I. Cold War

A. Commies Everywhere

1. US Chamber of Congress report on communist infiltration in the U.S.

2. Joseph McCarthy: Communists in the government

3. Popular culture

a. Novels: Mickey Spillane and Mike Hammer,

b. TV: 1953-56 TV show I Led Three Lives

c. movies: Invasion of the Body Snatchers, My Son John, I Married a Communist

d. comic strips: Captain American

B. What is communism? Karl Marx’s definition

1. Marx in the Communist Manifesto

a. workers own means of productions,

i. make decisions on production and distribution

ii. economic realm is democracy

iii. classless society

b. all spheres of society would reflect this egalitarian structure

1. everyone would have equal access to social goods –

housing, education, food,

ii. life chances would not be dependent upon

social location

c. capitalism will self-destruct: historic inevitability

i. monopolies

ii. declining rate of profit

iii. immiseration of workers

d. emergence of communism

i. dictatorship of proletariat

ii. dissolution of state

B. What is communism? The paranoid definition:

1. monolithic totalitarian social form - USSR

2. bent on world domination

a. conquest: domino theory

b. subversion

c. dehumanizing social order

i. controls thought and behavior

ii. propaganda and force

d. subversion

i. infiltrate all of society's institutions

ii. religious, educational, family, political

iii. undermine our institutions and turn

unsuspecting Americans into

iv. conformist commie sheep

e. SU was behind all of this

i. sending in its spies who were organized in

cells

ii. model Communist country: dictatorship with propagandized population, dissent muted

f. every time there was a war of national liberation

US argued it was part of communist conspiracy

g. anytime there was a protest movement in US it was communist

inspired

i. civil rights

ii. anti-war

iii. free speech

iv. feminism

C. Was the Soviet Union a communist country in Marx's sense? Was it bent on

world domination?

1. Soviet Union was not a communist country in Marx's sense

a. Lenin dissolved soviets immediately after taking control

b. dictatorship of the party

2. Soviet Union was not communist in the paranoid sense

a. Communist China and Soviet Union not part

of worldwide pattern of domination

b. Soviet Union' creation of a buffer area in

Eastern Europe had been agreed to by

Roosevelt and Churchill

D. Why might communist social system appeal to the poor and disenfranchised?