

THE FBI NOBODY KNOWS - Fred J. Cook; Macmillan 1964

Chapter 11 - The Postwar Scene

pp.349-50:

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.... There existed, for instance, an unfortunate notion that one marvelous "formula" explains how to make bombs and that it belonged exclusively to the United States. Actually, the basic knowledge underlying the explosive release of atomic energy - and it would fill a library - never has been the property of one nation. . . . The Soviet Union, for its part, possesses some of the world's most gifted scientists . . . men whose abilities and whose understanding of the fundamental physics behind the bomb only the unrealistic were prone to underestimate.

This unrealism was to shadow the entire Rosenberg case. It was to be nearly ten years before top American publications would begin to acknowledge the truth in the kind of reappraisals of Russian science that were virtually forced on them by the spectacle of the first Sputniks. Typical of the slow emergence of truth was a reassessment made by Henry Luce's Time, hardly a left-wing publication, in its issue of June 2, 1958. Time reported that Russian "physicist Igor Kurchatov possibly knew the basic principles of the A-Bomb before the U.S." It noted too - a fact now generally, if not prominently, conceded - that the Russians developed a workable hydrogen bomb before we did; that they put their first pure-jet airliner into operation more than two years before we did; that their protective radar screen, in the words of one of our own scientists, "appears to be better than our own"; and that, in a word, "Soviet science is universally acknowledged to belong in the world's top drawer."

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