



REVERSE THE TREND

SAVE OUR PEOPLE,
SAVE OUR PLANET

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NUCLEAR AGE
PEACE
FOUNDATION

Meet the Team

Christian N. Ciobanu, RTT Co-Founder and the Policy & Advocacy Coordinator of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

Danielle Samler, RTT Co-Founder

Dr. Vincent Intondi, Director of the Institute for Race, Justice, and Civic Engagement at Montgomery College and RTT Adviser

Audrey Kelly, RTT Francophone Coordinator

Lauren Hernandez, RTT Youth Activist

Annamaria V. Belevitch, RTT Youth Activist

Please use the following links to explore our websites:

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation: <https://www.wagingpeace.org>

Reverse the Trend: <https://rttreversingthetrend.org>

A Message from Christian N. Ciobanu, Co-Founder of RTT and the Policy & Advocacy Coordinator of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

Reverse The Trend: Save Our People, Save Our Planet (RTT) was established in January 2021 to help amplify the voices of young people, in particular youth from communities that have been affected by nuclear weapons and climate change. We provide spaces for the youth to participate in initiatives and engage with the international community at multilateral foras. It is important for the youth to navigate these spaces and share their perspectives on key issues relating to nuclear disarmament and environmental justice.

The international community must hear from the voices of the youth. Thus, our motto is that youth must rise up and take action to change the world.

For years now, youth have been speaking out about climate change and have been demanding action from leaders as this is an existential threat that requires immediate attention. Unfortunately, their plea for action has fallen on deaf ears. While youth are passionate about the issues of climate change and nuclear disarmament, the tools for effective mobilization are missing. What the youth need are direct pathways to engage with global leaders.

We place an emphasis on disarmament education as the first step towards transforming youth into activists on both nuclear disarmament and environmental justice. In this regard, we are proud to launch our journal. This journal features essays and poems from young people throughout the world. Their papers reflect young people's views on creating a safer and saner planet.

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In Our Hubris

By: David Krieger,
Founder & President Emeritus of the Nuclear
Age Peace Foundation



We have, through our cleverness,
created nuclear weapons and found a way
to live with them.

We risk everything that matters, everything
of beauty and meaning, everything we love.

Science has given us the power of annihilation,
the capacity to destroy ourselves.

With nuclear arms, the gun is loaded and pointed
at the collective head of humanity.

We avert our eyes and pretend not to see.
Have we given up on our common future?

How shall we react? How shall we resist?
How shall we awaken before it is too late?

WHAT CAN STUDENTS DO TO ACHIEVE A NUCLEAR- FREE WORLD?

BY: DARIA SKOKOVA

It is very important for children to understand the meaning of peace without war. Parents teach their children to understand how important it is to keep the peace and avoid any conflicts. Conflicts are always bad. Serious conflicts can lead to terrible consequences, and if such a conflict arises between whole countries, then the outcome of the conflict may be a war. Wars entail the most terrible consequences, including death and huge damage to economies, cultures, and environments. These consequences are bad for everyone. In order to prevent them, it is important to instill knowledge in children that will help them resolve any conflicts peacefully. From childhood, parents should take care that the child is able to avoid conflicts and solve all problems in a peaceful way. This is important because the future of the whole world



depends only on people. Only people can influence the conditions in which they live. Therefore, the world needs people who can provide safety for everyone.

First, the education of children is the responsibility of parents. But when a child grows up, they go to school. There, the child becomes more independent and responsible. They learn important human qualities, such as kindness. But kindness alone is not enough to create a safe world. Knowledge is needed to ensure one's own safety as well as that of the public, as well as that of the public life. But the sooner they get the necessary knowledge, the better. Therefore, in schools it is necessary to provide the child with conditions which foster the formation of their best qualities and important knowledge. At school, teachers become responsible for the

education of children. Their responsibilities include teaching not only the basic knowledge of the school curriculum, but also knowledge that will help students avoid any conflicts. Teachers make students understand how important it is to keep peace. Unfortunately, not all schools pay enough attention to this. In some schools, teachers do not consider it at all important to explain to students the importance of a safer world. But I am sure that it is at the school age that children should learn how to help the world become a safer place.

At the school where I study, fortunately, teachers consider it necessary to pay attention to the study of nuclear non-proliferation. In fact, our school is the only one in the city, and I believe in the whole region of Krasnoyarskiy krai, where children are taught about nuclear weapons beyond the fact that they are dangerous. This information is really upsetting, because it turns out that most students from other schools are not familiar with the real threat posed by the existence of nuclear weapons.

Nuclear weapons are one of the most pressing problems of our time related to the issues of peace and war. Nuclear weapons are weapons whose destructive effects are due to the damaging consequences of a nuclear or thermonuclear explosion. Nuclear weapons are considered one of the types of weapons of mass destruction. This kind of weapons is extremely dangerous because of the consequences which appear when people use them. There

are a lot of reasons why people shouldn't use nuclear weapons. One of these reasons is their huge power. Nuclear weapons are the most dangerous weapons in the world. Even one nuclear bomb can destroy an entire city and cause the deaths of millions of people, and due to the long-term effects of such a catastrophe, the natural habitat and the lives of future generations will also be threatened. The frightening thing is that there are a huge number of nuclear weapons on the Earth. Even more frightening is the fact that countries that have not signed the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty seem to approve of their existence and probably their usage which can happen at any moment and cause great harm to all mankind the deaths of millions of people, and due to the long-term effects of such a catastrophe, the natural habitat and the lives of future generations will also be threatened. The frightening thing is that there are a huge number of nuclear weapons on the Earth. Even more frightening is the fact that countries that have not signed the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty seem to approve of their existence and probably their usage which can happen at any moment and cause great harm to all mankind nothing useful. Such weapons are the cause of many international conflicts, and these conflicts often lead to wars, and wars lead to the death of thousands of people and pollution of nature. Nuclear weapons cause irreparable

damage to everything.

By studying nuclear weapons, students gain new knowledge and experience that can definitely be useful to them in the future. Every person who cares about their future, the future of their country, and the future of the whole world should definitely get this knowledge. Information about nuclear weapons is available and anyone can acquire it on the Internet.

But just theoretical knowledge may not be enough. In order to fight against nuclear weapons, it is necessary not only to know about them, but also to get engaged in activist activities. This will not only help to keep peace, but will also be useful for each individual. Therefore, our school participates in an international project on the study of nuclear weapons and their non-proliferation.

A lot of people understand that nuclear weapons are extremely dangerous and terrifying. This knowledge led to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, one of the oldest treaties in this field, which defines nuclear and non-nuclear states, their duties, and their obligations. The Treaty is not perfect, but it has still managed to control the situation with nuclear weapons so far. Nevertheless, it is often criticized for being discriminatory. That's why a recent Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons appeared. This is an international treaty aimed at preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and weapons technol-

ogies, promoting cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and contributing to the achievement of the goal of nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament. It prohibits the development, testing, storage, acquisition, transportation and use of nuclear weapons. Now it has been signed by 86 countries and ratified by 51 countries. There are also a lot of organizations that deal with the problems of nuclear weapons and their nonproliferation.

