

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

Nuclear Zero: Getting to the Finish Line

by David Krieger

Almost five decades ago, I first visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It was 18 years after the atomic bombings flattened the cities, and the cities had returned to a kind of normalcy. At the memorial museums, though, a very different perspective on nuclear weapons was presented than that taught in American schools. It was the perspective from below the bombs - that of the victims - not the technological perspective of having created and used the bombs.

The greatest problem related to nuclear weapons is not that Iran might develop such weapons. It is that the countries with nuclear weapons are not taking seriously enough their obligations to end the nuclear weapons threat to humanity and achieve nuclear disarmament.

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

Nuclear Weapons as Instruments of Peace?

by Richard Falk

A few days ago I was a participant in a well-attended academic panel on 'the decline of violence and warfare' at the International Studies Association's Annual Meeting held this year in San Diego, California.

What to me was most shocking about the panel was not its overstated claims that political violence was declining and war on the brink of disappearing, but the unqualified endorsement of nuclear weapons as deserving credit for keeping the peace during Cold War and beyond. Nuclear weapons were portrayed as if generally positive contributors to establishing a peaceful and just world, provided only that they do not fall into unwanted hands (which means 'adversaries of the West,' or more colorfully phrased by George W. Bush as 'the axis of evil') as a result of proliferation.

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

Nuclear Proliferation

North Korea Satellite Launch Fails

North Korea failed in its attempt to launch a satellite into space in April. The launch, widely criticized by western countries as a covert attempt to test long-range missile technology, did not go according to plan, with the rocket breaking up and falling into the sea just minutes after launch.

The United Nations Security Council issued a unanimous statement shortly after the launch that read in part, "The Security Council demands that the D.P.R.K. not proceed with any further launches using ballistic missile technology and comply with [council] resolutions ... by suspending all activities related to its ballistic missile program."

"UN Security Council Rebukes North Korea over Rocket Firing," [Global Security Newswire](#), April 16, 2012.

India Test-Fires an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile

On April 19, 2012, India launched an Agni-V intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) with a strike range of over 5,000 kilometers. India's neighboring nuclear-armed adversaries, China and Pakistan, are both within the missile's strike range.

The nuclear-capable missile is scheduled to become fully operational by 2015, making India the sixth nation possessing such long-distance missiles. The permanent members of the UN Security Council – the US, the UK, China, Russia and France – are the other five nations with such weaponry. Israel's ICBM status, meanwhile, is unconfirmed.

The United States harshly criticized North Korea for its efforts to launch a satellite into space using technology that could also be applied to ICBMs, but made no statement about India's acquisition of ICBMs in a region of high nuclear tensions.

Pandit, Rajat, "Agni-V, India's first ICBM test-fired successfully," [Times of India](#), April 19, 2012.

Nuclear Insanity

The Folly of Nuclear Drones

Scientists at Sandia National Laboratories and the Northrop Grumman Corp. have given a favorable assessment to the use of nuclear power on U.S. drones in the future.

Their report said that "technology and systems designs evaluated...have previously never been applied to unmanned air vehicles" and "use of these technologies" could provide "system performance unparalleled by existing technologies." It acknowledged, however, that "current political conditions will not allow use of the results." Thus "it is doubtful that they will be used in the near-term or mid-term future."

Grossman, Karl, "Nukes Overhead," [CounterPunch](#), April 11, 2012.

Nuclear Labs

Pentagon Criticizes Nuclear Labs for Refusal to Downsize

The Project on Government Oversight has obtained a memo from the U.S. Department of Defense that strongly criticizes the Department of Energy for its refusal to allow its nuclear weapons labs to downsize despite the end of the Cold War. Specifically, the memo criticizes DOE for maintaining "its oversized Cold War infrastructure" and focusing "more on personal bonuses than on scientific achievement."

The memo was written by Don DeYoung of the Laboratory Joint Analysis Team (U.S. Navy) to John Fischer, the chair of the analysis team.

Severance, John, "Leaked DOD memo rips DOE on size of labs," [Los Alamos Monitor](#), April 21, 2012.

Missile Defense

Experts See Major Problems with Missile Defense in Europe

Numerous experts have reported that the Obama administration initiative to establish a ballistic missile shield in Europe is threatened by radar technology problems, along with likely expense hikes and significant timeline overruns. The Defense Science Board and the Government Accountability Office both identified numerous problems with the system.

Ted Postol, a scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said that opponents could defeat U.S. missile defenses by using balloons or other objects to hide the approach of an actual missile. "If you can't tell

the difference between a warhead and pieces of debris from an attempted intercept, how are you going to identify a decoy that's designed to fool you?" Postol said.

