Topic 1 – McCarthy and the Red Scare

The McCarthy Anti Communist ‘Witch Hunts’

REASONS FOR THE RED SCARE

COLD WAR
- After World War 2 ended in 1945 the USA and USSR’s relationship collapsed. They had rival political systems that had co-operated to defeat the Nazis. Once Hitler had been defeated there was very little to keep them together. They could not agree on whether countries should be communist or democratic.

- The USA was also worried about the Soviet takeover of countries in Eastern Europe (POLAND, GERMANY AND BULGARIA) and feared the Domino effect.

TRUMAN 1947
- As a result a fear of Communism developed in the USA and Truman saw this and decided to take action. He created the Truman Doctrine in 1947 where he promised to protect the world from communism (this was a declaration of hostility).

- The Marshall Plan was an addition to the Truman Docterine in 1947.
  - He would give money to other countries to help get them back on their feet after the war so they could fight for themselves against communism.
  - $12.5 billion was given to 16 countries some saw it as a bribe to not go communist.

- In 1947 he created FLEP which meant he would sack anyone in the government who was a suspect of being communist. The aim of thee checks was to find spies and those in favour of communism – no spies were found and by 1952, 6.6 million federal workers had been checked.

- In 1948 Marshall aid spread to Europe.

- This all heightened fear as communist countries thought the US had no right to interfere with other countries. EFFECT

HUAC 1947
- The House of Un-American Activities Committee was designed to check up on ‘Un-American’ or Communist activities.

- In 1947, the committee started to look at the film industry, due to a fear that it was trying to put across communist ideology. Ten writers and directors chose to remain silent, pleading their fifth amendment right, in court after having been accused of being Communists; they were all sacked and spend a year in jail – the ‘Hollywood Ten’.

- This put HUAC on the map as it made big news.

THE KOREAN WAR 1950
- Until 1949 the spread of was only in Eastern Europe but in 1949 the communist party successfully reached China so now communism was seen as a worldwide threat. (HIGHTENED FEAR).

- In 1950 china supported the Invasion of South Korea by the communist North Korea.
The project did result in many Black Americans being enfranchised and there were more than 650,000 new registrations, many were also still refused a vote. **LIMITED PROGRESS**

- The SNCC workers were also subject to harassment such as being beaten up and shot. Churches were bombed.
- The SNCC thought that both Kennedy’s would protect them, but it was up to the local police, who failed. **LIMIT**

**THE MERIDETH CASE**

- Southern states had a serious opposition to the national law of desegregation. In 1962, James Meredith was the first black student to go Mississippi University. There was a large scale riot on campus that had to be put down by federal troops. For 3 years Meredith had to have police protection to finish his degree.

A change in attitude towards black Civil Rights in the 60’s

-Civil rights protesters and groups, such as Malcolm X, the Black Panthers’ and the Nation of Islam thought that the change in black American civil rights was not fast enough: they said that to speed up change, people should use violence against violence.

-White segregationists were becoming increasingly violent in response to the civil rights protests.

**BIRMINGHAM MARCH 1963**

**CAUSE**

- Birmingham was the target for a desegregation campaign because there was not a single piece of desegregation that had been carried out yet. In Birmingham, there were also many bombings on black houses, churches and businesses.

- Although sit-ins had some success there was still no federal law of integration.

**KEY EVENTS**

- The desegregation campaign took place on April 3rd in the form of peaceful marches, and when the adult protesters were arrested, children went on peaceful marches – they were also arrested. MLK said it was better to be arrested than just accept segregation.

- On April 12th he went to jail for going against ban of marches.

- In may the officers set dogs and water hoses on the protesters and 1300 children were arrested.

**EFFECTS**

- The mayor reacted by making negotiations with the protestors on how to desegregate Birmingham.
Limitations

The reported number of legal abortions more than doubled between 1972 and 1980.

In 1970, 44% of men earned over $25,000 a year, while only 9% of women did.

The feminist magazine Ms went on sale for the first time in 1972 and sold 250,000 copies in 8 days.

In 1950 there were 721,000 women at university. By 1960, this reached 1.3 million. Many of these women were limited to career choice because they were expected to marry, and devote their time and energy to their husband and children.

Women’s studies courses appeared at universities in the early 1970’s.

In 1950, women made up almost 29% of the workforce.

The US armed forces relaxed some restrictions against women in 1976, by allowing them to train at the academies at Annapolis and West Point.

In 1963, results from a commission set up to investigate the status of women at work reported that women had a second class status in employment.

In 1963, Betty Friedman wrote ‘The Feminist Mystique’. Her book expressed the thoughts of many women – there was more to life than being a housewife and a mother.

In 1964, Civil Rights Act made it illegal to discriminate on the grounds of gender. The Equal Opportunities Commission did not take female discrimination seriously.

In 1966, the National Organisation for Women was set up (NOW).

In 1972, The Supreme Court ruled that the US Constitution did give men and women equal rights.


Topic 4 – The Student Movement

CAUSE

MUSIC AND POPCULTRE
  o The ‘Hippy’ movement urged ‘to drop out’. They said “make love, not war”.
  o Many young Americans loved rock and roll music. Elvis Presley shocked many Americans.
  o In the 1960’s there were more demands for freedom in music and fashion.
  o More young people started to experiment with ‘soft’ drugs.
  o Protest singers like Bob Dylan became more popular.

REJECTION OF TRADITIONAL VALUES