

Fear and Rights

How the First Red Scare shaped American life after World War I.

USII.5.b “examining how the rise of communism affected America including, but not limited to the first Red Scare;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each event or action that shows fear of communism. Circle each effect that fear had on people’s rights, work, or daily life.

The First Red Scare

- ① In 1917, revolutionaries called Bolsheviks took control in Russia and promised a communist society. Many Americans feared that communism would spread to the United States. This fear grew after World War I, when prices rose, workers went on strike, and some people blamed radicals for unrest. In 1919, mail bombs were sent to government leaders, including Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer. Although few people supported violent revolution, the bombs increased public alarm about radicals across the country.
- ② Palmer responded by organizing raids against people suspected of being radicals. Federal agents arrested thousands of people in late 1919 and early 1920. Some were held without fair evidence or access to lawyers. The government deported hundreds of noncitizens, including anarchist Emma Goldman. These actions, called the Palmer Raids, showed how fear of communism could lead officials to limit civil liberties, such as the right to fair legal treatment. Newspapers often reported the raids, spreading concern even further.
- ③ The First Red Scare affected daily life beyond government offices. Employers sometimes used fear of radicalism to oppose labor unions and strikes. Schools, businesses, and community groups urged people to prove their loyalty to the United States. Immigrants could face extra suspicion because some Americans connected foreign birth with radical ideas. The Red Scare did not prove that most strikers or immigrants wanted communism. Instead, it revealed how fear could shape public opinion and decisions about rights.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which two events in the first paragraph increased Americans' fear of radicalism or communism?

2 How did the Palmer Raids limit civil liberties for some people? Give two details from the passage.

3 Describe two ways the First Red Scare affected life outside government offices.

4 According to the final paragraph, what did the Red Scare not prove, and what did it reveal?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write three sentences explaining how fear of communism affected Americans during the First Red Scare. Use two details from the passage and explain one effect on rights or daily life.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each event or action that shows fear of communism. Circle each effect that fear had on people's rights, work, or daily life. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two events in the first paragraph increased Americans' fear of radicalism or communism?	The Bolsheviks taking control in Russia and the 1919 mail bombs sent to government leaders.
2	How did the Palmer Raids limit civil liberties for some people? Give two details from the passage.	Agents arrested thousands of suspects. Some people were held without fair evidence or access to lawyers, and hundreds of noncitizens were deported.
3	Describe two ways the First Red Scare affected life outside government offices.	Employers used fear of radicalism to oppose unions and strikes, and schools, businesses, and community groups urged loyalty. Immigrants also faced extra suspicion.
4	According to the final paragraph, what did the Red Scare not prove, and what did it reveal?	It did not prove that most strikers or immigrants wanted communism. It revealed that fear could shape public opinion and decisions about rights.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When news of the Russian revolution and mail bombs raised fear, many Americans worried about radicals. The government answered with Palmer Raids, arresting thousands of suspects and deporting hundreds of noncitizens. Fear also led employers to oppose unions and strikes, while some suspects lost fair legal treatment.

Accept accurate details showing that fear of communism influenced government actions, civil liberties, labor, immigration, loyalty demands, or public opinion. For the open response, accept any three-sentence explanation that uses two passage details and names an effect on rights or daily life.