

In the shadow of the bomb: how nuclear doctrine shaped and was shaped by Dwight D. Eisenhower's Policies

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Introduction

- Eisenhower's doctrine can be summarized in the "New Look."
- Eisenhower was motivated both to cut costs and to contain communism.
- The New Look had a great impact on the American military.

The “New Look”

- One aspect of the New Look was emphasizing the buildup of the nuclear arsenal.
- Another was the development of weapons like the hydrogen bomb.
- The most significant development was the nuclear triad.

Eisenhower's Motivations

- Eisenhower wanted to use atomic energy for peace.
- However, he recognized the danger the Soviet Union presented.
- He sought to use America's nuclear arsenal to deter the Soviets from a direct conflict.

The Impact of the “New Look”

- Reduced budgets led to conflict between the military branches.
- The Air Force emerged as the dominant branch of the era.
- Concerns about the Soviets led to the “missile gap” theory.

Conclusion

- Kennedy would undo much of Eisenhower's "New Look," although elements remained.
- Eisenhower's policies would lay the groundwork for American nuclear doctrine through the rest of the Cold War.

Are there any questions?