**Fall of McCarthy**

* Downfall came when he turned on US Army (wrong group to accuse of being riddled by communists!)
  + First great “made-for-TV spectacle”
  + Army took charges seriously - Senate convened to investigate convoluted series of charges by McCarthy against the Army and vice versa

Backstory…

* Nov. 1953; McCarthy’s consultant (G. David Schine) drafted into Army
  + Roy M. Cohn, McCarthy’s chief of counsel, put pressure on military to give Schine special treatment
* March 1954: Army issues detailed chronology of all the times Cohn had improperly intervened in Schine’s military career
  + McCarthy responds: Army holding Schine “hostage” to deter his committee from exposing communists w/in the military ranks
* To resolve dispute…
  + Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations voted to investigate AND allow live tv coverage
  + McCarthy and Cohn vs. Army’s special counsel (Joseph N. Welch)
    - McCarthy: bleary-eyed, rude outbursts, boorish – comes across very badly
    - Welch: calm, patrician manner
* Senate hearings continue throughout the summer – McCarthy coming across very badly b/c of emotional outbursts
* Climax of hearings: June 9, 1954
  + McCarthy insinuated that a lawyer in Welch’s firm was a communists sympathizer (*despite a pre-hearing agreement b/t Cohn and Welch* *that they wouldn’t make such accusations*)
  + Welch has had enough
    - Responded w/ righteous outburst: “Until this moment, senator, I think I never gauged your cruelty or recklessness…Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last? Have you left no sense of decency?”
  + McCarthy tried to strike back, Welch cut him off and demanded the chairman “call the next witness”
  + Passing just a beat, the hushed gallery erupted in applause
  + McCarthy turned to Cohn and stammered, “What happened?”
    - Shot down on live TV
  + Political and television milestone
* 1954: censured by Senate committee
  + censure: to express official disapproval of condemnation
  + his influence is GONE
* 1957: McCarthy dies, prob. due to complications of alcoholism