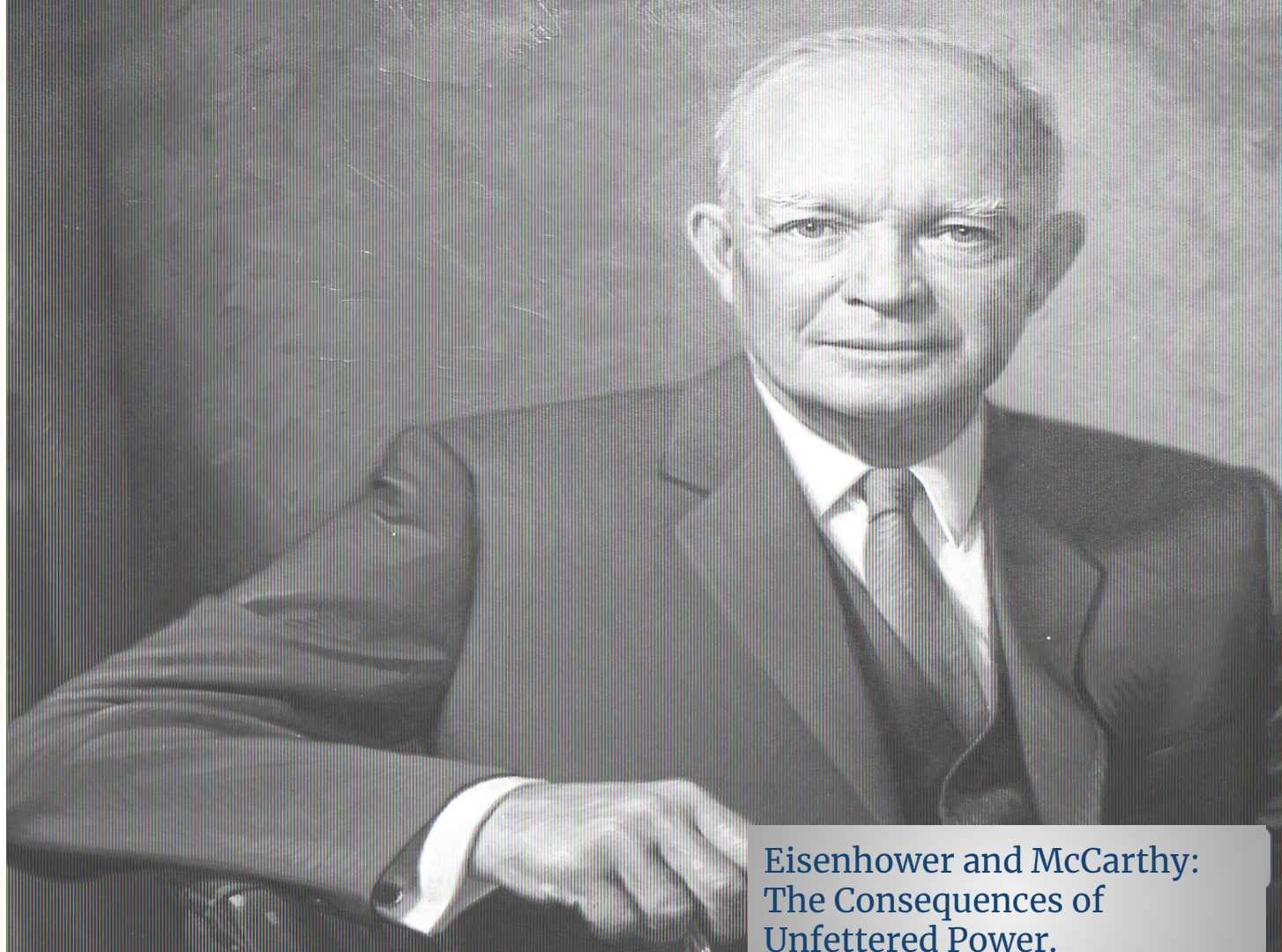National Archives

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Eisenhower and McCarthy:
The Consequences of
Unfettered Power.

What is McCarthyism?

