

A study on the likelihood for a war to commence,
and at worst, with nuclear.

How does **nuclear proliferation** affect the way countries approach **international security**?

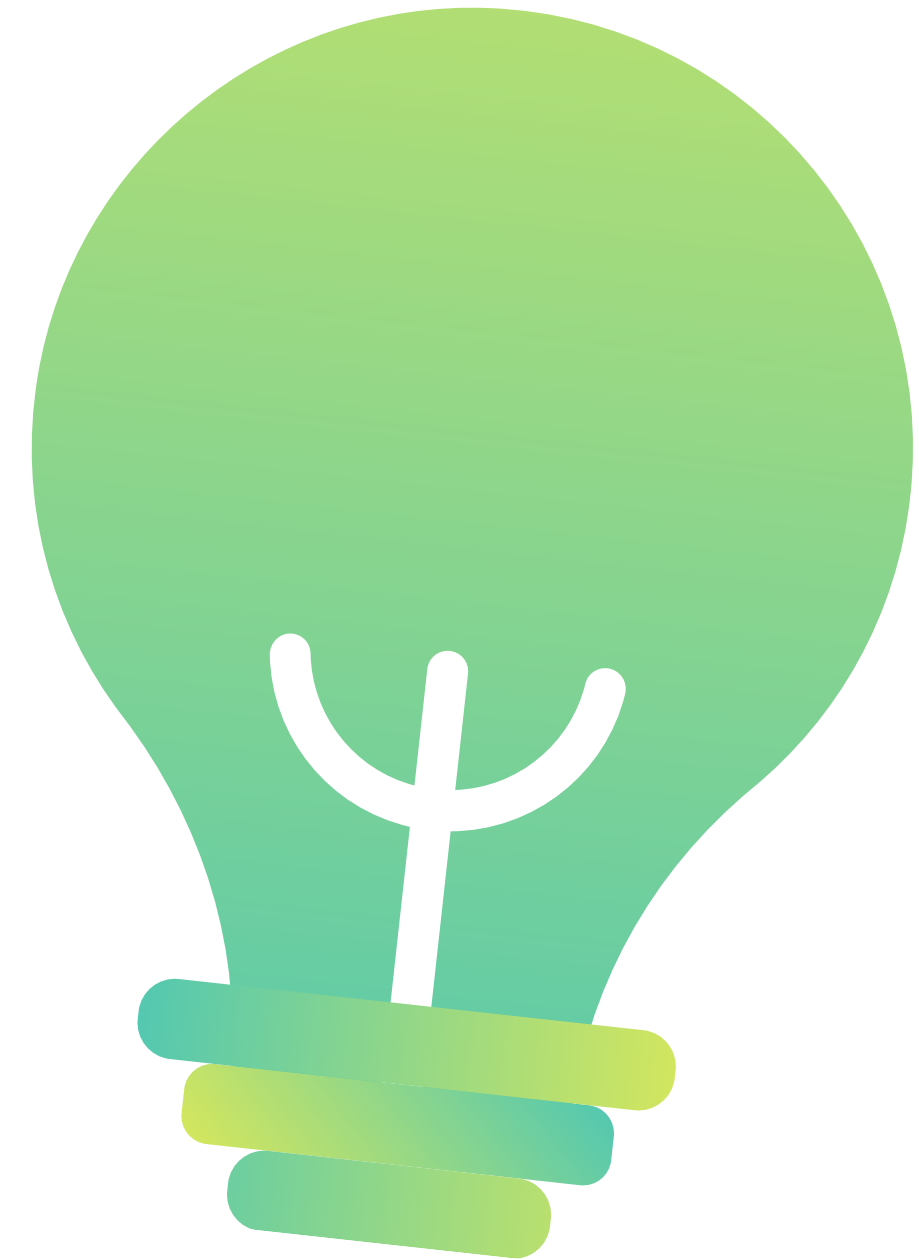


TEAM 14: CHASKA, CHRISTOPHER, ELISHA

What is nuclear proliferation?

