

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

Once Upon a Time Can Be Now: Rescuing Planet Earth

by David Krieger

Fairy tales often begin with the words, "Once upon a time...." For example, "Once upon a time there was a beautiful princess...." In a fairy tale, the hero, perhaps a handsome prince, may kill the dragon and rescue the princess, and they "live happily ever after." I want to suggest a fairy tale in which there is a beautiful planet and the heroes and heroines who save it are us. So, here is a fairy tale about saving a planet in distress. Our challenge is to bring this fairy tale to life.

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

Should NATO Be Handling World Security?

by Lawrence Wittner

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (better known as NATO) is in the news once again thanks to a NATO summit meeting in Chicago over the weekend of May 19-20 and to large public demonstrations in Chicago against this military pact.

NATO's website defines the alliance's mission as "Peace and Security," and shows two children lying in the grass, accompanied by a bird, a flower and the happy twittering of birds. There is no mention of the fact that NATO is the world's most powerful military pact, or that NATO nations account for 70 percent of the world's annual \$1.74 trillion in military spending.

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

Youth Speech to the Non-Proliferation Treaty PrepCom

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Two years ago in New York our predecessors asked ironically if, at the age of 65, nuclear weapons had reached the time for compulsory retirement. Today, on the verge of them turning 67, we ask you to declare them not only out of business, but also deprived of any retirement scheme.

We are young, but we are not naive. We are young, but we are not unaware of the world around us.

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

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

Costs May Derail Unmanned Nuclear Bombers

Lieutenant General James Kowalski, head of U.S. Air Force Global Strike Command, stated at a recent event that the cost of unmanned bombers would "probably make it difficult to afford" and "a real challenge to the industry." One reason for this is a Pentagon-imposed cost cap of \$550 million per plane. This cost cap comes on the heels of the 2011 budget control act which mandates a \$450 billion defense spending cut over the next decade. If fielded, the bombers would first be deployed in the 2020s.

Grossman, Elaine, "Cost Worries Could Derail Plan for Next Bomber to Be Unmanned: U.S. General," [Global Security Newswire](#), May 10, 2012.

Former U.S. Commander Calls for Steep Nuclear Cuts

Gen. James E. Cartwright, the retired vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and a former commander of the United States' nuclear forces, has called in a new report for the U.S. to reduce its nuclear arsenal to 900 weapons by 2022, with only half deployed at any one time. He has also called for deployed nuclear weapons to be taken off hair-trigger alert so that any use would require 24 to 72 hours' notice, thus reducing the risk of accidental nuclear war.

In addition, the report calls for the elimination of U.S. inter-continental ballistic missiles. The report says, "ICBMs in fixed silos are inherently targetable and depend heavily upon launch on warning for survival under some scenarios of enemy attack...ICBM rapid reaction posture remains in operation and runs a real risk of accidental or mistaken launch."

The report was issued by the group Global Zero. [Click here](#) to read the report.

Shanker, Thom, "Cartwright, Retired General, Backs Large U.S. Nuclear Reduction," [The New York Times](#), May 15, 2012.

Nuclear Proliferation

Modernization of U.S. Nuclear Weapons in Europe Increases Tension with Russia

A report published by the European Leadership Network finds that U.S. plans for "modernization" of its nuclear weapon arsenal in Europe could trigger dangerous reactions from Russia. Current American plans include upgrading 180 B-61 nuclear bombs with precision guidance systems at a cost of \$6 billion. There would also be numerous costs for European countries, including replacing delivery aircraft. The upgraded bombs would need to be delivered by the F-35, which is still in development and is projected to cost up to \$110 million each.

U.S./NATO plans for missile defense in Europe are adding to the tension. In May, the Russian Military Chief of Staff stated his country could "launch preemptive strikes against future NATO missile defense facilities in Europe if sufficiently threatened." The United States says the shield is meant to counter potential attacks from Iran.

Bruton, Brinley, "US Nuke Upgrade to Trigger New Arms Race with Russia," [MSNBC](#), May 11, 2012.

Kristensen, Hans, "B61 Nuclear Bomb Costs Escalating," [FAS Strategic Security Blog](#), May 9, 2012.

Pakistani Tactical Nuclear Weapons Aimed at India

Former Pakistani Foreign Secretary Tanvir Ahmad Khan said that stockpiling nuclear-capable short-range missiles is a response to an Indian war strategy that would focus on conducting quick strikes on targets in Pakistan. The nuclear weapons can be carried by the solid fueled Nasr ballistic missile, a device with a 37-mile range. One year ago Pakistan announced it had test-fired a road-mobile Nasr missile.

