

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

President Obama's Second Term: Fulfilling the Promise of Nuclear Disarmament

by Richard Falk and David Krieger

Any great and important goal requires boldness to be achieved. Leadership itself requires boldness and persistence. Shortly after assuming office in 2009, President Obama demonstrated this boldness in a widely acclaimed speech in Prague. To rousing applause, he said, "So today, I state clearly and with conviction America's commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons."

The principal missing elements for realizing the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons are *political will* and *clarity of intention*.

To read more, [click here](#).

Nuclear Strategist Paul Bracken Says Present Risks Worse Than In Cold War

by Robert Kazel

Yale University Professor Paul Bracken is worried, and he's impatient.

In Bracken's new book, *The Second Nuclear Age: Strategy, Danger, and the New Power Politics* (Times Books, 2012), Asia and the Middle East are depicted as zones of extreme hazard where insecure, unstable national actors are gaining prominence. He criticizes Western powers such as the United States for lingering in a state of shock while they view, with almost a sense of unreality, the rapid rise of new nuclear nations. U.S. leaders may not know how to intervene if a crisis threatens to spark a massive regional war, he argues, because they rarely discuss it now.

Bracken talked to NAPF about his new book and his thoughts on the alarming challenges the U.S. could face abroad.

To read more, [click here](#).

Indefensible: David Krieger on the Continuing Threat of Nuclear Weapons

by Leslee Goodman

This interview appeared in the January 2013 issue of The Sun magazine.

In 1963 the prospect of war was on many Americans' minds. The U.S. was increasing its military presence in South Vietnam and had come to the brink of a nuclear conflict with the Soviet Union a year earlier, during the Cuban Missile Crisis. David Krieger was fresh out of Occidental College with a degree in psychology. Wanting to experience a foreign culture, he traveled to Japan, where he visited the sites of the World War II atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The experience left an indelible impression on the future nuclear-disarmament activist. "In the U.S. we viewed the bomb as a technological achievement that shortened the war," he says. "The Japanese, however, viewed the atomic bombings as humanitarian catastrophes. It brought home to me the ways in which our government - perhaps any government - develops a narrative to justify its actions."

To read the full interview, [click here](#).

Nuclear Disarmament

Doomsday Clock Stays at Five Minutes to Midnight

by Robert Kazel

Is the world any closer to destroying itself now than it was a year ago? According to the nuclear and world-climate experts who advise the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, the answer is a complicated yes and no.

The annual "Doomsday Clock Symposium" was held in late November, and the decision of the organization's Science and Security Board to keep the clock's hand at 5 minutes to midnight, at least for another year, was announced in January. The reasoning behind the decision not to change the clock, despite the progressive worsening of certain global risks, was outlined in an open letter from the Bulletin to President Obama. The communication to the president largely was an appeal for bolder, more decisive action rather than congratulations for what he may have already achieved.

Kazel, Robert, "[Leading Nuclear and Climate Scientists: Act in Second Term to Avoid Cataclysms](#)," *Nuclear Age Peace Foundation*, January 23, 2013.

Norwegian Pension Fund Excludes Nuclear Weapons Companies

The Norwegian Ministry of Finance excluded The Babcock & Wilcox Co. and Jacobs Engineering Group from the government pension fund as advised by the Council on Ethics.

According to the Council, "The Babcock & Wilcox Co. operates and has operational responsibility for state-owned plants that produce fissionable material for nuclear warheads, and maintains and upgrades such warheads. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. has stated that it is now participating in a joint venture company engaged in the development, production, testing and maintenance of nuclear warheads."

The Ministry of Finance re-included three companies that ceased previous nuclear weapons work. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), of which the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is a member, published a report in 2012 entitled "[Don't Bank on the Bomb](#)," which details many companies that are invested in nuclear weapons production.

"[New Decisions about the Government Pension Fund Global](#)," *Norwegian Ministry of Finance*, January 11, 2013.

Ban Ki-moon Calls for Funding Peace in an Over-Armed World

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon gave a speech in Monterey, California in January calling for increased funding for peace in an over-armed world.

The Secretary-General said in part, "The longer we procrastinate, the greater the risk that these weapons will be used, will proliferate or be acquired by terrorists. But our aim must be more than keeping the deadliest of weapons from 'falling into the wrong hands.' There are no right hands for wrong weapons."

He also said, "I urge all nuclear-armed States to reconsider their national nuclear posture. Nuclear deterrence is not a solution to international peace and stability. It is an obstacle."