"U.S. Government Experts See Major Hurdles for European Missile Shield," [Global Security Newswire](#), April 23, 2012.

Military-Industrial Complex

Global Military Spending Exceeds \$1.7 Trillion in 2011

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has released its report on 2011 military spending, which shows that countries worldwide spent at least \$1.7 trillion. The United States spent more than any other country, with military expenditures of \$711 billion (approximately \$2 billion per day). The next highest spender was China (\$143 billion), followed by Russia (\$72 billion).

"Military spending: How much does the military cost each country, listed," [The Guardian](#), April 17, 2012.

Resources

Don't Bank on the Bomb

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons has published the first major global report on the financing of companies that manufacture, modernize and maintain nuclear weapons and their delivery vehicles. The report, entitled "Don't Bank on the Bomb," identifies more than 300 banks, insurance companies, pension funds and asset managers from 30 countries that invest significantly in 20 major nuclear weapons producers.

The report also provides ideas and guidance for individuals and organizations wishing to participate in a campaign to discourage financial companies from investing in nuclear weapons.

To find out more, [click here](#).

Nuclear Weapon Modernization Around the World

Reaching Critical Will, a project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, has published a new report entitled "Assuring Destruction Forever: Nuclear weapon modernization around the world."

This new, groundbreaking study explores in depth the nuclear weapon modernization programs in China, France, India, Israel, Pakistan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and analyzes the costs of nuclear weapons in the context of the economic crisis, austerity measures, and rising challenges in meeting human and environmental needs.

To download a free copy of the report, [click here](#).

Nuclear Famine: A Billion People at Risk

Physicians for Social Responsibility and the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War released a new report entitled "Nuclear Famine: A Billion People at Risk." The report documents that even a

limited nuclear exchange would cause the type of climate disruption that experts previously associated only with a US/Russia nuclear war. The study estimates one billion people -- one-sixth of the human race -- could starve over the decade following a nuclear detonation.

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

U.S. Nuclear Weapons in Europe

IKV Pax Christi has published a new report entitled "Exit Strategies: The case for redefining NATO consensus on U.S. Tactical Nuclear Weapons." The report elaborates on the reality that a large proportion of the Alliance does not explicitly favor the continued deployment of U.S. nuclear bombs in Europe. Instead of defaulting to an old policy that can no longer count on agreement, the report suggests NATO recognize that a new consensus is emerging, one that requires a change in current nuclear deployments.

[Click here](#) to download the full report.

Foundation Activities

NAPF at the 2012 Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee

Six representatives of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation are in Vienna, Austria, from April 30 - May 11 to observe the NPT proceedings, meet with ambassadors and strategize with NGO representatives from around the world. The Foundation will also host a seminar inside the UN building on May 3 entitled "The Consequences of Continued Failure of Article VI of the NPT." A variety of speakers will address the issue of what might happen if nuclear weapon states continue to fail to negotiate the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, has published a [Briefing Paper](#) for the 2012 Non-Proliferation Treaty PrepCom entitled "Nuclear Weapons and a Sustainable Future." The paper, which will be distributed to the delegation of each country that is a part of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, calls for bold action so that negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention may begin.

To download a copy of the Briefing Paper, [click here](#).

Christian Ciobanu, the Foundation's representative in Geneva, has been instrumental in organizing a delegation of 40 young people from around Europe to participate in the meeting. For more information on the youth delegation, [click here](#).

Paul Chappell on Tavis Smiley

On April 5, NAPF Peace Leadership Program Director Paul K. Chappell was the guest on Tavis Smiley's talk show, which is aired throughout the United States on PBS stations. Paul answered many difficult questions about war and peace in the 24-minute interview.

[Click here](#) to watch the interview for free online.

Summer Peace Leadership Workshop

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's 2012 Peace Leadership Summer Workshop is now full. There are only two more spots available for the workshop, which will take place from July 22-29 in Santa Barbara, California.

Peace Leadership Program Director Paul K. Chappell will lead the seven-day workshop, which will feature in-depth training on the many different facets of peace leadership, guest lecturers, team-building exercises and much more.

For more information, [click here](#).

Quotes

"They feel like nomads in their own country, and many have suffered long-term health effects."

-- **Calin Georgescu**, UN Special Rapporteur who recently visited the Marshall Islands to report on the ongoing damage caused by U.S. atmospheric nuclear weapon testing.

"What happens if President Obama is re-elected and is no longer answerable for another election to the American people - what's likely to happen to these programs at that time?"

-- **Sen. Jon Kyl** (R-AZ) referring to programs that will modernize existing U.S. nuclear weapons and give the country the capacity to build new nuclear weapons.

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