The problems of nuclear weapons are very relevant and important for every person because nuclear weapons pose a danger to the whole world. That's why if people don't do anything to fight the existence of such weapons, they should at least have some knowledge about the problem. This knowledge would be necessary even for little children and school students. Although the theme can seem difficult for children, the knowledge should be provided to them so that the younger generation will understand the importance of nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament. The benefits of this knowledge for adults are obvious. People should know about nuclear weapons and their dangers. There are a lot of resources to learn about these topics. People can find the necessary information on the Internet and in books. For a more detailed study of the problem, they can find the official websites of organizations that study and fight against nuclear weapons.

The issue of applying knowledge in practice is especially relevant for the younger generation who really care about peace and a happy future without nuclear weapons, wars, and conflicts. In the process of studying, students obviously get a huge amount of useful information, but they can gain even more useful experience by taking part in solving problems. Students can take part in international projects related to the study of nuclear weapons and the fight against them. As a result of participating in such projects, students can not only become more educated, but also contribute to the spread of awareness about the problem of nuclear weapons. The projects created by the youth can be useful for all of society.

Students at the school where I study have been studying nuclear weapons and its non-proliferation for many years. Every year, our school takes part in the Critical Issues Forum. This is a forum about the current problems of our time, including the problem of nuclear weapons. The participants in the Critical Issues Forum strive to achieve a nuclear-free world. By doing various projects, students study the problems of nuclear weapons and ways to fight them. By participating in projects, students contribute to the common cause. They help to educate people and tell them about the most important problems of our time. The participation of the younger generation in such projects is important for society. The

more people are aware of the problems of nuclear weapons, the closer society gets to achieving a world without such weapons. In the process of participating in such projects, students' understanding of the danger of nuclear weapons is strengthened, and they understand how important it is to save peace and avoid conflicts.

While preparing for the final conference of the Critical Issues Forum, students do a lot of different activities that help them to learn about weapons and the situation in the world. Their work culminates in different projects. Achieving a nuclear-free world is probably the most important goal of humanity at the moment and every person should be interested in achieving this goal. If they are not interested, then they should at least be familiar with this significant problem. Every person is able to contribute to the struggle for peace: even schoolchildren can help with the common goal. So, what exactly can students do to help achieve a nuclear-free world? Obviously they can't make countries stop using and making weapons, it is impossible. They can't force representatives of different countries to sign a treaty banning nuclear weapons. They can't destroy all existing nuclear weapons. However, they can be active in stating their beliefs.

Activism is the activity of people aimed at solving a problem. As a rule, the problems that activists deal with should be relevant, and the result of their activity

should benefit society.

Nuclear weapons are one of those problems that should be paid attention to. Activism in the field of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons is a fairly common phenomenon among people in many countries. But in practice, it still turns out that not enough people are aware that nuclear weapons are extremely dangerous both for human life and for nature. Nuclear weapons must be destroyed. To achieve this goal, you first need to attract as many people as possible to the cause, especially students and even children. But it is necessary to not only to be educated in the field of nuclear weapons: y. You also need to take an active part in solving this problem. After all, the younger generation actually has a better chance of achieving a nuclear-free world. Achieving a nuclear-free world is the goal of activists.

The most accessible type of activism related to the problem of nuclear weapons is participation in various international projects. Participants of the international project can do various research papers and assignments, and then they can share the knowledge with other students, teachers, and acquaintances. This is what students often do. Every year these projects are special and different from each other, despite the fact that they are united by a common topic, that is, the topic of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. Each student's work deserves attention. Stu-

dents try to contribute to the fight against nuclear weapons. Each student's work was successful. They work on projects themselves, but they are also assisted by teachers and professionals in the field of nuclear weapons from all over the world.

Students at my school take part in these international projects every year. Through these projects, they acquire a huge amount of knowledge. But the product of their research is not only the knowledge they have gained and the fact that they share it with their peers and families: they also. speak at international conferences, presenting projects on various topics related to nuclear weapons. Now these meetings can only be online, but before the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic, they visited other countries and presented their projects in real life. In this way they share their knowledge with people all over the world. Thus, more and more people are learning about the dangers of nuclear weapons and becoming involved in solving problems related to these weapons.

As an example, we can examine the activism of students at my school. Two students participated in a project on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. They made a project that mattered to them, to their school, and to other activists against nuclear weapons. They shared their knowledge about nuclear weapons with foreign students and gained new knowledge from them.

They also interviewed a local media company where they shared their experience. They organized meetings in school where they talked about nuclear weapons with other students of different age groups. Even children from elementary school acquired some knowledge about the history of nuclear weapons and the disarmament and non-proliferation movements. Our students thereby shared important information with people of different age all over the world.

Another example of students' activities connected with nuclear weapons is the fact that a student from our school became a young ambassador of a world without nuclear weapons as a result of participating in the international program Critical Issues Forum and presenting the results of her research in the USA. She received an invitation to the Forum of Young Ambassadors of a World without Nuclear Weapons held in Nagasaki, Japan. The contest consisted of writing an essay on the topic of the Forum. She was the only representative of Russian schoolchildren at the Forum in Japan. She spoke about possible ways to reach a nuclear-weapon-free world through efforts of the international community on the levels of official organizations and civil society. This experience shows that students can actually make a huge contribution to the study of the topic of nuclear weapons and can influence it.

Speaking at international conferences is probably the most common form of activism among schoolchildren. Another

example of students' activism is a research project on detailed cases of cruel violations of the International Humanitarian Law by nuclear countries. Our students reviewed why nuclear countries do not want to abolish nuclear weapons. In their speech, they presented a lot of information connected with the danger of nuclear weapons and gave many examples of violations of International Humanitarian Law and talked about their consequences. Students presented the result of their research at an international conference and shared the information with many people around the world.

The Critical Issues Forum provides our students with opportunities to learn about nuclear nonproliferation and to broaden their perspective on the value of past experiences in the field of nonproliferation to the international community. Our students spoke about nuclear weapons and related topics, paying attention to each country that has such weapons and explaining the danger of the situation. Our students urged listeners to be wise and learn from the mistakes of the past instead of making new mistakes, the consequences of which can be terrible.

Another topic of students' research was problems of nuclear energy. It is not really about nuclear weapons, but these topics are closely connected. While getting ready for the conference, our students studied different forms of energy production. They learnt about their advantages and disadvantages. Our students concluded that nuclear

energy had its own criteria, which can be used for finding both positive and negative aspects. Their project concluded with a presentation at an international conference. Each research project in the field of nuclear weapons is important.

One more topic of our students' research was the US-Russian Cooperation Perspectives in Nuclear Risks Reduction. Our students talked about positive examples of US-Russian cooperation in the past, the dangerous consequences of pursuing economic profit without evaluating the political impact, necessity of the cooperation in scientific sphere and in the sphere of usage of peaceful atom, the responsibility of scientists and countries developing nuclear programs, and the responsibility of humanity to the future generations for preserving the Earth and civilization in general. The students successfully presented their research at an international conference in the USA.

Actually, our students have already talked about the importance of educating the young generation in the field of nuclear weapons. It was the theme of a project that they later presented at an online international conference. They spoke about youth movements that fight against the use of nuclear weapons. They also talked about the political situation, referring to the nuclear weapons and international efforts to contain the arms race. They shared our school's experience with educating chil-

dren. In their presentation, they demonstrated some ways of educating children on this topic.

