

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

1914-2014: Lessons Learned for Peace

by David Krieger

The wars of the last century have offered important lessons for peace. Among these are:

Wars begin in the minds of men (and women) and are often based on the lies of leaders.

Wars can occur when they are not at all expected.

Politicians and generals send the young to fight and die.

Wars can consume entire generations of youth.

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

Stumbling In the Dark, Reaching for the Light

by Tilman Ruff

There are three major sets of existential challenges we collectively need to navigate. These go beyond the wellbeing, life and death of individuals and populations alive at any one time, and speak to the habitability of earth; to whether there will be a place for future generations. One is collision of the earth with a large celestial body. Such collisions have been the main cause of previous major extinctions, like that of the dinosaurs. The second is environmental change, and degradation and depletion of vital resources – rampant global warming posing the greatest such challenge. The third, more acute, is the danger of nuclear war. The World Health Organization, the world's leading health agency, has concluded that nuclear weapons "constitute the greatest immediate threat to human health and welfare." Preventing use of nuclear weapons necessitates their eradication, a necessary, urgent and feasible precondition for securing global health and sustainability.

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

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

U.S. Grants Japan Access to Nuclear Weapon Facilities

The United States has allowed Japanese officials to view confidential nuclear weapon facilities in a move that was apparently intended to reassure Japan of its position under the U.S. "nuclear umbrella." Another unstated intention was to prevent Japan from developing nuclear weapons of its own. Japan has a massive stockpile of 45 tons of plutonium, enough to make thousands of nuclear weapons.

Officials from Japan's foreign ministry and defense ministry visited the headquarters of U.S. Strategic Command and the control center for land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles at Malmstrom Air Force Base. The Japanese officials also boarded a nuclear weapon submarine at Naval Base Kitsap.

Officials from South Korea and many NATO countries have also been granted access to U.S. nuclear weapon facilities for similar reasons.

Yoshihiro Makino, "[U.S. Shows Nuclear Facilities to Reassure Japan, Allies on Deterrence](#)," *The Asahi Shimbun*, July 30, 2013.

U.S. Using Civilian Facilities to Produce Nuclear Weapon Materials

An atomic energy facility owned by WesDyne, a subsidiary of Westinghouse Electric, quietly plays a key role in maintaining the U.S. stockpile of nuclear weapons. The plant produces specialized metal rods that are required to produce tritium, which is largely responsible for determining the force of a nuclear blast. The metal rods are shipped to the Watts Bar nuclear power plant, ostensibly a "peaceful" civilian nuclear reactor, where they are irradiated and the tritium is produced.

Tom Clements of Friends of the Earth said, "While it might not be a technical violation of U.S. law, production of tritium for nuclear weapons in a commercial nuclear reactor violates long-standing policies not to use commercial nuclear facilities for production of nuclear weapons materials."

Corey Hutchins, "[The Nuke Factory in Your Backyard](#)," *medium.com*, July 19, 2013.

Nuclear Insanity

House of Representatives Defeat Common-Sense Amendments

In July, the U.S. House of Representatives voted on numerous amendments to the 2014 Defense Appropriations bill. Some of the common-sense amendments that were rejected by the House include:

- Cutting \$70 million of unrequested funds for an East Coast Missile Defense site, applying the money instead to deficit reduction. The military did not want this project, but Representatives are insisting.
- Cutting \$107 million for 14 missile defense interceptors, applying the money instead to deficit reduction. These are the same interceptors that have not had a successful test since 2008.
- Reducing funding by 10% for the Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine replacement program.
- Reducing funding so that the Air Force operates and maintains no more than 300 land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles.
- Cutting the Pentagon budget by 1%, excluding the Defense Health Program and Military Personnel Accounts.

Nuclear Labs

Los Alamos Plutonium Accounting Only 98% Accurate

A recent inspection by the Department of Energy's Inspector General found that Los Alamos National Laboratory failed to meet its goal of 99 percent accuracy in accounting for the lab's inventory of weapons-grade nuclear materials, including plutonium used in the hearts of nuclear weapons.

