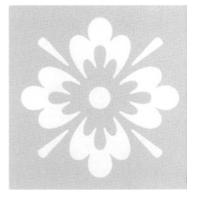
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An Actual Communist Threat?: Did the Communist Party of
the United States of America (CPUSA) threaten national
security after World War II? 1
Yes. The CPUSA was part of a Soviet effort to achieve
worldwide domination. (C. Dale Walton)
No. American Communists had little influence in the postwar
period and had no plans to overthrow the U.S. government.
(Ronald D. Cohen)
African American Politics: Did the Cold War and the Red
Scare cause a major shift in African American political
thought?
Yes. With the onset of the Cold War many black leaders
abandoned internationalism, with its ties to the Left and
support for the global struggle against colonial oppression,
embracing anti-Communism as part of a new strategy to
achieve racial integration at home. (Daniel Widener and
David J. Snyder)
No. Black internationalism persisted after World War II as
a central focus among African American intellectuals.
(Daniel Widener)
The Amerasia Case: Did the Amerasia case support the
Republicans' charge that the Truman administration was soft
on communism?
Yes. The Truman administration was full of Roosevelt
holdovers—key members of which were sympathetic to
communists—and they undermined the government case
against the Amerasia defendants. (Earl W. Wolfe)
No. The Amerasia case was not particularly significant, and
it was bungled by incompetent investigators. The case
demonstrated the partisan political uses of the Red Scare
and resulted in a purge of State Department China experts
that had a negative effect on U.S. Asia policy for several
decades. (Frank Koscielski)
Anti-Communism and the Civil Rights Movement: Did Cold-War
politics bolster the civil rights movement?
Yes. Cold War politics worked in favor of the civil rights
movement because the United States needed to strengthen
its image as a model democracy among emerging nations
and could not afford to be embarrassed abroad by its
domestic racial problems. (Sharon Vriend-Robinette and
David J. Snyder)
No. Anti-Communism harmed civil rights groups more than
it helped them, forcing these organizations to keep a narrow



focus on desegregation while distancing themselves from African American leaders with leftist sympathies.
(Clarence Lang)
Art and Politics: Did the Communist Party of the United States of America (CPUSA) stifle artistic expression on the Left during the postwar Red Scare?
Yes. The CPUSA doctrine that "art is a weapon" strictly imposed a narrow view of artistic expression on party members
and had an inhibiting effect on left-wing sympathizers. (David J. Snyder)
No. Most leftist artists and writers functioned independently of the party line, keeping alive the spirit of the left-liberal Popular Front coalition of the 1930s in a variety of art forms, as well as in popular culture. <i>(Robbie Lieberman and</i>
Edward Brunner)
Artistic Expression: Did government measures calculated to counter the threat of communist subversion limit artistic expression during the post–World War II Red Scare?
Yes. Blacklisting and the possibility of unwarranted investigation profoundly inhibited artistic expression and threatened to ruin the careers of creative people who dared to challenge conventional thought. (<i>Edward Brunner</i>)
No. Despite attempts to stifle artistic expression considered subversive, serious artists in all fields produced significant work, some oblivious of and others reactive to attempts at
repression. (Bryan Wuthrich)
Civil Liberties: Were American civil liberties more threatened by the Red Scare than by the Communist Party of the United States of America (CPUSA)?
Yes. The anti-Communist crusade resulted in suspension of basic constitutional rights, presenting more of a danger to American freedoms than any threat from the CPUSA. (Jay Larson)
No. The CPUSA was clearly more dangerous to Americans than the anti-Communists; Communists did not believe in basic democratic rights, and, if the party had gained power in the United States, it would have destroyed Americans' freedoms. (Jason Roberts)
Committee on Un-American Activities: Did the House Committee
on Un-American Activities (HCUA) have a legitimate function? 60 Yes. Congress created the committee to investigate subversive
organizations, and HCUA hearings on Communist infiltration of American institutions fulfilled that mandate. (<i>Ron Capshaw</i>) 61
No. HCUA failed to fulfill its primary responsibility of recommending new legislation. HCUA functioned as a publicity-seeking body, holding mock judicial proceedings that ruined people's lives. (<i>Rachelle Stivers</i>)
Communism and Labor: Did the campaign after World War II to purge unions of Communists benefit the labor movement in the long run?