As for my personal experience, I also took part in an international project last year and I can confidently say that such experience is of great importance. First of all, students develop communication skills and improve their skills in creating projects. In addition to personal benefits, students contribute to the overall project of nuclear abolition and non-proliferation. After a long time spent working on a project, students present their results at a conference either, online or in person. For our project, we teamed up with American students to create a common project. We were the only group with international students. We weren't able to see each other in person, but we had online meetings on a weekly basis. It was a very useful communication experience which benefited us not only in enabling us to acquire considerable amount of new and useful information, but also in helping us to improve our foreign language skills, because in the conditions of international communication, it was impossible to use our native language. When we were presenting the results of our project at an online conference, we told students from other countries such as Japan and the United States about international non-governmental organizations studying the issue of nuclear non-proliferation, engaging in activism, and

studying the world situation. Through the presentation of such projects, students share knowledge with one another, thereby helping each other to be educated in the field of nuclear non-proliferation.

It is possible to see that preparing speeches for international conferences is a very common form of anti-nuclear activism among school children. Of course, I can't speak about all the projects of the students at our school because our school has been involved in the study of nuclear weapons and their non-proliferation for more than fifteen years and the students have created a huge number of interesting and significant projects that were presented to other students and specialists around the world. But students did not only create oral presentation. There were many other equally interesting projects still related to the fight against nuclear weapons that are also worth mentioning as examples of activism.

There was one very interesting project about the danger of nuclear weapons and the need to ban and destroy them. During the work on the project, the students received a huge amount of knowledge and presented it in an unusual format. The product of the research project was eight posters illustrating the problematic situation in the world caused by nuclear weapons. The posters created by the students included images and some information. These posters are interest-

ing to look at and the fact that they have a small amount of text makes them easier to understand. Bright images and simple text are a great way to interest people of all ages in posters, thereby drawing everyone's attention to an important problem of our time. These posters were made for the Critical Issues Forum and were presented at the conference. This suggests that even in a context as serious as the fight against nuclear weapons, a creative approach can be used. Posters created by students arouse the interest of other students, thereby arousing interest in the problem to which the drawings are devoted. Such projects are important because they tell people about the problem of nuclear weapons in an accessible and understandable way for everyone.

The other activity was not directly related to nuclear disarmament but was important for understanding the importance of a world without weapons and wars. Students from different countries took part in the peace paper crane exchange project. Our school also participated in the creation of peace symbols. The essence of the project was that the schools agreed to exchange paper cranes that symbolize peace. The students themselves made cranes out of paper, collected them into a common parcel and sent them by post to different countries, in return receiving other cranes created by foreign school-children.

Despite the fact that this project is not specifically related to nuclear weapons, it is worth mentioning because it has strengthened the understanding of how good it is to live in a world where countries are not at war with each other and can make small but very significant gifts for free. Paper cranes symbolize peace. Everyone understands the importance of peaceful life. During this project, the children got an interesting experience of communication with children from other countries. Personally, I also took part in this project a few years ago and from my experience I can say that it was very interesting. It was nice to know that you were giving a gift to a stranger and getting the same in return. This project is more suitable for younger students, but in fact people of all ages can take part in it, because at any age a friendly attitude towards other countries and understanding the importance of a world without war is very important. Thanks to such projects, children from childhood develop an interest in the world and in communication and interaction with children from other countries. This is important for realizing that other countries are not enemies. Children of different countries differ only by nationality. It is important for children to know that in other countries there are exactly the same children as them. When children understand this, they will be more aware of their attitude towards other countries.

They will understand that all people are alike in their striving for peace and happiness.

Each student's research, each of their work, and each of their projects is of great importance. All these projects raise awareness about the danger of nuclear weapons among students. And then, having gained knowledge and experience, they are ready to share it with other students. Thus, more and more people are becoming interested in the problems of nuclear weapons. It is also important that such projects are covered at the international level, because when countries form a common opinion about nuclear weapons, then they are ready to work together towards a common goal, that is, to destroy nuclear weapons and to resolve various conflicts. It is also important that this happens not only among teenage students, but also reaches the older generation. Experts present at conferences help students in the study of weapons. They see the interest of teenagers in preserving peace. It is also useful to give this knowledge to children who, due to their age, cannot engage in activism, but are already beginning to worry about their future. Then soon they will study nuclear weapons and be able to change the world. Of course, in our school, children have the opportunity to study nuclear weapons and take part in solving problems related to them. Unfortunately, not all schools have

his opportunity. Thus, not all children have the opportunity to learn new useful information. It's not that they don't want it, it's that the school doesn't provide them with nuclear non-proliferation training. This is unfortunate, because nuclear weapons are one of the most pressing problems in the world, especially at the time in which we live. It is very unwise not to pay attention to such a large-scale problem. By participating in projects on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, our school of course participates in spreading the significance of the problem of the most dangerous weapons, but other schools should also think about the need to participate in such projects. This will help students in their struggle for a happy future for all the inhabitants of the world.

I would also like to mention that it is important for schoolchildren to be able to solve conflicts. In fact, this skill is necessary not only for schoolchildren but also for people of all ages, that is, both adults and young children. At any age, it is necessary to be able to find a solution to any problem that appears, no matter how big or small it is. After all, even seemingly insignificant conflicts can lead to serious and irreversible consequences in the future. It is important to understand that any problem has a solution, which can be peaceful in any case. The ability to calmly communicate with people and find compromises in

any issues is a very important skill without which it will not be possible to live in society. If a person is not taught to resolve conflicts peacefully, it will bring problems not only to the people around them, but also to them. I wish there were no conflicts at all, but this is impossible. People will always have different opinions on certain issues, and disagreements and even disputes will consequently arise.

But you need to learn to solve conflicts calmly, with the help of words. You should never use physical force. When it comes to conflicts between individuals, it may not be so serious and it will only harm the people who are involved in the conflict. But there are conflicts much more serious and larger. Serious conflicts arise between countries. In this case, a peaceful solution to the problem is crucial, because conflicts between representatives of countries affect the lives of the entire population of countries. But the authorities often do not agree to a peaceful solution to the problem, and then they use weapons. It doesn't matter if it's a single use or an entire war, any use of weapons will negatively affect the lives of innocent people. It will also further spoil the relations between the countries, which will lead to even more conflicts. This is very harmful to the whole world, people and nature. Therefore, it is necessary for everyone to resolve conflicts peacefully and get rid of nuclear weapons

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In summary, we can conclude that schoolchildren are also interested in the problem of nuclear weapons. To fight against such weapons, for their non-proliferation, schoolchildren take part in various activities. Our school is a clear example of the involvement of schoolchildren in problems that are significant for society. The results of the students' work show that even schoolchildren can be familiarized with the problems of nuclear weapons. Schoolchildren understand the importance of this problem and it is of great importance for modern society. In fact, it would be better if more schools involved their students in the problems of nuclear weapons, because nuclear weapons are the most dangerous type of weapons today. For our

school, such problems in the field of peace and war are already familiar, because for many years teachers have been involving students in various projects of international importance where students work not only for themselves but also for the benefit of the society. It would be good if even more schools knew about the possibility of participating in such projects, because there is an obvious benefit in obtaining relevant knowledge. Familiarizing themselves with the problems of nuclear weapons, schoolchildren also make projects that will be useful for society. In the time when we live, it is very difficult to do without information about what threatens our world. It indicates ignorance and disinterest in the problems of your country and the whole world (after all, nuclear weapons in the process of use have one way or another influence on the whole world). Therefore, every person needs to have at least a minimum of knowledge in this area. And those who are engaged in activism carry out an important mission in helping people to get accessible and understandable information. It is especially important when the younger generation deals with nuclear issues, because it shows their interest in creating a nuclear-free world, and this gives hope for a bright future without nuclear war.

