

THE RED SCARE

Fear of Communism in America



Vladimir Lenin & the Russian Revolution

- **Russia fought with the Allies in WWI until the Russian people decided they'd had enough of the war. They decided to concentrate on fixing their own government.**



Russian soldiers of World War I

- They wanted to get rid of their ruler, Czar Nicholas II. They wanted to close the gap between the rich and poor in Russia.

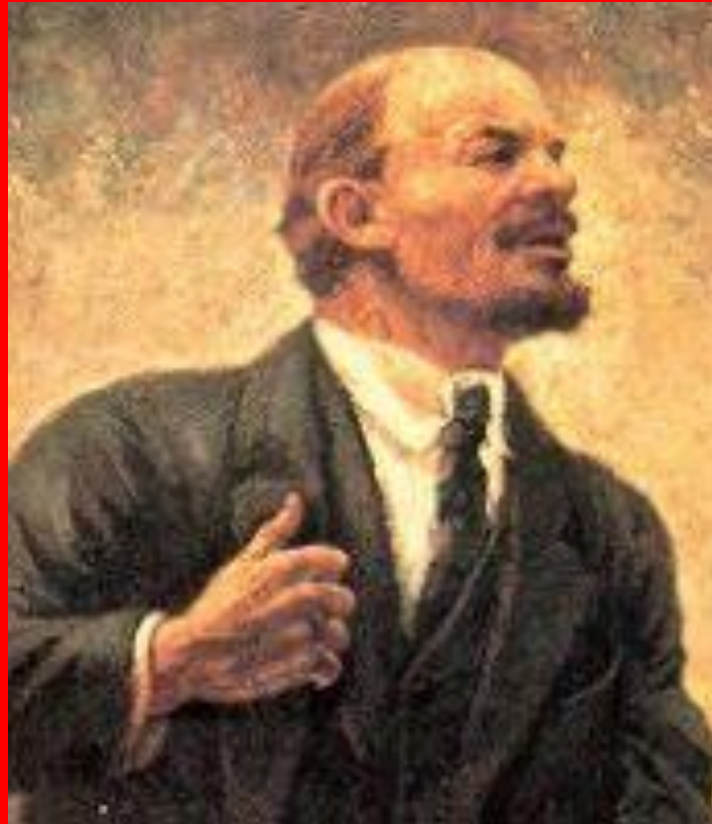


Tsar Nicholas II of Russia

- They wanted freedom like the Americans.
So they had a revolution to overthrow their
czar in 1917.



- **But instead of a democracy, a Communist revolutionary named Vladimir Lenin took power in Russia, and became the country's dictator.**



Vladimir Lenin

- Some people in America were scared by Russia's communist revolution. Under communism, property and goods belong to the state.



Death to Capitalism

- **Communist people are expected to share. That sounds great, but it just never works unless forced upon people.**

