

Section 4 The Red Scare. You may need to look up some of this information, as it may not be in the textbook.

1. Explain the cause and effect of the Cold War on domestic politics.
2. How did the House Un-American Affairs Committee contribute to the development of the Red Scare of the 1950s?

During the late 1940s and early 1950s, the prospect of communist subversion at home and abroad seemed frighteningly real to many people in the United States. These fears came to define—and, in some cases, corrode—the era’s political culture. For many Americans, the most enduring symbol of this “Red Scare” was Republican Senator Joseph P. McCarthy of Wisconsin. Senator McCarthy spent almost five years trying in vain to expose communists and other left-wing “loyalty risks” in the U.S. government. In the hyper-suspicious atmosphere of the Cold War, insinuations of disloyalty were enough to convince many Americans that their government was packed with traitors and spies. McCarthy’s accusations were so intimidating that few people dared to speak out against him. It was not until he attacked the Army in 1954 that his actions earned him the censure of the U.S. Senate.

3. Use the reading above and your textbook to answer the following question. Give specific details that summarize the central idea of Senator Joseph McCarthy’s role during the red scare.
4. Give specific details and analyze what is meant by the term McCarthyism?
5. How did the Army-McCarthy hearing help lead to the downfall of Senator Joseph McCarthy?

Vocabulary:

House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)

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Blacklist

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Whittaker Chambers and Alger Hiss

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Perjury

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Ethel and Julius Rosenberg

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Allege

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Censure

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Subversion

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