- Joseph McCarthy

- 1. The political practice of publicizing accusations of disloyalty or subversion with insufficient regard to evidence; and
- 2. The use of methods of investigation and accusation regarded as unfair, in order to suppress opposition

- Communism

- **communism**, political and economic doctrine that aims to replace private property and a profit-based economy with public ownership and communal control of at least the major means of production (e.g., mines, mills, and factories) and the natural resources of a society.

What is McCarthyism?

- Responsibilities program/J. Edgar Hoover

- Maybe worse than McCarthyism

- Eisenhower's Initial Response

https://www.eisenhowerlibrary.gov/sites/default/files/research/online-documents/mccarthyism/1953-10-09-dde-to-milton.pdf

https://www.eisenhowerlibrary.gov/sites/default/files/research/online-documents/mccarthyism/1953-12-01-rumbough-to-snyder.pdf

Discussion: What happens when we do nothing?
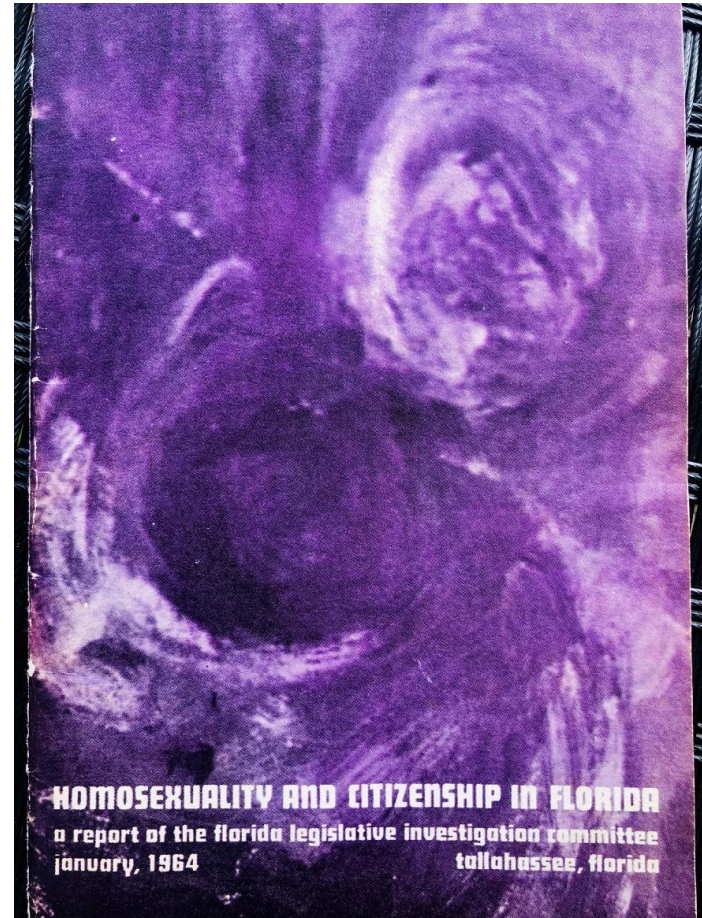
The Consequences of Apathy

- Why didn't Eisenhower directly respond?
- Hoped the Senate would act
- Didn't want to appear soft on Communism
- Initially thought that if he ignored him he would go away.
- WWII
- Citizens turning in other citizens
- Genocide
- Civil and Human rights violations

Discussion: What happens when the person/people who have the power to act choose not to?

The Trickle Down Effect

- Similar state programs and laws
- The California Senate Factfinding Subcommittee on UnAmerican Activities
- Florida Legislative Investigation Committee
- Criminal anarchy and syndicalism
- Severe Punishment for being a Communist
- Local laws
- Other programs
- Loyalty Oaths
- Black Lists
- Lavender scare
- Public Responses

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kM0wzs8sDljVruJpjiFrkHF0F3RdOezZ

Discussion: When is the right time to speak up?

HOMOSEXUALITY AND CITIZENSHIP IN FLORIDA
a report of the florida legislative investigation committee
january, 1964   tallahassee, florida

Conclusion and Questions

Discussion: How can you make this relevant to your students?