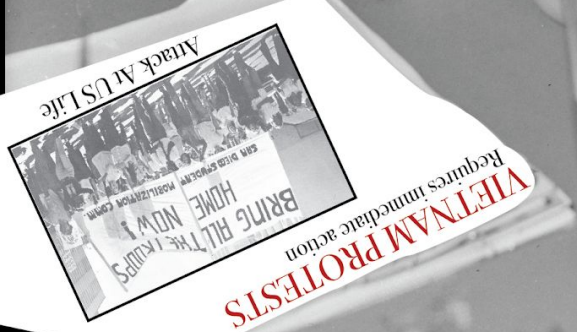


# CONFIDENTIAL DEFENDER

J. EDGAR

# HOOVER



CPUSA: SUBVERSIVES  
Priority 1



HOW ONE MANS LIES AND DECEIT PROSECUTED A GENERATION



1940s

1943

Hoover backs FBI involvement in the Venona Project, a partnership between the UK and US which spanned into the '80s and attempted to discover Soviet spies in the US and UK.

Over 350 people are identified as being involved with Soviet intelligence.

1948

Former State Department Official Alger Hiss is indicted for perjury following Hoover's FBI investigation into Hiss' Communist subversion.

Helps confirm the previously unproven fear that Soviet spies have infiltrated the US government.

1949

Leaders of the Communist Party of the US are tried in violation of the Smith Act (prohibited campaigning for a government overthrow). Prosecution is based on evidence gathered by the FBI at Hoover's request.

In the following years, Hoover continues prosecuting suspected Communists on any charge in an attempt to eradicate them.

1947

Hoover delivers speech to HUAC as a part of his anti-Communism campaign that the press uses to criminalize Communism.

Contributes to Red Scare.

1950s

1950s

Hoover collaborates with Senator Joseph McCarthy to persecute Communists, feeding him information and names of suspected Communists.

Contributed to the spreading climate of fear.

1950s

Rumors that closeted government officials released confidential information to overseas Communists in return for them not revealing their sexuality leads Hoover to order the surveillance of suspected/known homosexuals.

1950

Hoover submits plan to President Harry S. Truman to suspend habeas corpus and imprison over 12,000 Americans he suspects of being subversives (mainly Communists).

Proposal is not approved.

1950

In accordance with Venona, Hoover leads the FBI through decoding of Soviet telegrams in partnership with the Army Signals Agency, which results in the arrest of Klaus Fuchs by British Security Agents. The decoded intercepts are later secretly stored in Hoover's office.

The discovery of these intercepts exhibited the extent of Soviet subversion in the US.

1950

Hoover's propaganda campaign against Communism heats up. He attempts to influence public opinion and preempt objections to FBI actions by targeting media outlets and educational institutions.

The campaign creates over 400 media-directed items.

1951

Investigations occurring under Hoover lead to the successful conviction and execution of Seth and Ethel Rosenberg for Soviet espionage.

Further discovery of Soviet spies in America allows Hoover to pursue the threat he had long perceived from the US left.

1956

Hoover establishes the Counterintelligence program (COINTELPRO) to disrupt Communist groups, due to his dislike of the limits placed by the Supreme Court on persecuting civilians for their political beliefs. Operations conducted under COINTELPRO were often illegal and aimed to discredit "radical" organizations.

Increased the amount and severity of Communist surveillance

1957

A vital Soviet illegal agent posing as a retired photographer, William Fisher (aka Rudolf Abel) is captured by the FBI. Fisher was responsible for recruiting and supervising Soviet spies.

Successful perging of Soviet spies from the federal government forces the Soviet Union to rethink their espionage plan.

1960s

1960s

As anti-Vietnam War protests heat up, Hoover grows to believe that all who oppose the Vietnam War are subversives pushing a Communist agenda.

Leads to mass surveillance and persecution of student protesters.

1960s

Hoover fears racial discontent is being used to further Communism, leading to widespread investigations of Civil Rights Leaders to ascertain their Communist ties.

Surveillance chiefly occurs under COINTELPRO

1963

Martin Luther King Jr. is identified by Hoover as a COINTELPRO target, citing his apparent pushing of Communist ideals, following his speech at March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Throughout the investigations, MLK undergoes surveillance including wiretaps, bugging, and attempts to drive him to suicide.