Nuclear weapons pose a huge threat to peace, people, and nature. It is impossible to find advantages in nuclear

weapons. This is a weapon that everyone suffers from. It is used only for harm and there is no justification for its use. People must fight for the cessation of the use of nuclear weapons and for their complete destruction. To do this, it is necessary to involve all people in solving this problem. It is especially important for schoolchildren to participate in the struggle for peace. The younger generation has huge resources and opportunities to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. This is not an easy goal, but it must be achieved. Everyone wants a peaceful life, but you need to fight hard for it and take active actions to speed up the process of creating a nuclear-free world. Only people are responsible for their lives and for their future. We need to make the right decisions and join the fight against weapons. If all people manage to unite, then the common goal will be achieved.

THE HYPERSONIC EFFECT: UNDERSTANDING THE IMPLICATIONS OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGY FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL REGIMES

BY: PHANTITRA PHUPHAPHANTAKARN

Introduction

The global non-proliferation efforts are being challenged by various forces regarding world's dynamics. From nuclear tests around the globe all the way to the continuous increase in nuclear spending against the pandemic background (SIPRI 2021), since the Cold War era, we have witnessed numerous exhibitions of nuclear threats that cement their relevance as a challenge to humanity.

One of the most important factors challenging disarmament efforts is the emergence of technologies. These technologies are often not only new but also cause tremendous change for strategic weapons. From quieter submarines to heavier bombs, these weapons are more effective and efficient and states with more advancing technologies are automatically

promoted to a higher circle in international political dynamics.

Hypersonic weapons technology is an excellent example of fast-developing, emerging technology and its implications for nuclear disarmament and arms control regimes. This particular technology is currently highly competitive among global superpowers and nuclear powers and yet, despite its emerging prominence, the world is still in the process of comprehending its consequences.

While it is apparent that emerging technologies are key to strategic weapons development, their impacts on disarmament regimes can be positive as well as negative. There are various discussions regarding the positive and negative impacts of emerging weapons technologies on non-proliferation efforts (Onderco and Zutt 2021).

As the exchange of views is currently ongoing, in order to envision the world without nuclear arms, it is important to understand the fundamentals of both the discussion itself and the key characteristic of the impacts of the emerging technologies on the disarmament and arms control regimes.

This paper explores the implications of emerging technology for nuclear disarmament and arms control regimes through four steps. First, it explains the background regarding the current situation on disarmament and arms control regimes as well as the characteristics of the “emerging technologies.” Second, it presents key concerns regarding emerging technology as threats, and challenges and opportunities for arms control and disarmament regimes. Third, it focuses on the discussion revolving around hypersonic weapons development as a significant concern of global security affairs. And finally, it discusses the future and steps to take going forward.

Non-proliferation Regimes in the 21st Century: Loopholes and Deterioration

Non-proliferation, arms control, and disarmament regimes are not doing so well at this moment. The global geopolitical tension continues to increase, which results in a highly distrusting international atmosphere. The deterioration of trust

between states directly affects the deterioration of arms control regimes as they depend significantly on the confidence states have among one another as well as their willingness to collaborate.

The collapse of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force (INF) treaty in 2019 serves as a great example of the deterioration of an arms control regime. A series of interactions between Russia and the United States occurred prior to the collapse. However, the bottomline of all the incidents suggest that the treaty was discontinued based on distrust formed between state parties, Russia and the United States (Arms Control Association 2019).

The recently formed security collaboration between Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom – “the AUKUS partnership” – reflects the growing military and geopolitical security among the international community. The pact also posted newly added concerns regarding the non-proliferation regime’s loopholes. As the AUKUS agreement initiative included the nuclear technological transfer from nuclear weapon state to a to a non-nuclear weapon state, the non-proliferation regimes loophole is exercised for the first time in fifty years (Philippe 2021). These facts represent solely some evidence of challenges that non-proliferation regimes are facing. The emerging technologies are also causing crucial impacts to

the non-proliferation regimes and adding challenges to its existence.

The Emerging Technologies

When thinking about emerging technology, there are a couple of ways to define it. However, each definition relates in some way to the core characteristic of novelty, and therefore in the particular case of security policy this article follows the research by Onderco and Zutt (Onderco and Zutt 2021) and drawing the definition of “emerging technology” to rest upon the phrase “has not yet been overly significantly deployed by any nation’s military”

This implies that the limitations of such weapons are still left to be explored and developed, which also means that any individual or organization (formerly “player”) who possesses enough resources to conduct the research and could seek to make the most out of such technology could gain all the advantage and, in a way, automatically become the leader of the particular weapon industry. In the case of emerging technology exploited or attempted to be utilized by state actors for such strategic and deterrence weapons, this particular state could gain more power among the international community.

Therefore, the emerging technology possesses beyond scientific implication, such as the effectiveness of the weapons

itself, but also on the strategic and deterrence aspects. Emerging technology, when utilized with strategic weapons, causes impacts on important fundamental elements of international collaboration such as credibility, capability and signaling (Onderco and Zutt 2021) and therefore exhibiting implications on non-proliferation regimes.

Emerging Technology for Disarmament and Arms Control: Challenges and Opportunities

There are numerous approaches that explore challenges on international geopolitical and strategic security brought by emerging technologies. From the international relations theoretical perspective, emerging technology could enhance the already complicated situation of security dilemma. This is referred to as the “dual-use security dilemma” (Lupovici 2021). It is a concept concerning how the emerging technology intensifies the existing “uncertainty” among actors. From a more practical perspective, emerging technologies simply add layers to already complicated defense relations among actors, including enhancing the competitive atmosphere on the geopolitical arena.

From the arms control and disarmament perspective, the enhanced uncertainty and therefore distrusting as well as highly competitive international

community caused by the emerging technologies add barriers as well as setbacks to the existing regimes as well as the potential formation in the future.

The emerging technologies caused direct impact regarding the first mover advantage (Chyba 2020) and second-strike capability. Better and more advanced technologies could potentially help enhance the benefits or the impacts of the first strike and therefore increase the chances or intention for the strike. This undermines the second-strike capability which is perceived as one of the key elements of the nuclear deterrence during its early formation. As nuclear disarmament regimes are most challenged in countries that highly rely on nuclear deterrence (Ernst 2021), including second-strike capability, this implies that these particular countries will find it more necessary to heavily invest in advancing their nuclear arms.

