

# THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

## Issue #145 - August 2009

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## Perspectives

### The Hiroshima Challenge

by David Krieger

Hiroshima, as the first city attacked by an atomic weapon, was transformed to a city of ashes and death. From this devastation, it would be reborn to challenge humanity to a higher destiny.

Hiroshima became more than a place; it became a symbol of the terrifying threat of a new age of virtually unlimited destructive power. One bomb could destroy one city. By implication, a few bombs could destroy countries and a few dozen bombs could reduce civilization to ruins.

To read more, visit [http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2009/07/29\\_krieger\\_hiroshima\\_challenge.php](http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2009/07/29_krieger_hiroshima_challenge.php).

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### What Has Prevented Nuclear War?

by Lawrence Wittner

Why has nuclear war not occurred since 1945? [...] The conventional answer is that, thanks to fear of mutual destruction, nuclear weapons have “deterred” nuclear war. And yet, this answer fails to account for some important developments. Since 1945, nuclear powers have not waged nuclear war against non-nuclear powers. Furthermore, if nuclear weapons prevent nuclear war, it is hard to understand why nuclear powers have signed disarmament agreements or have worried (and still worry) about nuclear proliferation. [...] An alternative explanation for nuclear restraint is that public opposition to nuclear war has caused government officials to step back from the brink.

To read more, visit [http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2009/07/07\\_wittner\\_prevented\\_war.php](http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2009/07/07_wittner_prevented_war.php).

## US Nuclear Policy

### Shielding the Middle East from Iran

Iran and North Korea will face severe consequences if they fail to renounce their nuclear ambitions, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said. According to Clinton, the United States would consider extending a “defense umbrella” over the Middle East as the fear of nuclear Iran may tempt other Middle East states, including Saudi Arabia and Egypt, to pursue their own nuclear programs, spurring an arms race in the volatile region. Clinton also said North Korea must irreversibly denuclearize for the United States to move forward on a package of incentives.

US efforts to negotiate are being complicated by Iran’s post-election skirmish. Iran has not responded to Washington’s latest offer of engagement. The long-serving head of Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization, Gholam Reza Aghazadeh, has recently resigned.

Landler, Mark and David E. Sanger, “[Clinton Speaks of Shielding Mideast from Iran](#),” *The New York Times*, July 22, 2009.

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### John McCain Supports CTBT

US Senator John McCain (R-AZ) said he no longer opposes the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), bringing the treaty one vote closer to ratification. McCain voted against the test ban a decade ago. However, if McCain supports the treaty now, only six additional Republican votes are needed to ratify the CTBT.

In order for the CTBT to enter into force, the 44 countries with nuclear technology listed in Annex 2 of the treaty must ratify it. So far, only 35 have done so. The United States has failed to ratify the CTBT, along with eight other countries – including North Korea and Iran. Most of these “hold-outs” are waiting for the United States to ratify before they do so.

Butler, Desmond, “[Key US Lawmakers Mull Backing of Nuclear Test Ban Treaty](#),” *Associated Press/Yahoo!News*, July 24, 2009.

## Nuclear Disarmament

### The United States and Russia Announce Nuclear Deal

Barack Obama and Dmitri Medvedev have reached a preliminary agreement on reducing their countries’ strategic nuclear weapons stockpiles. The agreement commits both sides to modest decreases as they draft a new arms control treaty to replace START, which expires on December 5, 2009.

The new treaty would, within seven years, cut deployed strategic warheads on each side to between 1,500 and 1,675. The limit on delivery vehicles would be cut to between 500 and 1,100 from the 1,600 currently allowed under START. The new treaty would be subject to ratification by the US Senate.

Together Moscow and Washington have 95 percent of the world’s nuclear weapons. The United States reported in January that it had 1,198 delivery vehicles, and the Arms Control Association estimates that it deploys 2,200 warheads. Russia reported 816 delivery vehicles and has an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 deployed warheads. The issue of Russian opposition to a US missile defense system in Eastern Europe remains unresolved. Although modest, the agreement may become a cornerstone for talks on more substantial reductions next year.

Levy, Clifford J. and Peter Baker, “[US-Russia Nuclear Agreement Is First Step in Broad Effort](#),” *The New York Times*, July 6, 2009.

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### How to Dismantle a Nuclear Bomb

How do you dismantle a nuclear bomb? And how do you make sure a country is genuinely disarming without compromising sensitive information?

A joint exercise between the UK and Norway designed to answer these questions was held near Oslo in July. The scientists looked for practical solutions for building confidence between the nuclear haves and have-nots. Their findings come at the time of increasing push for global nuclear disarmament and after the UK, Russia, and the United States had announced plans to further reduce their nuclear arsenals.

“[How to Dismantle a Nuclear Bomb](#),” *BBC News*, July 16, 2009.

