

MUST U.S. TAKE THE FIRST BLOW?

The Problem of "Massive Retaliation" in the Missile Age

IN TODAY'S BOMBER AGE



It's 10 hours from Soviet bases to American cities.



Warning systems can alert defenses, blunt any attack.



American bombers on bases ringing Soviet Russia, alerted, can strike in massive retaliation.

RESULT: Stalemate.

IN TOMORROW'S MISSILE AGE



It's to be 35 minutes — at most — from Soviet missile bases to any point in U.S.



Warning systems will be able to give next to no time for alert before the blow falls.



Push a button in Russia, and 35 minutes later much of U.S. could be laid waste — with power to retaliate limited.

RESULT: A growing question whether a policy of accepting the first blow may be the best one.

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Source: *U.S. News and World Report*, December 1957.

1- What U.S. policy is being questioned?

-Why is this policy being questioned?

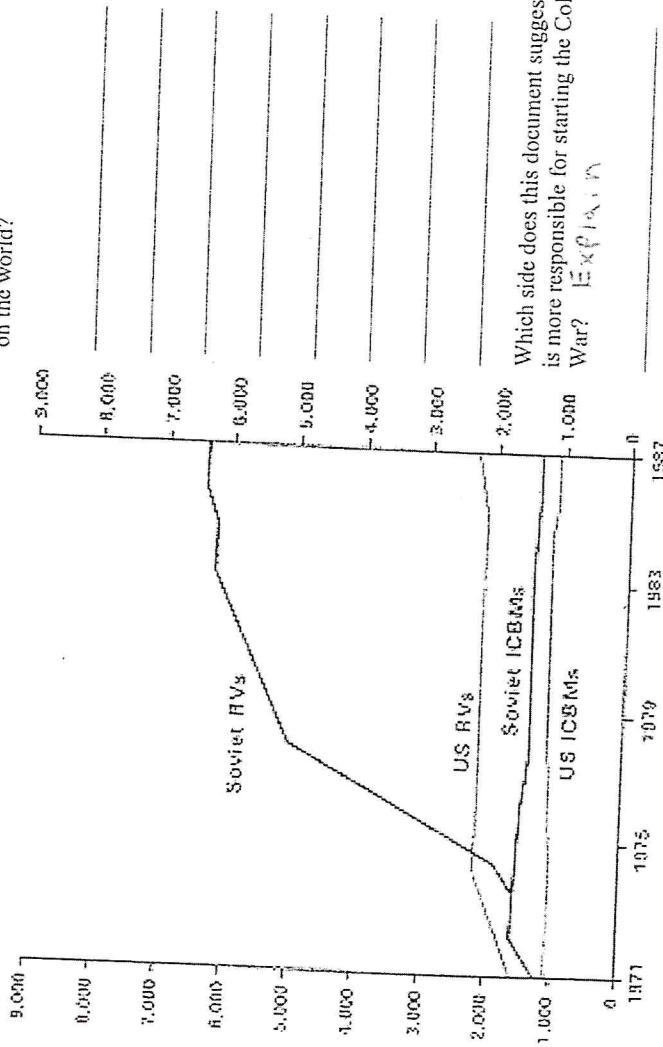
2- What does the question mean, Must the U.S. take the first blow?"

- How would you have answered the question "Must the U.S. take the first blow?" during The 1950s?

The arms race was an important part of the Cold War. Both superpowers developed technology and used their nuclear power to build as many weapons as possible. This nuclear buildup led to a "balance of terror," which some saw as a deterrent to war. But others feared the use of these weapons. These charts show the build up of ICBM's (Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles - basically missiles that can fly from Russia to America) and long-range bombers between 1971 and 1987.

U.S. and Soviet ICBM Launcher and Reentry Vehicle (RV) Deployment 1971-1987

What impact did this arms race have on the world?



Which side does this document suggest is more responsible for starting the Cold War? ☒ U.S. ☐ U.S.S.R.