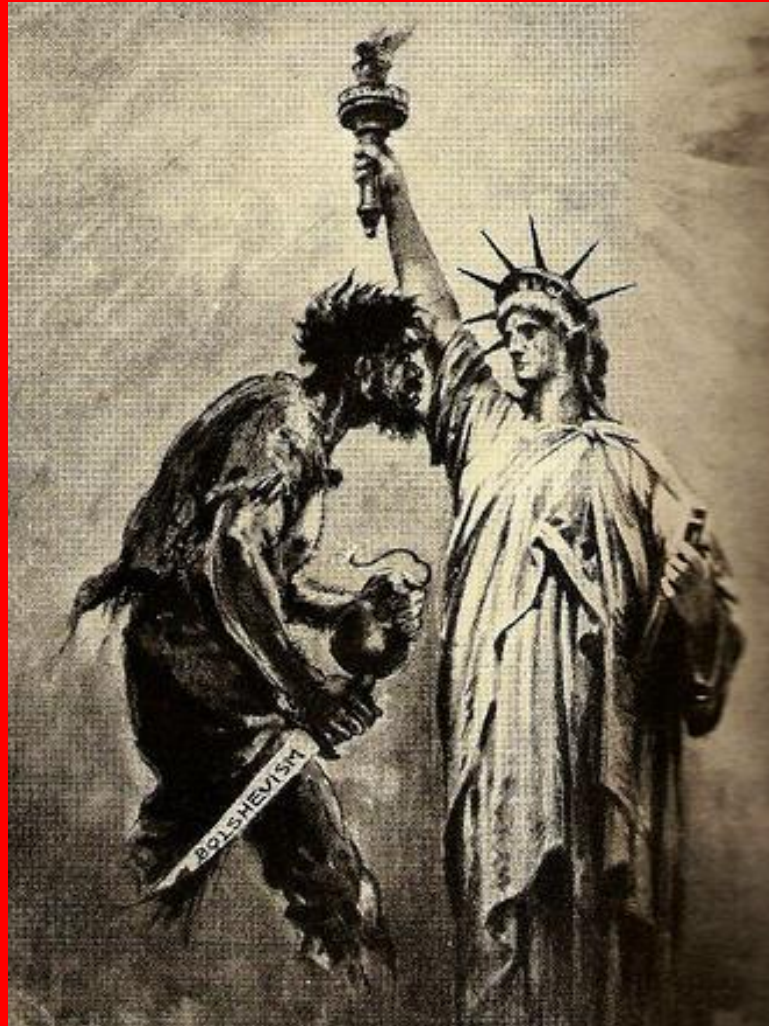


- **As a consequence, communist nations have not been free nations.**



Soldiers of the Russian Revolution.

- **After World War I, some Americans were scared that communists wanted to take over in the United States.**



- **There were a few communists in America, but they were not successful. Most Americans were not attracted to communism's ideas.**



America's Liberty Bell & the American Bald Eagle

- During this same period, there were also some people called anarchists.
Anarchist's do not believe in governments.



- You don't have to be very smart to realize that anarchy doesn't work. But, when anarchists looked around and saw poverty and war, they blamed the government.



American Doughboys WWI

- **A few anarchists tried to do that by setting off bombs intended to kill U.S. government leaders.**

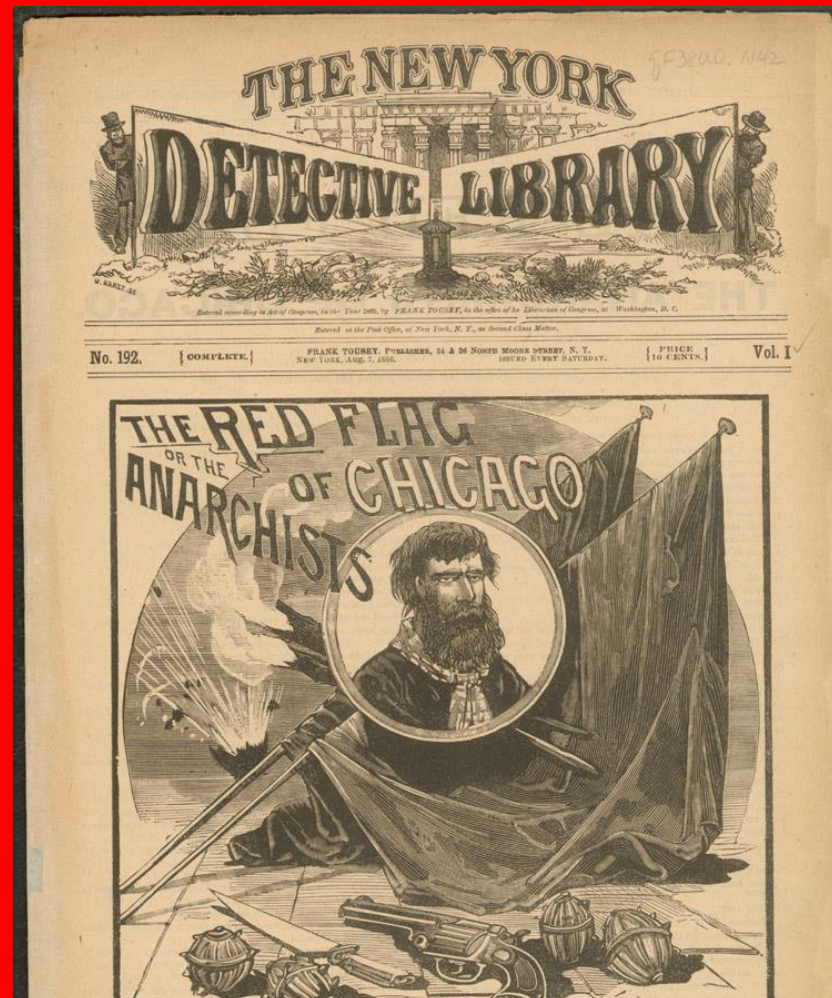


Bombing on Wall Street, New York City.

