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IB History
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Research question - What impact did the development of the Russian atom bomb and subsequent Cold War arms race have on the Soviet Union's economic and political standing in the world?

Bush, Vannevar. "The Atomic Bomb and the Defense of the Free World." *Bulletin of the American Association of University Professors (1915-1955)*, vol. 37, no. 2, 1951, pp. 345–350. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/40220820.

This article was written by The Committee on Present Danger, composed of citizens. The goal of the committee's broadcasts, as this article states, is to get citizens to work together as the nation prepares to 'safeguard freedom'. It then opens by saying that the most important thing for our country in a time of war, even nuclear, is "to be strong". It claims that the reason the Soviet Union obtained an atom bomb was because after WWII ended, the U.S. disarmed and its allies were depleted of most military and resources.

This article seems to be aimed at citizens and the military. It's a call to action for citizens to work together and for the military to strengthen and rearm itself in preparation for possible war. It's useful for my IA because it shows part of the range of reactions in the U.S. to Russia getting an atomic bomb.

Kaiser, David. "The Atomic Secret in Red Hands? American Suspicions of Theoretical Physicists During the Early Cold War." *Representations*, vol. 90, no. 1, 2005, pp. 28–60. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/rep.2005.90.1.28.

This article, written by a physicist and science historian, explains how it came to pass that theoretical physicists were persecuted in the 1950's during the Red Scare for the belief that they leaked knowledge to the Russian government that allowed them to build their atomic bomb. The article explains how misled Politicians were in their belief that theoretical physicists could have easily sneaked out the secrets to building a bomb with just a few equations by explaining how large in scale and effort the Manhattan Project was.

Side note (to keep for when I write my IA) "Huge factory towns sprung up at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Hanford Washington; university facilities were converted to top-secret laboratories at Berkeley, Columbia, the University of Chicago, and elsewhere"

Scholz, Karl. “Need We Fear Russia's Economic Strength?” *Social Science*, vol. 27, no. 1, 1952, pp. 3–7. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/41884148.

This article, written by a researcher at the University of Pennsylvania, analyzes Soviet Union propaganda. It shows that this propaganda often deceives people by using percents to convey much greater economic growth than the data actually implies. It also demonstrates how the Soviet Union government has also changed their method of domestic product reporting to show greater growth than actually happens. It concludes that the Russian government is not actually as economically powerful as they make themselves out to be, and for that reason, we don't need to be worried about Russia's economic strength or production capabilities.

The target audience seems to be the general U.S. public, as it seems to have the main goal of dispelling Russia as an economic powerhouse, especially since it was written during a time when there were fears of a war with Russia. It's valuable for my IA topic because *it shows that the atomic bomb did not advance the Russians in any significant economic way, despite this being what they wanted to convey.*

Rabi, I. I. “The Race for Atomic Armament.” *Bulletin of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, vol. 3, no. 3, 1949, pp. 2–4. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/3822973.

“The Race for Atomic Armament” written by physicist and nobel laureate I. I. Rabi, is an editorial paper reacting to the discovery that the Soviet Union had obtained an atomic bomb. It highlights a wide variety of responses to this event, varying from fear of nuclear war, to understanding why the Russians would want such a bomb, to the humanitarian issues that war causes. It says that the real problem was brought on not by a necessity for armament but by politics; the U.S. didn't trust any of its secrets with the Soviet Union, leading it to construct an atom bomb on its own. The article concludes that the only way that the consequences of such tensions could be avoided is by building mutual trust between America and Russia, because we can't afford to not trust each other with such powerful weapons.

The target audience is likely people within the scientific community, as the paper is written by people within the scientific community and geared towards people with scientific interests. This article provides insight into the reactions and thought process of the U.S. scientific community at the time.

Viner, Jacob. “The Implications of the Atomic Bomb for International Relations.” *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, vol. 90, no. 1, 1946, pp. 53–58. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/3301039.

This article, written by a professor of economics at the U of Chicago, analyzes the logistics of use of an atomic bomb in warfare. It points out the ease of use and efficiency with which even a fairly primitive atom bomb can reduce a city to rubble, and shows how dangerous it is for even a small country to have such a primitive atom bomb.

This article was likely aimed at the general American public, as it highlights exactly when and why the average citizen should be concerned about the bomb, as during this time it was commonly thought that war could break out at any time. As this article demonstrates how easy using an atom bomb is, it effectively shows why tensions were so high at the time.

Holloway, David. *Stalin & The Bomb, The Soviet Union and Atomic Energy, 1939-1956*. New Haven & London: Yale U Press, 1994. Print.

