

#flo #ret #hw

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## 1 | Research project

### 1.1 | thoughts

sputnik? - satellite was launched before, sent this massive wave of panic - because the red was ahead technologically! - led to a huge amount of focus on STEM - turns out, we actually had the satellites the whole time - but eisenhower didn't want to launch them because he didn't want to deal with the fuss about how to manage airspace?

eisenhower didn't want to launch - didn't want to escalate? - was already spying, and got found out

// this entire philosophy that

the current modern philosophy that science and technology should be the main focus of education was built off of a politically self-serving lie. the current modern philosophy -> the current educational emphasis on science and technology, expanded in the post-sputnik era, was built on...

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- sputnik was a thing
- sputnik was a lie (we weren't really behind)
- that lie was politically motivated
- and yet...
- sputnik led to an expansion of techno education and social value
- that persists

political self serving motivates what is perceived as true has this on both sides: eisenhower and the "the gap"

driving 'truths' are formed from politically self serving lies

the sputnik lie – and its consequent impacts –

– a cultural impact so deep, that the falsehood of its roots has little effect on its adherence – was propagated by aligned political agendas of competing parties

thesis: the Sputnik lie – {} having a cultural impact so deep, that the falsehood of its roots has little effect on its adherence – was

The Sputnik lie, born of political agendas, had a cultural impact so deep that

the need for technological advancement \*

- sputnik shocked the country

sputnik launch,

### 1.2 | sources

- <https://history.nasa.gov/sputnik/sputorig.html> good source of quotes and primaries

- <https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/partners/aol/special/sputnik/main.html> all the archived nyts from the period
  - <https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/partners/aol/special/sputnik/sput-15.html> nyt article saying we need to focus on science
  - <https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/partners/aol/special/sputnik/sput-20.html> Vanguard Rocket Burns on Beach; Failure to Launch Test Satellite Assailed as Blow to U.S. Prestige
- <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/military/sputnik-declassified.html#> the org nova vid
- <https://guides.loc.gov/sputnik-and-the-space-race/primary-resources>
- <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/collection/383/space-race>
- [https://www.bookbrowse.com/excerpts/index.cfm/book\\_number/1249/page\\_number/3/the-mercury-13](https://www.bookbrowse.com/excerpts/index.cfm/book_number/1249/page_number/3/the-mercury-13)
- <https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/channels/vol5/iss1/3/>

### 1.3 | route bin

### 1.4 | outlinin!

THESIS: The Sputnik lie, and with it massive cultural impacts, was born of a confluence of competing political interests.

- Sputnik had a massive cultural impact
  - hysteria, fear, massive focus on STEM in schools
- But it was a lie
  - what actually happened was...
- It was a lie because
  - Eisenhower's reasoning (declassified)
    - \* wanted covert info on Russians
    - \* got caught
    - \* didn't want to escalate further
  - Dems reasoning
    - \* wanted to make the reps look bad (had lost previous election due to being portrayed as "soft on communism" - lost China etc..)
- conclusion?
  - But nobody questions the emphasis on STEM, even though the original premise has been falsified. Thus, history teaches us, the cultural changes live on well beyond their original purpose.

#### 1. the cultural impact of sputnik

### 1.4.1 | rougher?

- intro : 1
- cultural impact
  - hysteria : 2
  - STEM focus : 3
- what actually happened : 4
- what actually happened pt.2? : 5
- why it was a lie
  - eisenhower : 6
  - dems : 7
- conclusions? : 8

### 1.5 | f\*ck it. lets write.

{SPUTNIK INTRO AND EXPLANATION} The Sputnik lie, and with it massive cultural impacts, was born of a confluence of competing political interests.

With Sputnik floating amidst the atmosphere, American society was thrown into crisis. In a period defined by national pride – especially over technological superiority – the Russians being first to space was catastrophic for American society: "words do not easily convey the American reaction to the Soviet satellite," writes NASA, "the only appropriate characterization that begins to capture the mood on 5 October involves the use of the word hysteria." (CITE nasa) Not only was the nation's pride damaged, but its very identity was thrown into question. Lyndon B. Johnson, the Senate Majority Leader at the time, commented that "Now, somehow, in some new way, the sky seemed almost alien. I also remember the profound shock of realizing that it might be possible for another nation to achieve technological superiority over this great country of ours." (CITE find source) Sputnik was equipped with a radio, sending out what America "believed to be impulse signals from the Soviet satellite." (CITE <https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/partners/aol/special/sputnik/sput-04.html>) This eerie and alien reminder of failure was not only received by The National Broadcasting Company, who "broke into their radio and television programs to enable their audiences to hear the pinging sound of the 'moon's' signal," but as the Soviets frequently mentioned, by anyone with a radio. Virtually anyone could – and did – hear and track what otherwise would have been an "invisible emissary." The radio transformed Sputnik into something "very real and very close," capturing and frightening "the public's imagination." (CITE <https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/partners/aol/special/sputnik/main.html>) Sputnik had launched, America was in crisis, and the Space Age had officially begun. The blame had to fall somewhere.

Widely accused for letting the Soviet Union overtake the U.S., the seemingly unfazed President Eisenhower became a target of national ridicule. Eisenhower was already widely viewed as a "do-nothing [...] golf and goof" of a president, and Sputnik's launch was no help to his public perception (CITE <https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/channels/vol15/iss1/3/>). However, despite the rest of the nation, Eisenhower seemed unfazed by what became known as the "Sputnik Crisis" – "it seemed as though President Eisenhower," writes Space Age expert Martha Ackmann, "was the only American who did not initially understand the military, scientific, or cultural significance of Sputnik's chirp." (CITE [https://www.bookbrowse.com/excerpts/index.cfm/book\\_number/1249/page\\_number/3/the-mercury-13](https://www.bookbrowse.com/excerpts/index.cfm/book_number/1249/page_number/3/the-mercury-13)). G. Mennen Williams, the governor of Michigan at the time, characterized public perception of the Eisenhower administration with a poem:

Oh little Sputnik, flying high  
With made-in-Moscow beep,  
You tell the world it's a Commie sky  
and Uncle Sam's asleep.

You say on fairway and on rough The Kremlin knows it all, We hope our golfer knows enough To get us on the ball. (CITE find)

With this immense pressure on the Eisenhower administration