- In 1920, a bomb exploded on Wall Street, killing 38 people and fueling fears that communists threatened the nation's security.



- That, of course, was criminal behavior. Newspapers made big headlines of the bombs. Many Americans were frightened.



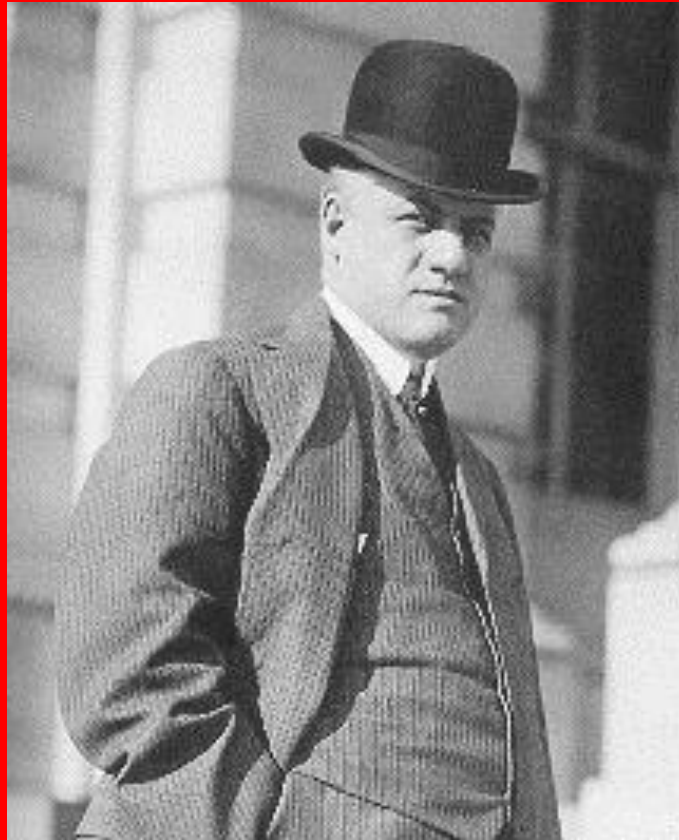
- **Sacco and Vanzetti were two Italian immigrants accused and executed by the federal government for allegedly murdering a paymaster and a security guard in Massachusetts, without any hard evidence.**



- **Sacco and Vanzetti were anarchists, and many believed they were found guilty because of their ideas not because of the alleged crime. The immigrant community was outraged over the arrests and sentences.**



- In response, Mitchell Palmer, President Wilson's attorney general, without authority, conducted an illegal “witch hunt” for suspected communists and anarchists.



Mitchell Palmer

- **Attorney General Palmer took the law into his own hands, and, in two days, (Palmer Raids) agents (in 1920), invaded homes, clubs, union halls, and coffee shops, rounding up nearly 5,000 people.**