The author, a researcher at the Yale University, uses sources on the Soviet wartime project originating from the KGB, Russian government, and more extensively the United States government. In the process of writing the author also personally met participants from the Soviet project, as well as scientists who worked on the U.S. and British atomic bomb.

The book focuses mostly on the development of Soviet nuclear weapons. Because the Soviet nuclear scientists in the 1930's were part of an international science community, the book concludes that not only was the decision behind the development of nuclear weapons rooted in international and domestic factors, but also the pride of Soviet scientists, as they competed with other research groups globally to make advancements and ultimately win recognition for their research. It's valuable for my IA it because analyzes the impact of the Cold War arms race on the Soviet Union's nuclear policy.

Holloway, David. "Entering the Nuclear Arms Race: The Soviet Decision to Build the Atomic Bomb, 1939-45." *Social Studies of Science*, vol. 11, no. 2, 1981, pp. 159-197. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/284865.

This paper, by the same author, shows how the Soviet development of the atomic bomb goes back to 3 decisions. When nuclear fission was first discovered in Berlin in 1938, the Soviet Union began their own research into nuclear fission. Then in 1942, when Stalin learned of the Western bomb efforts, approved the development of a Soviet atomic bomb. Then in 1945 when the first bombs were dropped on Japan, Stalin told those in charge of the Soviet bomb project to break the United State's atomic monopoly as soon as possible.

This paper is helpful for my IA because it shows the intent behind the creation of an atomic bomb, not because the Soviets had a particular need to use it, but to ensure that the U.S. couldn't use theirs with impunity.

Bukharin, Oleg, Timur Kadyshev, Eugene Miasnikov, Pavel Podvig, Igor Sutyagin, Maxim Tarasenko, and Boris Zhelezov. *Russian Strategic Nuclear Forces*. Ed. Pavel Podvig. London: The MIT Press, 2001. Print.

This book was written by The Center for Arms Control, Energy and Environmental Studies at the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology. It uses mostly open Russian government sources to describe in detail the history of nuclear weapons and development of strategic forces in the Soviet Union and Russia, as well as the other complexities of the military industry and the systems used to handle nuclear weapons. The book concludes by analyzing the reduction of Russian nuclear stockpiles, and contemplates possible Russian nuclear disarmament.

The target audience of this source, being that it was written in 2001, could really be anyone interested in the subject or using the book as a research source. It's valuable to my subject for its history on nuclear systems and development of strategic forces.

"McCarthy, Joseph R." *Cold War Reference Library*, edited by Richard C. Hanes, et al., vol. 5: Primary Sources, UXL, 2004, pp. 166-173. *World History in Context*, link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX3410800137/WHIC?u=hennepin&xid=a3cebf53.

This is a speech from Joseph McCarthy, who was widely credited with starting the Red Scare in the U.S. He claims that the war has already started, a "showdown between the democratic Christian world and the communist atheistic world". His speech is a call to action to start fighting the Soviet Union. McCarthy was generally a paranoid troublemaker, and his tendencies of going after individuals to try to oust them as Communist took on the name "McCarthyism".

This is helpful for my IA because it showed how quick anti-Communists in the U.S. were to take action against the Soviets. It also shows how much paranoia and fear that the act of having an atomic bomb can stir up.

"House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)." *Cold War Reference Library*, edited by Richard C. Hanes, et al., vol. 5: Primary Sources, UXL, 2004, pp. 146-165. *World History in Context*, link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX3410800136/WHIC?u=hennepin&xid=40d36ffe.

This is an excerpt from the House Un-American Activities Committee, which during the 1950's, was the main committee in charge of interrogating and ousting suspected communists. This excerpt shows how hardline their stance against a person even considering themselves a communist was. They deemed a communist as a traitor to the country, and grounds to have their rights as a citizen revoked. It also says that a communist loses their freedom of mind, which may show why they think that any person who aligns themselves with the communist ideology would be coordinating with the Soviet Union.

This article is helpful for my IA because like McCarthy's speech, it also shows how paranoid and fearful many people in the U.S. government were of potential communists.

Conclusion: The atomic bomb itself caused a lot of fear across the world of communism, because it was the communist ideology that controlled how such a bomb would be used, and many people in the U.S. were extremely opposed to and fearful of communism. Aside from breaking the U.S.'s monopoly on atomic weaponry, it also stopped the U.S. from using an atomic bomb at any point, because it could risk a nuclear war. Economically however, the atomic bomb did not benefit the Soviet Union in any significant way, and for a time in the 1950's, they relied on lies and propaganda to make their economic growth seem much larger than it really was.

<http://www.centrosraffa.org/public/bb6ba675-6bef-4182-bb89-339ae1f7e792.pdf>