Nuclear proliferation is the spread of nuclear weapons, its technology, or fissile material to countries without nuclear possession. The concept of 'spread' is from the agenda of the states with nuclear weapons.

This concerns **international security** as they tend to see their own nuclear weapons as vital to their own security and any aspirant's weapon as a great threat to themselves or the world; or both.



Poland's leader says his country is ready to host NATO members' nuclear weapons to counter Russia

By Associated Press

April 22, 2024 at 11:21 a.m. EDT

The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness



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WARSAW, Poland — Poland's president says the NATO member would be ready to host the nuclear weapons of the military alliances's other members in response to Russia's moving its nuclear weapons to neighboring Belarus.

Risk of Nuclear Weapons Use Higher Than at Any Time Since Cold War, Disarmament Affairs Chief Warns Security Council

Many Speakers Condemn Russian Federation's Dangerous Rhetoric, Veiled Threats



Why does this matter?



Poland requesting to host nuclear weapons of NATO allies: **approval of nuclear proliferation to Poland** under the Western bloc's Nuclear Sharing Doctrine will raise a **high potential threat**.



This marks the most **aggressive and dangerous** move by NATO so far: first time in history, NATO's nuclear weapons is stationed right next to Russia's city of Kaliningrad.



Moscow has deemed Warsaw's move **a suicidal act**: the appearance of American nuclear weapons might spark a **war declaration** in the event of a direct military confrontation with NATO. - Maria Zakharova, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson of Russia

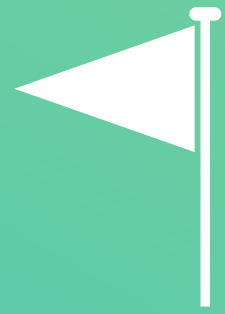


With Ukraine on the verge of collapse, NATO's best bet is to strengthen Warsaw's defenses and make it the first line of defense against Putin's expansionist plans. **Poland's acquisition of nuclear weapons will make it the next rising power in Europe.**

Map of Poland and Russia, IMG from: *Sovereign Limits*



Poland has always been a strategically important ally for the Western Security bloc. It being the strongest nation on NATO's Eastern flank, it has been a guardian that keeps Russia at bay for years.



CHECKPOINT QUESTION #1

Why is Russia, knowing the greater risks of a Nuclear War, threatening 'the rest of the world' with its nuclear possession and jeopardizing International Security?

According to the **President of Poland, Andrzej Duda**: "Russia has been relocating its weapons and military to Belarus over the years, and now nuclear. (See: Iskander Rockets in Belarus) ... Russia broke the international nuclear non-proliferation treaties.

The whole NATO area should be tightly protected with nuclear weapons ... the nuclear sharing program should be extended to the countries on NATO's Eastern Flank."

Poland's NATO buddies are in complete support of stationing nuclear weapons next door to Russia.

Putin hopes to deter NATO from their Ukraine War involvement, and Russian threats **forces NATO to adapt its strategy**.