Recent studies by climate scientists have shown that a nuclear exchange between India and Pakistan, in which each side targets the other's cities with 50 Hiroshima-sized nuclear weapons, could result in a global nuclear famine leading to the death of up to one billion people.

"Pakistani Tactical Nuclear Arms Intended for 'Limited War,' Expert Says," [Global Security Newswire](#), May 4, 2012.

No Progress in Talks Between Iran and P5+1

Iran held two days of talks in May with envoys from six countries (P5+1) in Baghdad in an attempt to solve the long-running dispute over Iran's nuclear program. A main concern of the P5+1 is Iran's ability to enrich uranium to 20 percent. Iran maintains that it has the right to enrich uranium for energy and medical purposes. Nuclear weapons require uranium enriched to 80 to 90 percent.

The talks in Baghdad did not result in any deals, but further talks are scheduled to take place in Moscow on June 18 and 19.

"Fresh Iran Nuclear Talks Set for Moscow," [Al Jazeera](#), May 25, 2012.

Nuclear Insanity

House Armed Services Committee Calls for Nuclear Weapons in South Korea

In May, the House Armed Services Committee adopted an amendment that calls for the consideration of reintroducing tactical nuclear weapons to the Western Pacific region in response to the "belligerent actions North Korea has made against allies of the United States." The amendment was approved by a vote of 32-26.

The United States removed its tactical nuclear weapons from South Korea in 1991, when George H.W. Bush was President. Since then, certain South Korean and U.S. politicians have attempted to raise support for their redeployment.

Rogin, Josh, "House pushes Obama administration to consider tactical nukes in South Korea," [Foreign Policy](#), May 10, 2012

Russian President Medvedev Calls on Youth to Excel in Nuclear Weapons

Earlier this month, just before ending his term as President of Russia, Dmitry Medvedev spoke to a group of Russian elites. He said that good examples needed to be set for the next generation so they would be emboldened to pursue "success in literature, art, education and nuclear weapons."

Mr. Medvedev continued, "They [nuclear weapons] may still come in handy. We're not going to use them, but let's still keep them around, because we have a big country, a complex country. We must value it and protect it."

Wayman, Rick, "Noble Pursuits," [Waging Peace Today](#), May 31, 2012.

NATO Affirms Role of Nuclear Weapons

At the NATO Summit in Chicago, which took place on May 20 and 21, the alliance affirmed the importance of nuclear weapons and guaranteed European members that the planned missile defense shield is not intended to take the place of nuclear weapons.

The U.S., under the guise of NATO nuclear sharing, deployed up to 7,000 nuclear weapons in European countries during the Cold War in the 1970s. Although the Cold War ended over 20 years ago, the U.S. continues to deploy approximately 180 nuclear weapons in five European countries: Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey. In addition, two NATO members, France and the United Kingdom, possess nuclear weapons.

The United States is planning to spend at least \$6 billion to upgrade the B-61 nuclear bombs that are deployed in Europe. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation recently issued an [action alert](#) to oppose the continued deployment of U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe.

Fouquet, Helene, "NATO's Missile Shield to Keep Nations' Nuclear Weapons," [Bloomberg News](#), May 20, 2012.

Norris, Robert, "United States Secretly Deployed Nuclear Bombs in 27 Countries and Territories During Cold War," [Natural Resources Defense Council](#), October 20, 1999.

Missile Defense

Missile Defense Still Susceptible to Decoys

A report by the Pentagon's Defense Science Board (DSB) states that a dedicated adversary could easily defeat the planned missile defense system by using simple decoy warheads and other countermeasures. The deployment of missile defenses will create incentives for other nuclear-armed nations to increase and improve their ballistic-missile stockpiles, but will not provide any reliable capability for the United States to counteract these enlarged arsenals.

The simplest decoys to confuse the planned missile defense system are cheap inflatable balloons. Missile-defense interceptors try to strike ICBM warheads in the vacuum of space. With balloons and real warheads traveling together, the missile defense system would be unable to distinguish the decoys from the real warheads.

Butt, Yousaf, "Debunking the Missile-Defense Myth," [The National Interest](#), May 7, 2012.

Military-Industrial Complex

Chemical Weapons Steadily Being Eliminated

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons announced in May that 73.6 percent of the known chemical arms possessed by member states to the disarmament accord have been eliminated.

Albania and India have completely destroyed their chemical weapons. Libya, Russia and the United States are currently in the process of eliminating theirs. The United States, which has thus far eliminated 89.8 percent of its chemical weapons, expects to dispose the remaining weapons by 2023. The year 2012 marks the 15th anniversary of the existence of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Although many

chemical weapons remain, the CWC gives hope that it is possible to achieve the verifiable elimination of a class of weapons of mass destruction.

