

Segment I:

Expense		Opportunity Cost
<i>Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired</i>	signifies a theft from	those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed
<i>This world in arms</i>	is spending	the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children

Segment II:

Expense		Opportunity Cost
<i><u>one modern heavy bomber</u></i>	<i>[the cost of] is this:</i>	<i>a modern brick school in more than 30 cities</i>
<i>It [<u>one modern heavy bomber</u>]</i>	<i>is [costs]</i>	<i><u>two electric power plants, each serving a town of 60,000 population.</u></i>
<i>It [<u>one modern heavy bomber</u>]</i>	<i>is [costs]</i>	<i><u>two fine, fully equipped hospitals.</u></i>
<i>It [<u>one modern heavy bomber</u>]</i>	<i>is [costs]</i>	<i><u>some 50 miles of concrete highway</u></i>
<i><u>a single fighter plane</u></i>	<i>[we pay for] with</i>	<i><u>a half million bushels of wheat.</u></i>

<u>a single</u> destroyer	[we pay for] with	new homes that could have housed <u>more than 8,000</u> <u>people</u> .
----------------------------------	----------------------	---

Segment III:

This, I repeat, is the best way of life to be found on **the road the world has been taking**. This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is **humanity hanging from a cross of iron.**"

QUESTIONS

Use the segment II chart to answer questions 1 – 3.

1. Much of this part of Eisenhower’s speech sets up comparisons of expenses with their potential opportunity costs. Look at the words in bold in the chart above. What type of expenses does Eisenhower describe (column 1)? What type of opportunity costs does he describe (column 3)?

Eisenhower is comparing war expenses (e.g., bombers, planes, destroyers) with everyday social goods and services (e.g., homes, food, transportation infrastructure).

2. Underline any numbers or quantities that Eisenhower mentions, related to both the expenses (column 1) and opportunity costs (column 3). What do you notice in comparing quantities across the two columns?

Eisenhower’s comparison shows how “one” or “a single” piece of each type of military equipment equates to larger numbers of social goods/services. (Generally, the numbers attached to the social goods/services, or the number of people they reach, are much larger.)

3. Circle or highlight any other adjectives modifying the opportunity costs (column 3). What kind of attitude do you think Eisenhower has about these opportunity costs?

Words like “fine,” “fully equipped,” and “new” show that Eisenhower holds these social goods and services in high esteem and suggests that he might not view sacrificing any of them for “a single” piece of military equipment as a fair trade-off.

Use the segment I chart to answer question 4.

4. In his introduction to this part of his speech, Eisenhower sets up a similar type of comparison between the expense of war and the opportunity costs. What kind of attitude is he revealing in this section, and what specific words help you to notice this?

The use of words like “sweat,” “genius,” and “hopes” (applied to various groups of people in the country) shows Eisenhower’s value for the lives and talents of actual people in the United States. This, coupled with his use of the word “theft,” suggests that he doesn’t believe the cost of war is worth sacrificing the potential of his people.

Use the text in segment III to answer questions 5 – 6.

5. What do you think Eisenhower is referring to as “the road the world has been taking”?

Eisenhower is likely referring to the Cold War in general, as well as to the escalation of military spending that resulted from it.

6. What might Eisenhower mean by “humanity hanging from a cross of iron”?

“Hanging from a cross” is a reference to crucifixion, and “iron” is a material associated with war. Therefore, this statement suggests that war, and the war spending that is taking resources away from other important goals, is harming humanity.

Think about the text as a whole to answer question 7.

7. The speech has come to be known as the “Chance for Peace” speech. (Eisenhower used these words in another part of the speech.) How does thinking about this title reinforce or challenge your interpretations of what Eisenhower was trying to express?

Knowing that Eisenhower called for a “chance for peace” reinforces that he did not want to continue to focus energy and resources on the Cold War and wanted instead to redirect those resources to directly improving the lives of people.