Yes. By demonstrating its ability to distance itself from Communist influence, the labor movement increased its power to bargain with big business. (<i>C. Dale Walton</i>)
No. Union membership declined after World War II, and conservative labor leaders narrowed the goals of the union movement, reducing its effectiveness as an agent of social change. (<i>Frank Koscielski and Marc Torney</i>)
CPUSA and Racial Equality: Did American Communists' attention to the issue of racial equality benefit the civil rights movement after World War II?

Yes. Beginning in the 1930s, Communists were in the forefront
of the civil rights struggle, and they continued to make important
contributions in the postwar period. (Robbie Lieberman)
No. Communist efforts on behalf of racial equality allowed white
supremacists, particularly in the South, to use anti-Communism
as a powerful weapon against the civil rights movement.
(Sharon Vriend-Robinette)
The CPUSA in American Life: Do the documents in the Soviet
archives prove that the Communist Party of the United States
of America (CPUSA) was primarily a subversive organization? 83
Yes. It is now known that American Communists carried out
acts of espionage that threatened American national security
throughout the 1940s. (James G. Ryan)
No. Soviet archives related to the CPUSA are incomplete and
offer contradictory evidence. They have been used to distort
the historical significance of the Communist movement and to
deny its contribution to social reform. (<i>Joel Wendland</i>)
Democrats and Republicans: Were Republicans responsible
for the onset of the Red Scare?
Yes. The anti-Communist crusade that followed World War II
was the product of Republican efforts to undermine New Deal
social-welfare programs by labeling Democrats as "soft on
communism." (<i>Robert J. Flynn</i>)
No. President Harry S Truman, a Democrat, began the postwar
Red Scare by initiating and endorsing anti-Communist
measures that were largely accepted by Democrats in
Congress. (Nathan Abrams)
Destruction of the American Left: Did government repression
diminish support for the American Left after World War II?
Yes. After World War II zealous government efforts to expose
and punish people suspected of subversion substantially
weakened the American Left. (Marc Torney)
No. The Communist Party of the United States of America
(CPUSA) weakened the American Left during the 1930s and
1940s by its attacks on other left-wing political groups and its
obeisance to the Soviet Union. (James G. Ryan)
Education: Did the Red Scare have a detrimental effect on
education?
Yes. After teachers and professors started losing their jobs
for their political views, the curriculum of American schools was
narrowed, because educators were afraid to raise controversial
issues. (Gary Murrell)
No. The Red Scare caused educators to define academic
freedom and strengthen the civic-education curriculum to teach
American students the responsibilities of participating in a
democratic society. (Valerie Adams)
Emergence of McCarthyism: Was McCarthyism a response to the
spread of Communism after World War II?
Yes. McCarthyism was a reaction to the growing power of
international communism after 1945, as seen in the Soviet
domination of Eastern Europe, the Communist takeover in
China, and the North Korean attack on South Korea, as well
as in the existence of a Soviet spy network in the United
States. (O. D. Aryanfard) 117
No. McCarthyism was the culmination of a rightward trend
in American politics that began in the 1930s with conservative
opposition to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal social
programs. (John Sbardellati)
End of the Red Scare: Did the post–World War II Red Scare end
with the censure of Senator Joseph R. McCarthy?

Yes. The anti-Communist crusade, already weakened before
the Army-McCarthy hearings, was sapped of vitality in 1954,
after McCarthy was censured by the U.S. Senate.
(Karen Bruner)
No. The Red Scare continued until the end of the Cold War and
contributed to a permanent suspicion of dissent in the minds
of the American people. <i>(Michael Bonislawski)</i>
Federal Loyalty Program: Was the federal loyalty program
necessary to guarantee the allegiance of government
employees?
Yes. The federal loyalty-security program prevented
Communists and other subversives from infiltrating the federal
government; furthermore, it guaranteed equal treatment for all
civil-service employees. (Mary McGuire)
No. The federal loyalty-security program was an unfounded and
unjustified attack on federal employees' rights to free speech,
free association, and free thought, violating the constitutional
rights and protections of thousands of government employees.
