

## **The Sputnik Incident and Japanese Public Opinion**

Mitsuo IKAWA

The successful launch of the first human-made satellite, Sputnik I, by the USSR shocked the Western nations. This report examines how Japanese public opinion perceived the space race between US and USSR, based on the results of various public opinion polls. There were not many public opinion polls conducted by newspapers or government sections in Japan. However, USIA conducted polls in various parts of the world, including Japan. According to it, it is noteworthy that many respondents in Japan considered the success of Sputnik to be an achievement of the socialist system itself, while many people in Western Europe considered the success to be limited to specific fields such as space exploration.