However, there are also opportunities for arms control and disarmament regimes that came along with the emerging technologies. The arms control verification regimes can also benefit from advancing technology for verifying and monitoring purposes, for example through new satellite and artificial intelligence technology (Vaynman 2021). And while the first-strike risk mentioned above sounds threatening, looking from theoretical perspective as well as imagining the other side of the

coin, it might potentially urge the global community to get rid of nuclear weapons in the world once and for all. This may result in better and more effective regimes collaboration and efforts for global nuclear disarmament.

The Case of Hypersonics Arms Race

The term “Hyper-” means “more than” in Latin and Greek. When combining it with “sonic” it simply means “more than sonic” or faster than the speed of sound (Hopkins and Van Wie 2021). This particular technology is highly effective when applied to weapons which require speed, as well as mass carrying, efficiency, weapons such as missiles.

Hypersonic weapons or missiles make great case studies when trying to understand the implication of emerging technology on arms control and disarmament for two reasons: its relevance on world current affairs and its prominent impact on missiles, which is a significant feature of nuclear weapons, evolution. Imagining having an ability to shoot a “bigger”, “faster and for “longer distance” bombs, this served right at the purpose of strategic deterrence, to bring fear and threat to the adversaries’s security. The hypersonic technology is handling the exact developments on missile capability.

There are roughly two main categories of hypersonic weapons: the Hypersonic Glide Vehicles (HGV) and the Hypersonic Cruise Missiles. The hypersonic weapons could also avoid detection due to its speed which could later on affect the decision maker assessment and response (Sayler 2021). Hypersonic weapons are currently being developed in several countries, most prominently among super- and nuclear powers, namely the United States, Russia and China. It is also part of the recently formed security partnership agreement such as the AUKUS pact and continues to gain more interest by the government's defense development programme around the world.

Such technology is also discussed among scholars to be challenging both the future of arms control and disarmament regimes as well as the existing one such as the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOB) (SIPRI 2021b). While the growing hypersonic weapons development programs around the world are undoubtedly affecting the strategic peace and stability dynamics on a geopolitical level and have already shaken the core of arms control and disarmament architecture, they also add technical difficulty to the regimes due to the technology's uncertain nature as well as the constraint regarding treaties

language and measurement (Borrie, Dowler, and Podvig 2019).

The solutions discussed and suggested among scholars are notably focusing on effective multilateral regimes, which included the prominent powers such as the United States, Russia and China (Borrie, Dowler, and Podvig 2019; Speier et al. 2017) They also review the existing regimes and understand its constraint and limitation regarding the emerging challenges in recent time (SIPRI 2021b).

Conclusion: Envisioning the way forward

It is undoubtedly impossible to stop the world from its own dynamics and forces. As humanity lives on there will always be new challenges rising along with emerging technology. The best we could do is to understand its elements and potential impacts in order to positively utilize them while mitigate the potential negative effects. When exploring the challenges emerging technologies pose on arms control and disarmament efforts and regimes, it is not hard to foresee the risks on the key elements of the non-proliferation regime, such as trusting the international environment, as well as on the technical and constrained aspects of existing regimes due to its nature. Nevertheless, it is important to also understand the opportunistic implication of emerging technology on arms

control and disarmament regimes which is notably regarding its facility on verification and monitoring purposes.

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PEACE IN THE ETHERS

BY: ENID OSBORN



Water the seeds of happiness.

—Vietnamese Zen Master Thich Nhat Han

She was a thin woman
and her peace was a thin peace.
Touch it, it turned to dust.

She awoke from nightmares of fire
to feel about on her nightstand
for peace, hold it in her hand,

invoke the refuges aloud.
She pinned a medallion
of Quan Yin next to her heart

and made a small garden
at the feet of Tepeyac,
carrying jars of water.

Hers was a shriveled peace.
She was not a gifted gardener
but invited with her droplets

More color, please,
a little blue for Mother
and the bees.

In her dedications, the garden
was for everyone, all sides
of the family and the neighbors,

with apologies to her ancestors
for breaking the chain of retribution
they had built their lives upon.

She allowed those walls to crumble,
moved La Virgen to the center
and went about her work

to preserve each tender petal,
every little bit of color:
a treaty in her heart.

Tangible, dearly held,
the roots of peace took hold:
Peace in the ground,

and peace in the ethers,
the scented, peace-giving breath
of geranium, rosemary,

mugwort, lemon balm.

The two following articles, the Russell-Einstein Manifesto and the transcript of President Barack Obama's speech in Prague serve as two examples of primary sources from some of the most influential actors in their time, both speaking at different points in history in which the prospect of nuclear war was on the minds of many. The same concerns expressed in these articles are everpresent today, regardless of the evolution of the current political situation. Most relevant to nuclear weapons discourse today is the threat of nuclear weapons deployment by Russian President Vladimir Putin. Given the context of Russian aggression in Ukraine, a conflict that stirs recent memories of the Cold War era, the threat of nuclear war is at its height. As the international community faces this dilemma time and time again, we must take the advice of our predecessors and learn from our history to usher in a new era of peace without the threat of nuclear war.

THE RUSSELL- EINSTEIN MANIFESTO

BY: BERTRAND
RUSSELL &
ALBERT EINSTEIN

In the tragic situation which confronts humanity, we feel that scientists should assemble in conference to appraise the perils that have arisen as a result of the development of weapons of mass destruction, and to discuss a resolution in the spirit of the appended draft.

We are speaking on this occasion, not as members of this or that nation, continent, or creed, but as human beings, members of the species Man, whose continued existence is in doubt. The world is full of conflicts; and, overshadowing all minor conflicts, the titanic struggle between Communism and anti-Communism.

Almost everybody who is politically conscious has strong feelings about one or more of these issues; but we want you, if you can, to set aside such feelings and consider yourselves only as members of a biological species which has had a remarkable history, and whose disappearance none of us can desire.

We shall try to say no single word which should appeal to one group rather than to another. All, equally, are in peril, and, if the peril is understood, there is hope that they may collectively avert it.

