

1 | Crucible/Communist Witch Hunts

- In fact meant to be an allegory for the "communist" witch hunts in modern America
 - Still makes use of the historical context of the Salem witch hunts
 - Many of the explanations for the different motivations for a "witch hunt" within the book make a lot more sense when cast under this light
- The secretive nature of the American communist party led to misunderstandings about its intent
 - Led to a lot of sentiment that it was un-american and threatened democracy
 - * This led to the creation of the HUAC (House Un-American Activities Committee) which was composed of members of congress meant to investigate various people for alleged signs of rebellion and disloyalty
- McCarthy spearheaded legislation to prosecute those with any links to communism or the communist party past or present
 - This created a lot of fear which helped create the circumstances under which this novel was written
 - * Arthur Miller himself was Subpoenaed, but he managed to avoid it until 3 years after his book premiered
 - * He feared prosecution
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