

IS THIS
TOMORROW

McCarthyism and the Red Scare in the USA

**History of anti-communism in the
USA**

AMERICA UNDER COMMUNISM!

Introduction

In 1945, the world was in peace but this was not long-lasting because the Cold War quickly started opposing the USA and the USSR in a terrible war by proxy.

A new strong wave of anti-communism re-appeared quickly in the USA under a man : senator Josef Mac Carthy: it was nicknamed McCarthyism.

What was it about? What impact did it have on the USA and the after-war world?

First, let's study the reasons behind this strong anticomunist feeling.

Then, let's see how Mac Carthy organized his "witch hunt"

To finish, let's focus on the consequences.

I/ Roots of anti-communism

A/ Anti-communism BEFORE WWII

1919, creation of the American communist party:
people feared a communist plot.

Immigrants, anarchists, so-called communists were discriminated against: Ex: **SACCO and VANZETTI.**



Between 1919 and 1920, Attorney General (head of the department of justice) **ALAN MITCHELL PALMER** launched his « ***Palmer Raids*** » and deported many « radicals » either to the USRR or back to their homeland. Some American citizens were even jailed !

The House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) was created in 1938 to investigate the ones suspected of having Communist ties: it lasted until **1963**.

B/ Post-war anti-communism

-1945: Stalin the Soviet leader became a powerful man who quickly tightened his grip on Eastern Europe

By 1948, all Eastern European countries were under communism



Harry Truman, the president who took over from roosevelt when he died in 1945, feared the communists

So, he set up a ***LOYALTY REVIEW BOARD*** to investigate people working for the government:

from 1947 to 1953, 6 million Americans were investigated and around 500 were sacked because of suspicion.

B/ Post-war anti-communism

-in 1948 broke out **the Elizabeth Bentley case:**

She was an American spy for the USSR from 1938 to 1945.

Then she defected the Communists and publicly confessed in a series of interviews with the FBI in 1945.

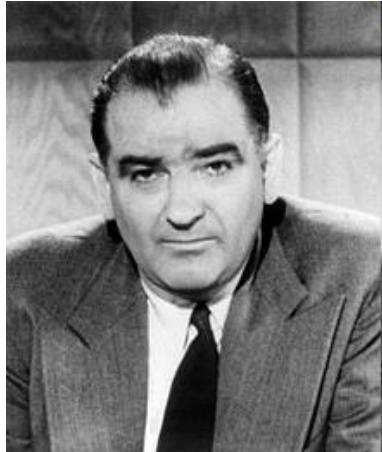
Bentley implicated close to 150 people in spying for the Soviet Union, including 37 federal employees.



**She was not tried and after her defection
she earned her life as a teacher.**

She died in 1963.

In 1950 anti-communism reached a climax with a man: Josef Mac Carthy



II/ Joseph Mac Carthy

A/ His path to fame

-Senator (of Wisconsin) Josef Mac Carthy was a right wing republican and became famous in 1950 when he delivered a speech to the Republican Women's Club of Wheeling in West Virginia.



He was backed by FBI director(1935-1972) J. Edgar Hoover was one of the nation's most fervent anti-communists, and one of the most powerful

It led to an increase of the number of agents in the Bureau from 3,559 in 1946 to 7,029 in 1952.



Five years after a world war has been won, men's hearts should anticipate a long peace, and men's minds should be free from the heavy weight that comes with war. But this is not such a period, for this is not a period of peace. This is a time of the " ;cold war." This is a time when all the world is split into two vast, increasingly hostile armed camps, a time of a great armaments race....

Today,(...) there are 800,000,000 people under the absolute domination of Soviet Russia. On our side, the figure has shrunk to around 500,000,000.

The reason why we find ourselves in a position of impotency is not because our only powerful potential enemy has sent men to invade our shores, but rather because of the traitorous actions of those who have been treated so well by this Nation. It has not been the less fortunate or members of minority groups who have been selling this Nation out, but rather those who have had all the benefits that the wealthiest nation on earth has had to offer the finest homes, the finest college education, and the finest jobs in Government we can- give.

This is glaringly true in the State Department. There the bright young men who are born with silver spoons in their mouths are the ones who have been the worst.... In my opinion the State Department, which. is one of the most important government departments, is thoroughly infested with Communists.

I have in my hand 57 cases of individuals who would appear to be either card carrying members or certainly loyal to the Communist Party, but who nevertheless are still helping to shape our foreign policy (...)

