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**The First Red Scare (1919-1920)**

On May 1, 1919, postal officials discovered 20 bombs in the mail of prominent capitalists, including John D. Rockefeller and J. P. Morgan, Jr., as well as government officials like Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. A month later, bombs exploded in eight American cities. On September 16, 1920, a bomb left in a parked horse-drawn wagon exploded near Wall Street in Manhattan's financial district, killing 30 people and injuring hundreds. The bomb was suspected to have been the work of foreign radicals. Authorities came up with a list of suspects and even questioned the man who had recently re-shod the wagon's horse. But despite the offer of an $80,000 reward, no one was charged with the crime.

The end of World War I was accompanied by a panic over political radicalism. Fear of bombs, communism, and labor unrest produced a "Red Scare." In Hammond, Indiana, a jury took two minutes to acquit the killer of an immigrant who had yelled "To Hell with the United States." At a victory pageant in Washington, D.C., a sailor shot a man who refused to stand during the playing of the Star-Spangled Banner, while the crowd clapped and cheered. A clerk in a Waterbury, Connecticut clothing store was sentenced to jail for six months for remarking to a customer that the Russian revolutionary Lenin was "one of the brainiest" world’s leaders.

The waves of labor strikes during 1919 struck fear into the hearts of many Americans, who saw the labor unrest as proof of a coming workers’ revolution. Labor unions staged the 1919 strikes primarily because they felt they were not receiving fair treatment from owners. But more and more, Americans were unsympathetic to the workers’ position as anticommunist hysteria swept America during 1919 and 1920.

The Red Scare in the United States was a response to the 1917 revolution in Russia. This revolution resulted in the establishment of a communist government based on the philosophies of Karl Marx. Under communism, the Russian government owned and controlled all property, including every industry and factory. In 1919 Russia’s Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin established an organization called the Communist International. It was designed to encourage other nations to engage in a worldwide communist revolution by overthrowing capitalism and free enterprise. The idea that communism might take hold in the United States was frightening to many Americans during 1919.

Karl Marx’s message of a working-class revolution found broad appeal among people who did not partake in the wealth that could be had through capitalism. They became frustrated with the seemingly heartless Capitalists who accepted that, in order for some to succeed, others would fail. Marxism even won some support in the United States. Labor leader Eugene Debs and others formed the Marxist-inspired Socialist Party in 1901. In contrast to the revolutionary Marxism of the Communist Party, Debs’s Socialist Party foresaw a peaceful transition to socialism by democratic means. Debs ran for president five times between 1900 and 1920. His Socialist party platform called for the workers to have ownership of industry, which was to be achieved by nonviolent means. In the 1912 election Debs received more than 900,000 votes.

But in 1919 and 1920, Red Scare hysteria led many Americans to reject Socialism and Marxist ideas. President Wilson's attorney general, A. Mitchell Palmer, led raids on leftist organizations such as the Communist Party and the International Workers of the World, a radical labor union. He created an early form of the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation), which collected the names of thousands of known or suspected communists.

In November 1919, Palmer ordered government raids that resulted in the arrests of 250 suspected radicals in 11 cities. The Palmer Raids reached their height on January 2, 1920, when government agents made raids in 33 cities. Nationwide, more than 4,000 alleged communists were arrested and jailed without bond, and 556 aliens were deported--including the radical orator Emma Goldman.

Palmer claimed to be ridding the country of the "moral perverts and hysterical women who abound in communism," but his tactics alienated many people who viewed them as violations of civil liberties.

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1. What important change took place in Russian under the new Communist regime?
   1. The Russian government gained control of industry
   2. The workers now owned all factories and businesses
   3. Karl Marx became the leader of the Communist International
   4. Workers organized massive strikes against the government
2. In contrast to communism, the American economic system is based on:
   1. Collective ownership of all industry and business
   2. Modified socialism
   3. Free enterprise and capitalism
   4. Government management of private property
3. In this section, the word transition means-
   1. Passage of time
   2. Period of upheaval
   3. Type of government
   4. Process of change
4. In which year was Deb’s Socialist Party most powerful?
   1. 1900
   2. 1912
   3. 1917
   4. 1920
5. Most American members of the Socialist Party believed:
   1. Violence would be necessary in order to overthrow the government
   2. Communism and socialism were identical
   3. American government could be changed through peaceful methods
   4. Immigrants should not be allowed to join unions
6. Which group of people did Americans suspect were responsible for the strikes of 1919?
   1. Working-class men and women
   2. Foreigners employed by Russia
   3. German immigrants
   4. Attorney General Palmer
7. Why did the attorney general target the International Workers of the World?
   1. They were laundering money through the union
   2. They planned to assassinate the president
   3. They were suspected of being communists
   4. They were an illegal organization in the USA
8. Many Americans were frightened by the labor strikes of 1919 because:
   1. They feared a communist revolution would follow the strikes
   2. They were concerned about post-war industry and prosperity
   3. They were hoping that socialism would grow in popularity
   4. They understood that workers were being treated unfairly
9. Name 2 specific ways the Red Scare violated civil liberties in the United States:

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