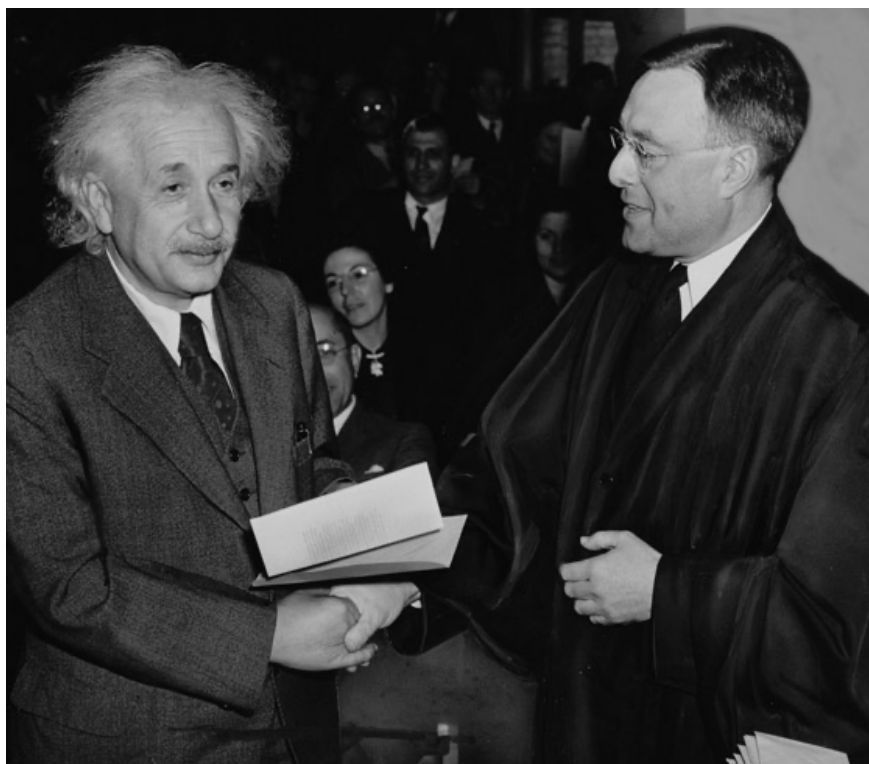


Photo Credits: Atomic Heritage Foundation

We have to learn to think in a new way. We have to learn to ask ourselves, not what steps can be taken to give military victory to whatever group we prefer, for there no longer are such steps; the question we have to ask ourselves is: what steps can be taken to prevent a military contest of which the issue must be disastrous to all parties?

What would be involved in a war with nuclear bombs? The general public still thinks in terms of the obliteration of cities. It is understood that the new bombs are more powerful than the old, and that, while one A-bomb could obliterate Hiroshima, one H-bomb could obliterate the largest cities, such as London, New York, and Moscow.

No doubt, in an H-bomb war, great cities would be obliterated. But this is one of the minor disasters that would have to be faced. If everybody in London, New York, and Moscow were exterminated, the world might, in the course of a few centuries, recover from the blow. But we now know, especially since the Bikini test, that nuclear bombs can gradually spread destruction over a very much wider area than had been supposed.

It is stated on very good authority that a bomb can now be manufactured which will be 2,500 times as powerful as that which destroyed Hiroshima. Such a bomb, if exploded near the ground or under water, sends radio-active particles into the upper air. They sink gradually and reach the surface of the earth in the form of a deadly dust or rain. It was this dust which infected the Japanese fishermen and their catch of fish. No one knows how widely such lethal radio-active particles might be diffused, but the best authorities are unanimous in saying that a war with H-bombs might possibly

put an end to the human race. It is feared that if many H-bombs are used there will be universal death, sudden only for a minority, but for the majority a slow torture of disease and disintegration.

Many warnings have been uttered by eminent men of science and by authorities in military strategy. None of them will say that the worst results are certain. What they do say is that these results are possible, and no one can be sure that they will not be realized. We have not yet found that the views of experts on this question depend in any degree upon their politics or prejudices. They depend only, so far as our researches have revealed, upon the extent of the particular expert's knowledge. We have found that the men who know most are the most gloomy.

Here, then, is the problem which we present to you, stark and dreadful and inescapable: Shall we put an end to the human race; or shall mankind renounce war? People will not face this alternative because it is so difficult to abolish war.

The abolition of war will demand distasteful limitations of national sovereignty. But what perhaps impedes understanding of the situation more than anything else is that the term "mankind" feels vague and abstract. People scarcely realize in imagination that the danger is to themselves and their children and their grandchildren,

and not only to a dimly apprehended humanity. They can scarcely bring themselves to grasp that they, individually, and those whom they love are in imminent danger of perishing agonizingly. And so they hope that perhaps war may be allowed to continue provided modern weapons are prohibited.

This hope is illusory. Whatever agreements not to use H-bombs had been reached in time of peace, they would no longer be considered binding in time of war, and both sides would set to work to manufacture H-bombs as soon as war broke out, for, if one side manufactured the bombs and the other did not, the side that manufactured them would inevitably be victorious.

Although an agreement to renounce nuclear weapons as part of a general reduction of armaments would not afford an ultimate solution, it would serve certain important purposes. First, any agreement between East and West is to the good in so far as it tends to diminish tension. Second, the abolition of thermo-nuclear weapons, if each side believed that the other had carried it out sincerely, would lessen the fear of a sudden attack in the style of Pearl Harbour, which at present keeps both sides in a state of nervous apprehension. We should, therefore, welcome such an agreement though only as a first step.

Most of us are not neutral in feeling, but, as human beings, we have to remember that, if the issues between East and West are to be decided in any manner that can give any possible satisfaction to anybody, whether Communist or anti-Communist, whether Asian or European or American, whether White or Black, then these issues must not be decided by war. We should wish this to be understood, both in the East and in the West.

There lies before us, if we choose, continual progress in happiness, knowledge, and wisdom. Shall we, instead, choose death, because we cannot forget our quarrels? We appeal as human beings to human beings: Remember your humanity, and forget the rest. If you can do so, the way lies open to a new Paradise; if you cannot, there lies before you the risk of universal death.

Resolution:

We invite this Congress, and through it the scientists of the world and the general public, to subscribe to the following resolution:

“In view of the fact that in any future world war nuclear weapons will certainly be employed, and that such weapons threaten the continued existence of mankind, we urge the governments of the world to realize, and to acknowledge publicly, that their purpose cannot be furthered by a world

war, and we urge them,
consequently, to find
peaceful means for the
settlement of all matters of
dispute between them.”

Max Born

Percy W. Bridgman

Albert Einstein

Leopold Infeld

Frederic Joliot-Curie

Herman J. Muller

Linus Pauling

Cecil F. Powell

Joseph Rotblat

Bertrand Russell

Hideki Yukawa

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA IN PRAGUE

Thank you so much. Thank you for this wonderful welcome. Thank you to the people of Prague. Thank you to the people of the Czech Republic. Today, I'm proud to stand here with you in the middle of this great city, in the center of Europe. And, to paraphrase one of my predecessors, I am also proud to be the man who brought Michelle Obama to Prague.

To Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, to all the dignitaries who are here, thank you for your extraordinary hospitality. And to the people of the Czech Republic, thank you for your friendship to the United States.

I've learned over many years to appreciate the good company and the good humor of the Czech people in my hometown of Chicago. Behind me is a statue of a hero of the Czech people -- Tomas Masaryk. In 1918, after America had pledged its support for Czech independence, Masaryk spoke to a crowd in Chicago that was estimated to be over 100,000. I don't think I can match his record but I am honored to follow his footsteps from



Photo Credits: Arms Control Association

from Chicago to Prague.

For over a thousand years, Prague has set itself apart from any other city in any other place. You've known war and peace. You've seen empires rise and fall. You've led revolutions in the arts and science, in politics and in poetry. Through it all, the people of Prague have insisted on pursuing their own path, and defining their own destiny. And this city -- this Golden City which is both ancient and youthful -- stands as a living monument to your unconquerable spirit. When I was born, the world was divided, and our nations were faced with very different circumstances. Few people would have predicted that someone like me would one day become the President of the United States. Few people would have predicted that an American President would one day be permitted to speak to an audience like this in Prague. Few would have imagined that the Czech Republic would become a free nation, a member of NATO, a leader of a united Europe. Those ideas would have been dismissed as dreams.

We are here today because enough people ignored the voices who told them that the world could not change.

We're here today because of the courage of those who stood up and took risks to say that freedom is a right for all people, no matter what side of a wall they live on, and no matter what they look like.

