

Citation metadata

Author: Gary W. Reichard
Date: Sept. 1993
From: *Reviews in American History*(Vol. 21, Issue 3)
Publisher: Johns Hopkins University Press
Document Type: Book review
Length: 2,701 words

Main content

Article Preview :

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1992. xiii + 219 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, and index. \$34.95.

With most of the valuable and revealing sources on political issues during the Eisenhower years having been available for several years, the conventional wisdom concerning the thirty-fourth president has become fairly well established. Interpretations that were considered revisionist ten or fifteen years ago now command wide acceptance from historians who write about Eisenhower. That he was a strong leader in the White House (strong enough, indeed, to call the shots in domestic policy as well as to dominate his relationship with Secretary of State John Foster Dulles); that he could be (and was) alternately manipulative and forcefully directive in order to control events about which he particularly cared; that he had a well developed set of political views and could articulate them clearly (at least when off the public stage)--all of these themes have come to characterize the preponderance of scholarly literature on Eisenhower.[1] This is not to say, however, that points of disagreement have disappeared, or that historians have run out of Eisenhower-era topics about which they can argue opposite sides of the issue from the same evidence. Such a topic is that about which Jeff Broadwater writes in *Eisenhower and the Anti-Communist Crusade*.

Its title notwithstanding, this study does more than assess Dwight D. Eisenhower's conduct in the White House with respect to the issue of domestic subversion. Like Richard M. Fried's recent study, *Nightmare in Red* (1990), it provides a sound overview of the nature and dimensions of the lengthy anticommunist frenzy in post-world War II America that both predated and outlived Senator Joseph McCarthy's meteoric crusade. Just as the activities of that whole era have erroneously been labeled "McCarthyism," Broadwater points out, so too has Eisenhower's handling of McCarthy been treated as if it fully explains his stance on anticommunism generally. The author directly challenges this view, noting that Ike's dealings with McCarthy actually "suggest little about his handling Of the Communist controversy" (p. 209). He makes this general case quite successfully. In addition to examining Ike's role with respect to the rise and fall of McCarthy, the book includes individual chapters on the other equally significant aspects of domestic anticommunist activity during the Eisenhower era: efforts to ferret out "security risks" from within the ranks of federal agencies; the anticommunist crusade inside the State Department (and United Nations mission); and the many attempts, both successful and unsuccessful, to circumscribe the civil liberties of American citizens through legislation in the name of "security."

Throughout the book, Broadwater's strong disapproval for the approach taken by Eisenhower and most of the key players in his administration comes through clearly. Students of the period will not be surprised by most of the villains the author identifies, including John Foster Dulles, Richard Nixon, and the Old Guard Republicans in Congress. But two figures who usually enjoy relatively gentle handling by historians, Herbert Brownell and Henry Cabot Lodge, also receive very unsympathetic treatment...

[Access from your library](#)

This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

Source Citation

Source Citation

Reichard, Gary W. "Eisenhower and the Anti-Communist Crusade." *Reviews in American History*, vol. 21, no. 3, 1993, p. 482+. Accessed 27 Nov. 2020.

Gale Document Number: GALE|A14568800

Explore

This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.



Footer

- [About](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Accessibility](#)

Eisenhower & the anti-communist crusade. Item Preview. remove-circle. Share or Embed This Item. EMBED. texts. Eisenhower & the anti-communist crusade. by. Broadwater, Jeff. Publication date. 1992. Topics. Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1896-1969, Anti-communist movements, Communism. Eisenhower and the Republican Party stand tough against Communism while Senator Joe McCarthy annoys Eisenhower. Another intensely anti-communist American at odds with Eisenhower was the commander of the Strategic Air Command, Airforce General Curtis LeMay. He was more afraid of subversion within the US than he was of a threat from Moscow. He believed that he and his SAC bombers could readily eliminate any threat from Moscow, and he longed for permission to do so. What about Eisenhower's earnest commitment to civil liberties? The Eisenhower administration was sensitive to this issue and sought to assure Americans that individuals would not (contrary to McCarthy's methods) be unfairly singled out and that those who were charged with crimes or dismissed for cause would have the opportunity to defend themselves.¹⁵ At the same time, the President made it clear that serving in the government was fundamentally a. Complicating matters, and encouraging the perception that Ike was appeasing the nation's leading anticommunist politician, were efforts by Eisenhower aides to forge a constructive relationship between McCarthy and the administration.