1970s

1970

Concerned with the growing Vietnam War protests at the University of Oklahoma, Hoover sends agents to infiltrate and disrupt what he believes is an attempt to push Communism on young minds.

1971

A break-in at FBI headquarters by the Citizens' Commission to Investigate the FBI, followed by the release of confidential information about COINTELPRO and subsequent public outrage, forces Hoover to shut down COINTELPRO as he awaits Congress investigation.

Congress later finds COINTELPRO, and the autonomous control Hoover had over the FBI, to be unconstitutional.

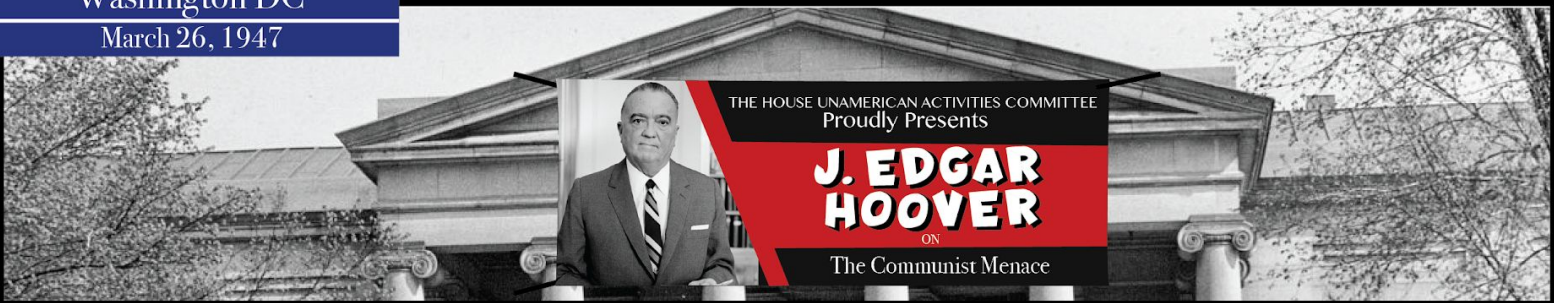
1972

Hoover dies. Thereafter, the FBI sees a policy shift towards one focused on implementing legal operations pertaining to investigating crime and corruption.



Washington DC

March 26, 1947



AMIDST THE COLD WAR, FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER SITS IN A MEETING WITH THE HUAC, PRESENTING A PLAN ON HOW TO DEAL WITH POSSIBLE SOVIET ESPIONAGE.



PHASE 1:

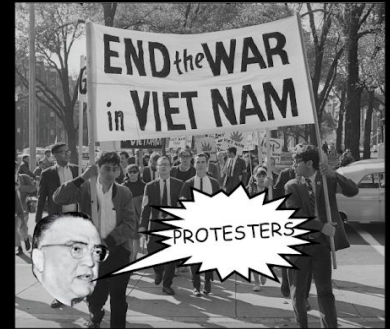
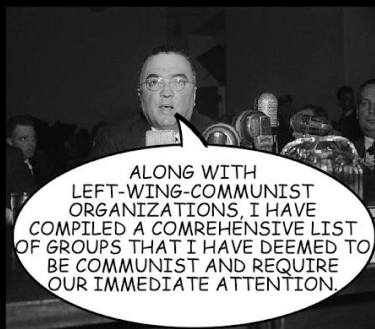
FEAR

PHASE 2:

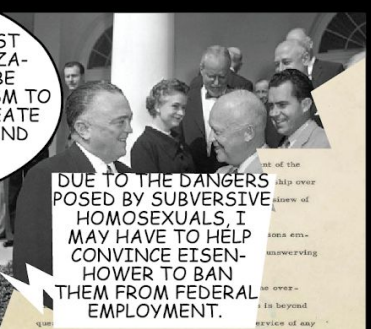
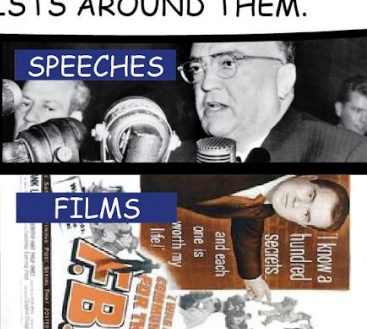
SURVEILLANCE

PHASE 3:

PROSECUTION



IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT WE INSTILL FEAR IN THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TO:  
1.) DISSUADE OTHERS FROM FALLING PREY TO AND BECOMING COMMUNIST  
2.) PREPARE THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM THE COMMUNISTS AROUND THEM.

