

The

SPUTNIK

Challenge

EISENHOWER'S RESPONSE
TO THE SOVIET SATELLITE

Robert A. Divine



Sputnik Challenge

Steven M. Gillon



Sputnik Challenge:

The ^ASputnik Challenge Robert A. Divine,1993-03-25 On October 4 1957 the Soviet Union launched a 184 pound metal ball called Sputnik into orbit around the Earth and America plummeted into a panic Nuclear weapon designer Edward Teller claimed that the United States had lost a battle more important and greater than Pearl Harbor and magazine articles appeared with such headlines as Are We Americans Going Soft In the White House President Eisenhower seemed to do nothing leading Kennedy in 1960 to proclaim a missile gap in the Soviet s favor Rarely has public perception been so dramatically at odds with reality In The Sputnik Challenge Robert Divine provides a fascinating look at Eisenhower s handling of the early space race a story of public uproar secret U 2 flights bungled missile tests the first spy satellite political maneuvering and scientific triumph He recreates the national hysteria over the first two Sputnik launches illustrating the anxious handwringing that the Democrats led by Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson aggressively played for political gain Divine takes us to private White House meetings showing how Eisenhower worked closely with science adviser James Killian allowing him to take the lead in creating a civilian agency NASA which provided intelligent and forceful leadership for American space programs But the President also knew from priceless intelligence from U 2 flights over the U S S R that he had little to fear from the touted missile gap and he fought to limit the growth and multiplication of military missile programs Eisenhower s assurance however rested on classified information and he did little to instill his confidence in the public Nor could he boast of his early support for the secret spy satellite program which quickly replaced the U 2 plane after Gary Powers was shot down in 1960 So the public continued to worry feeding the national movement for educational reform as well as congressional maneuvering over funding for numerous strategic projects Eisenhower Divine writes possessed keen strategic vision and a sure sense of budgetary priorities but ultimately he flunked a crucial test of leadership when he failed to reassure the frightened public that their fears were groundless As a result he ultimately failed in his goal to limit military spending as well which led to a real missile gap in reverse Incisively written and deeply researched The Sputnik Challenge provides a briskly paced history of the origins of NASA the space race and the age of the ICBM **Days of Decision** Michael J. Nojeim,David P. Kilroy,2011-02 Shows students how to analyze foreign policy choices *In Sputnik's Shadow* Zuoyue Wang,2009 In Sputnik s Shadow traces the rise and fall of the President s Science Advisory Committee from its ascendance under Eisenhower to its demise during the Nixon years Zuoyue Wang examines key turning points during the twentieth century including the beginning of the Cold War the debates over nuclear weapons the Sputnik crisis in 1957 the struggle over the Vietnam War and the eventual end of the Cold War showing how the involvement of scientists in executive policymaking evolved over time and brings new insights to the intellectual social and cultural histories of the era *This New Ocean* William E. Burrows,2010-09-29 It was all part of man s greatest adventure landing men on the Moon and sending a rover to Mars finally seeing the edge of the universe and the birth of stars and launching planetary explorers across the

solar system to Neptune and beyond The ancient dream of breaking gravity's hold and taking to space became a reality only because of the intense cold war rivalry between the superpowers with towering geniuses like Wernher von Braun and Sergei Korolyov shelving dreams of space travel and instead developing rockets for ballistic missiles and space spectacles Now that Russian archives are open and thousands of formerly top secret U S documents are declassified an often startling new picture of the space age emerges the frantic effort by the Soviet Union to beat the United States to the Moon was doomed from the beginning by gross inefficiency and by infighting so treacherous that Winston Churchill likened it to dogs fighting under a carpet there was more than science behind the United States suggestion that satellites be launched during the International Geophysical Year and in one crucial respect Sputnik was a godsend to Washington the hundred odd German V 2s that provided the vital start to the U S missile and space programs legally belonged to the Soviet Union and were spirited to the United States in a derring do operation worthy of a spy thriller despite NASA's claim that it was a civilian agency it had an intimate relationship with the military at the outset and still does a distinction the Soviet Union never pretended to make constant efforts to portray astronauts and cosmonauts as Boy Scouts were often contradicted by reality the Apollo missions to the Moon may have been an unexcelled political triumph and feat of exploration but they also created a headache for the space agency that lingers to this day This New Ocean is based on 175 interviews with Russian and American scientists and engineers on archival documents including formerly top secret National Intelligence Estimates and spy satellite pictures and on nearly three decades of reporting The impressive result is this fascinating story the first comprehensive account of the space age Here are the strategists and war planners engineers and scientists politicians and industrialists astronauts and cosmonauts science fiction writers and journalists and plain ordinary unabashed dreamers who wanted to transcend gravity's shackles for the ultimate ride The story is written from the perspective of a witness who was present at the beginning and who has seen the conclusion of the first space age and the start of the second

