

How would you deal with being falsely accused of a crime simply because of the way you look or because of the people that you are associated with?

How would these allegations impact your daily life, reputation, career, family?

A grayscale photograph of a man in a suit and tie speaking at a podium. He is looking slightly to his left. In the background, another person is visible, holding a document. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be overlaid.

EQ: How can fear of a particular group affect American society?

House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)



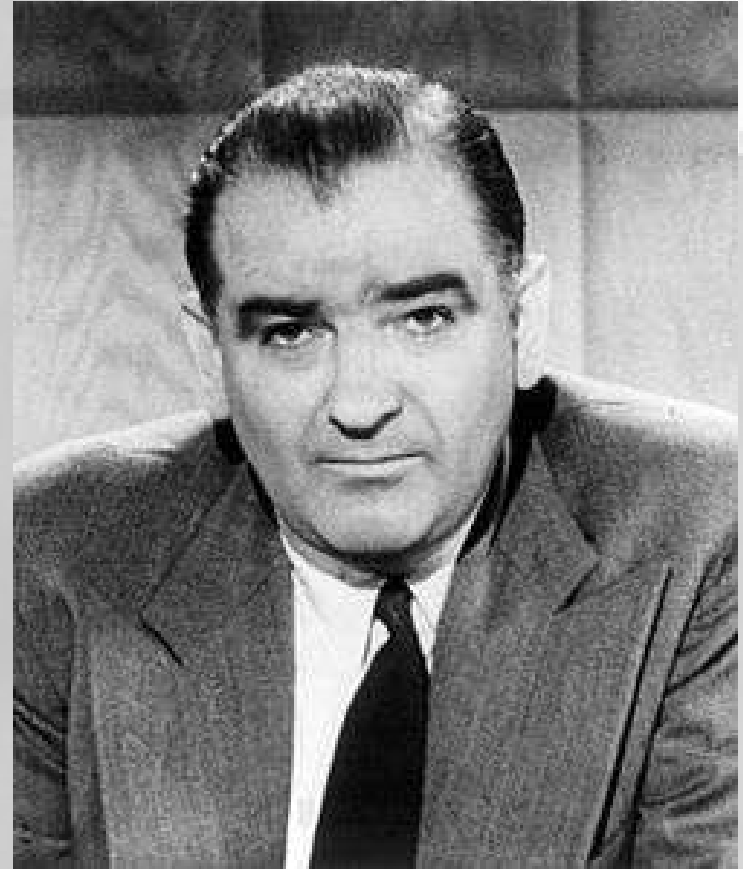
- Investigative committee of the House of Rep.s
- Focused investigations on suspected communists


Examples of HUAC questions:

- Have you ever been associated with anyone in the Communist party?
- Have you ever been in contact with anyone that is or has been a Communist?
- Do you the American flag out on your lawn? If not, why not?
- Do you say the Pledge of Allegiance each morning? If no, why not?
- Do you know the National Anthem? If no, why not?

Joseph McCarthy

- U.S. Senator from WI serving 1947-1957(died)
- Claimed to have lists of “known communists” in the govt
- Reputation declined after accusing US Army of protecting communists
 - [Army-McCarthy Hearings \(1954\)](#)





Analyze documents! 😊

"IT'S OKAY --- WE'RE HUNTING COMMUNISTS"



HERBLOCK
©1947 THE WASHINGTON POST CO.

"FIRE!"



HERBLOCK
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“Say, What Ever Happened To ‘Freedom-From-Fear’?”



"YOU READ BOOKS, EH?"



HERBLOCK
© 1957 THE WASHINGTON POST CO.

"STAND FAST, MEN --- THEY'RE ARMED WITH MARSHMALLOWS"



HERBLOCK
©1954 THE WASHINGTON POST CO.

"WE NOW HAVE NEW AND IMPORTANT EVIDENCE"



HERBLOCK
© 1950 THE WASHINGTON POST CO.