We are here today because of the Prague Spring -- because the simple and principled pursuit of liberty and opportunity shamed those who relied on the power of tanks and arms to put down the will of a people.

We are here today because 20 years ago, the people of this city took to the streets to claim the promise of a new day, and the fundamental human rights that had been denied them for far too long. Sametov's Revolve the Velvet Revolution taught us many things. It showed us that peaceful protest could shake the foundations of an empire, and expose the emptiness of an ideology. It showed us that small countries can play a pivotal role in world events, and that young people can lead the way in overcoming old conflicts. And it proved that moral leadership is more powerful than any weapon.

That's why I'm speaking to you in the center of a Europe that is peaceful, united

and free -- because ordinary people believed that divisions could be bridged, even when their leaders did not. They believed that walls could come down; that peace could prevail.

We are here today because Americans and Czechs believed against all odds that today could be possible.

Now, we share this common history. But now this generation -- our generation -- cannot stand still. We, too, have a choice to make. As the world has become less divided, it has become more interconnected. And we've seen events move faster than our ability to control them -- a global economy in crisis, a changing climate, the persistent dangers of old conflicts, new threats and the spread of catastrophic weapons.

None of these challenges can be solved quickly or easily. But all of them demand that we listen to one another and work together; that we focus on our common interests, not on occasional differences; and that we reaffirm our shared values, which are stronger than any force that could drive us apart. That is the work that we must carry on. That is the work that I have come to Europe to begin.

To renew our prosperity, we need action coordinated across borders. That means

investments to create new jobs. That means resisting the walls of protectionism that stand in the way of growth. That means a change in our financial system, with new rules to prevent abuse and future crisis.

And we have an obligation to our common prosperity and our common humanity to extend a hand to those emerging markets and impoverished people who are suffering the most, even though they may have had very little to do with financial crises, which is why we set aside over a trillion dollars for the International Monetary Fund earlier this week, to make sure that everybody -- everybody -- receives some assistance.

Now, to protect our planet, now is the time to change the way that we use energy. Together, we must confront climate change by ending the world's dependence on fossil fuels, by tapping the power of new sources of energy like the wind and sun, and calling upon all nations to do their part. And I pledge to you that in this global effort, the United States is now ready to lead.

To provide for our common security, we must strengthen our alliance. NATO was founded 60 years ago, after Communism took over Czechoslovakia. That was when the free world learned too late that it could not afford division. So we came together to forge the strongest alliance that the world

has ever known. And we should -- stood shoulder to shoulder -- year after year, decade after decade -- until an Iron Curtain was lifted, and freedom spread like flowing water.

This marks the 10th year of NATO membership for the Czech Republic. And I know that many times in the 20th century, decisions were made without you at the table. Great powers let you down, or determined your destiny without your voice being heard. I am here to say that the United States will never turn its back on the people of this nation. We are bound by shared values, shared history -- We are bound by shared values and shared history and the enduring promise of our alliance. NATO's Article V states it clearly: An attack on one is an attack on all. That is a promise for our time, and for all time.

The people of the Czech Republic kept that promise after America was attacked; thousands were killed on our soil, and NATO responded. NATO's mission in Afghanistan is fundamental to the safety of people on both sides of the Atlantic. We are targeting the same al Qaeda terrorists who have struck from New York to London, and helping the Afghan people take responsibility for their future. We are demonstrating that free nations can make common cause on behalf of our common security. And I want you to know that we honor the sacrifices of the Czech people in

this endeavor, and mourn the loss of those you've lost.

But no alliance can afford to stand still. We must work together as NATO members so that we have contingency plans in place to deal with new threats, wherever they may come from. We must strengthen our cooperation with one another, and with other nations and institutions around the world, to confront dangers that recognize no borders. And we must pursue constructive relations with Russia on issues of common concern.

Now, one of those issues that I'll focus on today is fundamental to the security of our nations and to the peace of the world -- that's the future of nuclear weapons in the 21st century.

The existence of thousands of nuclear weapons is the most dangerous legacy of the Cold War. No nuclear war was fought between the United States and the Soviet Union, but generations lived with the knowledge that their world could be erased in a single flash of light. Cities like Prague that existed for centuries, that embodied the beauty and the talent of so much of humanity, would have ceased to exist.

Today, the Cold War has disappeared but thousands of those weapons have not. In a strange turn of history, the threat of global nuclear war has gone down, but the risk of

a nuclear attack has gone up. More nations have acquired these weapons. Testing has continued. Black market trade in nuclear secrets and nuclear materials abound. The technology to build a bomb has spread.

Terrorists are determined to buy, build or steal one. Our efforts to contain these dangers are centered on a global non-proliferation regime, but as more people and nations break the rules, we could reach the point where the center cannot hold.

Now, understand, this matters to people everywhere. One nuclear weapon exploded in one city -- be it New York or Moscow, Islamabad or Mumbai, Tokyo or Tel Aviv, Paris or Prague -- could kill hundreds of thousands of people. And no matter where it happens, there is no end to what the consequences might be -- for our global safety, our security, our society, our economy, to our ultimate survival.

Some argue that the spread of these weapons cannot be stopped, cannot be checked -- that we are destined to live in a world where more nations and more people possess the ultimate tools of destruction. Such fatalism is a deadly adversary, for if we believe that the spread of nuclear weapons is inevitable, then in some way we are admitting to ourselves that the use of nuclear weapons is inevitable.

Just as we stood for freedom in the 20th century, we must stand together for the

right of people everywhere to live free from fear in the 21st century. And as nuclear power -- as a nuclear power, as the only nuclear power to have used a nuclear weapon, the United States has a moral responsibility to act. We cannot succeed in this endeavor alone, but we can lead it, we can start it.

So today, I state clearly and with conviction America's commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons. I'm not naive. This goal will not be reached quickly -- perhaps not in my lifetime. It will take patience and persistence. But now we, too, must ignore the voices who tell us that the world cannot change. We have to insist, "Yes, we can."

Now, let me describe to you the trajectory we need to be on. First, the United States will take concrete steps towards a world without nuclear weapons. To put an end to Cold War thinking, we will reduce the role of nuclear weapons in our national security strategy, and urge others to do the same. Make no mistake: As long as these weapons exist, the United States will maintain a safe, secure and effective arsenal to deter any adversary, and guarantee that defense to our allies -- including the Czech Republic. But we will begin the work of reducing our arsenal.

To reduce our warheads and stockpiles,

we will negotiate a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with the Russians this year. President Medvedev and I began this process in London, and will seek a new agreement by the end of this year that is legally binding and sufficiently bold. And this will set the stage for further cuts, and we will seek to include all nuclear weapons states in this endeavor.

To achieve a global ban on nuclear testing, my administration will immediately and aggressively pursue U.S. ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. After more than five decades of talks, it is time for the testing of nuclear weapons to finally be banned.

And to cut off the building blocks needed for a bomb, the United States will seek a new treaty that verifiably ends the production of fissile materials intended for use in state nuclear weapons. If we are serious about stopping the spread of these weapons, then we should put an end to the dedicated production of weapons-grade materials that create them. That's the first step.

Second, together we will strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a basis for cooperation.

