

How does a foreign threat change the behaviors of people domestically?

Do Now:

What does it mean to be “American”? “Un-American”?

How to spot a Communist?

Write C’s and Q’s as you watch the video clip.

1. What is the tone of this series of film clips?

2. Based on the small portion you viewed, what do you think the main point of this 1950’s documentary was? What does that tell you about life in the 1950’s in America?

3. How could this series of film clips have contributed to the atmosphere of paranoia and suspicion among American citizens?

Document 1

Six years ago, . . . there was within the Soviet orbit, 180,000,000 people. Lined up on the American side, there were in the world at the time, roughly 1,625,000,000 people. Today, only six years later, there are 800,000,000 people under the absolute domination of Soviet Russia—an increase of over 400 percent. On our side, the figure has shrunk to around 500,000,000. In other words, in less than six years, the odds have changed from 9 to 1 in our favor to 8 to 1 against us.

This indicates the swiftness of the tempo of Communist victories and American defeats in the cold war. As one of our outstanding historical figures [Abraham Lincoln] once said, “When a democracy is destroyed, it will not be from enemies from without, but rather because of enemies from within.” The truth of this statement is becoming terrifyingly clear as we see this country each day losing on every front. . . .

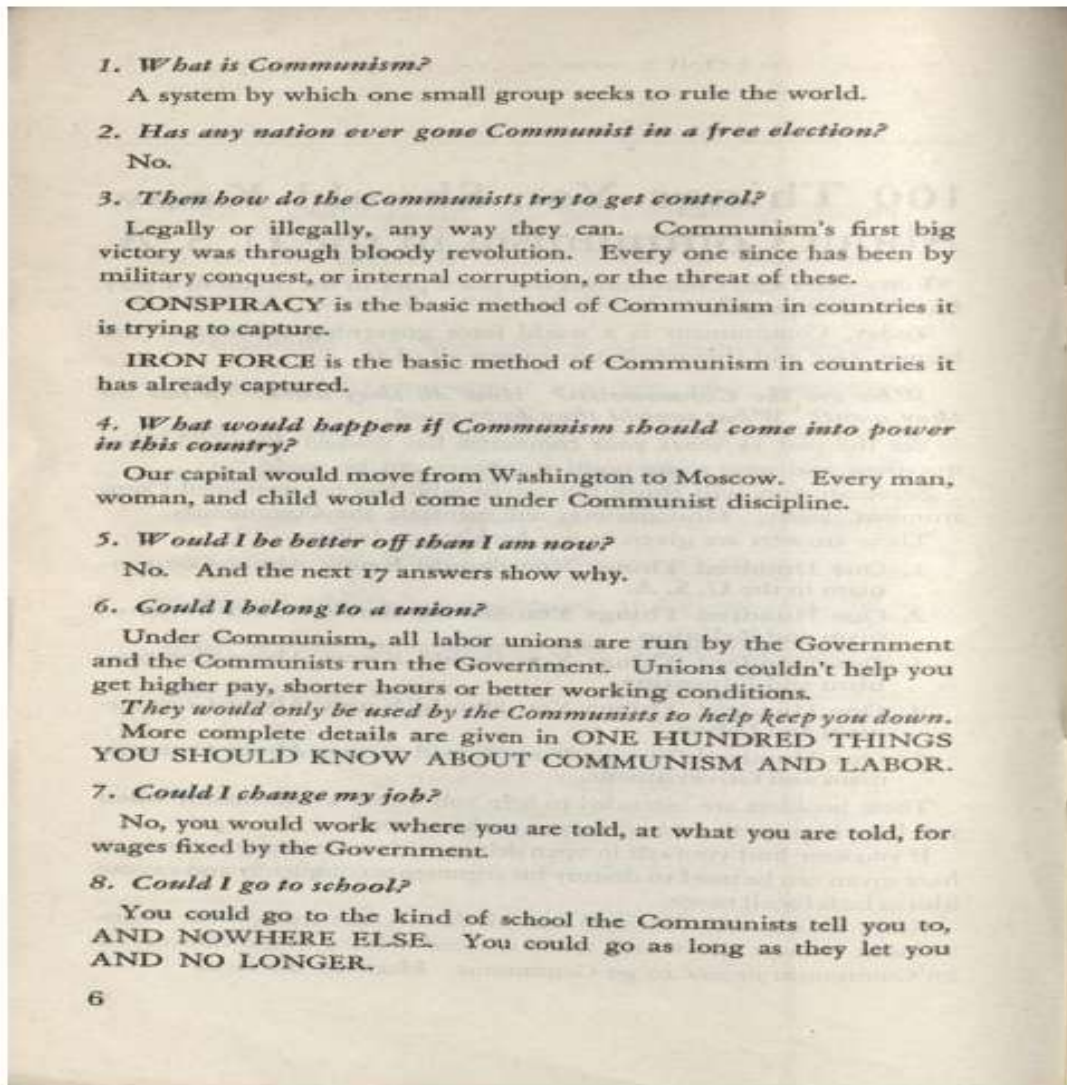
The reason why we find ourselves in a position of impotency is not because our only powerful potential enemy has sent men to invade our shores . . . but rather because of the traitorous actions of many Americans. It has not been the less fortunate, or members of minority groups who have been traitorous to this Nation, but rather those who have had all the benefits that the wealthiest Nation on earth has had to offer—the finest homes, the finest college education, and the finest jobs in government we can give.

This is glaringly true in the State Department . . . While I cannot take time to name all the men in the State Department who have been named as active members of the Communist Party and members of a spy ring, I have here in my hand a list of 205 names that were made known to the Secretary of State [Dean Acheson] as being members of the Communist Party and who nevertheless are still working and shaping policy in that State Department. . . . We are dealing with a far more sinister type of activity because it permits the enemy to guide and shape our policy. . . .

Source: Senator Joseph McCarthy, Speech at Wheeling, West Virginia, February 9, 1950

1. What does “When a democracy is destroyed, it will not be from enemies from without, but rather because of enemies from within” mean? Why might Senator McCarthy have chosen to use this quote to support his claims?
2. Does Senator McCarthy cite or mention any evidence he has that proves the 205 government employees on his list are actually communists? What does that tell you?
3. What is the tone of Senator McCarthy’s speech? Cite textual evidence to support your claims.
4. Imagine you are a citizen of America in 1950. How could Senator McCarthy’s speech contribute to an atmosphere of paranoia amongst you and your fellow citizens?

Document 2



Source: 100 Things You Should Know about Communism - Prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, US House of Representatives Washington DC

1. According to this pamphlet, what is Communism? Is the definition accurate?
2. In your opinion, is this pamphlet meant to induce fear? Cite evidence from the text to support your claims.
3. This pamphlet was produced by the US Congress and was given out to congressmen. What does that tell you about the origins of the Red Scare?

Document 4 - HUAC & Hollywood - Video Clip from “*American Masters - None Without Sin*”
C’s and Q’s



1. Why does the video say Hollywood was a target? What had the film industry been accused of in the past?

2. What was HUAC trying to prove?

3. How did HUAC know that some of their witnesses had ties to the Communist Party?

4. Do you think the HUAC investigations into Hollywood could have added to the atmosphere of paranoia and suspicion in America in the 1950’s? Why or why not?

How did America’s foreign policy after World War II influence America’s domestic policy? Create a claim and defend it.

Claim:

Inside and Outside

| Reasons (Inside Info) | 3 Supporting Details (Outside Info) |
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