"I HAVE HERE IN MY HAND ----"



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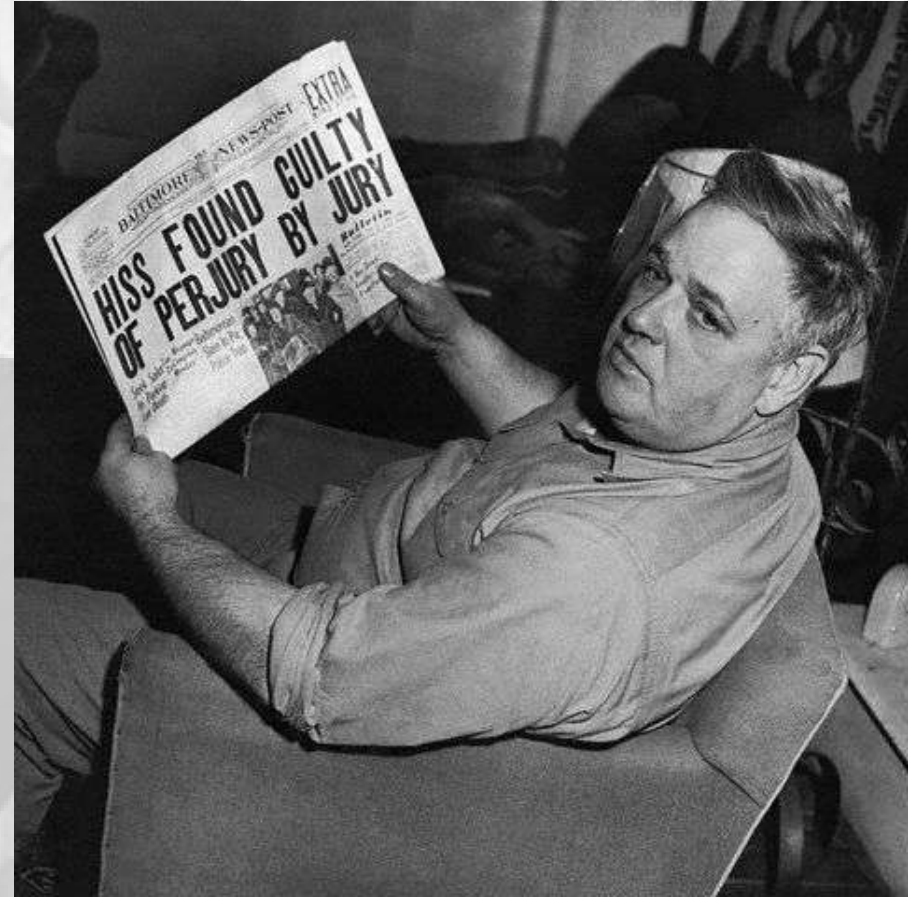
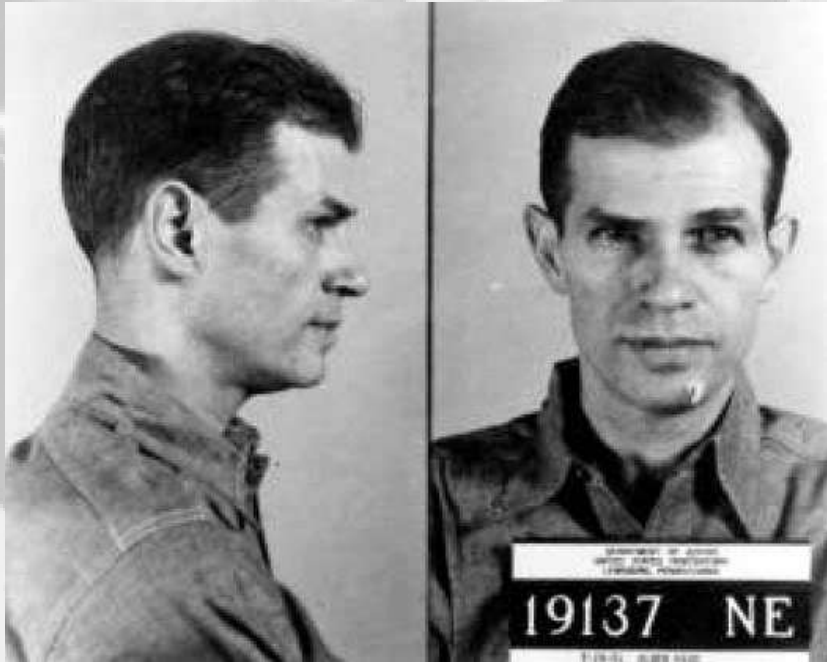
“Hollywood Ten” (1947)



