

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

What Nuclear Weapons Teach Us About Ourselves

by David Krieger

Nuclear weapons are the most fearsome and destructive killing devices yet created by the human species.

They have the capacity to destroy cities, countries and civilization. Yet, although these weapons give rise to some concern and worry, most humans on the planet are complacent about the inherent dangers of these weapons. It is worth exploring what our seeming indifference toward these weapons of mass annihilation teaches us about ourselves, and how we might remedy our malaise.

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

Dysfunctional Disarmament

by Ban Ki-moon

As the United Nations Conference on Disarmament (CD) begins a seven-week session in Geneva, its future is on the line. Whereas countries and civil-society initiatives are on the move, the Conference has stagnated. Its credibility – indeed, its very legitimacy – is at risk.

Today, all is not well at the CD. It operates under a consensus rule, and its member states have different priorities. Some want negotiations on nuclear disarmament; others want to ban the production of fissile material for weapon purposes; and still others insist that such a treaty should also cover existing stocks. Some want a treaty on security guarantees for non-nuclear-weapon states to assure them against the threat or use of nuclear weapons; others want a treaty to prevent an arms race in outer space.

But, instead of compromise and the give-and-take of good-faith discussions, there has been paralysis.

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

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

Pentagon Seeks Nuclear-Capable Drone

The Pentagon has begun talks with contractors that will bid on building a fleet of 80 to 100 aircraft capable to carry nuclear weapons that can operate with or without a pilot in the cockpit. The estimated price tag for this endeavor is \$55 billion.

Congress is expected to approve \$197 million in initial funding for the research phase of the program in 2012. However, Todd Harrison of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments said that it is possible that the new bomber program could already be underway through the Air Force's \$12.6 billion "black budget," which is classified.

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation recently sent out an [Action Alert](#) asking Congress to oppose an increase in the nuclear weapons budget for new nuclear weapons production facilities and delivery vehicles, including the unmanned nuclear bomber aircraft.

Hennigan, William, "Pentagon Weapons Buyer Quietly Visits California to Discuss Bomber Planes," *Los Angeles Times*, May 22, 2011.

Kansas City Nuclear Weapons Plant Headed for a Vote

An advocacy group in Missouri obtained 4,342 valid signatures on a petition to oppose the manufacturing of nuclear components at the proposed new Kansas City Plant, enough votes to put it in the ballot in the November local elections. The group argues that continued production of nuclear weapons components risks toxic chemical contamination of the grounds, employees and watershed. While they support the construction

of a facility, they want to ensure that the plant is used for productive purposes, such as manufacturing renewable energy components. If the city refuses to put the group's proposal on the November ballot, legal action may be taken.

Horsley, Lynn, "Group Collects Enough Signatures to Fight Nuclear Components in KC Plant," *The Kansas City Star*, May 24, 2011.

NNSA Strategic Plan Looks to Increase Lifetime of Nuclear Weapons

A new 10-year strategic plan released by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) highlights the government department's desire to increase the lifespan of US nuclear weapons as the numbers of weapons in the stockpile decreases. The NNSA is looking to conduct life extension programs for certain types of nuclear weapons to extend their lives by decades.

The strategic plan claims that the NNSA's dismantlement of old nuclear weapons is "tangible evidence of the U.S. commitment to move toward a world free of nuclear weapons," a goal articulated by President Obama. However, the NNSA projects that it will be 2022 when it expects to have taken apart all the nuclear systems retired before 2009.

The NNSA strategic plan also highlights the need to improve nuclear safeguards and to secure the most vulnerable nuclear materials worldwide by 2013.

Pincus, Walter, "Life Span of US Nuclear Weapons Will Increase Under Plan," *Washington Post*, May 18, 2011.

Nuclear Proliferation

US Helped France Develop Advanced Nuclear Weapons

Recently declassified documents obtained by the National Security Archive at George Washington University and the Nuclear Proliferation International History Project at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars reveal that the United States secretly helped France develop advanced nuclear weapons in the 1970s.

The documents show that the Nixon Administration ignored US law that prevented direct nuclear assistance to France. Henry Kissinger, senior aide to President Richard Nixon, is quoted as saying that he wanted to make the French "drool" and think they could compete with Britain, weakening efforts for European unity. William Burr, a senior analyst at the National Security Archive, said it is unclear how much France benefited from the US assistance, as French documents on its nuclear program remain strictly classified.

Tandon, Shaun, "US Secretly Helped French Nuclear Program: Documents," *Agence France Presse*, May 25, 2011.