(Mary McGuire)
Foreign-Policy Consequences: Did the Red Scare have a
detrimental impact on U.S. foreign policy and on countries
affected by that policy? 140
Yes. Fears of Communist influence were used to justify U.S.
participation in the overthrow of duly elected governments
abroad, a pattern that continued long after the Red Scare.
(Margaret Power)
No. The Red Scare was in large part a consequence rather
than a cause of foreign-policy concerns, and an anti-Communist
foreign policy was clearly justified. (Richard A. Moss)
High Court Decisions: Was the U.S. Supreme Court able to resist
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Yes. Hoover helped to shape the course of the Red Scare that followed World War II, building the most powerful law enforcement agency in the nation, which he used to bully his enemies.	73
(John H. Barnhill and Robbie Lieberman)	74
believed in his mission. While he sometimes used extralegal means to fight Communism, he acted within the accepted norms of the era. (<i>Jay Larson</i>)1	77
Ideological Roots: Was anti-Communism restricted to political conservatives?	80
Yes. The Red Scare was rooted in conservative interests such as big business, which used the anti-Communist crusade as a means to regain political control from labor and New Deal liberals. <i>(Rachel Peterson)</i>	81
No. There were many varieties of anti-Communists after World War II, including liberals, labor and religious leaders, former communists, and civil libertarians, as well as political	
conservatives. (John Moser)	
values in the United States?	
No. The ties of the CPUSA leadership to the Soviet Union compromised and betrayed the socialist goals of the party;	
after 1945, the term <i>democratic socialism</i> became an oxymoron to millions of Americans. (<i>James G. Ryan</i>)	92
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the Communist Party of the United States of America (CPUSA).
(Robbie Lieberman)
No. The United States already had powerful laws to combat
foreign subversion and espionage. (Dan Georgakas)
Nixon's Impact: Did Richard M. Nixon's intense anti-Communism serve the national interest?
Yes. A persistent, moderate anti-Communist, who avoided the
sensationalist tactics of his colleagues, Nixon established the
credibility to promote the national interest effectively
throughout his career, from the investigation of subversives
in the State Department, to negotiation of a responsible
Vietnam War peace agreement, to the resumption of trade
with China. (Markku Ruotsila)
No. Throughout his career, Nixon used anti-Communism to
advance his political ambitions, and, as president, he continued to employ the extralegal campaign tactics he
learned during the Red Scare. (<i>Frank Koscielski</i>)
Overthrowing the Government?: Was the Communist Party of the
United States of America (CPUSA) a subversive organization? 228
Yes. The main purpose of the CPUSA was to overthrow the
capitalist U.S. government and replace it with a Communist
system. (James G. Ryan)
No. The main activity of most American Communists was agitating for reforms to extend democratic rights to minorities,
build the labor movement, and abolish poverty.
(Jess Rigelhaupt)
Peace Advocates: Were advocates of nuclear disarmament and
peaceful co-existence during the early years of the Cold War
engaging in subversive activity?
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Red Scare as a Model: Did the Red Scare in the United States
serve as a model for other countries?
Yes. Countries that were allied with the United States followed
the example of the United States in conducting similar
anti-Communist crusades. (Sharon Lobo)
No. American-style anti-Communism did not transfer well to
other countries because of differences in national cultures
and political traditions. (David J. Snyder)
Red Scare Legacy: Did the anti-Communist crusade have a
long-term effect?
Yes. Even after the Red Scare, Americans who challenged
foreign-policy decisions were accused of disloyalty and aiding
the Communist cause. (Robert J. Flynn)
Viewpoint: No. The impact of the Red Scare was essentially
over by the late 1950s, with the demise of the Hollywood
blacklist, and by the 1960s people felt free to protest against
government policies without fear of legal or political
consequences. (G. David Price)
Julius and Ethel Rosenberg: Was the conviction of Julius and
Ethel Rosenberg warranted, with a sentence appropriate to
the crime?
Yes. There was overwhelming evidence that the Rosenbergs
were involved in Soviet espionage, and their sentence was
appropriate. (Oliver Benjamin Hemmerle)
Viewpoint: No. Jurors were improperly influenced by irrelevant
testimony; the judge was biased; and the sentence was
unprecedented for espionage in peacetime.
(Nathan Abrams)
Appendix: 100 Things You Should Know about Communism
in the U.S.A
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