

# A History of Discrimination against Socialists and Communists in the United States

## Key Words

Demonize  
Defame  
Communism  
Socialism  
Paranoia

Discrimination  
Altruism  
Profit-motive  
Capitalism  
Witch-hunt

Propaganda  
Red Scare  
McCarthyism  
House UnAmerican  
Activities

## Introduction to the Communist Revolution

<https://therealnews.com/stories/empirefiles1107revolution>

## The Capitalists' Loyalty Program

According to Wikipedia, “[U.S. President] Truman established the [Temporary Commission on Employee Loyalty](#) in November 1946 to create employee loyalty standards designed to weed out communist sympathizers from the federal workforce.<sup>[233]</sup> In March 1947, Truman issued [Executive Order 9835](#), which ordered purges of left-wingers who refused to disavow communism. It removed about 300 federal employees who currently were members of or associated with any organization identified by the Attorney General as communist, fascist, or totalitarian. Anti-communist liberals by 1947–48 thus played a central role in the Democratic Party, and enthusiastically supported Truman's anti-communist foreign policy.<sup>[234][235]</sup>”

According to the paper *The Second Red Scare, Digital History, Post-War America 1945-1960* from the University of Houston, the Loyalty Program investigated over 3 million federal employees, 308 of whom were fired after being declared security risks.

USHistory.org

Paranoia about Communists and Socialists was rampant in America.

<https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/red-scare>

## 53a. McCarthyism



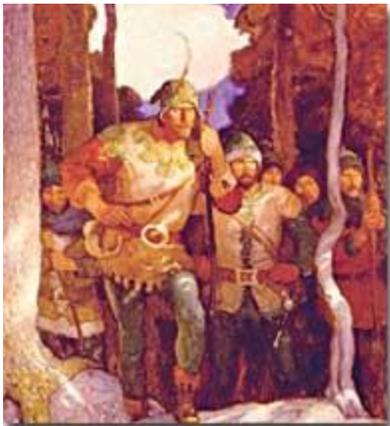
"Our job as Americans and as Republicans is to dislodge the traitors from every place where they've been sent to do their traitorous work." -Joseph McCarthy, speech before the Republican National Convention (1952)

"Are you now, or have you ever been, a member of the Communist party?"

In the 1950s, thousands of Americans who toiled in the government, served in the army, worked in the movie industry, or came from various walks of life had to answer that question before a congressional panel.

**SENATOR JOSEPH MCCARTHY** rose to national prominence by initiating a probe to ferret out communists holding prominent positions. During his investigations, safeguards promised by the Constitution were trampled.

Why were so many held in thrall to the Wisconsin lawmaker? Why was an environment that some likened to the **SALEM WITCH TRIALS** tolerated?



Fears that children would be corrupted by the "communist" practices depicted in *Robin Hood* led many schools and libraries to ban the classic tale about taking from the rich to give to the poor.

### The Atomic Era

In 1947, President Truman had ordered background checks of every civilian in service to the government. When Alger Hiss, a high-ranking State Department official was convicted on espionage charges, fear of communists intensified.

Senator McCarthy capitalized on national paranoia by proclaiming that **COMMUNIST SPIES** were omnipresent and that he was America's only salvation.

An atmosphere of fear of world domination by communists hung over America in the postwar years. There were fears of a nuclear holocaust based on the knowledge that the Soviet Union exploded its first A-bomb in 1949. That same year, China, the world's most populous nation, became communist. Half of Europe was under Joseph Stalin's influence, and every time Americans read their newspapers there seemed to be a new atomic threat.

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People such as **ROBERT TAFT** and Richard Nixon, saw McCarthy as an asset. The public rewarded the witch-hunters by sending red-baiters (communist accusers) before the Senate and the House in 1950.

## "Tail Gunner Joe" Shot Down

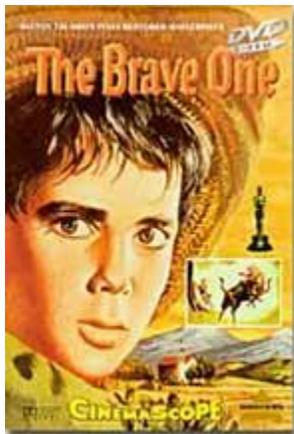
When Dwight Eisenhower became president, he had no love for McCarthy. Ike was reluctant to condemn McCarthy for fear of splitting the Republican Party. McCarthy's accusations went on into 1954, when the Wisconsin senator focused on the United States Army. For eight weeks, in televised hearings, McCarthy interrogated army officials, including many decorated war heroes.