To read Ban Ki-moon's full speech, [click here](#).

Nuclear Proliferation

Iranian Religious Decree Bans Nuclear Weapons

An Iranian official has stressed that Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's religious decree banning nuclear weapons is proof that Iran is not building nuclear weapons. The new assurance came after allegations that Iran tested bomb trigger mechanisms. Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast stated, "There is nothing higher than the exalted supreme leader's fatwa to define the framework for our activities in the nuclear field."

"[Iran Says Supreme Leader's Ban Rules Out Nuclear Weapons For Islamic Republic](#)," *Associated Press*, January 15, 2013.

North Korea Threatens New Nuclear Test

The North Korean National Defense Commission has issued a statement in response to the UN Security Council resolution rebuking North Korea for its December launch of a long-range rocket. The statement said in part, "We are not disguising the fact that the various satellites and long-range rockets that we will fire and the high-level nuclear test we will carry out are targeted at the United States."

China, a long-time ally of North Korea, urged North Korea to "remain calm and act and speak in a cautious and prudent way and not take any steps which may further worsen the situation."

"[North Korea Promises More Rocket and Nuke Trials Aimed at U.S.](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, January 24, 2013.

Nuclear Insanity

Air Force Considers Return of Mobile Nuclear Missiles

The Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center at Kirtland Air Force Base is seeking "industry and academic help in analyzing the future of its Minuteman III nuclear missiles. The options include no upgrades, incremental fixes, new missiles stored in silos, and new mobile or tunnel-based systems." Phillip Coyle of the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation said, "The Air Force will need to be careful that they don't stir up a hornets nest with proposals for mobile basing or advanced concepts other than the traditional booster and reentry vehicle. The former could cause Russia or China to redouble their efforts on mobile basing of ICBMs, set off a new kind of arms race, and weaken U.S. defenses."

Brewin, Bob, "[Air Force Eyes Return of Mobile Nuclear Missiles](#)," *Nextgov*, January 9, 2013.

Residents of Kashmir Warned to Prepare for Nuclear War

For the first time, the people of India-controlled Kashmir have been warned via newspaper to prepare for nuclear attack. The notice advised people "to build toilet-equipped basements large enough to house their entire families for two weeks. If there is no basement, residents should construct bunkers in their front yards."

The ominous notice appeared after recent skirmishes between Pakistani and Indian troops, the most deadly exchanges of violence since the cease-fire of 2003. According to the Indian inspector-general, Yoginder Kaul, "We routinely train and educate people regarding different natural and man-made disasters and that's our duty. Let it be clear that this is purely in the nature of educating people and not connected with anything else."

Hussain, Aijaz, "[Kashmir Conflict: Indian Police Warn Residents To Be Prepared for Possible Nuclear War](#)," *The Huffington Post*, January 22, 2013.

U.S. to Use Wind Power at Nuclear Weapons Factory

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has awarded a contract to Siemens Government Technologies, Inc. to construct and operate the largest U.S. government wind farm in order to power the Pantex nuclear weapons plant in Texas.

Former NAPF Washington, D.C. office director Nickolas Roth facetiously remarked, "The NNSA is building wind farms to help power its nuclear bomb factory in Texas. For the sake of future generations, it is important that the U.S. only uses clean energy to build its weapons of mass destruction."

"[U.S. Government Signs Onto Biggest Wind Farm](#)," *Sustainable Business*, January 23, 2013.

Missile Defense

U.S.-Russia Conflict Over Missile Defense Continues

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev expressed concerns about the potential for a future arms race between Russia and NATO. He said, "We do not want next generations of politicians in 2019 or 2020 to take decisions which would open a new page in the arms race. But such a threat exists and everyone in Russia and the United States should understand this, that's why we still have chances to come to an agreement."

The U.S. claims that the missile defense shield system in Turkey, Romania and Poland is to protect Europe from Iran and North Korea. Medvedev charges, however, that "the missile defense is a direct continuation of nuclear offensive capability, combat nuclear weapons." Prime Minister Medvedev has promised that Russia will "deploy a host of countermeasures to tackle any NATO missile defense shield in Europe, including forward deployments of tactical nuclear missiles in its Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad."

"['No Flexibility' in U.S. Missile Talks – Medvedev](#)," *RIA Novosti*, January 27, 2013.

