What is the Red Scare and McCarthyism

● **Red Scare**
  ○ A promotion of fear of a potential rise of communism or radical leftism
  ○ Led to McCarthyism

● **McCarthyism**
  ○ An extreme campaign to eliminate alleged communists in the U.S. government under Joseph McCarthy
  ○ Also known as the post war of the Red Scare

http://www.freeinfosociety.com/article.php?id=53
Causes of the Red Scare

● The creation of the Soviet Union’s nuclear weapon
  ○ The American public was fearful because they were scared that national security could easily be compromised by a Soviet hydrogen bomb attack
Causes of the Red Scare

- The Soviet Union was communist, so Americans believed that all communists were untrustworthy because of this Soviet nuclear activity
  - Former communists, Elizabeth Bentley and Whittaker Chambers, testified that Soviet Spies and communist sympathizers had penetrated the U.S. government
  - This frightened America, leading them to believe that all communists were Soviet Spies
Points of View on Red Scare and Nuclear Holocaust

- Some people thought that the Red Scare was a witch hunt
- Other people viewed it as a complete waste of human life
- Americans blamed the Cold War on the Soviets
- Americans said that they were using their weapons as self defense
- Soviets said that it was the use of American atomic weapons that they were behaving provocatively
No, the correct decisions were not made.

- The United States was not acting any better than Germany had during WWII (attempting to eradicate a certain group of people)
- We were falsely accusing many people of being communists with little evidence (many were convicted on the basis of testimony that was later admitted to be false)
Political Discrimination/Segregation

- Communists were viewed as disloyal so they were forced to take a loyalty oath.
- Failing to take the oath caused them to lose their jobs and homes.

[Image of poster: "The Red Menace Is Real! Report All Suspected Communist Activity!"]

hardboiledpoker.blogspot.com
Did Anyone Benefit from the Red Scare?

Nobody benefited from the Red Scare because...

- They were making false accusations on their fellow Americans, creating chaos and a dominating emotion of fear in the U.S.
- This meant that much of our nation’s focus was on these events, drawing needed attention away from the worsening situation with Russia
- Communists did not benefit
Were the correct decisions made during the Nuclear Holocaust?

Yes because…

● Even though the Soviets tested nuclear weapons and this struck fear into the US military and public at large, the government did not order a nuclear strike (which we had the power to carry out)

● We led spy missions to keep an eye on the soviets and strengthened our defenses, but we did not resort to violence
What Caused the Fear of a Nuclear Holocaust During the Cold War?

- Both the Soviet Union and the United States had nuclear weapons.
- Both sides were scared to attack because they feared that the enemy would retaliate with nuclear warfare which would cause total destruction.
- This is why neither side ever led a full on attack because they feared a potential nuclear warfare.
Was this event beneficial or did it hurt world peace?

- The Red Scare and the fear of nuclear holocaust definitely hurt world peace and world relations
- America was hurting and displacing its own citizens for possessing different political beliefs
- Tension between America and the Soviet Union was the highest it had ever been, which ultimately led to the Cold War
- Being different was a bad thing and being the same as everyone else was encouraged