But this was his tragic mistake. Television illustrated the mean-spiritedness of McCarthy's campaign. The army then went on the attack, questioning McCarthy's methods and credibility. In one memorable fusillade, the Council for the Army simply asked McCarthy, "At long last, have you no sense of decency left?"

Poll after poll showed the American people thought McCarthy unscrupulous in his attack of the army.

Fed up, McCarthy's colleagues censured him for dishonoring the Senate, and the hearings came to a close. Plagued with poor health and alcoholism, McCarthy himself died three years later.

## Blacklisting



After being blacklisted, Dalton Trumbo, screenwriter and member of the Hollywood Ten, was forced to use false names to continue writing. In 1956, he won an Oscar for *The Brave One* under the name Robert Rich. It wasn't until 1960 that he could use his real name in Hollywood again.

McCarthy was not the only individual to seek out potential communists.

The **HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES** (HUAC) targeted the Hollywood film industry. Actors, writers, and producers alike were summoned to appear before the committee and provide names of colleagues who may have been members of the Communist Party.

Those who repented and named names of suspected communists were allowed to return to business as usual. Those who refused to address the committee were cited for contempt. Uncooperative artists were blacklisted from jobs in the entertainment industry. Years passed until many had their reputations restored.

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Although the Soviet spy ring did penetrate the highest levels of the American government, the vast majority of the accused were innocent victims [*note: everyone was innocent. Communism is not criminal and it is not precluded by the U.S. Constitution*]. All across America, state legislatures and school boards mimicked McCarthy and HUAC. [*Tens or hundreds of*] Thousands of people lost their jobs and had their reputations tarnished.

## Other Witch-Hunt Victims

Unions were special target of communist hunters. Sensing an unfavorable environment, the AFL (**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR**) and the CIO (**CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS**) merged in 1955 to close ranks. Books were pulled from library shelves, including *Robin Hood*, which was deemed communist-like for suggesting stealing from the rich to give to the poor.

No politician could consider opening trade with China or withdrawing from Southeast Asia without being branded a communist. Although McCarthyism was dead by the mid-1950s, its effects lasted for decades.

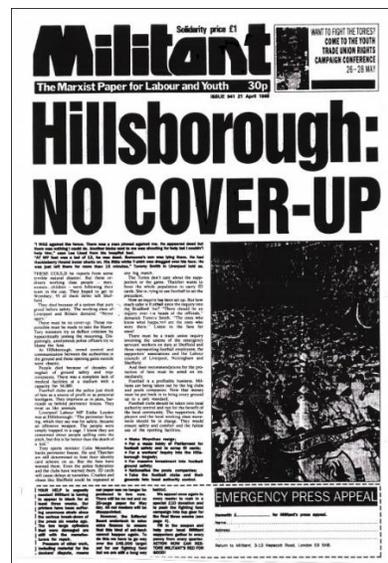
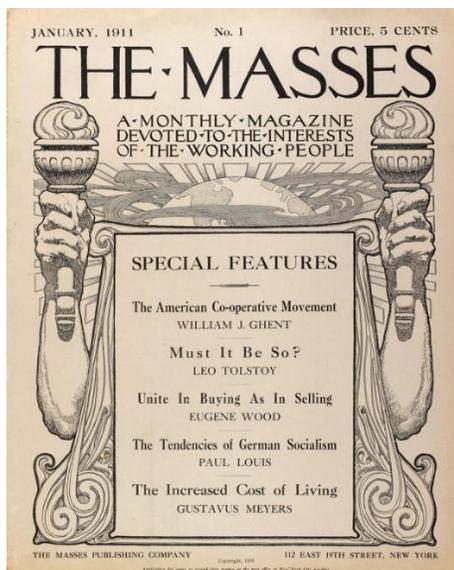
Above all, several messages became crystal clear to the average American: Don't criticize the United States. Don't be different. Just conform.

