The Effects of the Cold War on US Security

Intro.

In 1945, America was the only atomic power. By 1949, the Soviet Union developed its own atomic bomb, leading to a nuclear arms race.

The U.S. and the Soviet Union began developing more and more powerful bombs.

Both countries believed nuclear weapons were

cheaper than large armies.



The Mushroom Cloud



The Soviets Launch Sputnik (1957)

In WWII, **German scientists** had **greatly improved rocket technology**. After the war, both the US and the Soviet Union had **programs to develop this technology** still further.

In 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first man-made space satellite.

Not only did this mark the **beginning of the "Space Race**," but it had **great military importance**.

With missiles that could travel into space, the **Soviet Union clearly had the ability to fire nuclear weapons at the U.S. from great distances.**

The US launched its own space satellite in 1958.

Internal Threats and McCarthyism

The rise of the Cold War had serious effects on life inside the United States.

Americans became **concerned about the possibility of a communist threat at home**. Some **people were accused of "un-American" acts.** Often these accusations were based on little or no evidence. Some people lost their jobs and a few others faced even more serious problems.

In **1950, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg** were arrested and charged with **selling atom bomb secrets to the Soviet Union.** They were brought to trial, found guilt and **executed as spies**.





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ROSENBERGS DIE

Pair Executed for Atom Spying





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McCarthyism



In 1950, a Senator from Wisconsin, Joseph McCarthy, shocked the nation by claiming that he knew the names of hundreds of communists working in the State Department.

Although McCarthy never proved any of his claims, he frightened Americans and destroyed the careers and reputations of many people whom he accused of being communists.

The term McCarthyism has come to mean making charges about a person's loyalty without having any supporting evidence or proof.

Panic and Fear

The Rosenberg trial and the accusations made by Senator McCarthy sent a wave of panic across the nation, similar to the Red Scare of the 1920s.



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Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2—The
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Communists and Free Speech

In 1949, the US Supreme Court upheld the conviction of several Communist Party members for their belief that social change could only be achieved through the use of force.

The Court ruled that people who are willing to use force to overthrow the government are not protected by the right to free speech.

Do you think citizens who are members of the Communist Party are protected by the right to free speech?