

**Forum:** Disarmament and International Security

**Issue:** The question of nuclear disarmament on a global basis

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## **Introduction:**

As the World War II was coming to an end, in 1945, many countries in the world wanted to be more powerful and overall win the war. All those countries knew that whoever won the war, they would become the most influential and compelling country in the world. In order to do that, many scientists in many states of the world began working on the development of nuclear armament. Those nuclear weapons allowed the mass destruction of any territory in the planet.

The concept of nuclear armament was originally developed as a form of achieving global power. However, there were many negative outcomes to nuclear weapons, the first one being the radiation that was remaining in the area of the explosion. This was extremely dangerous and toxic for any form of life to exist. Such as human, animal or plant life.

In order to understand the actual situation, it is of major importance to have an understanding of the major events of the mid 20th century especially all of those regarding the outcome of World War II. Consequently, the History and Context part of this article is of significant importance.

Still to this day, nuclear disarmament issues are relevant to all world citizens since they all are resolving our global safety among many others.

## Definition of Key Terms

**Nuclear disarmament:** reducing or completely eliminating any form of nuclear weapons

**World Peace Council:** a peace organisation which emerged just after World War II directed by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

**United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs:** an office of the United Nations Secretariat created January 1998 in order to promote nuclear disarmament and other controversial weapons.

**Universal Declaration of Human Rights:** the UN Declaration which gathers all human rights for all citizens of UN Member State and therefore sets guidelines for subsequent violations

## History

To fully understand the issue we first need to know what brought our world in this situation of conflict over nuclear weapons.

As we know the twentieth century has been a period of time full of problems, conflicts and wars. Many of those mistakes still are relevant to this day for our society and have determined many of nowadays disputes. The urge from many countries to have all the power in their hands has made the last 100 years a very dangerous era.

During the World War II many scientists began working and experimenting to create better and stronger weapons. Nuclear weapons were then just created and they meant a really important progress for those countries willing to win the World War II.

The United States made the first nuclear weapon tests in 1945 just before the end of World War II. That same year the Americans disarmed a nuclear device in Hiroshima a Japanese city. This was the first usage of a nuclear weapon in an official combat. The bomb killed over 80,000 people and it destroyed 50,000 buildings. By the end of the year there were 166,000 deaths in total due to the diseases caused by the radiation as well as the injuries that the explosion had caused. When the World War II

ended the United Nations was created in order to prevent any other global wars or conflicts. One of the main organs, the Security Council is responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Later, in 1946 the United States made many more nuclear tests, this time underwater, in the Operation Crossroads so as to see and work on the effect of nuclear weapons on warships. Those were made near the Marshall Islands and named the Able and Baker tests. Those made its citizens leave its home due to the intense and strong radioactivity which was threatening their lives. Furthermore, the world's population began aware of the reactivity importance 10 years later, in 1954. The remains of an Hydrogen bomb in the Pacific caused the sudden death of a Japanese sailos. Since that date, many countries began working against the use of nuclear weapons. In addition, the anti-nuclear weapon movement has been growing on the contrary many countries have used the power of nuclear weapons to start threatening other states.

During Cold War many european citizens manifested against nuclear weapons. In 1963 the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water (PTBT), this treaty prohibited all tests of nuclear weapons except for those underground. It was first signed by the Soviet Union, United States and United Kingdom, and has since then been signed by 123 other states. In the late 60's and 70's many developed countries in the world like France or Germany were willing to create new nuclear power plants in their cities yet, many citizens manifested against it. The nuclear disarmament has been in our society for over four decades, moreover many countries still battle over threats and hypothetical nuclear conflicts everyday.

## **Key Issues**

### **Use and threat of use of nuclear weapons**

There are many countries who consider nuclear threats to be really harmful. The International Court of Justice has stated that a threat to commit any acts with nuclear weapons would violate international humanitarian law which would be illegal. Many citizens believe that nuclear threats are the cause that can initiate further and more harmful conflicts. Moreover, it makes governments and the world population to be in a constant state of alert.

### **Development and manufacture**

The development and the manufacture of nuclear weapons involves numerous activities and the laws and treaties try to affect and regulate all of them. However, it is nearly impossible as some activities related with nuclear development may not be easily detectable by authorities. All nuclear weapon states should be advised or encouraged to follow the regulated protocol in order to maintain the safety.

