Growing Fear of Communism

- **Two events** in 1949 greatly added to the fear of Communism
- Soviet Union got the **Atomic Bomb**
- **China** had become Communists.
- **Mao Zedong**: was able to take over China after the Japanese left China after WWII.
- China was a blow to Americans, they had been **traditional allies** with US.
- With China, **Communists populations now outnumbered NATO populations**

**Essential Questions**

1. What two events made Americans fear Communism in 1949?
2. Why is China becoming Communist a big deal for America?
Fear of Communism at Home

(HUAC) House Un-American Activities Committee: Purpose was to study the full range of radical groups in America. It focused mainly on Communists.

- Became very important as the Soviet Union emerged
- Most famous case was the Hollywood Ten: they refused to answer questions about their communist affiliations in the past and received a year in jail
- Others who refused to provide names of people in Hollywood were blacklisted.
- Many careers were ruined.

Truman and Loyalty

- Truman passed an order that all Federal employees would be investigated.
- Investigations turned up little, but troubled some.
- The Smith Act: A law that made it illegal to belong to a group that called for the overthrow of the government.
- Members of the communist party were arrested under this law
- Dennis v. United States upheld the law

Other Communists Laws

- McCarran Act: Made communists organizations register with the government; made it illegal to plan a totalitarian government; and prevented communists and radicals from entering the country.
- Alger Hiss: Convicted of spying for the Communists
- Klaus Fuchs: Convicted of giving away Atomic Bomb secrets.
- Rosenbergs: Convicted and sentenced to death for spying for the Soviets.
**Essential Questions**

1. What is the HUAC? Who did they investigate?
2. What happens to the Hollywood Ten? Why?
3. What did the Smith Act do?
4. What happened to the Rosenbergs? Why?

**Senator Joseph McCarthy**

- He claimed to know the names of Communists working in the government.
- Many Americans bought it
- But McCarthy never revealed his list
- Earned him the name of the nation’s number one Communists fighter
- Never backed up his claims with facts
- This witch hunt was named **McCarthyism**.

**McCarthyism**

- McCarthyism spread to the government, universities, labor unions, and private businesses
- FBI became involved and produced more names especially when people failed to cooperate.
- McCarthy began to claim the army was protecting Communist, and his claims became wilder and wilder.
- His senate hearing were aired on TV and people began to grow tired of it and see it as unfair.
**Essential Questions**
1. Who was Joseph McCarthy?
2. What did he claim? Were his claims backed up with evidence?
3. Why did Americans buy into his claims?
4. Why did people grow tired of McCarthyism?