

- *Domestic factors.* Because the arms race provided lucrative orders and resources for those sectors of the economy related to the armaments industry, it can be seen as resulting at least in part from the situation within each country rather than external factors. Those groups who benefited from armaments orders gained considerable power and influence. In the USSR the armed forces were able to exert influence within the Soviet government because defence needs were given such a high priority. Any attempt to cut the amount of spending on arms, and therefore threaten the power of the military, was strongly resisted as Khrushchev, the Soviet leader, found out in 1964. In the USA the arms race provided large sums of money to manufacturers, scientists and the armed forces to the extent that it led to the employment of over 30 million American civilians. This **military-industrial complex** was able to wield enormous control over American politics. President Eisenhower had raised his concerns about this development but had been unable to reduce the power of this sector of the economy. It was in the interests of the military-industrial complex to highlight the danger posed by the Soviet Union. The Soviet army, in turn, emphasised the American threat in order to secure resources. Thus both fed off each other in perpetuating the arms race, and with it their power and influence within their own country was maintained.

### Definition

#### **Military-industrial complex**

The term given to the powerful bloc created by links between the armed forces and those sectors of the economy reliant on defence orders. In the USA this included firms such as Lockheed and General Dynamics, which lobbied Congress to ensure arms manufacture continued, and the armed forces, which wanted resources and armaments. In the USSR this term is applied to the Ministry of Defence, the armed forces and those industries involved in the manufacture of military products.

Using the information sheet (and any other information you can research), answer the following questions:

- 1) What made the arms race of the Cold War different to other arms races?
- 2) Explain what Carl von Clausewitz thought war was for.
- 3) How did President Eisenhower think that nuclear weapons could be useful?
- 4) When did the USA no longer have a monopoly of nuclear weaponry?
- 5) How was the arms race used to highlight the benefits of communism and capitalism?
- 6) Explain in your own words what the military-industrial complex was.