Andrzej Duda



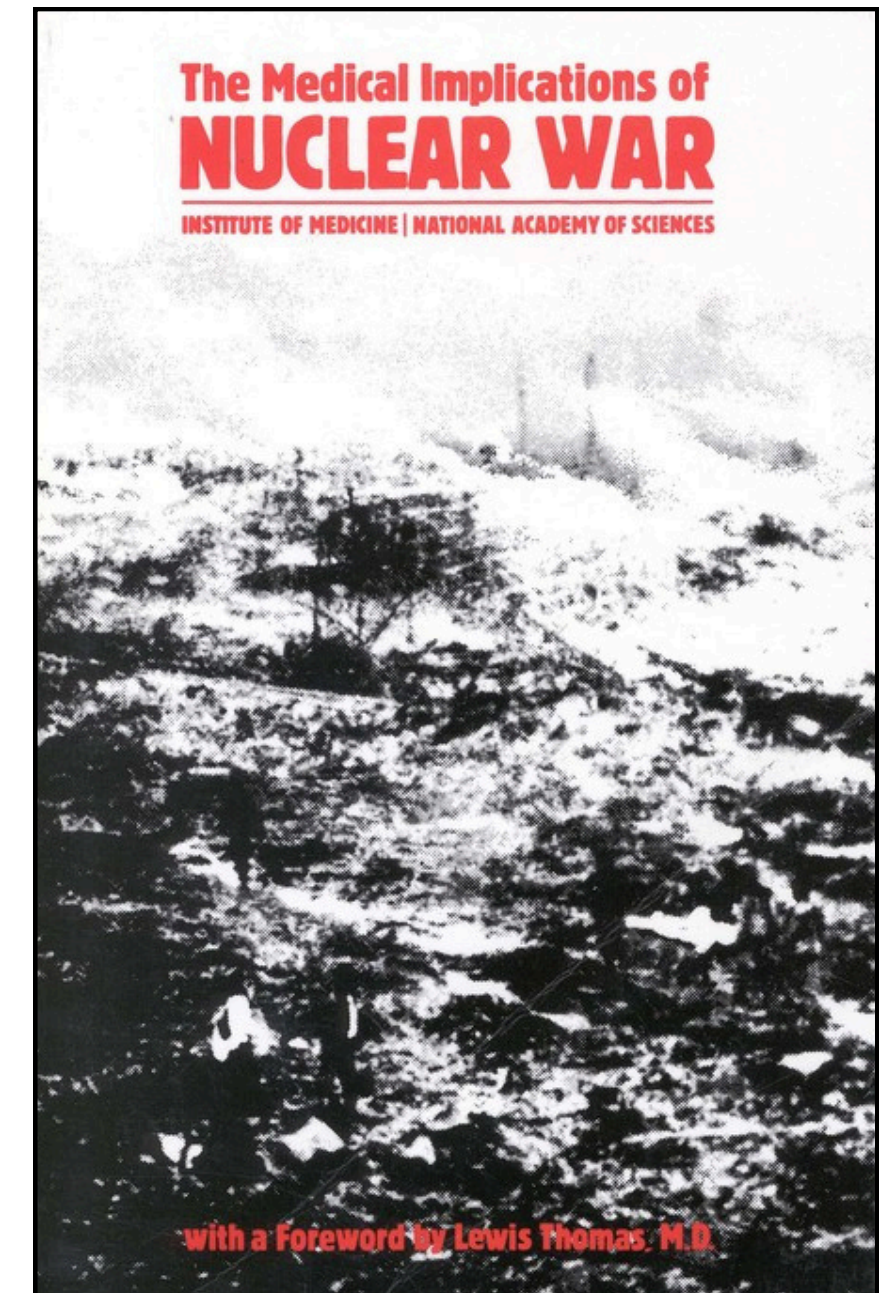
Nuclear weaponry possession has always been considered as a technological advancement; it is another struggle for relative power.

*“National leaders continue to place their **faith in weaponry** because **no alternative means of exercising power** is in sight. More elaborate and sophisticated nuclear weapon systems continue to be created in hopes of acquiring meaningful **superiority over their rivals**.”*

The accumulation of nuclear weapons, conveys only the **appearance of security and power**.

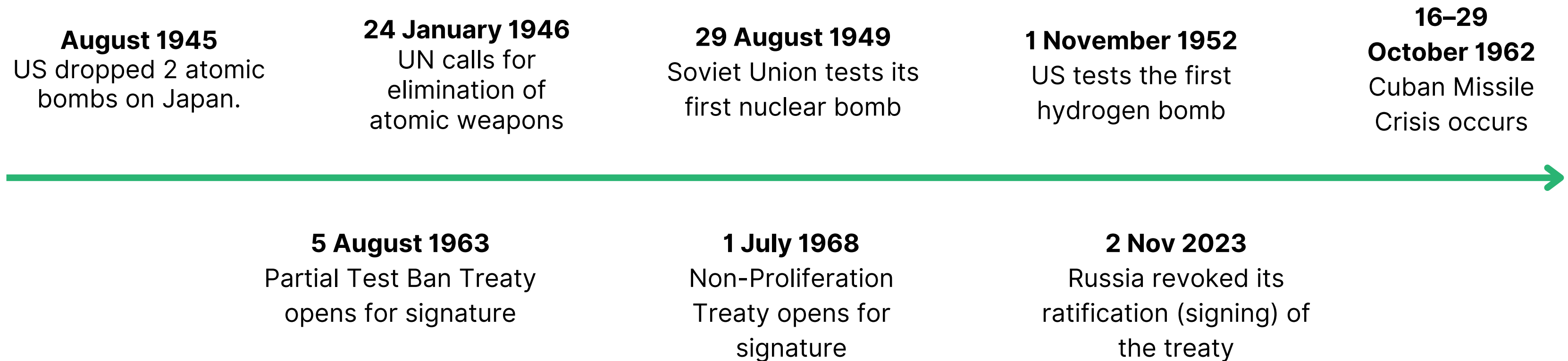
As a result, the main function of nuclear weapons has become to **demonstrate determination to prevail**.