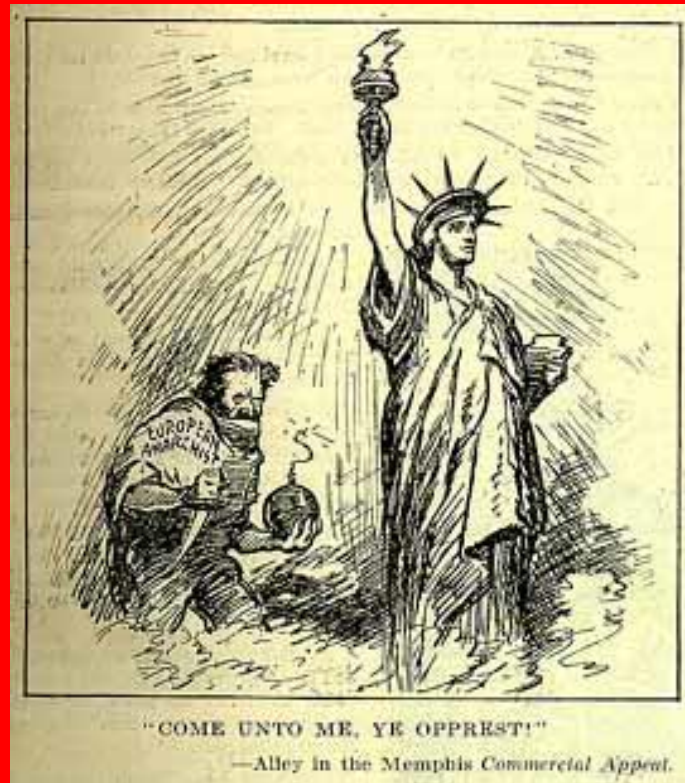
- 5,000 people were held in jail, not allowed to call anyone, and treated terribly.



- Those without citizenship papers were sent out of the country (deported). Most were not guilty of anything.



- **Communists are sometimes called “reds” after the flag and colors of the Russian Revolution. Mitchell Palmer took advantage of America’s fear and prejudice of communism and immigrants.**



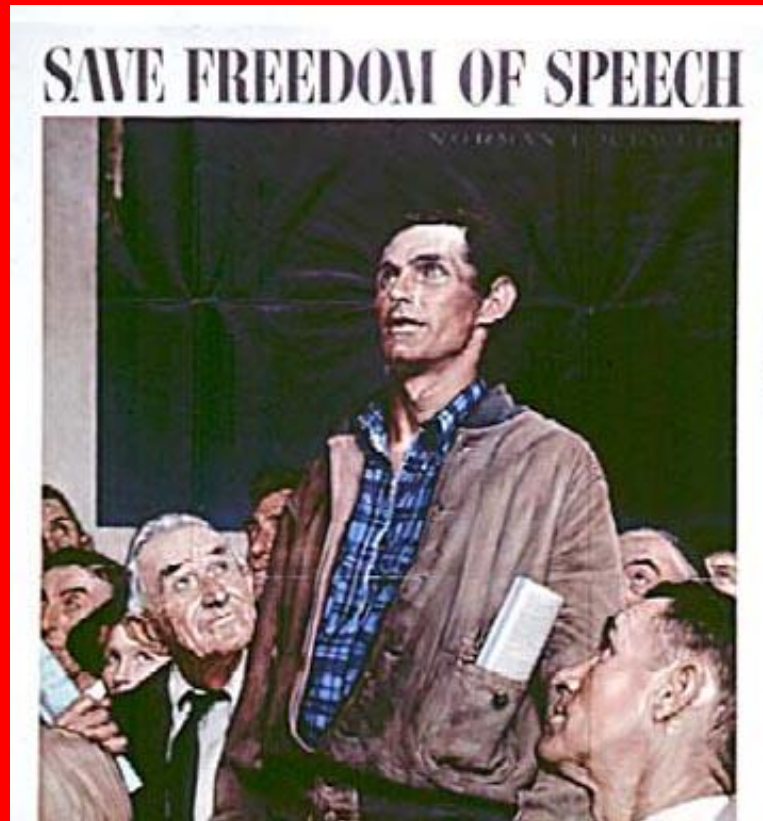
- **Palmer helped create a “red scare.” He hoped the issue would make him a popular presidential candidate as hard on communists. But, it didn’t work that way.**



- During the red scare, Americans were not free to speak out about communism. They weren't free to criticize the government. Some people's lives were ruined after being accused as a communist.



- **The 1st Amendment says that citizens are free to speak their minds, including communists and anarchists, as long as they do not engage in criminal activity or plot to overthrow the government.**



- In addition, during the 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan grew tremendously. The Klan no longer limited its hatred to blacks, it included anti-immigration, anti-communist, anti-Catholic, and anti-Jewish propaganda.

Freedom of Speech ?

