

Resource Sheet #04

Timeline of Events

| | Arrests and Trials (Rosenberg Case) | Historical Context |
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| <p>WWII YEARS</p> | | <p>1941 – Nazi Germany implements the “Final Solution to the “Jewish problem”</p> <p>June 22, 1941 – Hitler invades USSR</p> <p>December 7, 1941 – Japan bombs Pearl Harbor, and U.S. enters WWII as Soviet ally</p> <p>February 2, 1943 – Germans surrender at Stalingrad</p> <p>April 12, 1945 – President Franklin D. Roosevelt dies and Harry S. Truman becomes president</p> <p>May 8, 1945 – Germans surrender to Allies</p> <p>July 16, 1945 – First atomic bomb exploded, Alamogordo, NM</p> <p>August 6, 1945 – U.S. drops A-bomb on Hiroshima</p> <p>September 2, 1945 – Japan surrenders, WWII ends</p> |
| <p>POST-WAR YEARS</p> <p>1945 to 1950</p> | | <p>1947 – Attorney General’s list of subversive organizations compiled</p> <p>1947 – House Un-American Activities Committee begins investigation of Communists in Hollywood</p> <p>August 29, 1949 – First atomic explosion in USSR</p> <p>October 1949 – Communist Mao Zedong proclaimed the establishment of the People’s Republic of China</p> |
| <p>1950</p> | <p>February 2, 1950 – Klaus Fuchs arrested in London and confesses</p> <p>March 1, 1950 – Klaus Fuchs found guilty and sentenced to 14 years</p> <p>May 23, 1950 – Harry Gold arrested and confesses</p> <p>June 16, 1950 – David Greenglass arrested and confesses</p> <p>July 17, 1950 – Julius Rosenberg arrested</p> <p>August 11, 1950 – Ethel Rosenberg arrested</p> <p>August 18, 1950 – Morton Sobell arrested at Mexican border</p> <p>December 7, 1950 – Harry Gold sentenced to 30 years</p> | <p>1950 – Congress passes Internal Security Act giving the government the power to detain, deport, and revoke the citizenship of suspected subversives</p> <p>January 1950 – Alger Hiss, an important government official, was accused of being a Soviet spy and convicted of perjury</p> <p>February 1950 – Joseph McCarthy accuses U.S. State Dept. of harboring Communists</p> <p>June 25, 1950 – Korean War begins</p> |

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| 1951 | <p>March 6-28, 1951 – Trial of Rosenbergs, Morton Sobell, and David Greenglass before Judge Irving R. Kaufman:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Julius Rosenberg found guilty, sentenced to death ▪ Ethel Rosenberg found guilty, sentenced to death ▪ Morton Sobell found guilty, sentenced to 30 years ▪ David Greenglass sentenced to 15 years <p>November 8, 1951 – National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case formed</p> | |
| 1952 | <p>October 13, 1952 – Supreme Court refuses to review Rosenberg Case</p> | <p>1952 – First U.S. hydrogen bomb is exploded November 1952 – Eisenhower elected president</p> |
| 1953 | <p>June 19, 1953 – Supreme Court reverses last-minute stay of execution granted by Justice William O. Douglas by 6-3 vote June 19, 1953 – Rosenbergs are executed at 8:00 pm before the start of the Jewish Sabbath</p> | <p>July 17, 1953 – Korean ceasefire signed</p> |
| 1954 | | <p>1954 – Army-McCarthy hearings, Senate censures Joseph McCarthy 1954 – Atomic Energy Commission revokes Robert Oppenheimer’s security clearance due to the Communist ideas he held in the 1930s and his connection to Communist scientists while working on the Manhattan Project</p> |
| 1960s | <p>1960 – David Greenglass paroled 1966 – Harry Gold paroled 1969 – Morton Sobell paroled</p> | |