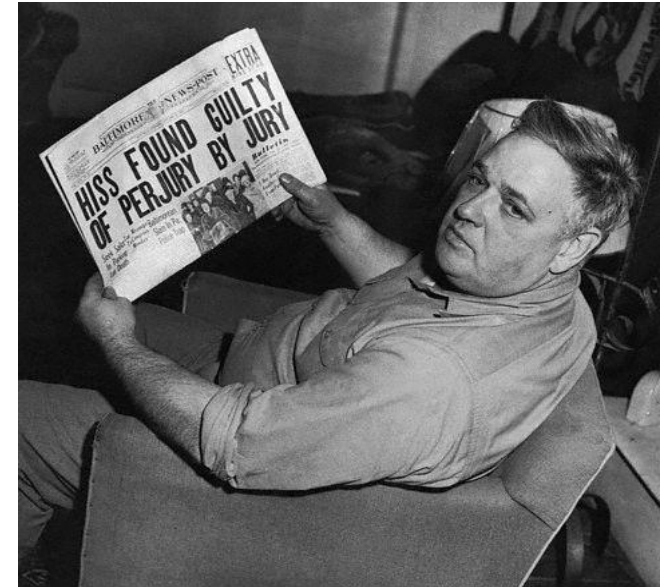
- Congress decided to conduct its own loyalty checks through its special **House Un-American Activities Committee**.
  - This committee questioned actors, directors, writers and others about their possible Communist sympathies.
- Those identified as present or former members of the Communist Party were frequently “blacklisted” and lost their jobs.



# Alger Hiss

- **Alger Hiss**

- Alger Hiss was a diplomat who served under President Roosevelt, attended the Yalta Conference and helped organize the United Nations.
- In 1948, a magazine editor told the HUAC that several government officials were also former Communists or spies, including Alger Hiss.
- The editor claimed that Hiss had given him secret government documents – which Hiss denied.
- Ultimately, the papers were produced, and Hiss was convicted of **perjury** (*lying under oath*).



# The Rosenbergs

- In 1950, **Julius and Ethel Rosenberg** were charged with selling national secrets to the Soviet Union about making the atomic bomb.
- The Rosenbergs were found guilty and executed for spying.
- Like the Sacco and Vanzetti case in the 1920s, many Americans doubted the Rosenbergs' guilt.
- However, in 1997, the National Security Agency released the **Venona Papers**.
  - This was a secret effort by the U.S. to gather and decode messages sent in the 1940s by Soviet military intelligence agents.
  - The Venona Papers revealed the identities of several Americans who had spied for the Soviet Union, including Julius Rosenberg.
  - It showed that some Soviet agents had in fact penetrated the American government, science and industry in the Cold War.

# McCarthyism

- The fall of China increased fears of internal subversion.
- In 1950, **Senator Joseph McCarthy** of Wisconsin took advantage of these fears to gain influence, and shocked Americans by claiming that he knew the names of hundreds of Communists who had infiltrated the U.S. State Department and other government agencies.
- Like the Red Scare of the 1920s, McCarthy's allegations created fears of a Communist conspiracy.
- After three years of hearings, McCarthy never provided any real proof for his charges.
- He was **censured** (*formally criticized*) by the Senate.
- Although he never proved any of his claims, his witch-hunt frightened many Americans, and the anxiety about communism made many Americans willing to accept his claims.
- The term **McCarthyism** has become identified with making harsh accusations without evidence.





# The McCarran Act

- In 1950, with Senator McCarthy and others arousing fears of Communist spies, Congress passed the **Internal Security Act**, also called the **McCarren Act**.
  - This act made it illegal to attempt to establish a totalitarian government in the United States, and required all Communist-related organizations to publish their records and register with the U.S. attorney general.
  - Communists could not have passports, and, in cases of a national emergency, could be arrested and detained.



# Popular Culture in the Cold War

- The Red Scare and the spread of nuclear weapons had a profound impact on American life in the 1950s.
  - Americans were shocked when the Soviets successfully tested the more powerful hydrogen bomb (H-bomb) in 1953.
  - Americans prepared for a surprise attack – schools created bomb shelters and held bomb drills, and some families built backyard shelters.
- As worries about nuclear war and Communist infiltration filled the public imagination, Cold War themes soon appeared in films, plays, television, the titles of dance tunes and popular fiction.

