

Communism and Congressman Frances Payne Bolton, 1939-1968

Mark D. Bowles and Virginia P. Dawson

As Ohio's first congresswoman, serving the state from 1939 to 1968, Frances Payne Bolton is most often remembered for her pioneering work as a nursing leader, environmentalist, African-American supporter, and tireless representative to the largest district in the nation. While these activities include some of her most significant congressional activities, they leave out the most important, guiding force in her career—her fight against the spread of Communism. It was this historical context that shaped the passions and motivations behind the political agenda of Frances Payne Bolton.

In this paper we will describe the effects of this situation on the individual level of a woman in Congress and demonstrate how she played an important part in shaping the Cold War itself through her work with the United Nations, her travels to the Soviet Union and Africa, and her publication of *The Strategy and Tactics of World Communism* (1947).