It is the result of an emotional hang-over and a temporary moral lapse which follows every war. It is the apathy to evil which people who have been subjected to the tremendous evils of war feel. As the people of the world see mass murder, the destruction of defenseless and innocent people, and all of the crime and lack of morals which go with war, they become numb and apathetic. It has always been thus after war.

However, the morals of our people have not been destroyed. They still exist. This cloak of numbness and apathy has only needed a spark to rekindle them. Happily, this spark has finally been supplied (...)

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B/ Maccarthysm:

The phrase was born from an American cartoonist Herbert Block known as Herblock who worked for the Washington Post.

He was the first to use this term in one of his cartoon in March 1950

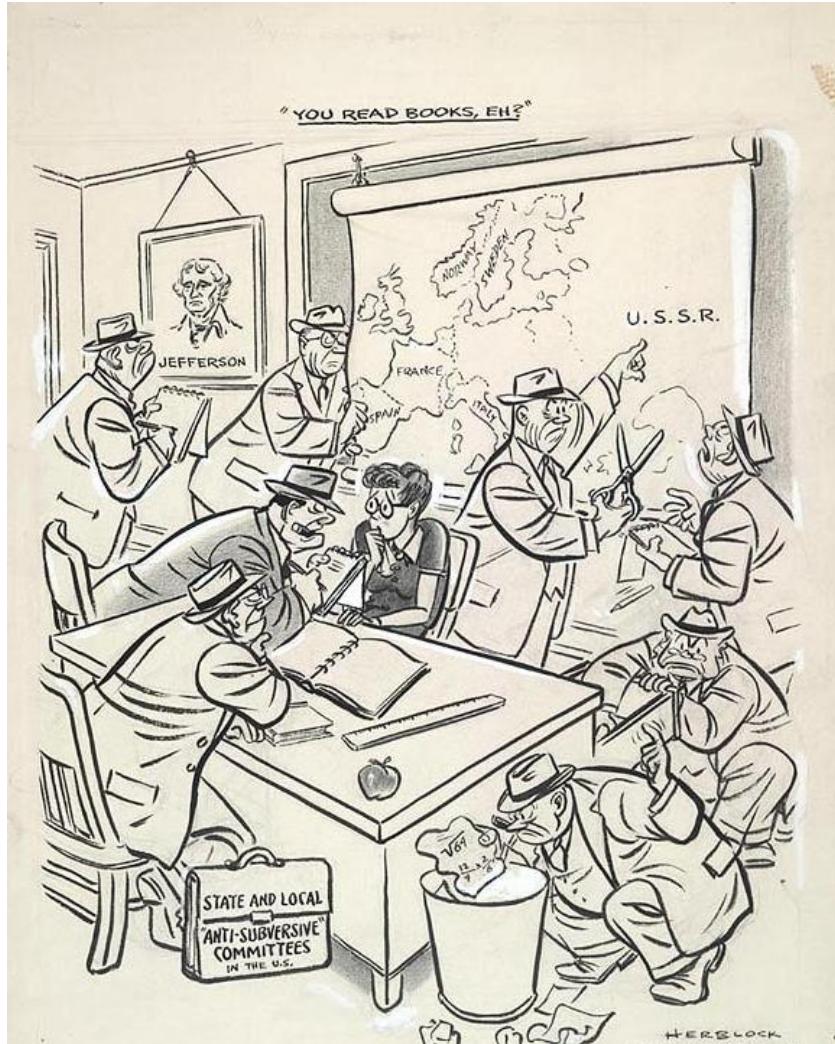


We can see four leading Republicans trying to push an elephant (the traditional symbol of the republican party) to stand on a stack of ten tar buckets

Tar was used on the ones who were seen as threats or traitors

The pile of buckets is not stable so it shows this movement could weaken the party

Maccarthysm led to a huge wave of anti-communism known as **the « witch hunt »**, which inspired other famous cartoons by Herblock, such as in 1950 :



Lots of trials were organized, sometimes **only based on suspicions**

People were sometimes tortured to confess some so-called spying.