- Hollywood film industry investigated by HUAC for suspected ties with communism
 - Walt Disney, Ronald Reagan
- 10 refused to testify
- Blacklisted



Alger Hiss (1948)



Julius and Ethel Rosenberg (1950)



June 19, 1953 – Rosenbergs executed



Venona Cables

- Interception of Soviet messages
- Released 1995
- Hiss may have been a spy (“ALES”)
- Julius probably a spy, Ethel probably not

VENONA

MIS

From: WASHINGTON
To: HOOVER
Re: 1022

28 March 1951

Further to our telegram No. 263[A]. As a result of "[D5 A. 's]" [i] chat with "ALES" [ii] the following has been ascertained:

1. ALES has been working with the NEIGHBORS [DOGSDI] [iii] continuously since 1935.
2. For some years past he has been the leader of a small group of the NEIGHBORS' proboscis [STAKENY], for the most part consisting of his relations.
3. The group and ALES himself work on obtaining military information only. Materials on the "BANK" [iv] allegedly interest the NEIGHBORS very little and he does not produce them regularly.
4. All the last few years ALES has been working with "POL" [v] who also meets other members of the group occasionally.
5. Recently ALES and his whole group were awarded Soviet decorations.
6. After the Yalta Conference, when he had gone on to HOOVER, a Soviet personage in a very responsible position (ALES gave to understand that it was Comrade VIKHREKIS) allegedly got in touch with ALES and at the behest of the Military NEIGHBORS passed on to him their gratitude and so on.

No. 431 VADD [vi]

Notes: [a] Not available.
Comments:
[i] A.: "A." seems the most likely garble here although "A." has NOT been confirmed elsewhere in the WASHINGTON traffic.
[ii] ALES: Probably Alger HISS.
[iii] DOGSDI: Members of another Soviet Intelligence organization, here probably the GRU.
[iv] BANK: The U.S. State Department.
[v] POL: i.e. "PAUL," unidentified cover-name.
[vi] VADD: Anatoliy Borisovich GROMOV, MIS resident in WASHINGTON.

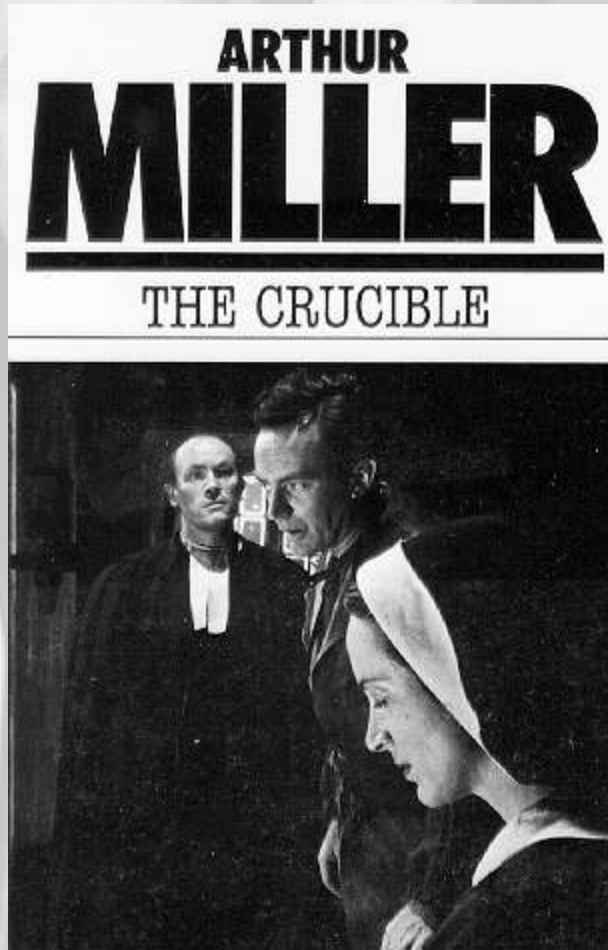
8 August 1969

VENONA

Discussion:

- TWE was the fear of internal communist threats legitimate?
- Other times in U.S. history where groups were falsely accused because of the way they look/associations?
- Are such allegations fair?
- **How can fear of a particular internal group affect American society?**

The Crucible – Arthur Miller



- Play written in 1952
- Set during Salem Witch Trials (1692)
- Allegorical re-telling of McCarthyism
- Miller questioned by HUAC