**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