## Nuclear Proliferation

### UK Prime Minister Outlines Plans to Halt Nuclear Proliferation

Gordon Brown has set out a “road map” for disarmament in which all nuclear states would pledge to reduce their nuclear stockpile. The prime minister hopes to offer assistance with civil nuclear programs to countries such as Iran in exchange for assurances that they will not build nuclear weapons.

However, Brown ruled out unilateral cuts and reaffirmed his commitment to updating the £20bn Trident submarine-based

missile system. He also warned Iran and North Korea of the consequences of defying the international nonproliferation regime.

“[Brown Bid to Halt Nuclear Spread](#),” *BBC News*, July 16, 2009.

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## North Korea is Ready to Talk

North Korea said it was open to dialogue to help resolve the dispute over its nuclear weapons program. However, the country’s leadership is not interested in resuming the six-party talks that involve the United States, China, Japan, Russia and the two Koreas. Instead, it hopes to engage the United States directly. The Obama administration said it will consider North Korea’s overtures only if Pyongyang returns to the six-party talks.

At an Asian regional forum in Thailand, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton emphasized the widespread international condemnation of North Korea’s nuclear weapons program. The United States is concerned that North Korea might be transferring nuclear technology to Myanmar (Burma).

Sang-Hun, Choe, “[N. Korea Says It’s Open to Dialogue](#),” *The New York Times*, July 27, 2009.

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## India Launches Nuclear-Powered Submarine

India has become the sixth country in the world to build its own nuclear-powered submarine after the United States, Russia, France, the UK and China. The Indian submarine will be able to launch missiles at targets 700 km (about 430 miles) away and carry 100 sailors on board. At the submarine’s launch ceremony, India’s Prime Minister Manmohan Singh reiterated that India harbored no aggressive intentions.

India’s launch of a nuclear-powered submarine threatens regional peace and security, Pakistan said. Pakistani officials vowed to take measures to safeguard the country’s security but stressed they would not enter an arms race.

“[India Submarine ‘Threatens Peace,’](#)” *BBC News*, July 28, 2009.

# Nuclear Insanity

## Nuclear Site Open for Tourists

The US nuclear site in Hanford, Washington is now open to tourists. Around 20,000 people have already applied for a tour of the nuclear facility run by the US Department of Energy, and the popularity of the new attraction grows.

During the Cold War about 50,000 people lived and worked on the Hanford site, which consisted of nine reactors supplying two-thirds of US weapons-grade plutonium. Today, Hanford is the site of the world’s biggest cleanup of radioactive contamination. Two-thousand “downwinders” have filed a lawsuit over the illnesses they developed due to the site’s proximity.

Mirchandani, Rajesh, “[US Nuclear Site Open for Tourists](#),” *BBC News*, July 22, 2009.

# Missile Defense

## Senate Endorses Missile Defense System in Eastern Europe

In a voice vote in the US Senate, Senators Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and Jeff Sessions (R-AL) won approval of their non-binding resolution warning against concessions that the United States might make to conclude a new nuclear arms reduction treaty with Russia.

With this vote, Senators were seen as endorsing plans for a missile defense system in Eastern Europe and warning against changing them to accommodate Russia. The resolution also expresses the “sense of the Senate” that a new treaty with Russia not place any limits on space weapons or advanced conventional weapons.

Washington and Moscow are currently negotiating a new nuclear arms reduction treaty to replace START, which expires on December 5, 2009. The treaty will only enter into force when ratified by 67 senators or two-thirds of those present.

Abrams, Jim, “[Senate Warns Against Concessions on Nuclear Treaty](#),” *Associated Press*, July 27, 2009.

## Nuclear Energy and Waste

### New IAEA Director General Selected

The 35-member IAEA Board of Governors selected Ambassador Yukiya Amano of Japan as IAEA Director General. On July 2, the Board voted on three candidates that had been nominated to head the IAEA: Amano, Abdul Samad Minty of South Africa, and Luis Echávarri of Spain. In the final round of balloting, Amano received the required two-thirds majority. Amano’s term as Director General will begin on December 1, 2009.

“[Board Selects Japan’s Yukiya Amano as IAEA Director General](#),” *IAEA Staff Report*, July 2, 2009.

## Youth and Student

### Think Outside the Bomb National Conference

This year’s Think Outside the Bomb (TOTB) conference will take place from August 13-16 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation started the Think Outside the Bomb program in 2005 to bring young people together to share resources, strategize collaboratively, and build a widespread movement for nuclear disarmament.

TOTB is now a national network comprised of individuals and organizations that communicate, interact, and support each other. Those interested in attending this year’s conference can get more information and apply at [www.thinkoutsidethebomb.org](http://www.thinkoutsidethebomb.org).

## Resources

### Starting on the Road to Zero

The leaders of the United States and Russia have each repeatedly affirmed over the past year their willingness to eliminate all nuclear weapons. How realistic is the goal? What obstacles will the two largest nuclear powers face in working toward a world free of nuclear weapons? These questions are explored in “Unblocking the Road to Zero – Volume V: Russia and the United States” of the Stimson Center’s Nuclear Security publication series.