The inspectors randomly picked an inventory list of 1,564 items. Of that list, 1,538 items matched the actual location and contents of the nuclear material storage containers, with 26 errors.

Dealing with the most dangerous of nuclear materials - plutonium - requires nothing short of perfection. The results of this inspection show that perfection still evades the human beings in charge of securing nuclear weapons material.

John Fleck, "[Plutonium Accounting Falls Short, DOE Finds](#)," *Albuquerque Journal*, July 24, 2013.

Missile Defense

Another Failed Missile Defense Test

On July 5, the U.S. conducted a test of its missile defense system at a cost of \$214 million. The interceptor failed to hit the incoming target missile once again, meaning that there has not been a "successful" test since 2008.

In response to concerns about the lack of reliability of the multi-billion dollar project, Gen. Robert Kehler, head of U.S. Strategic Command, said that if an adversary were to attack the U.S. with a nuclear weapon, the Pentagon would have to fire several interceptors to increase the probability of actually hitting the target.

Despite the dismal record of this weapon system, the Defense Department recently ordered 14 additional interceptors at a cost of over \$1 billion, citing an increased threat from North Korea.

Elaine Grossman, "[After Failed Tests, U.S. May Fire More Interceptors to Defend Nation](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, July 24, 2013.

Nuclear Testing

The Fallout from Nuclear Secrecy

From 1946 to 1958, the U.S. government conducted 67 nuclear weapon tests in the Marshall Islands when the U.S. administered the islands under a UN-sanctioned trust arrangement. Only recently did the U.S. present to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) previously classified documents detailing fallout results from the tests.

In 1986, the RMI became an independent nation, thus ending American administration of the islands. RMI officials were unaware of the full scope of the health and property damage caused by the U.S. nuclear tests. A U.S.-financed \$150 million nuclear-claims trust fund is now penniless, unable to compensate the Marshallese fully for all damages now known to have resulted from the tests.

Beverly Deepe Keever, "[The Fallout from Nuclear Secrecy](#)," July 24, 2013.

War and Peace

International Peace Bureau Awards Prize to Bradley Manning

The International Peace Bureau (IPB) has awarded the 2013 Sean MacBride Peace Prize to Bradley Manning, the U.S. whistleblower, for his courageous actions in revealing information about U.S. war crimes.

Tomas Magnusson, Co-President of IPB, said, "IPB believes that among the very highest moral duties of a citizen is to make known war crimes and crimes against humanity. This is within the broad meaning of the Nuremberg Principles enunciated at the end of the Second World War. When Manning revealed to the world the crimes being committed by the US military he did so as an act of obedience to this high moral duty."

For more information about the Sean MacBride Peace Prize, [click here](#). The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is a member organization of the International Peace Bureau.

Resources

3D Map Combines Google Earth and Nuclear Blast Effects

A new online tool called Nukemap 3D, created by historian Alex Wellerstein, combines Google Earth and nuclear blast effects calculations to allow online users to pick a city, pick a bomb and observe the effects. The simulator shows the size of the explosion, height of the mushroom cloud, fallout pattern and humanitarian impact of a nuclear blast.

To experiment with the simulator, [click here](#).

The Real Alternative to New Nuclear Weapons

The UK-based Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) has published a new report entitled "The Real Alternative: What the Government's Trident Alternatives Review Isn't Telling You." CND General Secretary Kate Hudson said, "A review into the alternatives to like-for-like replacement of Trident must surely consider all of the options. This [government] review was fundamentally flawed in failing to consider a future without nuclear weapons for the UK."

A decision from the UK government is expected in 2016 about a replacement for Trident, the UK's current nuclear weapons system.

To read CND's report, [click here](#).

Foundation Activities

Take Action: Petition to President Obama

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has joined with over two dozen other organizations around the United States to launch a petition asking President Obama to engage in the numerous new and upcoming fora for nuclear disarmament. Join us in telling the president that "the world is ready to negotiate the elimination of nuclear weapons."

For more information and to sign the petition, [click here](#).

For those readers who use twitter or facebook, please join us for a "thunderclap" on the anniversary of the Nagasaki atomic bombing, August 9. You can sign up for the thunderclap today and your message will automatically go out on August 9. For more information, [click here](#).