Resources

Saving Our Future: Best Policies to Regenerate Our World

The World Future Council has issued a new policy action plan entitled "Saving Our Future: Best Policies to Regenerate Our World." The policies represent a combination of tried and tested laws and policies that have been successful in one or more countries and optimal policy solutions identified through extensive research. The purpose is to identify inter-linked reforms that progressively and rapidly enable the world to change direction.

The action plan calls for nuclear weapons to be outlawed in national legislation, as in New Zealand. It also calls on the nuclear-weapons-possessing States to fulfill their obligation to commence negotiations on a

Nuclear Weapons Convention to ban and eliminate all nuclear weapons in a phased, verifiable and irreversible manner.

To read the full report, [click here](#).

The Medical Case for Nuclear Abolition

The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and its U.S. affiliate, Physicians for Social Responsibility, have produced a new video on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear war. The video elaborates on the medical, ecological, social and financial consequences of a nuclear explosion in a city or region. In the video, Dr. Ira Helfand emphasizes, "This is not just some nightmare fantasy I've cooked up to scare you. This is a real and present danger. As long as nuclear weapons exist, there exists the possibility that they will be used."

The video also includes discussion of current high risk regions, such as the Kashmir region between India and Pakistan.

To watch the full 14-minute video, [click here](#).

Foundation Activities

2013 Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest is Underway

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has announced the topic for the 2013 Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest. Contestants will make a video of three minutes or less addressing the topic, "In My Lifetime: Why Nuclear Weapons Must Be Abolished Urgently."

President Obama has stated that America is committed "to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons." However, he also said that it is unlikely that this goal will be achieved in his lifetime.

The contest is open to people of all ages around the world. Videos must be submitted by April 1. For more information on the 2013 Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest, [click here](#).

Dennis Kucinich to Speak in Santa Barbara on February 8

Dennis Kucinich, an outspoken progressive leader in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1997 to 2013, will deliver the 12th Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future on February 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lobero Theatre in Santa Barbara, CA. Rep. Kucinich was a presidential candidate in 2004 and 2008, and served for many years as the United Nations Representative for the group Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament.

The Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future was established by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation in 2002. Frank K. Kelly was a founder and senior vice president of the Foundation. He was a visionary advocate for humanity and inspired many people through his writing and example to take action on behalf of humanity.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information on the Kelly Lecture series, [click here](#).

New Book by NAPF President David Krieger

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has published a new book by NAPF President David Krieger. The book, entitled *Zero: The Case for Nuclear Weapons Abolition*, is a collection of short essays by Krieger that together make a strong case for the urgent abolition of nuclear weapons.

Commenting on the book, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a Nobel Peace Laureate and member of the NAPF Advisory Council, said, "This book makes a clear and persuasive case for why we must move urgently and globally to zero nuclear weapons. It should be required reading for all citizens of Earth."

The book is available to purchase online in the [NAPF Peace Store](#) or by calling the NAPF office at (805) 965-3443.

Oslo Conference on Catastrophic Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons

NAPF Director of Programs Rick Wayman will attend the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons' Civil Society Forum in Oslo, Norway, March 1-4. The Civil Society Forum precedes a government conference hosted by the Norwegian Foreign Ministry on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

While in Norway, Rick will network with campaigners around the world working on these issues and will share NAPF's video "[Nuclear Famine](#)," which outlines the catastrophic global consequences of even a "limited" regional nuclear war, and the [Santa Barbara Declaration](#) on the dangers of nuclear deterrence.

Building the Framework for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World

NAPF President David Krieger will represent the Foundation at the Berlin Framework Forum, February 21-22 in Berlin, Germany. The forum is sponsored by the Middle Powers Initiative (MPI) and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament. It is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, the Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs of Austria, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

The forum will work to create the conditions and build the framework for a nuclear weapons-free world. Other participants in the forum will include diplomats from many Middle Power countries. The former mayor of Hiroshima and MPI Chair Tadatashi Akiba will be one of the keynote speakers.

Quotes

"I think [the UK nuclear arsenal] is completely past its sell-by date. It is neither independent, nor is it any kind of deterrent because we face enemies like the Taliban and al-Qaeda, who cannot be deterred by nuclear weapons. It is a tremendous waste of money and is done entirely for reasons of national prestige."

-- **Michael Portillo**, former UK Defense Secretary (1995-97).

"It's a deterrent force that allows us protection against all threats and allows us to play a strong role on the world stage."

-- French President **Francois Hollande**, speaking about the French nuclear arsenal.

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