

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

Global Survival 101

by David Krieger

A missing element in the standard university curriculum is a course that provides awareness of the global nature and dangers of the world's most serious problems and the attendant global solutions that are needed to solve these problems.

University students need grounding in the global dangers that confront humans as a species, as well as a sense of the interconnectedness of these dangers and the ways forward to solutions that can alleviate and reverse the dangers.

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

Nuclear Zero: The Moral Imperative

by Rabbi Leonard Beerman

Now, I ask you, what of our civilization? Small wonder that we should be uncertain. What hurts and confuses us is the lurking suspicion that because of what we have done to the air and the earth and the cities and the children and to one another, we may possibly have been condemned to live in an age that will make no significant contribution to the human spirit. What hurts and confuses us is the knowledge that a huge proportion of our resources, our ingenuity, our wisdom, our creative energy, leaves untouched the abiding problems of human beings who live in this troubled time.

Technological processes uninhibited by any human values other than the dream of total security have committed great and even smaller powers to collective mechanisms of destruction. But the dream of total security has produced only the reality of total vulnerability. As for nuclear weapons, and the several powers that possess them, we know, as I think it was George Kennan who once said, "nuclear weapons cannot bring us security, they can only bring revenge." If only we could banish this sterile dream and sadistic nightmare.

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

Nuclear Disarmament

Nobel Peace Laureates Call for Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

Several Nobel Peace laureates - both individuals and representatives of organizations - released a statement asking world leaders to bring about "universal, legal and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons" while at an annual three-day gathering in Warsaw, Poland.

Also calling for peaceful solutions to the Syrian conflict, the laureates' statement emphasized nonviolence and peaceful methods to end instability and conflict in the world, saying the main threats to humanity are a "destabilized climate, polluted oceans, denuded forests, violent conflicts, nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and war."

["Nobel Peace Laureates Call on World Leaders to Negotiate an End to Nuclear Weapons,"](#) *The Seattle Times*, October 28, 2013.

125 Countries Highlight Catastrophic Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons

On October 21, New Zealand delivered a joint statement from 125 countries at the United Nations General Assembly expressing grave concerns over the consequences of ever using nuclear weapons. Beatrice Fihn of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) said, "A growing number of states are showing concern about the unacceptable harm that these weapons of mass destruction threaten to unleash. This debate strengthens our confidence and resolve that this is a credible way forward towards the prohibition of nuclear weapons." Study upon study has pointed to the inability to either prevent or care for civilian casualties on a mass scale. Mitigation is simply impossible.

"The 124 governments that have co-sponsored this important statement on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons are putting the security of their people above the militarist justifications for some states to have nuclear weapons," said Dr. Rebecca Johnson, Co-Chair of ICAN. "Diplomatic action to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons will be the best way to prevent a nuclear catastrophe in the future."

["States Condemn Unacceptable Effects of Nuclear Weapons,"](#) *International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons*, October 21, 2013.

Nuclear Insanity

U.S. Second-in-Command of Nuclear Weapons Relieved of Duty

Navy Vice Admiral Tim Giardina was relieved of duty on October 3 over allegations that he used counterfeit gambling chips at a casino in Iowa. Giardina was the second-in-command at U.S. Strategic Command, which commands all U.S. nuclear forces.

Giardina's dismissal follows the removal of two other high-profile nuclear weapon commanders in 2013. In August, Col. David Lynch was relieved of duty at Malmstrom Air Force Base. Earlier this year, Lt. Col. Randy Olson was relieved of duty at Minot Air Force Base.

["U.S. Nuclear Commander Tim Giardina Fired Amid Gambling Investigation,"](#) *The Guardian*, October 9, 2013.

U.S. Missile Officers Leave Blast Doors Open While Napping

U.S. missileers are required to adhere to all nuclear security and safety regulations at all times because even small missteps have the potential to lead to catastrophe. Despite this, U.S. Air Force officers responsible for launching land-based nuclear missiles twice violated security policy by leaving blast doors open while napping. Officials with personal knowledge of the incidents say that similar transgressions have likely taken place and not been discovered.

The Air Force released a statement assuring that security of the ICBMs was not at risk following either incident "due to the multiple safeguards and the protections in place." Two launch crew commanders and two deputies received administrative punishment for the breaches.

Only the latest in a string of embarrassments for the U.S. land-based missile crews, the thawing of the Cold War has apparently also thawed the rigid adherence to all nuclear safety and security rules.

["U.S. Missileers Left Blast Doors Open in Security Breach,"](#) *Global Security Newswire*, October 23, 2013.

Nuclear Weapons May Be Used to Hunt Rogue Asteroids

New data regarding potential threats from terrestrial asteroid impact has prompted a revival of the idea of using nuclear weapons to protect Earth. Scientists from Russia and the United States have expressed support for joint collaboration and research, saying they are very interested in the possibility of working with each other and sharing information to prepare these preventative measures. U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz recently signed an agreement with Russia that could pave the way for U.S.-Russian cooperation on the project.

