

Sputnik for the Soviet Masses: What the Mass Media Wanted the Public to Learn

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The purpose of this paper is to show what the Soviet press tried to tell the public about Sputnik and the scientific developments it represented. The strong impression of the launch made abroad was conveyed to the Soviet public, as foreign reports were widely quoted. On the contrary the failure of the U.S. was reported sarcastically. Soviet scientists argued not only about the superiority of socialism, but also about the contribution of Soviet science to humanity. Readers expressed their hopes for future space travel and shared a vision of a bright future that the Soviet press provided successfully.