

NSC-68

A Blueprint for the Cold War

Directions: Read the following primary source and the introduction and answer the questions in the space provided as best as you can.

1. What does the abbreviation “NSC” mean?
2. The title of this reading is “a blueprint.” What does this mean? What is a blueprint?
3. On what premises about the state of the world and the character of the Soviet Union does NSC-68 build its argument?
4. From your study of the postwar era, are those premises justifiable? Why?
5. What policy choices does the memorandum present?
6. Why does it choose the particular policies it recommends?
7. What do you think is the meaning and significance of the political cartoon on pg. 443?