Furthermore, an arsenal that is continually innovating is a more convincing demonstration of will than one that is static: *"A growing and innovative arsenal will be perceived as more powerful than one which is static—even if the latter retains an advantage in purely technical terms"* (Kline, 1975).



PART IV, Chapter 4: The Nuclear Arms Race and the Psychology of Power (1986)

THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY



Objective: To ban all non-nuclear states from acquiring nuclear weapons and reduce nuclear weapons worldwide for the 5 recognized nuclear weapons states (NWS): U.S., China, Russia, France and the UK, with a **view to completely eliminate nuclear weapons**.
As of today, the treaty has 93 signatories.

THE ESCALATION OF GLOBAL CONFLICTS REVOLVING AROUND **WAR AND NUCLEAR**

NEWS ANALYSIS

Israel's Strike on Iran: A Limited Attack but a Potentially Big Signal

Israel hit a strategic city with carefully measured force, but made the point that it could strike at a center of Iran's nuclear program.

Putin says NATO sending troops to Ukraine would risk global nuclear war

Vladimir Putin says "sending a NATO contingent to Ukraine" would risk "a nuclear conflict that will mean the destruction of our civilization."

FEB 29

UK's Sunak to unveil \$252m investment in nuclear deterrent, nuclear energy

UK leader says investment is vital in 'more dangerous and contested world.'

25 Mar 2024

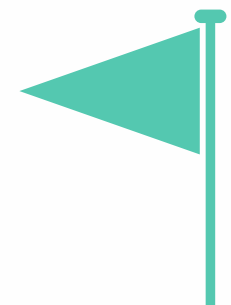
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NATO's number two official: 'Putin's nuclear threat is in the logic of psychological intimidation rather than in real intentions'

Mircea Geoană, deputy secretary general of the North Atlantic Alliance, notes that the US needs its European allies as much as Europe needs America



CHECKPOINT QUESTION #1

Will the presence of nuclear weapons become a deterrence against or encourage a looming war?

OUR HYPOTHESES: POSITIVE & NEGATIVE

(+)	(-)
Nuclear proliferation can lead to better international security	Nuclear proliferation can lead to worse international security
Nuclear weapon is the final weapon that can reduce full scale war occurrence	The deterrence is not guaranteed
Deterrence effect reduce war occurrence	Irrational leadership of countries with nuclear weapon is dangerous

INDEPENDENT VARIABLE

- *Nuclear Weapon Level*
 - Status of states in terms of nuclear development/proliferation

DEPENDENT VARIABLE

- *Probability of an international nuclear war*
 - With reference to the journal:

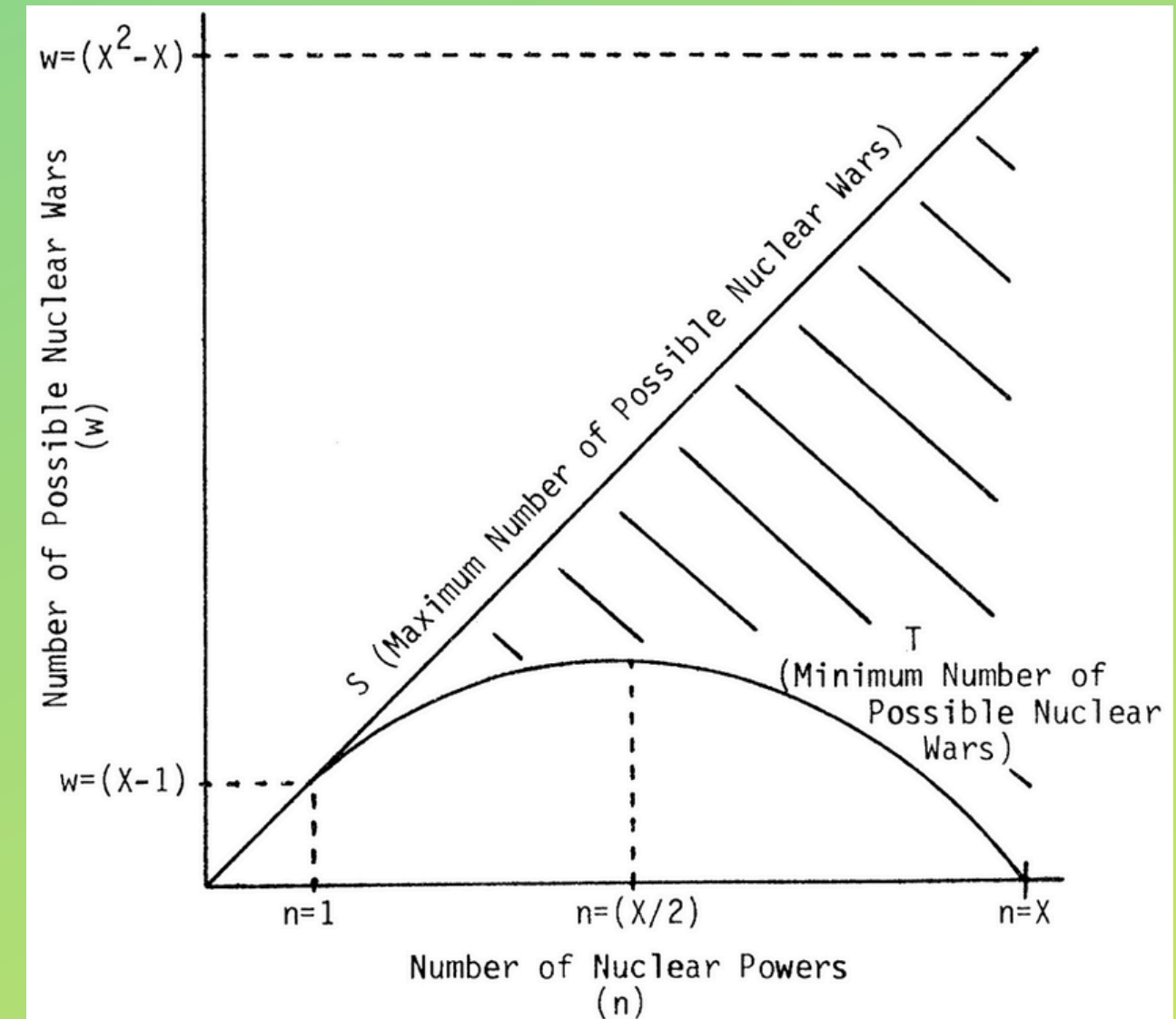
Proliferation, Deterrence, and the Likelihood of Nuclear War

BRUCE D. BERKOWITZ

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FACTORS TO CONSIDER FOR ANALYSIS

1. Number of nuclear powers internationally
2. States' ability to deter a nuclear attack (states with great nuclear power)



CASE STUDIES - SOME OF THE WORLD LEADERS IN NUCLEAR

United States: First nuclear acquisition in 1945

- First case of proliferation, no threat of pre-emptive nuclear attack
- Less number of states, and the US' biggest threat was the Soviet Union
- High level of deterrence: the US launched missiles in protected and concealed areas