This was not legal and was actually going against the 5th Amendment of the constitution:

« No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation »

"Nul ne sera tenu de répondre d'un crime capital ou infamant sans un acte de mise en accusation, spontané ou provoqué, d'un Grand Jury, sauf en cas de crimes commis pendant que l'accusé servait dans les forces terrestres ou navales, ou dans la milice, en temps de guerre ou de danger public ; nul ne pourra pour le même délit être deux fois menacé dans sa vie ou dans son corps ; nul ne pourra, dans une affaire criminelle, être obligé de témoigner contre lui-même, ni être privé de sa vie, de sa liberté ou de ses biens sans procédure légale régulière ; nulle propriété privée ne pourra être réquisitionnée dans l'intérêt public sans une juste indemnité."

The ones who asked for this amendment to be respected were considered **as guilty as "fifth amendment communists"**.

They lost jobs or positions and suffered repercussions after "taking the fifth."

Mac Carthy's view, led the Congress to pass the MAC CARRAN ACT in 1953: organisations suspected of being communist had to supply lists of members.

The Congress passed that act in spite of Truman's veto.

It was going against the American constitution which praised freedom of opinion and thoughts.

But when Mac Carthy's speeches were televised, people were shocked at the brutal way Mac Carthy to bang the table with rage while accusing witnesses.

Mac Carthy even accused Eisenhower of being communist that's why he was distrusted in 1954.

But he remained senator of Wisconsin until his death in 1957.

III/ Who were the victims of anti communism?

A/ The Hollywood blacklist

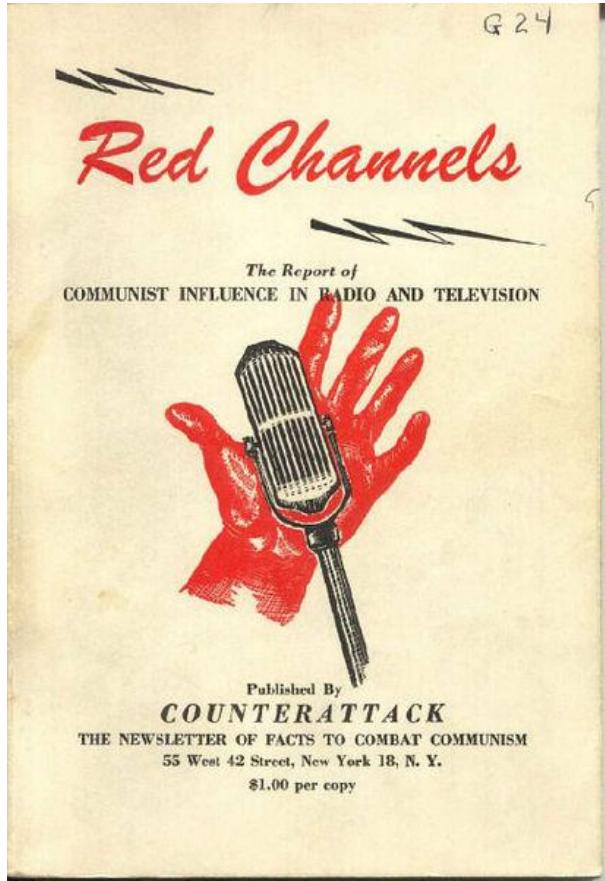
In 1947, the HUAC (house of un-American Activities Committee) organized some conferences about communist propaganda and influence in the Hollywood motion picture industry.

At first, ten writers and screen players were « blacklisted » : there were nicknamed **« the Hollywood ten »** and had to go to prison up to one year

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=taancRcLQ8o>



Then, the list grew bigger and became known **as the « black list »** after the publication of a book: **« red Channels »**



Eventually, more than 300 artists—including directors, radio commentators, actors and particularly screenwriters—were boycotted by the studios.

Among them: Charlie Chaplin, WEB du Bois, Jules Dassin, Arthur Miller, Orson Welles (Citizen Kane) and many others...

B/ Alger Hiss

Alger was an American lawyer who was involved in the establishment of the UNO in 1945.

Hiss was accused of being a Soviet spy in 1948. he was sent to jail for ten years but was released after 44 months.

He was dismissed from the bar and had top work as a salesman until he was finally readmitted to the bar in 1975 !



C/ The Rosenbergs

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were two American communists who were executed on the electric chair in 1953 because they were Soviet spies.

They were accused of passing secrets about the A bomb to the Soviets

It was the first execution of civilians for espionage in United States history



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-6BfCbrvuM>

CONCLUSION

Anti communism existed as early as the early 20's in the USA, as soon as the American communist party was created in 1919.

But it became very violent in the 1950's during the Cold war.

Mac Carthy's personality played a big part in the « witch hunt » but the general background really helped as well.