Sadako Peace Day and Hiroshima Tree Planting

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will host its 19th Annual Sadako Peace Day to remember the victims of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and all innocent victims of war. The event will be held August 6, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., under the beautiful oaks and eucalyptus trees in the Sadako Peace Garden at La Casa de Maria Retreat Center, 800 El Bosque Road, in Montecito, California.

This year's program will include the planting of a Ginkgo biloba sapling, grown from one of Hiroshima's atomic bombing survivor trees. The sapling will be brought from Hiroshima to Santa Barbara by Nassrine

Azimi, Co-Founder of Green Legacy Hiroshima, a non-profit organization dedicated to spreading worldwide the seeds and saplings of Hiroshima survivor trees. It is the first of its kind to be planted anywhere in the United States.

There will be music, poetry and reflections commemorating the story of Sadako Sasaki, a young girl from Hiroshima who died of radiation-induced leukemia as a result of the atomic bombing. Japanese legend holds that one's wish will be granted upon folding 1,000 paper cranes. Sadako set out to fold those 1,000 paper cranes. On the wings of one she wrote, "I will write peace on your wings, and you will fly all over the world." Sadly, Sadako died without regaining her health. Students in Japan were so moved by her story they began folding paper cranes, too. Today the paper crane is an international symbol of peace, and a statue of Sadako now stands in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.

The event is a time to reflect on the past in order to build a more peaceful future. This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Robert Dodge, long-time peace activist and co-chairman of Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions. He is a NAPF board member, and a frequent speaker about nuclear dangers.

There will also be a paper crane folding workshop by the Peace Crane Project and refreshments after the ceremony. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (805) 965-3443.

Peace Leadership Course Brings Activists Together

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's 2013 Peace Leadership Summer Course brought together 20 dedicated individuals from across the United States and Uganda for six days of intensive study of peace leadership skills and techniques.

After the workshop, Linda Richards of Corvallis, Oregon, said, "Paul Chappell is doing something that no one else has done in my lifetime. He has created a system from many philosophies, just as Gandhi did in his time, that anyone, no matter their political beliefs or attitudes, can easily adopt. I believe this will change the world.

"The NAPF Peace Leadership Training he led uniquely transformed people no matter their years of experience in the military or in the peace movement. His system, by uniting the strengths of both peace work and militarism, makes a new, creative, honest and informative space to address not only violence but our common shared humanity."

Photos from the week-long course will be available soon on our website www.wagingpeace.org.

Evening for Peace to Honor Rabbi Leonard Beerman

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's 30th Annual Evening for Peace will honor Rabbi Leonard Beerman with the Distinguished Peace Leadership Award for his outstanding work for peace, including as co-founder of the Interfaith Center to Reverse the Arms Race.

The event will take place on Sunday, October 27 at the Coral Casino in Santa Barbara, California. For tickets and more information, please call the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation at (805) 965-3443.

Quotes

"...to address the global threat of nuclear weapons we need to accept that much about war, peace and global security changed after Hiroshima and changed again in the last few decades with the end of the cold war. It is high time our thinking changed as well."

-- **Lawrence M. Krauss**, in an op-ed in [*The New York Times*](#).

"If nothing changes in Iran, come September, October, I will present a resolution that will authorize the use of military force to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear bomb."

-- **Sen. Lindsey Graham** (R-SC)

"Because they're such horrible weapons. And so no sane leader would ever want to cross that line to using nuclear weapons. And, if you are not going to cross that line, then these things are basically useless."

-- Former U.S. Secretary of State **Colin Powell**, responding to a [question](#) from *The Asahi Shimbun* about why Powell thinks that nuclear weapons are useless.

"The most terrifying monster lurking in the darkness of Hiroshima is precisely the possibility that man might become no longer human."

-- **Kenzaburo Oe**, Japanese author and 1994 Nobel Laureate in Literature. This quote is featured in the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's book *Speaking of Peace: Quotations to Inspire Action*, available in our [Peace Store](#).

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