



# HISTORY

in the Heartland

## Response to Readings

Saturday, January 8, 2005

### The Space Race: Science and Technology as Weapons in the Cold War

Core theme: The Cold War

Although wars usually bring to mind military topics, the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union was fought through a number of other means as well. The Cold War was a competition between democratic capitalism and communism. The side that could prove that it was the best would win. This mindset meant that advances in technology and science played a significant role in perceptions of who was winning the Cold War. The seminar will focus specifically on the space race and how it illustrates this theme.

#### Reading Assignments:

Leffler, Melvyn. *The Specter of Communism: The United States and the Origins of the Cold War*. New York: Hill & Wang, 1994.

Skim the introduction; focus on the years after World War II.

Logsdon, John M., editor. *Exploring the Unknown: Selected Documents in the History of the U.S. Civilian Space Program*, Vol. I: *Organizing for Exploration*. Washington, D.C.: NASA, 1995.

“Prelude to the Space Age” by Roger D. Launius, pp. 1-21—READ PAGES 11-16; the rest is useful background

“Origins of U.S. Space Policy: Eisenhower, Open Skies, and Freedom of Space,” by R. Cargill Hall, pp. 213-229.

“The Evolution of U.S. Space Policy and Plans,” by John M. Logsdon, excerpt, pp. 377-383.

#### Writing Assignment

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

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