

The USSR spent \$1B on mind-control programs

By News.com.au

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2009's "The Men Who Stare at Goats" starring George Clooney provided a farcical look at the CIA's mind-control program which was matched by the Soviet Union during the Cold War. Photo: Everett Collection

The race to put man on the Moon wasn't enough of a battle for the global super powers during the Cold War.

At the time, the Soviet Union and the United States were in an arms race of a bizarre, unconventional kind – that has been exposed [in a new report](#).

Beginning in 1917 and continuing until 2003, the Soviets poured up to \$1 billion into developing mind-controlling weaponry to compete with similar programs undertaken in the United States.

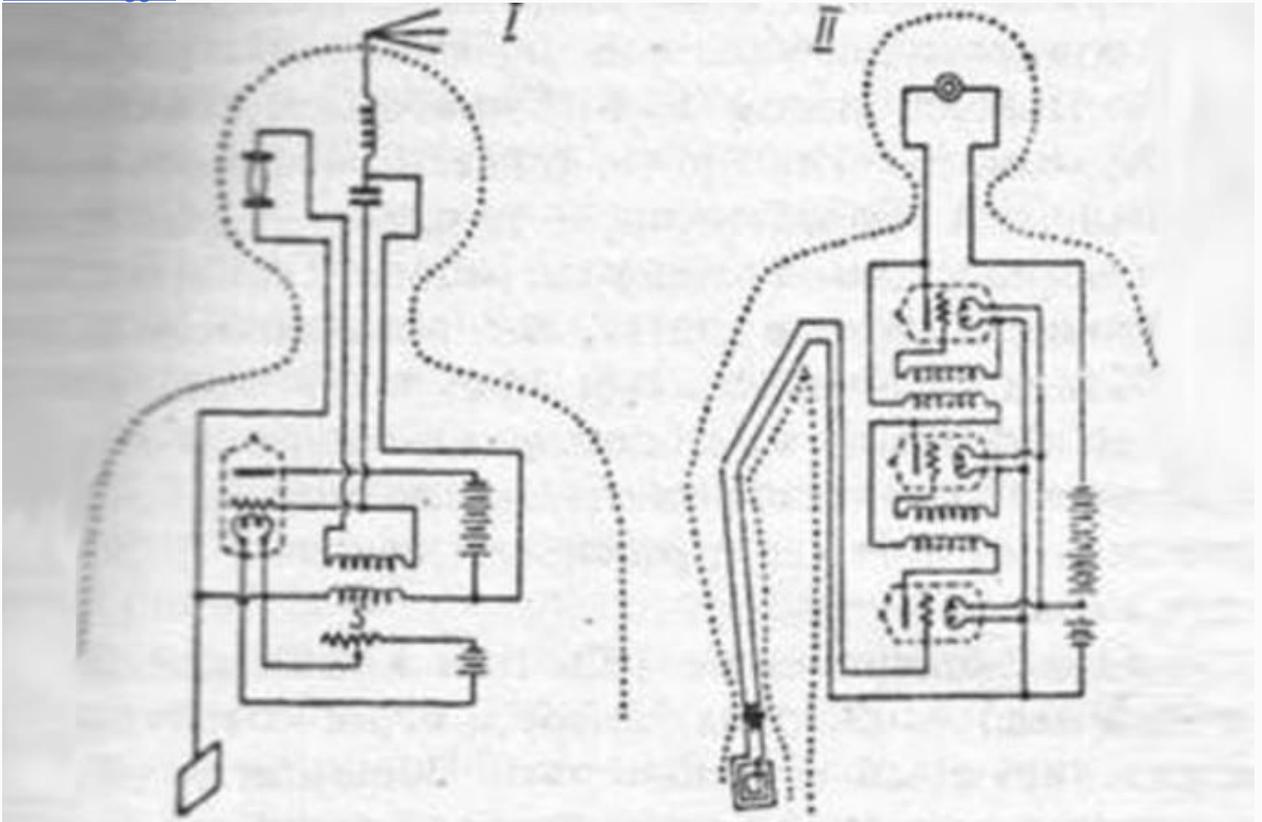
While much still remains classified, we can now confirm the Soviets used methods to manipulate test subjects' brains.

[The paper, by Serge Kernbach](#), at the Research Centre of Advanced Robotics and Environmental Science in Stuttgart, Germany, details the Soviet Union's extensive experiments, called "psychotronics". The paper is based on Russian technical journals and recently declassified documents.

The [paper](#) outlines how the Soviets developed "cerpan", a device to generate and store high-frequency electromagnetic radiation which was used to affect other objects.

"If the generator is designed properly, it is able to accumulate bioenergy from all living things – animals, plants, humans – and then release it outside," the paper said.

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The schematic drawing made by Soviet scientist detailing the bio-circuitry of the human nervous system. Photo: B.B.Kazhinskiy

The psychotronics program, known in the US as "parapsychology", involves unconventional research into mind control and remote influence – and was funded by the government.

With only limited knowledge of each other's mind-bending programs, the Soviets and Americans were both participating in similar secret operations, with areas of interest often mirroring the other country's study.

The psychotronics project draws similarities to part of the controversial program [MKUltra](#) in the US. The CIA program ran for 20 years, has been highly documented since being investigated in the 1970s and was recently dramatized in the 2009 movie "The Men Who Stare at Goats."

Scientists involved in the MKUltra program researched the possibility of manipulating people's minds by altering their brain functions using electromagnetic waves. This program led to the development of psychotronic weapons, which were intended to be used to perform these mind-shifting functions.

The illegal research subjected humans to experiments with drugs, such as LSD, hypnosis and radiological and biological agents. Shockingly, some studies were conducted without the participant's knowledge.

[Kernbach's paper](#) on the Soviet Union's psychotronics program fails to mention one thing – the results. He also doesn't detail whether there are ongoing mind-control programs in the US or Russia, but there are suspicions.

Russian President Vladimir Putin made mention of futuristic weaponry last year in a presidential campaign article.

"Space-based systems and IT tools, especially in cyberspace, will play a great, if not decisive role in armed conflicts. In a more remote future, weapon systems that use different physical principles will be created (beam, geophysical, wave, genetic, psychophysical and other types of weapons). All this will provide fundamentally new instruments for achieving political and strategic goals in addition to nuclear weapons," [he wrote](#).

The newly declassified information outlined in the [report](#) only touches on the Soviet psychotronics program and the bizarre experiments undertaken. With so much information still classified, will we ever know the whole truth?

This article [originally appeared](#) on [News.com.au](#).

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