

American Historians on the Cold War: A Historiographical Interpretation.

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Abstract:

This article categorizes the American historical scholarship on the Cold War into five, perhaps six, clusters. After clusters, it argues that in spite of paradigmatic differences, there are also areas of agreement in the literature. For clear that before the end of World War II, and therefore before the Cold War acquired its distinctiveness, the U.S. articulated vision of the world order it desired in place of the one shattered by World War II: this was essentially political economy which conformed with, protected and promoted U.S. prosperity and security. But at the same time, leaders convinced themselves that the Soviets were a potential threat to this objective. The evidence is clear that the Cold War began when it became clear that Moscow would not participate in the multilateral global order envisioned in Washington.

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