The beginning of the cold war enriched American ideals such as capitalism, nationalism, and anti-communism. The government encouraged Americans to independently plan and prepare themselves for an atomic war. Citizens were assured they could survive an atomic war and return comfortably to their previous lives.

Provided with 3 articles on the paradox of civil defense in the 1950s, I analyzed the hypotheses of three scholars and tested their hypotheses by analyzing primary sources, such as articles, short films, songs, etc. In doing so, I was able to better understand the psychological effects war has on our nation.

The government needed to mobilize the country. They used the fear of an atomic attack in their advantage. They knew there was no way to prepare for this type of war, that devastation was inevitable, yet kept the hopes and ignorance of Americans high in order to keep the peace at home.