

MACCARTHYISM AND ANTI COMMUNISM IN THE USA

What needs to be remembered

A war by proxy.

A new strong wave of anti-communism **McCarthyism**.

I/ Roots of anti-communism

A/ Anti-communism BEFORE WWII

1919, creation of the American communist party:

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 » to **track communists down**

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

Harry Truman set up a LOYALTY REVIEW BOARD to investigate people working for the government

B/ Post-war anti-communism

1945: Stalin the Soviet leader **tightened his grip on** Eastern Europe

-in 1948 Elizabeth Bentley: She was an American spy for the USSR from 1938 to 1945.

When she **defected** the Communists she **confessed** she was a spy **in a series** of interviews with the FBI in 1945.

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 claimed** the state department was infested with communists

He **was backed by** FBI director(1935-1972) J. Edgar Hoover

B/ Maccarthysm:

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

It led to a huge wave of anti-communism known as **the “ witch hunt “**

III/ Who were the victims of anti communism?

A/ The Hollywood blacklist

At first, ten writers and screen players **were « blacklisted »** : there were nicknamed « the Hollywood ten » and had to go to prison .Then, the list grew bigger and became known as the **« black list »** (ex:Charlie Chaplin,WEB du Bois)

B/ Alger Hiss

Alger was an American lawyer who was accused **of being** a Soviet spy in 1948
He **served a prison sentence** and was **dismissed** from the bar

C/ The Rosenbergs

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were two American scientists who were sentenced to death on the electric chair in 1953 because they were Soviet spies.

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

CONCLUSION

Anti communism started in 1919 with the creation of the CP

But it became very violent in the 1950's during the Cold war under Senator Jopseph Mac Carthy. He **launched** the " Witch hunt"