The authors conclude that there is a real possibility of rapid progress toward deep reductions in the two nations’ nuclear arsenals – deep enough to allow soon the beginning of multinational talks to eliminate all nuclear weapons worldwide.

The report is available as a PDF file [here](#).

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## No More Hibakusha

NHK, Japan Broadcasting Corporation, set up a new website titled “No More Hibakusha” to prepare for a broadcast in August 2009 focusing on the global effort to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

Hibakusha are the victims of the atomic bombings as well as those exposed to nuclear radiation. In Hiroshima and Nagasaki, more than 210,000 people died within months of the bombings in August 1945. Many more died later from radiation-related illnesses. To listen to nuclear survivors’ words, watch award winning documentaries about Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and to participate in the discussion, visit the [NHK website](#).

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## The Full Costs of Ballistic Missile Defense

The total life cycle cost for a layered missile defense system could reach \$1.2 trillion through 2035, according to a study by Economists Allied for Arms Control (ECAAR). Ballistic missile defense is technologically extremely challenging and expensive. The projected costs of all the layers and components of a layered missile defense are seldom in public view, and never all at one time, according to the study. In a government budget system dominated by annual cycles, the tendency to underestimate the future cost implications of current commitments is very strong.

You can read the full report [here](#).

## Foundation Activities

### 2009 Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest Winner Announced

Erik Choquette, 17, has created a remarkable animated video to claim the \$1,000 first prize in the 2009 Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest for the second year in a row. Called “The Nuclear Genie,” Choquette’s three-minute video uses inventive graphics to connect nuclear weapons history with a way to “get the genie back in the bottle” through public participation in the democratic process. The top three videos, as well as four receiving honorable mention, can be viewed [online](#).

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### Nuclear Age Peace Foundation’s Websites Updated

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has updated its two main websites, [wagingpeace.org](#) and [nuclearfiles.org](#).

On Nuclear Files, significant updates were made to the [Nuclear Weapons Issues](#) section.

On Waging Peace, we have added a [Peace Cartoon section](#) as well as a [tribute page](#) to Walter Cronkite, longtime CBS Evening News anchor and member of the Foundation’s Advisory Council who passed away on July 17, 2009.

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### Events Commemorating Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Many groups in the United States and around the world will commemorate the 64th anniversary of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9.

On August 6, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will hold its 15th annual Sadako Peace Day event in Santa Barbara, California. It will take place at 6:00 pm at La Casa de Maria, 800 El Bosque Road in Montecito.

On August 9, the Los Angeles Area Nuclear Disarmament Coalition, of which the Foundation is a member, is holding an event at City Hall in downtown Los Angeles to commemorate the atomic bombings.

For more information on both of these events, contact the Foundation at (805) 965-3443.

Peace Action has compiled a list of events all around the United States commemorating the atomic bombings. [Click here](#) to visit their website.

## Quotes

*“I very much hope that this new Nuclear Posture Review will clearly state a no-first-use policy.”*

-- Sen. **Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), referring to the Obama administration’s upcoming Nuclear Posture Review due at the beginning of 2010.

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*“The opportunity to put the nuclear fuel cycle under multinational control was missed 60 years ago because of the Cold War. The spread of nuclear technology and the growing risk of nuclear terrorism make it imperative that we get it right this time.”*

-- IAEA Director General **Mohamed ElBaradei** in an op-ed for *Daily News Egypt*.

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*“Every fourth ruble of government military orders goes toward atomic weapons. If you have strategic nuclear weapons, then you are a great power; if not, then you are no one.”*

-- **Viktor N. Litovkin**, Deputy Editor of *Independent Military Review*.

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*“We want Iran to calculate what I think is a fair assessment, that if the U.S. extends a defense umbrella over the region, if we do even more to support the military capacity of those in the gulf, it’s unlikely that Iran will be any stronger or safer, because they won’t be able to intimidate and dominate, as they apparently believe they can, once they have a nuclear weapon.”*

-- US Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** at a town hall meeting in Bangkok, July 22, 2009.

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*“The grim reality is that with regard to the budget we have entered a zero-sum game. Every defense dollar diverted to fund excess or unneeded capacity – whether for more F-22s or anything else – is a dollar that will be unavailable to take care of our people, to win the wars we are in, to deter potential adversaries, and to improve capabilities in areas where America is underinvested and potentially vulnerable. That is a risk I cannot accept and I will not take.”*

-- Secretary of Defense **Robert M. Gates** speaking to the Economic Club of Chicago, July 16, 2009.

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*“First and foremost for him, I think, was doing away with nuclear weapons. It was his dream to not have any nuclear weapons.”*

-- Former First Lady **Nancy Reagan**, in an interview with *Vanity Fair* about her late husband Ronald Reagan’s disappointments.

## Editorial Team

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