THE INTERNATIONAL SPY MUSEUM’S
SPIES, TRAITORS & SABOTEURS: FEAR AND FREEDOM IN AMERICA
FACT SHEET

Overview

Spies, Traitors & Saboteurs: Fear and Freedom in America is a special exhibition from the International Spy Museum that dramatically illustrates the challenge of securing our nation without compromising the civil liberties upon which it was founded. Through artifacts, multimedia and interactive exhibits, visitors will uncover stories of espionage, treason and deception in the United States from 1776 to today. Guests will discover little-known accounts of foreign agents, militias and radicals, and learn how responses to domestic attacks have driven counterintelligence measures that continue to affect our everyday lives.

Exhibition Details

Spies, Traitors & Saboteurs is organized in ten sections:

• Orientation
• Revolution: 1776-1890
• Sabotage: 1914-1918
• Hate: 1865-Present
• Radicalism: 1917-1920
• World War: 1935-1945
• Subversion: 1945-1956
• Protest: 1969-1976
• Extremism: 1992-Present
• Terrorism: 1980-Present

Through major events and periods in U.S. history when Americans were threatened by enemies within its borders, the exhibition depicts how the government and public responded, illustrating the corresponding evolution of U.S. counterintelligence and homeland security efforts. Events include:

• **The City of Washington Captured and the White House Burned – August 24, 1814**
  During the War of 1812, the City of Washington was captured and the White House, Capitol, and other major public buildings were torched by British troops, aided by information provided by a few Americans.

• **Manhattan Hit by Massive Explosions in New York Harbor – July 30, 1916**
  German secret agents, aided by American collaborators, blew up a munitions depot in New York Harbor, showering Manhattan and the Statue of Liberty with shrapnel and debris. Such acts of German sabotage on American soil contributed to America’s entry into World War I, and inspired the passage of the 1917 Espionage Act, still in effect today, and the growth of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

• **Anarchist Bombs Target American Leaders – June 2, 1919**
When the home of Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer was bombed by an anarchist and plots for more bombings were revealed, both the public and the government clamored for tighter law enforcement and more restrictive legislation for immigrants, resulting in the roundups, deportations, and public outrage associated with the now infamous “Palmer Raids.”

- **30,000 Ku Klux Klan Members Parade Down Pennsylvania Avenue – August 8, 1925**
The nation’s oldest hate group, Ku Klux Klan, has risen three times in our nation’s history. Each time, the group changed, evolving from small vigilante groups inflicting terror on former slaves after the Civil War; to a politically powerful organization of four million members in the 1920s, expanding its targets to include immigrants, Jews, and Catholics; to the violent groups of the 1960s, attacking African Americans and civil rights workers. Today, a diminished Klan is only one among many white supremacist groups.

- **American Helps Japanese Pilot Terrorize Hawaiian Island After Pearl Harbor Attack – December 7, 1941**
A Japanese pilot returning from the Pearl Harbor attack crash-landed on the Hawaiian Island of Nihau, and with the support of a Japanese American, took hostages and terrorized the community. This incident perpetuated fears about Japanese Americans that ultimately led to the unprecedented incarceration of thousands.

- **Kremlin Launches One of the First Cold War Attacks Against the U.S. – April 1945**
Near the end of World War II, the Kremlin harshly condemned American Communists for softening their commitment to a worldwide communist revolution. The Communist Party of the United States snapped to action, ousting its moderate leader and reestablishing itself as a highly militant and subversive organization, and fueling America’s fears that American Communists would become Stalin’s tool for the overthrow of the U.S. government.

- **Radical Group Explodes Bomb in the U.S. Capitol – March 1, 1971**
Protests over the Vietnam War and civil rights turned violent during the “days of rage,” and extremist groups, such as the Weather Underground and the Black Liberation Army, took action.

- **Massive Bomb Destroys the Federal Building in Oklahoma City – April 19, 1995**
The Oklahoma City bombing, the deadliest act of terrorism on U.S. soil in the 20th century, awakened Americans to the threats posed by domestic extremists.

- **Beyond September 11th – Terrorism Today**
In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, initiatives by the U.S. government to root out terrorist elements in the country have irrevocably changed the lives of Americans.
Exhibition Highlights

These stories will be supported by historic photographs, themed environments, interactive displays, artifacts, and video. Highlights include:

- A timeline that traces over 80 acts of terror that have taken place in the U.S. from 1776 to today, including the Revolutionary War plot to kidnap George Washington, the events of Bloody Kansas prior to the Civil War, John Brown’s Raid on Harpers Ferry, 1960s church bombings in the South, and the attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001.

- APL Badge and ID Card (1917) carried by Operatives of the American Protective League (APL) who spied on their fellow Americans on behalf of the U.S. Justice Department during World War I.

- Anarchist Globe Bomb (replica, c. 1886) presented as evidence in the trial of the men tried in connection with the Chicago Haymarket riot.

- Ritual Klan Red Robe (c. 1965) worn by the Klan “Kladd,” the elected Klan officer who presided over the secret rituals and ceremonies of the Ku Klux Klan.

- Klan “Business Cards” that served as ominous warnings to innocent Americans that their every move was being watched.

- Weather Underground Video Presentation featuring an exclusive interview with ex-Weather Underground member Bernadine Dohrn.

- Fragments of the Planes that hit the World Trade Center (2001) recovered after the attacks on September 11, 2001, and used as evidence by the FBI in their ensuing investigation.

- Visitor Polling Station, a unique computer interactive that allows visitors to express their opinions on questions raised in the exhibition about how the nation has responded to the historical events presented. Poll questions were developed in consultation with The Gallup Organization. Visitors also can see how Americans responded to similar questions posed by The Gallup Poll throughout history.

Admission Prices

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Group rates are available.

Admission to the Center’s core exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, including the award-winning theater production “Freedom Rising,” is included.