

AP United States History

Cold War in Latin America and the Homefront

- Guatemala — 1954
 - US involvement in the 1954 coup in Guatemala
 - Secret, now released records nonetheless revealed the determination of the CIA to prohibit the spread of communism to nations of Latin America
- Cuba-US Relations
 - Cubans resent US because of Platt amendment
 - Because most Cubans lived in poverty while US had wealthy corporations in Cuba
 - Fidel Castro takes over in 1959 and creates Communist government that was supported by USSR
- Domestic Cold War
 - Much concern about communist infiltration and also period of military build up
 - Fear of a nuclear attack
 - People build bomb shelters in their homes
 - Duck and Cover fallout shelters in school
 - Red scare and Joseph McCarthy overstate much of the fear
- McCarran Internal Security Act — 1950
 - Security Act of 1950 that required all communist association to register with the Attorney General and to make public all records
 - Truman saw it as grave threat to civil liberties and vetoed it
 - Overridden by Congress
- Federal Loyalty Program — 1947
 - Effort to shield itself from Republican attacks, Truman begins program that requires federal employees to pledge loyalty
- Rosenberg Case — 1953
 - Once US learns of Soviet nuclear bomb, many were convinced Soviets had spies in US borders
 - Ethel and Julian Rosenberg were an American couple accused of passing secrets

- Sent to Electric Chair and both were executed
- Senator Joseph McCarthy
 - Unknown senator who led campaign against alleged communists
 - Ruined the lives of many innocent people
 - Industries created blacklists: You could not work if you were on it
- Smith Act and Dennis
 - Smith Act arrests leading members of Communist Party on grounds of plan to overthrow the government
 - Leads to 140 communists arrested including leader Eugene Dennis between 1949 and 1957
 - Dennis takes to SC, did not have 1st amendment rights