After Mac Carthy's dismissal in 1954, anti-communism remained in the USA because of the Cold war and the tensions between the « East » and the « West ».

Anti communism really disappeared when the USSR collapsed in 1991...



PA

28/8/5

"WE NOW HAVE NEW AND IMPORTANT EVIDENCE"



May 8, 1950
Herblock
Washington Post

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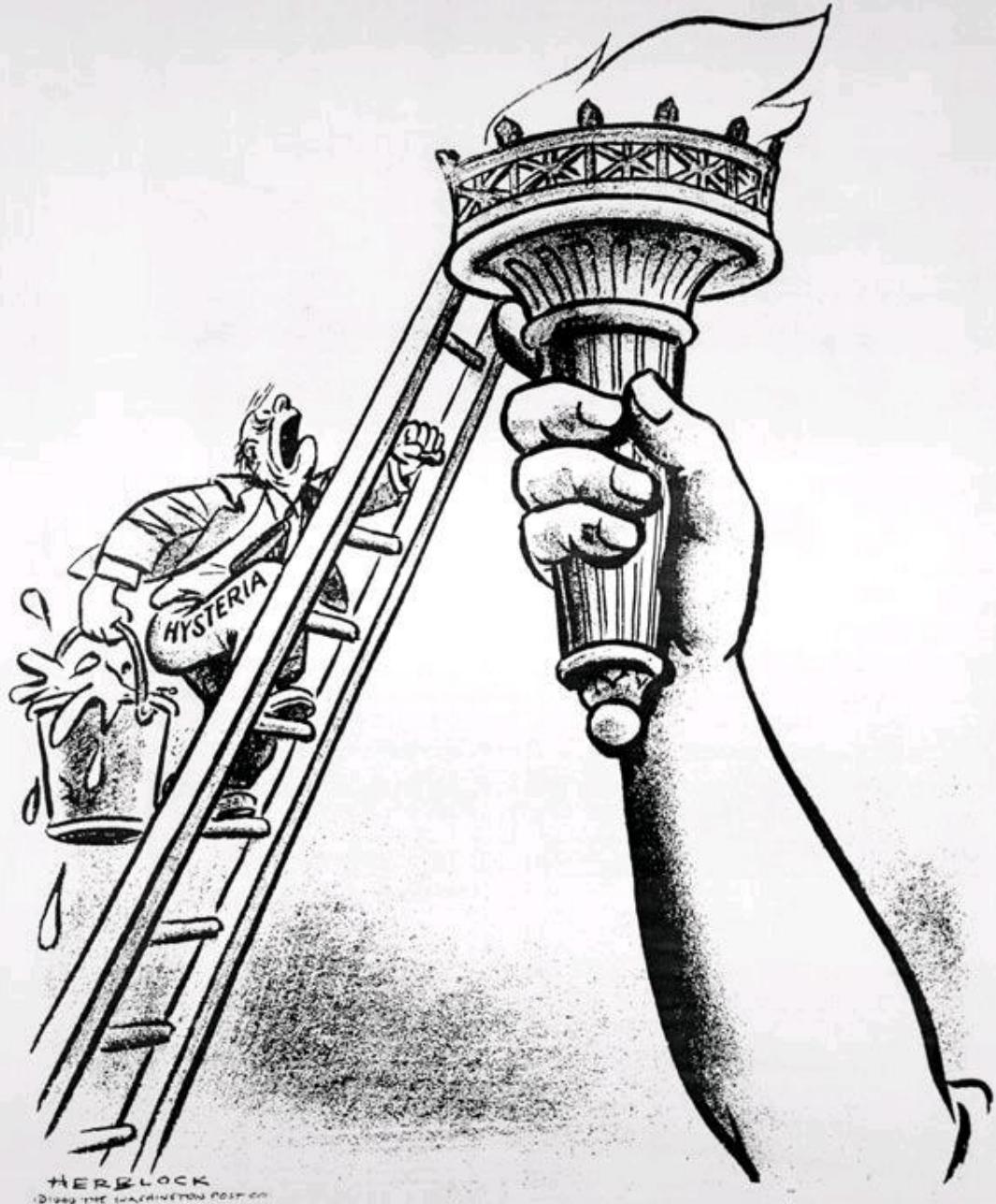
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250 H

Saturday double mailing
& Monday daily

#40260 3 col + 2 col May 9

"FIRE!"



June 17, 1949
Herb Block
Washington Post