

Response to Readings: Saturday, February 24, 2007

The Cold War at Home & Abroad

Core theme: The Cold War

The Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union shaped American military and foreign policy for almost fifty years. The competition between the two nations also influenced domestic political, social, and economic affairs. But domestic developments also affected foreign policy—and not just in the United States. The readings and seminar will help us look at how internal events shaped external policy for all sides in the Cold War.

While the Cold War pitted a North American power against a European one, the biggest “hot wars” of the Cold War were fought in Asia. Why this was so is another focus of the readings and our discussion.

Finally, the Cold War was fought through a number of means. Advances in technology and science played a significant role in perceptions of who was winning the Cold War. The regional Lima seminar will focus specifically on the space race and how it illustrates this theme.

Writing Assignment

After completing the readings, please choose ONE of the following questions to answer in 1-2 pages. Answers must be typed, double-spaced, and no more than two pages.

In what ways did domestic, political, economic, and social forces influence the foreign and military policies of the United States, the USSR, China, Korea, and Vietnam? Choose at least two of these countries to focus on in your answer.

What were the most prominent causes of Cold War tensions in Asia after 1945?

For those attending the Lima Area Regional Seminar, you may choose to answer this question:

What is the relationship between the Cold War and science and technology? How were science and technology used to fight the Cold War?

Melvyn P. Leffler and David S. Painter, eds. *Origins of the Cold War: An International History* (Routledge, 2005).

Introduction: The International System and the Origins of the Cold War, pp. 1-12

Chapter 1: National Security & US Foreign Policy, pp. 15-32

Chapters 14-17: The Cold War in Asia, pp. 239-294

Truong Nhu Tang, *A Vietcong Memoir: An Inside Account of the Vietnam War and Its Aftermath* (Vintage, 1986).

Read pages 1 to 41 and Chapter 7. Skim the rest.