The Bomb and America's Missile Age

Christopher Gainor, 2018-10-15 How nuclear weapons helped drive the United States into the missile age The intercontinental ballistic missile ICBM designed to quickly deliver thermonuclear weapons to distant targets was the central weapons system of the Cold War ICBMs also carried the first astronauts and cosmonauts into orbit More than a generation later we are still living with the political technological and scientific effects of the space race while nuclear armed ICBMs remain on alert and in the headlines around the world In The Bomb and America's Missile Age Christopher Gainor explores the US Air Force's USAF decision in March 1954 to build the Atlas America's first ICBM Beginning with the story of the guided missiles that were created before and during World War II Gainor describes how the early Soviet and American rocket programs evolved over the course of the following decade He argues that the USAF was wrongly criticized for unduly delaying the start of its ICBM program endangering national security and causing America embarrassment when a Soviet ICBM successfully put Sputnik into orbit ahead of any American satellite Shedding fresh light on the roots of America's space

program and the development of US strategic forces The Bomb and America's Missile Age uses evidence uncovered in the past few decades to set the creation of the Atlas ICBM in its true context not only in the America of the postwar years but also in comparison with the real story of the Soviet missiles that propelled the space race and the Cold War Aimed at readers interested in the history of the Cold War and of space exploration the book makes a major contribution to the history of rocket development and the nuclear age **Beyond Horizons** David N. Spires,1997 **Counting the Public In** Douglas C. Foyle,1999-05-06 Does the public alter American foreign policy choices or does the government change public opinion to support its policies In this detailed study Douglas Foyle demonstrates that the differing influence of public opinion is mediated in large part through each president's beliefs about the value and significance of public opinion Using archival collections and public sources Foyle examines the beliefs of all the post World War II presidents in addition to the foreign policy decisions of Presidents Dwight Eisenhower Jimmy Carter Ronald Reagan George Bush and Bill Clinton He finds that some presidents are relatively open to public opinion while others hold beliefs that cause them to ignore the public's view Several orientations toward public opinion are posited the delegate Clinton favors public input and seeks its support the executor Carter believes public input is desirable but its support is not necessary the pragmatist Eisenhower Bush does not seek public input in crafting policy but sees public support as necessary and finally the guardian Reagan neither seeks public input nor requires public support The book examines the public's influence through case studies regarding decisions on the Formosa Straits crisis intervention at Dien Bien Phu the Sputnik launch the New Look defense strategy the Panama Canal Treaties the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan the Strategic Defense Initiative the Beirut Marine barracks bombing German reunification the Gulf War intervention in Somalia and intervention in Bosnia Eisenhower for Our Time Steven Wagner,2024-04-15 Eisenhower for Our Time provides an introduction to the Eisenhower presidency extracting lessons for today's world Steven Wagner proposes that the need to maintain balance defines Eisenhower's presidency Wagner examines a series of defining moments that were among Eisenhower's greatest challenges some of which resulted in his greatest accomplishments the decision to run for president his political philosophy of the Middle Way the creation of a national security policy the French Indochina War Senator Joseph McCarthy the Little Rock Desegregation Crisis the Race for Space and the famous Farewell Address Wagner looks at Eisenhower's executive ability leadership decision making and willingness to compromise as well as the qualities of duty integrity and good character The moments detailed in Eisenhower for Our Time show Eisenhower as a president intimately engaged in the decisions that defined America in his time and that apply to ours today The President's actions place him among the most successful presidents and provide many lessons to guide us in our time and in the future Higher Education for All Andrew Stone Higgins,2023-03-16 The 1960 California Master Plan for Higher Education remains to this day the largest and most ambitious attempt to provide free universal college education in the United States Yet the Master Plan the product of committed Cold War liberals unfortunately served to reinforce the

very class based exclusions and de facto racism that plagued K 12 education in the nation s largest and most diverse state In doing so it inspired a wave of student and faculty organizing that not only forced administrators and politicians to live up to the original promise of the Master Plan quality higher education for all but changed the face of California itself Higher Education for All is the first and only comprehensive account of the California Master Plan Through deep archival work and sharp attention to a fascinating cast of historical characters Andrew Stone Higgins has excavated the forgotten history of the Master Plan from its origins in the 1957 Sputnik Crisis through Governor Ronald Reagan s financial starvation and his failed quest to introduce tuition to the student struggle to institute affirmative action in university admissions Presidents at War Steven M. Gillon, 2025-02-18 Steven M Gillon historian and New York Times bestselling author is back with the story of how WWII shaped the characters and politics of seven American presidents World War II loomed over the latter half of the twentieth century transforming every level of American society and international relationships and searing itself onto the psyche of an entire generation including that of seven American presidents Dwight D Eisenhower John F Kennedy Lyndon B Johnson Richard Nixon Gerald Ford Ronald Reagan and George H W Bush The lessons of World War II more than party affiliation or ideology defined the presidencies of these seven men They returned home determined to confront any force that threatened to undermine the war s hard won ideals each with their own unique understanding of patriotism sacrifice and America s role in global politics In Presidents at War Gillon examines what these men took away from the war and how they then applied it to Cold War policies that proceeded to change America and the world forever A nuanced and deeply researched exploration of the lives philosophies and legacies of seven remarkable men Presidents at War deftly argues that the lessons learned by these postwar presidents continue to shape the landscape upon which current and future presidents stand today

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