Pakistan Builds Low-Yield Nuclear Capability

The Pakistani military claims to have tested a 60-km range NASR surface-to-surface missile that carries nuclear warheads to boost "deterrence at short ranges." Experts believe the development of such tactical nuclear weapons lowers the threshold of use, and risks increasing the nuclear arms race between India and Pakistan.

India tested low-yield nuclear devices in 1998, but has remained quiet about this aspect of its nuclear program since then. Any use of nuclear weapons in the region would likely spark a larger nuclear exchange. According to the [Nuclear Darkness](#) website, even a "limited" nuclear exchange in India and Pakistan would likely result in drastic global cooling and worldwide famine due to the smoke that would surround the stratosphere.

Miglani, Sanjeev, "Pakistan Builds Low-Yield Nuclear Capability, Concern Grows," *Reuters*, May 15, 2011.

Nuclear Insanity

Senator Vehemently Opposes Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones

Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ), the Senate minority whip and a leading figure in the failed attempt to derail the New START treaty in 2010, has expressed his vehement opposition to US ratification of nuclear weapons-free zones in Africa and the South Pacific.

Kyl said, "I am deeply troubled that President Obama is attempting to codify by international agreement his flawed nuclear weapons declaratory policy, which would limit the instances in which the President would use nuclear weapons to defend the United States and its allies from attack.

"But beyond the implications of these two treaties, this latest action is more proof that the President's nuclear policy priorities are deeply flawed. He says he is serious about stopping proliferation and nuclear terrorism, yet he submits to the Senate two treaties that neither address the illegal nuclear weapons programs of Iran or North Korea, nor do anything to deal with the suspicious activities of Syria and Burma. Yet again, the President prefers the ease of treaty signing to the hard work of solving practical problems.

"The Senate should not begin consideration of these treaties until the President shows he is serious about stopping the nuclear programs of Iran and North Korea. And until he sanctions Chinese entities that are supporting those illegal nuclear weapons programs, his commitment to stopping nuclear terrorism and proliferation will be in doubt."

Days earlier, the White House released a statement that said, "Regional nuclear weapon free zone agreements reinforce both the commitment of nations not to pursue nuclear weapons and the nearly 65-year record of their non-use. The protocols to the treaties, once ratified, will extend the policy of the United States not to use or threaten use of nuclear weapons against regional zone parties that are members of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and in good standing with their non-proliferation obligations."

Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones currently exist for Antarctica, Outer Space, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Seabed, the South Pacific, Southeast Asia, Mongolia, Central Asia and Africa.

"Kyl Statement Regarding African and South Pacific Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaties," Office of Sen. Jon Kyl, May 5, 2011.

Nuclear Testing

US Drones Monitoring Old Test Site in Kazakhstan

The United States Defense Department is using aerial drones to support a classified project that aims to protect a former atomic testing site in Kazakhstan. The project has continued behind a curtain of secrecy, with a few exceptions; in 2003 Kazakh officials told a reporter for *Science* magazine about "Operation Groundhog," in which plutonium-contaminated earth was paved with a two-meter-thick slab of steel-

reinforced concrete to protect it from terrorists who might cart it away to use in a dirty bomb.

WikiLeaks cables published last year revealed an urgent push to “prevent nuclear residue material from falling into terrorists’ hands.” One describes it as “the most critical” of all the American-financed projects to secure nuclear materials in the former Soviet Union.

Barry, Ellen, “Old Soviet Nuclear Site in Asia Has Unlikely Sentinel: The U.S.” *The New York Times*, May 21, 2011.

Resources

Climate Change, Nuclear Risks and Nuclear Disarmament

The World Future Council (WFC) has published a new report entitled "Climate Change, Nuclear Risks and Nuclear Disarmament: From Security Threats to Sustainable Peace." It is the outcome of groundbreaking research by a member of the WFC Peace and Disarmament Working Group, Prof. Dr. Jürgen Scheffran of the University of Hamburg.

The WFC report examines the linkages between nuclear and climate risks, noting that these two clear threats may interfere with each other in a mutually enforcing way. It also proposes that finding solutions to one problem area could lead to solutions in the other: "Preventing the dangers of climate change and nuclear war requires an integrated set of strategies that address the causes as well as the impacts on the natural and social environment." Prof. Dr. Scheffran offers an approach to move away from these security threats to building sustainable peace.

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

China's Nuclear Arsenal: Status and Evolution

The Chinese government is not trying to reach numerical parity with the U.S. nuclear weapons arsenal and does not have the nuclear material to do so, according to a briefing paper released today by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). China currently possesses a relatively small nuclear arsenal, with an estimated 155 nuclear warheads ready to be deployed on six types of land-based missiles.

