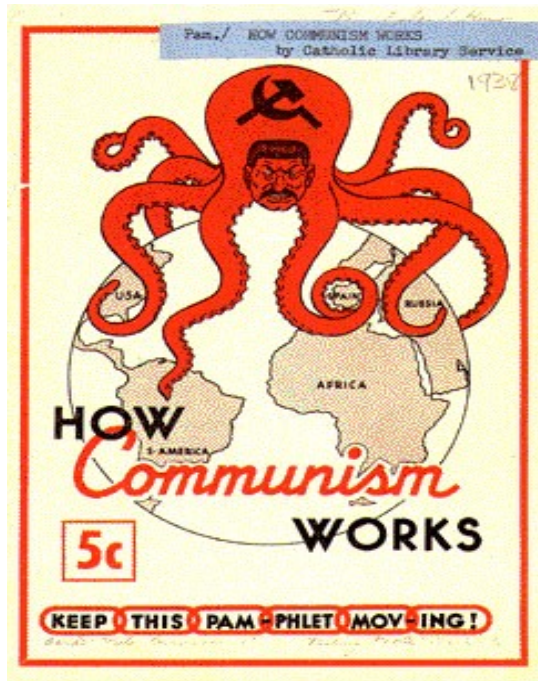


McCarthyism and the “Great Fear”: DBQ Exercise

Document 1

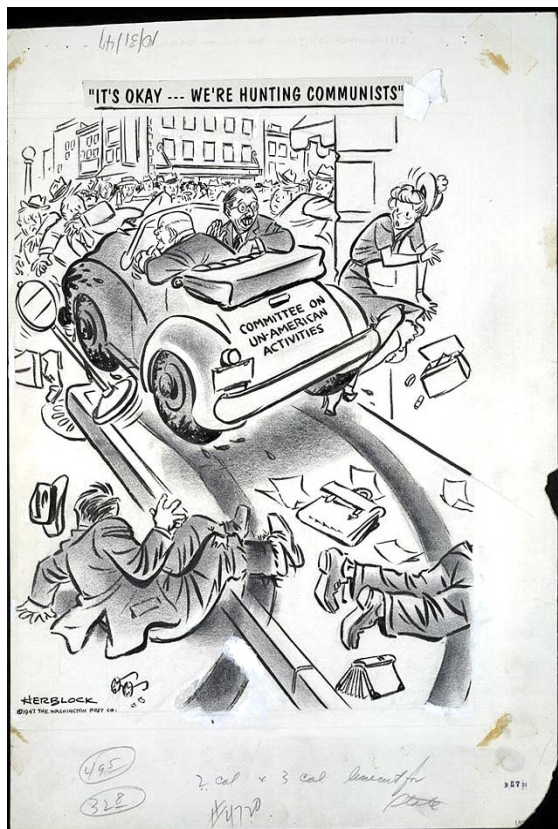


“How Communism Works”

1. Who might the Octopus represent?
2. Why did the author choose an octopus as the symbol for communism in this poster?
3. What is the message of this poster?
4. Who paid for the production of this poster and why is that important?

Source: Catholic Library Services, 1938

Document 2



“It’s Okay, We’re Hunting Communists”

By Herbert Block, Oct 31, 1947
Washington Post

1. What is happening in the cartoon?
2. How does the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC) car parallel HUAC activities of the time?
3. How are people affected by the HUAC car in the cartoon?
4. What do you think is the author's attitude toward HUAC?

Document 4**Seattle Post-Intelligencer
Are They Ashamed?**

July 28, 1948

The professors at the University of Washington who refused to answer pertinent questions are indeed dumb if they think the public is not entitled to have the information requested by the investigators. Those teachers are working for the people of the State of Washington. The taxpayers, who are paying their salaries, have every right to know whether or not the professors are, or ever have been, members of the Communist Party.

Are They Ashamed?

Seattle Post Intelligencer, July 28 1948

Author Unknown

1. Is this editorial supportive of or oppositional against Communism?
2. What assumption is the author of this editorial making regarding the professors?
3. What type of a news story is the author of this editorial likely responding to?
4. What result is the author hoping to achieve?

Document 5

“One communist, one communist in the faculty of one university is one communist too many. One communist among the American advisors at Yalta was one communist too many. And even...even if there were only one communist in the State Department, even if there were only one communist in the State Department that would still be one communist too many.”

"One Communist"

By Senator Joseph McCarthy, July 7, 1952

1. What is the assumption regarding the result of having “one Communist” in any of the situations the author lists?
2. Who are the intended audiences for this speech (not necessarily who he is speaking to at the time of the speech, but who might he hope to get a response from)?
3. What type of response is McCarthy likely to get from this portion of his speech?