"World Eliminates 74 Percent of Known Chemical Arms," [Global Security Newswire](#), May 23, 2012.

Resources

Working for Peace and Justice

Working for Peace and Justice: Memoirs of an Activist Intellectual is a must read for all who are interested and involved in the search for peace, racial equality, and other aspects of social justice. The book is a very well written autobiography by Lawrence S. Wittner, emeritus professor of history at the State University of New York-Albany.

To read the full book review written by NAPF Associate Bill Wickersham, [click here](#).

Joint Statement on Humanitarian Dimensions of Nuclear Disarmament

At the 2012 Non-Proliferation Treaty PrepCom, a group of 16 countries prepared a statement on the humanitarian dimensions of nuclear disarmament. More and more countries are beginning to pay attention to the serious humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

The statement reads in part:

"If such weapons were to be used again, be it intentionally or accidentally, immense humanitarian consequences would be unavoidable. In addition to the immediate fatalities, survivors of the horrendous effects of a nuclear explosion would endure immeasurable suffering. International organisations providing emergency relief would be unable to fulfill their mandates, as the ICRC has already concluded. Studies have shown that the radiation released by even a single nuclear weapon affects populations, agriculture and natural resources over a very wide area and constitutes a threat for future generations. Further studies conclude that even a "limited nuclear exchange" – in itself a contradiction in terms – would provoke a global climate change with serious and long-lasting impact on the environment and food production, which could cause a global famine affecting over a billion people."

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

Events Commemorating Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Groups around the world are planning events to commemorate the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August.

In Paris, the Maison de Vigilance is organizing a four-day fast by the Eiffel Tower from August 6-9. [Click here](#) for more information.

In New Mexico, numerous groups are organizing three days of action near Los Alamos, where the first nuclear weapons were built and where the United States maintains a large nuclear weapons lab to this day. [Click here](#) for more information.

Foundation Activities

Winners Announced for 2012 Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has announced the winners of its 2012 Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest. Contestants made videos of three minutes or less addressing the theme: "*What School Didn't Teach Us: The Truth About Nuclear Weapons.*"

The winning video was made by Jeffrey Bloom of Chicago, IL. You can watch this year's top three videos [here](#). Congratulations to everyone who entered this year's contest!

NAPF at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation was represented well at the 2012 Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee meeting at the United Nations in Vienna. NAPF President David Krieger, Director of Programs Rick Wayman, Vice Chair Robert Laney, Geneva Representative Christian Ciobanu and New York Representative Alice Slater all attended the meetings, participated in panel discussions and met privately with many ambassadors.

The Foundation distributed a [Briefing Paper](#) to delegates that calls for bold action to push nuclear weapon states to take decisive action for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Christian Ciobanu played a key role in organizing a delegation of 40 young people from five European countries, which culminated in a "[youth speech](#)" delivered to delegates on May 2.

Sadako Peace Day to Feature Hiroshima Survivor

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's 18th Annual Sadako Peace Day commemoration will take place on August 6, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at La Casa de Maria in Montecito, California. The featured speaker at this year's event is Kikuko Otake, a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bombing. She is also the author of [Masako's Story: Surviving the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima](#), and will be signing copies of the book immediately following the event.

The event marks the anniversaries of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by commemorating the life of Sadako Sasaki. Sadako was two years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and developed leukemia ten years later due to radiation from the bomb. Sadako attempted to bring about her wish for world peace by folding 1,000 paper cranes. The paper crane has become a global symbol of peace, and a statue of Sadako now stands in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, please call (805) 965-3443.

Quotes

"It was important for all of us to hear the voices of young people who categorically reject a future which includes the existence of nuclear weapons. I admire your resolute conviction to realize a nuclear-weapon-free world and encourage you to keep your faith in spite of the difficulties you will encounter. The future is truly in your hands."

-- **Angela Kane**, United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, in a [letter](#) to NAPF Geneva Representative Christian Ciobanu, thanking him for his work organizing a delegation of 40 youth from around Europe to the Non-Proliferation Treaty PrepCom.

"Here's the reality: Why do we have a land-based deterrent force? It's so that an adversary has to strike the homeland."

-- U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff **Norton A. Schwartz**.

"No amount of medals, ribbons, or flags can cover the amount of human suffering caused by this war."

-- **Maggie Martin**, a sergeant who served two tours of duty in the Iraq War and returned her medals outside the NATO Summit in Chicago.

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