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Salem Press Announces the Newest Addition to the Popular *Defining Documents in History Series: The 1950s (1950-1959)*

Defining Documents in American History: The 1950s offers in-depth analysis of a broad range of historical documents and historic events that shaped such pivotal themes such as the Cold War, anti-Communism, civil rights, science, and society in the 1950s. This text closely studies more than forty primary source documents and delivers a thorough examination of these movements in the U.S. from 1950 to 1959.

The 1950s are known, contradictorily, as an era both of economic prosperity and of national self-doubt, stemming in each case from the Cold War and the opportunities and anxieties it created. It created opportunities in the sense that this was a decade when the military-industrial complex came to the fore, providing a solid basis for a rapidly expanding economy. Yet the Cold War also created serious anxieties, as citizens worried about the spread of Communism overseas and at home and as the threat of nuclear war with the Soviet Union hung over the nation. The 1950s were a time of significant social change, as well, with the Supreme Court ordering the desegregation of public schools (in *Brown v. Board of Education*, 1954) and a budding civil rights movement beginning to find its voice.

Defining Documents in American History: The 1950s is organized under four broad categories

- The Cold War
- Anti-Communism
- Civil Rights
- Science and Society

Each document is supported by a critical essay, written by historians and teachers, that includes a Summary Overview, Defining Moment, Author Biography, Document Analysis, and Essential Themes. Readers will appreciate the diversity of the collected texts, including journals, letters, speeches, political sermons, laws, government reports, and trial notes, among other genres. An important feature of each essay is a close reading of the primary source that develops evidence of broader themes, such as author's rhetorical purpose, social or class position, point of view, and other relevant issues. In addition, essays are organized by section themes, listed above, highlighting major issues of the period, many of which extend across eras and continue to shape life as we know it around the world.

Each section begins with a brief introduction that defines questions and problems underlying the subjects in the historical documents. A brief glossary is included at the end of each document, highlighting keywords that are important in the study of the primary source. Each essay also includes a Bibliography and Additional Reading section for further research.

About the Series

Defining Documents consists of a collection of essays on important historical documents by a diverse range of writers on a broad range of subjects in American history. The series offers a broad range of historical documents on important authors and subjects in American history, with primary source documents, in-depth analysis, and comprehensive lesson plans that represent the diversity of ideas and contexts that define social, political and cultural subjects throughout American history. *The Defining Documents* series is perfect for students, those researching a particular era, or anyone interested in American History since 1492.

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In addition, *Defining Documents in American History: The 1950s (1950-1959)* comes with complimentary online access via <http://online.salempress.com>. A single purchase of the printed version is all it takes to gain access to this important title on the web.

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