The basic bargain is sound: Countries with nuclear weapons will move towards disarmament, countries without nuclear weapons will not acquire them, and all

countries can access peaceful nuclear energy. To strengthen the treaty, we should embrace several principles. We need more resources and authority to strengthen international inspections. We need real and immediate consequences for countries caught breaking the rules or trying to leave the treaty without cause.

And we should build a new framework for civil nuclear cooperation, including an international fuel bank, so that countries can access peaceful power without increasing the risks of proliferation. That must be the right of every nation that renounces nuclear weapons, especially developing countries embarking on peaceful programs. And no approach will succeed if it's based on the denial of rights to nations that play by the rules. We must harness the power of nuclear energy on behalf of our efforts to combat climate change, and to advance peace opportunity for all people.

But we go forward with no illusions. Some countries will break the rules. That's why we need a structure in place that ensures when any nation does, they will face consequences.

Just this morning, we were reminded again of why we need a new and more rigorous approach to address this threat. North Korea broke the rules once again by testing a rocket that could be used for long range

missiles. This provocation underscores the need for action -- not just this afternoon at the U.N. Security Council, but in our determination to prevent the spread of these weapons.

Rules must be binding. Violations must be punished. Words must mean something. The world must stand together to prevent the spread of these weapons. Now is the time for a strong international response -- (applause) -- now is the time for a strong international response, and North Korea must know that the path to security and respect will never come through threats and illegal weapons. All nations must come together to build a stronger, global regime. And that's why we must stand shoulder to shoulder to pressure the North Koreans to change course.

Iran has yet to build a nuclear weapon. My administration will seek engagement with Iran based on mutual interests and mutual respect. We believe in dialogue. But in that dialogue we will present a clear choice. We want Iran to take its rightful place in the community of nations, politically and economically. We will support Iran's right to peaceful nuclear energy with rigorous inspections. That's a path that the Islamic Republic can take. Or the government can choose increased isolation, international pressure, and a potential nuclear arms race in the region that will increase insecurity for all.

So let me be clear: Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile activity poses a real threat, not just to the United States, but to Iran's neighbors and our allies. The Czech Republic and Poland have been courageous in agreeing to host a defense against these missiles. As long as the threat from Iran persists, we will go forward with a missile defense system that is cost-effective and proven. If the Iranian threat is eliminated, we will have a stronger basis for security, and the driving force for missile defense construction in Europe will be removed.

So, finally, we must ensure that terrorists never acquire a nuclear weapon. This is the most immediate and extreme threat to global security. One terrorist with one nuclear weapon could unleash massive destruction. Al Qaeda has said it seeks a bomb and that it would have no problem with using it. And we know that there is unsecured nuclear material across the globe. To protect our people, we must act with a sense of purpose without delay.

So today I am announcing a new international effort to secure all vulnerable nuclear material around the world within four years. We will set new standards, expand our cooperation with Russia, pursue new partnerships to lock down these sensitive materials.

We must also build on our efforts to break

up black markets, detect and intercept materials in transit, and use financial tools to disrupt this dangerous trade. Because this threat will be lasting, we should come together to turn efforts such as the Proliferation Security Initiative and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism into durable international institutions. And we should start by having a Global Summit on Nuclear Security that the United States will host within the next year.

Now, I know that there are some who will question whether we can act on such a broad agenda. There are those who doubt whether true international cooperation is possible, given inevitable differences among nations. And there are those who hear talk of a world without nuclear weapons and doubt whether it's worth setting a goal that seems impossible to achieve.

But make no mistake: We know where that road leads. When nations and peoples allow themselves to be defined by their differences, the gulf between them widens. When we fail to pursue peace, then it stays forever beyond our grasp. We know the path when we choose fear over hope. To denounce or shrug off a call for cooperation is an easy but also a cowardly thing to do. That's how wars begin. That's where human progress ends.

There is violence and injustice in our world

that must be confronted. We must confront it not by splitting apart but by standing together as free nations, as free people. I know that a call to arms can stir the souls of men and women more than a call to lay them down. But that is why the voices for peace and progress must be raised together.

Those are the voices that still echo through the streets of Prague. Those are the ghosts of 1968. Those were the joyful sounds of the Velvet Revolution. Those were the Czechs who helped bring down a nuclear-armed empire without firing a shot.

Human destiny will be what we make of it. And here in Prague, let us honor our past by reaching for a better future. Let us bridge our divisions, build upon our hopes, accept our responsibility to leave this world more prosperous and more peaceful than we found it. Together we can do it.

Thank you very much. Thank you, Prague.

BOOK
ANNOUNCEMENT:
SAVING THE WORLD FROM
NUCLEAR WAR: THE JUNE
12, 1982,
DISARMAMENT RALLY
AND
BEYOND
BY: VINCENT J.
INTONDI

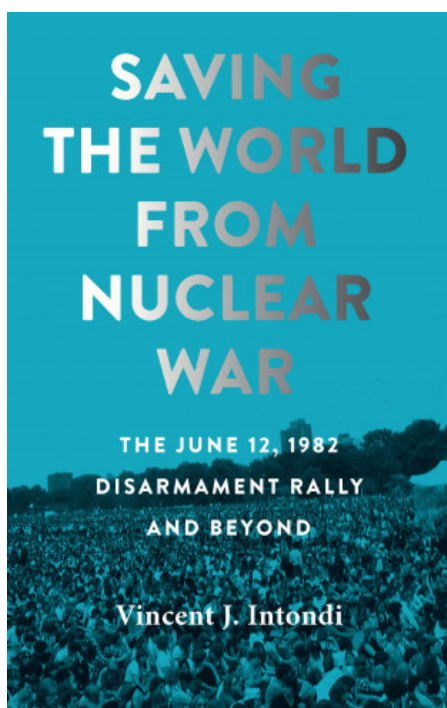


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In his upcoming book, Vincent Intondi examines how the June 12, 1982 rally for nuclear disarmament paved the way for a new generation of activists. On June 12, 1982, one million people filled the streets of New York City and rallied in Central Park to show support for the United Nations' Second Special Session on Disarmament. They demanded an end to the nuclear arms race and called for a shift from military funds to money allocated for human needs. In "The Last Dance," Vincent Intondi explores this demonstration from its inception through the months of organizing, recruiting, and planning, to the historic day itself. Movement leaders were forced to confront the Reagan administration, ideological differences, racism, homophobia, and misogyny to pull off what became the nuclear the largest peace demonstration in US history. While nuclear disarmament has been typically viewed as a white, middle-class issue, Intondi shows that the nuclear disarmament movement was much more diverse than previously thought. Groups representing African Americans, women, and the LGBTQ community were all active during this period, and among the main organizers of the June 12 demonstration.

Drawing on archival materials and interviews with rally organizers and activists in Central Park that day, Intondi takes the reader on a journey through the height of the Cold War and shows how a million people came together to demand an end to the arms race. Although the threat of nuclear war remains today, this historic rally contributed to the Reagan administration changing course on nuclear weapons and paved the way for a new generation of activists committed to saving the world from nuclear annihilation.

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RTT Journal Submission Guidelines



Submissions should be a minimum of ten pages long, use twelve point Times New Roman font, use Chicago style citations, and 1.5 line spacing.



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