

THE PRESIDENT, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND PUBLIC OPINION

The Presidency is about personality, strategic vision (Ike, Kennedy, Reagan, Bush II) and media management.

Lots of questions, few certain answers --- it is world of spin. Could talk about how they use their national security system, their powers, etc---but...

1. How did we win the Cold War?
2. When did we win the Cold War?
3. What was our strategy in the Cold War?
4. Was Sputnik a US defeat?
5. Was the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty important?
6. Was Star Wars Reagan's foolish dream or his stroke of genius?
7. What should be our strategy in the War on Terror?
8. Was there Genocide in the Balkans? Did NATO's fate depend upon it?
9. And what was Vietnam all about?

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1. Star Wars/ competitive strategy/ their economy?
 2. 1990? 1989? 1960? What about Vietnam and beyond?
 3. Containment? Rollback? MAD? Damage Limitation? First Strike?
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4. SPUTNIK AND SPIN

Soviet Victory?

Was there a missile gap?

What set up Sputnik?

How did Eisenhower react to Sputnik?

How did country react?

Was there a "Science Gap"?

What policy and organizational changes resulted?

What were the budget changes attributable to Sputnik?

What about over-flights?

Was the Presidential spin successful?

Was it good for MIT?

5. STAR WARS

What is the history of ballistic missile defense?

When were they deployed?

Why are they controversial?

What was the Committee on the Present Danger?

What was the Window of Vulnerability?"

When did Reagan Propose SDI and why then?

Was it surprise?

What is High Frontier?

What was the Nuclear Freeze?

What role did religion play in this?

What is Dense Pack?

Who called it Star Wars?

Was it popular?

Was it feasible then? Now?

Was it real?

How did it serve Reagan?

How was it managed?

Is it expensive?

What did the advocates believe?

What did the Democrats believe?

Why is it popular among Republicans?

What did the Soviets believe?

Was it good for MIT?

Is it more or less important now?

IRAQ

What should be our strategy in the War on Terror? Is it the right War?

Why attack Iraq?

What if we found two warehouses full of chemical weapons and a bio-lab?

Why the focus on WMD?

What other reasons were there for the war?

Could we ever have persuaded France, Germany, and Canada?

What went wrong?

IS BUSH II = REAGAN II?

Cut Taxes, Raise Defense and let the deficit control Domestic Spending

Contrast Eisenhower --- Hold taxes, restrain defense, avoid domestic spending

Johnson? Nixon? Clinton?