Soviet Union: 1950s-60s nuclear threats

- They threatened non-nuclear opponents of the SU
- High level of deterrence: the US had more nuclear in their possession, while the SU has limited development
- Nuclear deployment in silos and submarines deterred other states (Britain, France, China)

Great Britain: 1950s White Paper on Defense

- Committed to a strategy of deterrence
- Proliferation of nuclear weapons to the British did increase the threat presented to non-nuclear states
- Policy to keep peace and deterrence, however lacking hardware (e.g. arsenal & military technology)

China: First atomic test in 1964

- The first-generation Chinese nuclear force was primarily a threat to China's non-nuclear neighbors (e.g. Japan, Vietnam, India)
- Still lacking behind in terms of nuclear development, higher the level of deterrence

India, Israel, South Africa: Lack of testing in 1980s

- None has a delivery system that could reliably deliver an atomic bomb against a nuclear power
- Nuclear proliferation helped in enhancing stable deterrence; its presence reduced possible threat of conventional war

France: 1950s-60s difficulty in nuclear development

- The French force was technologically at least 10 years behind the Soviet forces it intended to deter
- The proliferation of nuclear weapons to France only increased the danger of nuclear war and did little to enhance deterrence

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Nuclear Weapon Level	National Security Interest	Effect on International Security	Example
Armed	Suppress developing nuclear weapon countries	No major power shift	USA
Developing	Develop a strong military weapon to deter regional countries	New rising countries will threaten existing world powers May lead to diplomatic problems	Iran
Failed	Disarmed for better security	Failed deterrence leading to poor economy	South Africa
Don't Have	Anti-nuclear movement	Pressure to reduce nuclear risk	Participants in NPT

ARMED

- **Cold war: USA and USSR**
- After Cuban missile crisis, no nuclear threats were proposed to each other.
- They shift their competition focus on economic, political and technological areas.
- They were involved in 57 regional conflicts but no direct war between the two countries.

DEVELOPING

- **Iran (since 1950s)**
- In 1957, signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement with US that provided for technical assistance and the "lease of several kilograms of enriched uranium."
- Suspicion rose in 2002 with the revelation by the Iraqi-based opposition group, the National Council of Resistance in Iran, regarding the existence of the previously unknown and undeclared two nuclear facilities.
- After the news, Iran announced that they did not reveal their nuclear development because they were following the western countries of not revealing theirs.
- American and Israeli threats of military action against Iran's nuclear facilities and the U.S. decades-long economic sanctions
- Deterring a U.S. intervention in Iran's policy and ensuring the survival of the Islamic regime

FAILED NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT

- **South Africa (1978-1993)**
- Failed to deter other countries
- USSR expanding influence in Africa and falling white governments in S.A.
- In 1974, President de Klerk 'develop a limited nuclear deterrent capability'
- It did not have the full technology to launch nuclear attacks
- The nuclear threat was to pressure USA to help S.A. to develop its nuclear weapons
- End of cold war
- Nuclear deterrence became an obstacle to its economy

“Nuclear proliferation will negatively affect international security, to a certain extent.”

Risk of full scale war still exist

Table V. Probability of Different Levels of Severity of Violence Based on Number of Nuclear Powers Involved*

Severity of violence	Number of nuclear powers					
	0	1	2	3	4	5
(1) No violence	0.04	0.05	0.07	0.11	0.15	0.21
(2) Minor clashes	0.11	0.14	0.18	0.23	0.27	0.30
(3) Serious clashes	0.30	0.34	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.31
(4) Full-scale war	0.56	0.47	0.38	0.30	0.24	0.19

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The example of Iran and South Africa shows that the process of nuclear proliferation is not as peaceful or easy as it seems.
- Deterrence of nuclear weapons is very strong, even at a failed or unknown level. Fear and deterrence are not best for international security.
- The future of the possibility of nuclear wars are highly dependent on policy-making and diplomatic efforts geared towards initiating dialogue and negotiation processes
- By understanding the connections between deterrence, proliferation, and the likelihood of nuclear war, one can see that policies that might decrease the risk of nuclear war in some settings may actually increase the risks in other situations.

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Thank you!

We are now open for Q&A.