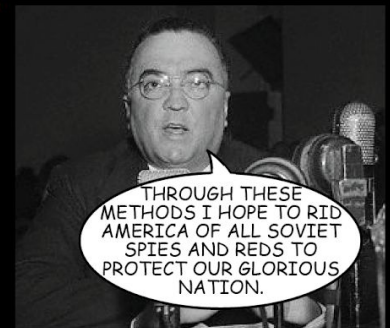
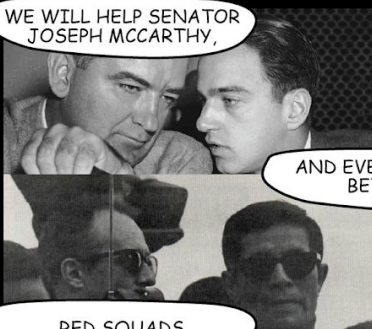
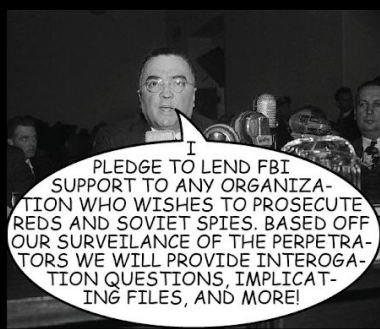
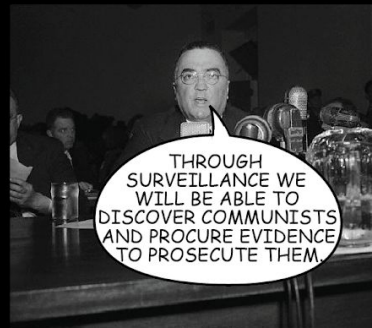
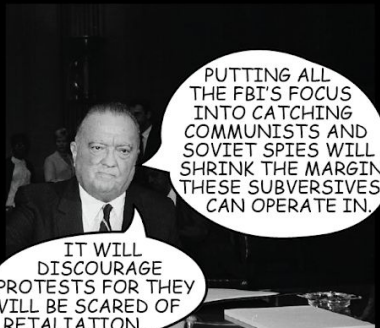
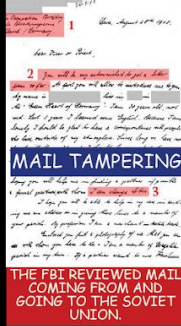
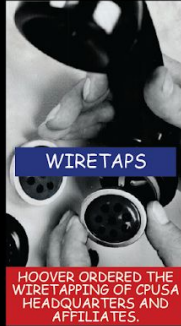
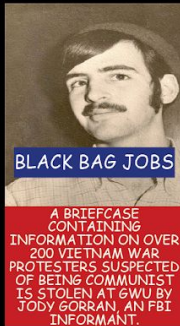
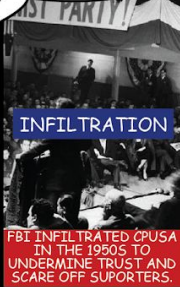




