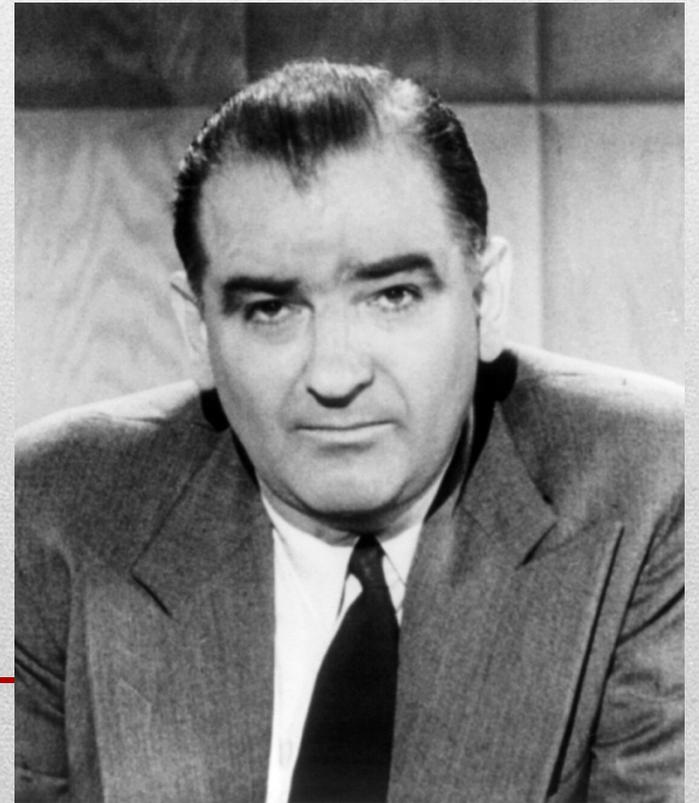


Joseph McCarthy (brief overview)

- Wisconsin Senator (R)
- Needed an issue to put him on political map
- McCarthyism- smear tactics used to accuse communists
- Modern day “witch hunt”

[Understanding McCarthyism - YouTube](#)





Brief Bio.

- Born Nov. 14, 1908
 - Grew up on farm outside Appleton, WI
 - Dropped out of school at 14
 - Self taught years later- Graduated (9 months)
 - Went to Marquette Univ.- Law School
-



Political Career

- Originally (D), couldn't get elected, ran as (R) in state races
- Ran on earlier military career- claimed to be a hero- “Tail Gunner Joe” (Marines)
- Used anti-communism as means to gather support
- Hatch Act (1939)- made it illegal for Fed. Gov't to employ communists

Accusations

- Former Sec. Of State- George Marshall
 - Couldn't stop communism in China,
therefore he must be communist himself
 - U.S. Army
 - One of his assistants was drafted
 - Accused Army of being full of
Communists
-

Army-McCarthy Hearings

- April- June 1954
- Televised- (D) to destroy McCarthy

McCarthy thought to get publicity

- McCarthy used bullying tactics & baseless allegations against U.S. Army
- Lost support
- Senate formally condemned him (censure)

- Roy Cohn- McCarthy's Chief Counsel- gave aid special treatment in boot camp
 - McCarthy said Army used aid as “hostage” to stop investigations by subcommittee

McCarthy & Cohn confer on the second day of the Army-McCarthy hearings

(April 23, 1954)



Wheeling Speech

- Wheeling, WV
- February 9, 1950
- Had “list” of 205 people that Marshall knew to be members of the Communist Party
- Edward R. Murrow- CBS journalist

called for public to speak out against
McCarthy

[Good Night, and Good Luck \(2005\) Trailer - YouTube](#)

Video Segment on McCarthyism

McCarthyism Summary





Discussion Questions

1. What were McCarthy's concerns?
 2. What did McCarthy suggest be done about communism?
 3. What were some specific things that McCarthy said which could have spurred the anti-communist sentiment?
 4. How did McCarthy stand by his accusations?
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