Approximately 50 of its 155 missiles can reach the continental United States. The United States, by comparison, currently has more than 1,700 deployed nuclear warheads that can reach China.

The briefing paper points out that China, unlike the United States, does not deploy its warheads on its missiles. Instead, it stores the warheads separately until missiles are prepared for launch. For this reason, under the counting rules agreed to in the recently ratified New START treaty between the United States and Russia, the total number of Chinese nuclear weapons would be counted as zero.

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

A Call to Increase Funding for Renewable Energy

According to a new report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), renewable energy could account for 80% of all electricity generation within 40 years. The report calls on governments

to significantly increase investment in developing renewable energy and to enact public policy to facilitate its widespread implementation. Investing in renewables to the extent needed would cost only about 1% of global GDP annually, according to Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the IPCC.

While applauding the overall message of the report, World Future Council founder Jakob von Uexküll criticized the report for its lack of specific policy suggestions. He said, "Feed in tariffs are the most powerful mechanism to unleash the development of wind, hydro and solar energy. And we have already passed various learning curves on how to get it right. In this regard, unfortunately the IPCC report's summary for policy makers does not give any clear guidance."

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

Foundation Activities

Waging Peace Today

Waging Peace Today, the blog of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, will be very active this summer. NAPF intern Cara Gregoire is finishing a 10-part blog series on the Department of Energy's top budget-busting nuclear projects, including some of the new nuclear weapons facilities being planned around the country.

With three full-time interns and a staff full of ideas, this summer will undoubtedly see some of our most interesting blogging yet.

[Click here](#) to visit the blog, where you can read all of our articles and sign up for automatic notifications.

NAPF Book Now on Sale in Europe

The Challenge of Abolishing Nuclear Weapons, edited by NAPF President David Krieger, is now on sale in Europe.

In this remarkable collection, scholars and policy analysts argue that humankind has a choice: either allow continued proliferation of nuclear weapons throughout the world or move toward their complete elimination. The contributors to this volume provide historical perspective on nuclear weapons policy; explore the role of international law in furthering the prospects of nuclear weapons abolition; consider the obstacles to abolition; present a path to achieving a nuclear weapons-free world; and look beyond abolition to consider issues of post-abolition sovereignty and general and complete disarmament. The goal of a nuclear weapons-free world can be awakened by an engaged citizenry bringing pressure from below in demanding action from political leaders. This book contributes to this awakening and engagement.

European residents can buy the book [here](#). Residents of the United States can buy the book [here](#).

Poetry Contest Deadline is July 1

The deadline to enter the Foundation's Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry contest is July 1. This annual series of awards encourages poets to explore and illuminate positive visions of peace and the human spirit. The Poetry Awards include three age categories: Adult, Youth 13-18, and Youth 12 & Under.

[Click here](#) for more details on the contest and to read the poems of past years' winners.

Santa Barbara Declaration in Congressional Record

Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA) has introduced the Santa Barbara Declaration into the Congressional Record. The Declaration, an urgent call to action to reject nuclear deterrence, was created during the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's conference on the dangers of nuclear deterrence in February 2011.

As the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress, the Congressional Record is a permanent public archive, published since 1873.

Rep. Capps said, "Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into the Congressional Record the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Santa Barbara Declaration, drafted February 17, 2011.

"The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, a non-profit and non-partisan organization based in Santa Barbara that has worked for peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons since 1982, hosted a conference in February 2011 on the dangers of nuclear deterrence. The statement, drafted by experts from around the world, outlines many reasons to work toward the eradication of nuclear weapons.

"I urge my colleagues to read the Santa Barbara Declaration and strive to build a more peaceful world."

To read the Declaration and sign your name in support of it, [click here](#).

Quotes

"It's one of the reasons why I'm sitting right here, why I run for this office because I want my grandchildren and their children to grow up in a nuclear-free world. And I'm going to do everything I can to be helpful to get there."

-- **Sen. Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), speaking at a Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee hearing about the nuclear weapons budget.

"Committing billions more to this ruinously expensive white elephant is something the government should be forced to justify every time police numbers are cut, hospitals reduce their services or public servants are laid off."

-- **Kate Hudson**, General Secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, condemning the UK government's decision to approve a design for a new generation of nuclear weapon submarines.

"The no trespass law at Y12 is one of a web of laws used to protect Weapons of Mass Destruction. The laws and the courts defend weapons for doomsday. The law is in the service of death. My action at Y12 was to willfully do good in the service of life."

-- **Steve Baggaly**, one of 12 protestors on trial for civil disobedience at the Y12 nuclear weapons facility in Tennessee.

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