

## Thursday, October 26 War Of The Worlds Board Notes

### DEFINITIONS

**MASS PANIC** - Overwhelming fear that spreads quickly and may include lawlessness.

**CONSPIRACY THEORY** - Belief that something is a plot by a secret group rather than just being an isolated event.

### PUBLIC REACTION

World War 2 was on the brink of beginning with Germany and Japan being our foes.

This places an enormous amount of stress and tension on the American public.

30 million people in North Eastern listening area. About one million "directly affected."

Adolf Hitler stated this was "evidence of the decadence and corrupt condition of democracy"

### AFTERMATH

Can no longer use " We interrupt this program" unless followed by facts.

The U.S. government and FCC take a more active role in what can and cannot be aired.

Becomes a classic case-in-point on mass hysteria/panic and delusional crowds.

### INFLUENCE

The attack on Pearl harbor in 1941 was met with skepticism.

Similar broadcasts occurred in South American countries:

1944 in Chile, martial law was called when the governor himself was duped by the broadcast.

1949 in Ecuador, people were so upset by the broadcast that they set fire to the station, killing 20 people inside. Three officials in charge of the station were arrested for inciting a riot.

### CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Claims that broadcast was a psychological warfare experiment to see how easily manipulated the American citizens were.

Claims that the U.S. government was about to release information of UFO evidence in the late 30's. However, the reaction to the broadcast placed doubt in the government that its citizens could properly handle the truth.