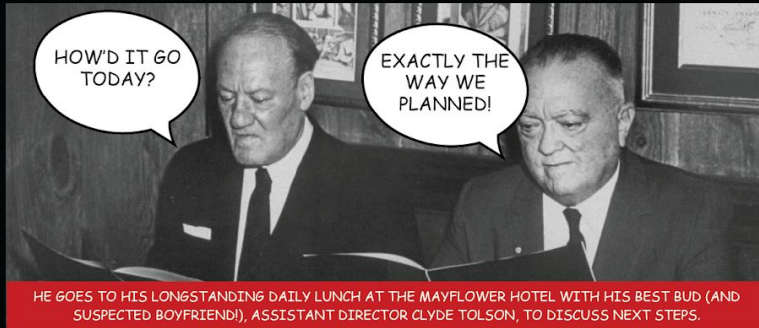
NOT ONLY DO THESE COMMUNISTS THREATEN EVERY TRADITIONAL VALUE AMERICA STANDS FOR, THERE IS A REAL POSSIBILITY THAT ANY AND ALL COMMUNISTS ARE SOVIET SPIES AND THUS IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE TAKE ACTION AGAINST ALL OF THEM



MY DIRTY TRICKS WILL INCLUDE:







HE GOES TO HIS LONGSTANDING DAILY LUNCH AT THE MAYFLOWER HOTEL WITH HIS BEST BUD (AND SUSPECTED BOYFRIEND!), ASSISTANT DIRECTOR CLYDE TOLSON, TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS.



# WARNING from the FBI

The war against spies and saboteurs demands the aid of every American.

When you see evidence of sabotage, notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation at once.

When you suspect the presence of enemy agents, tell it to the FBI.

Beware of those who spread enemy propaganda! **Don't repeat vicious rumors or vicious whispers.**

Tell it to the FBI!



J. Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

The nearest Federal Bureau of Investigation office is listed on page one of your telephone directory.

# CAUSE AND EFFECT

Unbeknownst to the American public, J. Edgar Hoover emerged from World War II with a distrust of Communists and Soviet Spies in America, believing them to pose a threat to the American way of life; beliefs he pushed onto the FBI and American public until his death. Hoover's hatred of Communism spurred from events during his early days at the Bureau of Investigation (which he later renamed the Federal Bureau of Investigation) involving the Bolshevik Revolution and the first Red Scare. Hoover had almost unlimited power for decades, that even Presidents feared, through a combination of autonomous control of the FBI, his ability and willingness to blackmail his detractors (the Hoover files!), and his desire to exercise this power irrespective of the law. As the Cold War heated up, Hoover saw an opportunity to use his power and influence for his own anti-Communist agenda, under the guise that he was helping the public.

Throughout the Cold War, Hoover's biggest legacy was not the capture of Soviet spies, as he portrayed his goal to be to the media. Although he succeeded in identifying spies, the creation of a climate of hatred and suspicion had a greater impact. As public distrust of Communists grew in the late 1940s, Hoover undermined the Communist image by avidly campaigning to the American media on the abhorrence of Communists and the detriment they posed to American society. He shifted FBI focus to Communism in a form of Domestic Containment, and created a prejudicial climate in the FBI following the discovery of Soviet espionage in the United States. Because of his important role, the American populace trusted his views. This contributed to the atmosphere of fear surrounding Communists during the Red Scare, helping to keep the hunt for and ostracization of Communists alive. Hoover believed that Communists were loyal to the USSR and thus would become Soviet spies. Further, Hoover viewed speaking out against the government or social constructs as acts of Communism and thus determined that homosexuals, Vietnam War protesters, and Civil Rights activists were Communists. The following years saw Hoover attempt to eradicate Soviet espionage through illegal surveillance, much of which occurred through the illegal activities of COINTELPRO. Hoover's focus on Communist influence on American society, rather than on Soviet espionage, led to the surveillance of not only Soviet spies, but everyday American Communists. COINTELPRO spurred from the Supreme Court hindering Hoover's ability to operate the FBI as a standalone force separate from American laws. The deterrent effect that spawned from Hoover and his FBI's counterintelligence work, obstructed the Soviet espionage network, forcing the USSR to redirect their methods of espionage. Without this obstruction, future spies could have continued harming the United States, in a way that past spies had only dreamed of, for their work would have continued unabated. Additionally, the surveillance and prosecutions led to a restriction of freedom of speech through intimidation that prevented individuals from speaking out for what they believed in (anti-Vietnam War, Communism, etc) for fear of retaliation. This greatly hindered Vietnam War protests. Hoover was able to destroy the reputations of suspected Communists and tear apart far-left groups and movements through internal strife, isolation, and public criminalization/investigations.



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