

HIST 4933 BOOK ANALYSIS ASSIGNMENT

Write a review/analysis of Jacob Hamblin's *The Wretched Atom: America's Global Gamble with Peaceful Nuclear Technology*. The assignment will be about three pages long with single-spaced text.

Divide your review into three parts, each part devoted to (roughly) a single page:

- The first part will be an overall summary of the main arguments(s) of the book. This will include a recounting of the basic theme and scope of the book (What's the focus?, What time period does he cover?, What does he mean by the 'peaceful atom?,' etc.). This section will ALSO tell the reader a little bit about the thesis of the book, i.e., what Hamblin is ultimately *arguing*. He seems to be suggesting that the spread of the 'peaceful atom' was involved in cynical manipulation both from the part of the U.S. and other states – explain this in detail. To answer this section, read the Introduction and Conclusion carefully to glean the essence of his argument(s) and especially the 'themes' which he introduces.
- The second part will focus on the ways in which Hamblin describes the role of what he calls 'atomic propaganda' to sell the benefits of atomic energy to the developing world. (This part will draw from Part II of the book which contains three chapters). Summarize these three chapters with a focus especially on the *actual* (rather than the publicly stated) U.S. goals for pushing so hard on the idea of 'the peaceful atom.'
- The third part of your paper will focus on Part III of Hamblin's book. Here, zone in on one chapter (either Chapter 6, 7, or 8) and provide a fine-grained summary of that chapter.

Feel free to quote from the Hamblin book but DO NOT USE LENGTHY QUOTES, just short quotes will do!! I want to hear your voice more than that of Hamblin. In addition, feel free to cite from other secondary sources, especially Audra Wolfe's book *Competing with the Soviets* or Michael Gordin's *Red Cloud At Dawn*, or any other source that we have read for class. You are also free to seek other legitimate scholarly sources on JSTOR, etc.

The structural requirements for the paper are the following:

1. Length: approximately 3 pages long
2. Font & spacing: 12-pt Times Roman font, single-spaced
3. If you refer to specific text from Hamblin, simply cite the text as an in-text citation with the page number, i.e., (Hamblin, 35).
4. Please include a separate page with a bibliography of sources.

Your review is due in class on **Thursday, March 7.**