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## Creeping McCarthyism

Sources: Workers' World

Eighteen states led primarily by Republicans have passed laws or enacted policies restricting what educators can say about race, history and racism since 2021. Every day comes another report involving a ban on books or new legislation censoring access to knowledge and history.



Protest against the so-called Mothers for Freedom in Philadelphia, July 2, 2023. The banner reads: "Book censorship is fascist. Let the children read."

Across the United States, books containing LGBTQ2S+ and racially inclusive references are being pulled from school library shelves. High school teachers are asked to remove

Pride flags and other displays of support for trans youth from their classrooms or fired for presenting anti-racist lessons or making comments in class, university professors are reprimanded, many also face dismissal.

In February of 2023, the state of Florida scrapped a promising curriculum Advanced Placement pilot in African American History, claiming that It lacked "educational value." The "Stop WOKE" legislation in Florida, Texas and several other states represent an effort to purge the U.S. history of any reference to violence against blacks, browns, indigenous and Asians by the white supremacists.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' "anti-woke" campaign would overhaul how history is taught, including omitting or minimizing contributions from historic civil rights leaders like Rosa Parks. DeSantis is being criticized for suggesting that slavery benefited people held captive in America by "teaching them new skills."

For activists, *woke* is synonymous with awareness. Calls to "stay awake" resonated throughout the history of the American Civil Rights Movement, and reverberate in the recent Black Lives Matter movement. It's not that some white students claim discomfort with learning about the brutally racist history of their ancestors: it's about trying to totally erase that history with textbooks that glorify white supremacy.

Once Moreover, the right gathers around an invented threat, in a modern parallelism with the McCarthy period of the 1950s.

### **The Red Scare**

The Senator Wisconsin's Joseph McCarthy was a minor political figure until February of 1950, when he falsely claimed to possess a list of 205 members communists employed in the U.S. State Department. For the next four years, paranoia about the threat of The "Red Scare" - reached its peak.

McCarthy propagated the idea that communists could be lurking anywhere, using their jobs as teachers, union organizers, artists, actors, journalists, etc., to promote world communist domination. Hundreds of people were imprisoned and tens of thousands lost their jobs. McCarthyism came to mean making public accusations of disloyalty or subversion without evidence and employing questionable methods of investigation and prosecution to suppress opposition.

The Red accusation movement associated with McCarthy actually began in The 1930s in response to mass strikes by workers of the automotive industry and other sectors. It was an effort concerted to weaken unions, purging leaders affiliated to communist or socialist parties.

In 1946, More than 4.6 million workers went on strike, more than in no other year in American history. In 1947, the Congress overrode President Harry S. Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley Act, which demanded that all union officials above the rank of They were delegates to sign an oath that they were not communists.

I do not know They can ignore the parallels between the anti-communist persecution during the McCarthy period and the anti-woke crusade of today. But instead of causing alarm, they should be seen as a Call to organize.

### **The Answer: Multinational Unity of the Working Class**

The extreme The right wing of the ruling class was especially alarmed by the outpouring of million people worldwide in 2020 in the Black movement Lives Matter after the police killing of George Floyd, as young people White workers took to the streets in militant elbow protests. Standing shoulder to shoulder with his black and brown companions.

Although the Street actions have temporarily subsided, their energy helped Nurturing the growing movement of young workers - multinational and multi-gender - to organise trade unions in places of I work from Starbucks to Amazon and beyond. Only the threat of strike of 340,000 UPS workers forced the company to satisfy many of their claims.

Of California to New York, struggles to get reparations for descendants of enslaved people in America are gaining momentum.

The Capitalism is a dying system, sustained by massive spending on wars at the expense of all social programs. Young people everywhere Nationalities, sexes and gender identities are increasingly felt more alienated and fear for their future because of the obvious damage that the Capitalism has caused the environment.

What I know stands in the way of a truly anti-capitalist movement These are the same tools that capitalism has used. historically to divide the world working class: racism, homophobia, xenophobia, sexism, transphobia, ableism and ageism.

The working class is increasingly uniting, driven by growing labor organizing led by workers who are often people of color and gender non-binary. The threat of the multinational unity of the working class is what the ruling class fears most today, just as it feared communism 70 years ago.

Source: <https://www.workers.org/2023/08/72804/>