A report by the National Research Council indicated that nuclear weapons are the most powerful approach and the only one that could be used against very large objects. "They represent by far the most mass-efficient method of energy transport and should be considered as an option...." The report also considered research into alternative approaches, such as ramming asteroids or otherwise moving them to alter their trajectories.

Douglas Birch, "[Hunting Rogue Asteroids Could Be A New Use For Nuclear Weapons](#)," *Huffington Post*, October 16, 2013.

Missile Defense

Putin Dissolves Task Force for Missile Defense Cooperation

Russian President Vladimir Putin has dissolved a Kremlin working group that was working on missile defense collaboration with NATO. He also eliminated the position of Special Envoy for missile defense discussions with NATO. The elimination of the Kremlin group and the special envoy position signals that Moscow is moving further away from resolving its longstanding concerns about the implications of NATO's plan for European ballistic missile defense.

"[Putin Dissolves Task Force for Missile Defense Cooperation with NATO](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, October 31, 2013.

Nuclear Testing

New Tunnels Seen at North Korean Nuclear Testing Grounds

The website *38 North* has reported that North Korea is constructing two new tunnels at its nuclear testing grounds, likely indicating a plan to carry out future underground atomic explosions.

Despite this, North Korea is also attempting to revive long-frozen multinational aid-for-denuclearization negotiations, though its Foreign Ministry indicated the country would not take any kind of actions to end its nuclear weapons work until the United States pursued "simultaneous" steps. In a statement, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said, "Action for action is the basic principle for resolving the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, and we will never move first unilaterally."

"[Images Reveal New Tunnels at North Korean Nuclear Testing Grounds](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, Oct. 24, 2013.

Nuclear Waste

Massive Flood Raises Questions at Rocky Flats

The state of Colorado was hit by massive rains in September, causing widespread flooding. Many residents are concerned about the effect of flood waters that passed through the grounds of Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons production site that was heavily contaminated with plutonium and other harmful materials.

Many details about possible contamination spread by the flood are still unknown, but some reports have surfaced of problems at Rocky Flats, including the cracking of a cap covering a landfill.

Joel Dyer, "[Flood Raises Questions at Rocky Flats](#)," *Boulder Weekly*, October 10, 2013.

Resources

Disarmament: A Basic Guide

Disarmament: A Basic Guide is published by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in collaboration with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security. The book is aimed at informing, educating and generating public understanding of and support for multilateral action in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. It is intended for the general reader, but may also be useful for the disarmament educator or trainer.

To download a pdf or e-book of the guide, [click here](#).

Banning Nuclear Weapons Without the Nuclear-Armed States

Article 36 has published a new briefing paper exploring the idea of developing a treaty to ban nuclear weapons even if the nuclear-armed states do not initially participate in the treaty. The briefing paper argues that such a treaty would strengthen protection from the humanitarian threat of nuclear weapons by reinforcing norms against them and making their use less likely. Simply banning nuclear weapons will not guarantee their elimination, but it will serve as a necessary and practical next step toward a world in which all weapons of mass destruction have been outlawed, and are being eliminated.

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

Foundation Activities

30th Annual Evening for Peace Honors Rabbi Leonard Beerman

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation held its 30th Annual Evening for Peace on October 27 in Santa Barbara. The Foundation honored Rabbi Leonard Beerman with its Distinguished Peace Leadership Award for his decades of work for peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

To read NAPF President David Krieger's opening remarks at the event, [click here](#). Rabbi Beerman's acceptance speech is in the Perspectives section of this newsletter, and is also available [here](#).

NAPF at the UN General Assembly

In October, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation actively engaged with young people on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation by providing them with opportunities to observe the UN First Committee and events on nuclear disarmament at the United Nations in New York.

The Foundation's efforts in New York were a collaborative effort with many other organizations, including Ban All Nukes Generation, Peace Boat and Hibakusha Stories. NAPF Geneva Representative Christian N. Ciobanu was in New York to oversee the Foundation's various activities during the UN General Assembly.

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

Upcoming Events for the Peace Leadership Program

NAPF Peace Leadership Director Paul K. Chappell is winding down a very busy fall season with two important engagements. On November 11-12, he will speak at Stanford University and San Jose City College in California as part of Veterans Day events. On December 7, he will speak at the Wabanaki Confederacy in New Brunswick, Canada.

[Click here](#) to read an article by Colman McCarthy about Paul's recent trip to Washington, D.C.

For more information on Paul's work and to see his speaking schedule into 2014, [click here](#).

Quotes

"It ensures that a strong nuclear deterrent remains the cornerstone of US national security and that of our allies and our partners."

-- U.S. Secretary of State **John Kerry** advocating the continued reliance on nuclear weapons while speaking at the U.S. Institute of Peace.

"Nuclear weapons continue to cast a long shadow over humanity and pose an appalling threat to life on earth. Disarmament is critical to achieving peace, development and lasting security."

-- UN Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon** in a message to the Future Policy Awards ceremony at the United Nations in October.

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