### **The modernization of nuclear armament**

In the last few years many developed countries with a really important nuclear armament such as the United States, Russia and the United Kingdom, have intended to renew and improve their nuclear weapons so as to pursue the research of other capacities that nuclear energy and nuclear weapons might have. As a matter of fact, many treaties and laws have been approved in order to minimise the creation of new and stronger nuclear weapons as well as to avoid any threatenings between states. In order to reduce nuclear weapons and avoid any conflicts there is the need to plan and build an eternal nuclear threat as soon as possible.

## **Nuclear radiation effects on humans**

One of the most important issues of nuclear weapons is the radiation which can cause serious anomalies and health issues in the human bodies. These issues can be very different. For instance, the brain can be really damaged and brain cells could stop reproducing, also the blood of the person deteriorates and it makes it easier to get infections. Radiation could also imply people becoming sterile since the reproductive cells divide very fast they can be affected quicker.

## **The Non Proliferation Treaty**

As it is of extremely importance to promote agreement of all countries with nuclear weapons there was the need to create the The Non Proliferation Treaty which was opened for signature in 1968. This treaty pursues nuclear disarmament of all states, non proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear technology. It also stipulates that non-nuclear-weapon states not to develop any kind of nuclear weapons whereas nuclear states should not transfer any nuclear weapons to other states.

***Article VI:** Commits state parties to pursue negotiations in good faith toward ending the nuclear arms race and achieving nuclear disarmament; promotes general and complete disarmament*

***Article I:** Forbids the five NWS from transferring their nuclear weapons to any other state or aiding NNWS in acquiring nuclear weapons*

***Article II:** Forbids NNWS from developing, seeking, or acquiring nuclear weapons*

***Article III:** Requires NNWS to accept IAEA safeguards to ensure that nuclear materials for civil uses will not be diverted to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices*

***Article IV:** Acknowledges the inalienable right of state parties to the NPT to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. These endeavors must be in compliance with Articles I and II of the NPT.*

## **Nuclear weapons and the environment**

The environment is a very controversial topic when speaking of nuclear residue. Even a small nuclear explosion would be very harmful for our planet since the strong radiation of these guns. Furthermore, the damage of an small warlike conflict would last for a decade destroying all forms of wildlife in the area. Just by exploding between 50 and 100 bombs, which is the 0,03% of the actual world's arsenal it would be enough to create climatic anomalies unprecedented in human history

## **Major Parties Involved**

**United States of America:** The United States of America was the first country to create nuclear weapons as well as the first country who used it in an official battle. That is why the United States of America is a really important state in this matter. The United States also has the largest number in nuclear weapons all over the world, also, it has been a really important country in the majority of the warlike conflicts in the world due to its huge economic resources.

**United Kingdom:** The United Kingdom has a rather small collection of nuclear bases overseas and although there have been projects to expand the nuclear submarines the United Kingdom has the lead on the Nuclear Disarmament movement.

**Russia:** Russia is the second world's nuclear weapon state after the United States. Russia inherited all the nuclear tactics that the Soviet Union had in the 20th century. This country has one of the most powerful nuclear weapon facilities including air, sea and land based. Even though it has evolved with its nuclear policies, Russia still has one of the most threatening nuclear projects in the world.

**France:** France, being a really important developed country in Europe has over 300 warheads. France began its nuclear tests in the 1960 in Algeria. France's most important threats are sea or air based. In spite of being one of the most powerful countries in the world, France still has recently approved many treaties and laws that restrict nuclear weapons testing as well as its safety for all citizens.

**China:** China began developing its nuclear weapons on the Korean War due to many threats that the United States had given to the country. China is one of the countries that has developed its nuclear weapons in the last years. China's actual warhead goes up to 280. Nowadays this country is working on increasing the number of nuclear warheads as well as cooperating with other asian countries such as Taiwan in order to prevent any conflicts.

**DPRK:** the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is known to have active and increasing nuclear weapons. The country has had many conflicts with other states that have declared that the nuclear activity in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was more than the advised. DPRK has many projects to improve and develop its nuclear armament.

## **Possible Solutions**

Possible solutions for this problem include aiming to reinforce the Non-Proliferation treaty making stronger laws for nuclear-weapon states so as to avoid any further warlike conflicts that can develop to damaging or even destroying the world. Also increasing the sanctions for those countries who keep using nuclear weapons in wrong or non legal contexts.

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