## Origins of Anti-Socialist-communist Persecution

The persecution of socialists and communists began shortly after WWI, that is, shortly after the creation of the first communist nation, the USSR. As interest in socialism and communism spread, capitalist elites worked frantically to censor and suppress socialist and communist speakers and papers.

## The History of Diversity and Socialism

The images below are of a socialist and a communist (Marxist) newspaper. They no longer exist, nor do the many (see the 3 slides below) other socialist and communist papers that once existed. If you want to know the difference between 'MSM' media and socialist-communist media, compare how a modern social issue is covered at [www.wsws.org/](http://www.wsws.org/) (World Socialist Web Site) and [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com) (a MSM, pro-capitalist news outlet).





## *America's Unofficial Religion — The War on an Idea*

Socialism and communism: A history of censorship in the U.S.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hznlp-DwgSw>

## TODAY

Now we think the persecution is finished, and mostly it is, but it is mostly finished because any meaningful and intelligent discussion of socialism and communism has been crushed. Now people's understanding of these alternative economic and political systems is so crude and wrong that many westerners have reduced their complexity to two negative ideas, dictatorship and conformity.

## What did the world's leading communist government do with other nations?

### Military Aid

The Soviet Union was founded on the Marxist revolutionary ideal that the working classes of the world would rise up to overthrow those who controlled the wealth in their countries. In keeping with this ideal, the USSR gave military aid to several countries' communist uprisings. This was usually in the form of weapons or military advisors rather than direct military intervention. The USSR aided the successful communist revolutions in China, Cuba and Vietnam. It also gave military aid -- generally through its allied countries -- to communist uprisings in Yugoslavia, Albania, Korea and several Latin American and African countries.

### Economic Aid

In addition to military aid, the USSR -- again, usually through its satellite countries -- gave economic aid to countries that were heading toward communism. In some cases, this came in the form of favorable trade arrangements. In other cases, aid came in the form of providing economic advisors to help developing countries transition to socialist economic systems. Many of the people in third-world countries felt exploited by European and American colonialism.

They viewed the Soviet offer of economic and military aid as an opportunity to liberate their countries from foreign influence and to provide a more equitable life for their poor and working-class people.

## References

[Rational Revolution: Communism on the World Stage](#)  
[Sam Houston State University: The Warsaw Pact](#)

## About the Author

Dell Markey is a full-time journalist. When he isn't writing business spotlights for local community papers, he writes and has owned and operated a small business.

# What did the Soviet Union do to promote peace?

## The World Peace Council[Wikipedia]

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Further information: [World Peace Council](#)

The World Peace Council (WPC) was set up by the [Soviet Communist Party](#) in 1948–50 to promote Soviet foreign policy and to campaign against nuclear weapons at a time when only the USA had them. The WPC was directed by the International Department of the Soviet Communist Party via the [Soviet Peace Committee](#),<sup>[1]</sup> a WPC member. The WPC and its members took the line laid down by the [Cominform](#) that the world was divided between the peace-loving Soviet Union and the warmongering United States. From the 1950s until the late 1980s the Soviet Union used numerous organizations associated with the WPC to spread its view of peace. They included:

- [Christian Peace Conference](#)<sup>[2][3]</sup>
- International Federation of Resistance Fighters<sup>[4]</sup>
- International Institute for Peace<sup>[2][3]</sup>
- International Organization of Democratic Lawyers<sup>[4]</sup>
- [International Organization of Journalists](#)<sup>[4]</sup>
- [International Union of Students](#)<sup>[4]</sup>
- [World Federation of Democratic Youth](#)<sup>[4]</sup>
- World Federation of Scientific Workers<sup>[4]</sup>
- [World Federation of Trade Unions](#)<sup>[4]</sup>
- Women's International Democratic Federation<sup>[4]</sup>
- [World Peace Esperanto Movement](#).<sup>[2][3]</sup>

In October 1981, the Danish authorities expelled Vladimir Merkulov, a Soviet Embassy second secretary and KGB operative, whom they charged with passing money to Arne Herløv Petersen, a member of the WPC's Danish affiliate, the Copenhagen-based Liaison Committee for Peace and Security, to finance a newspaper campaign calling for the establishment of a Nordic nuclear weapons-free zone.<sup>[5]</sup>

