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HST495

17 October 2016

AQ Khan

Abdul Qadeer Khan was a Pakistani scientist who was deeply involved in the illegal transfer of nuclear materials and technologies for well over thirty years. The full extent of his knowledge, connections, and influence is still unknown, though experts have been able to piece several bits of information together over the course of several years.

Throughout my readings about Khan, I have come to realize that he was at least partially responsible for the Pakistani, Iranian, North Korean, and Libyan nuclear programs. He is known as the father of the Pakistani bomb and smuggled information and materials to the others. These nations are some of the least stable, most threatening nations in the possession of nuclear weapons. In short, Khan has endangered world peace and is, by my impression, absolutely deplorable for his actions.

In 2001 he was forced to retire during suspicions of his proliferation actions. In 2004 he publicly confessed to all of it, and was *pardoned* by the President of Pakistan and has been under house arrest ever since. The government of Pakistan, of course, denies any involvement with Khan’s network of nuclear espionage, which I believe is a flagrant lie. Pakistan and India have been escalating nuclear tensions ever since they both became nuclear states, and the general chaos accrued by proliferating nuclear weapons to as many nations as possible could only serve to serve Pakistan.

According to the 2015 Global Fissile Material Report, Pakistan has between 120 and 130 nuclear weapons, which is roughly on par with that of India. North Korea has fewer than 10, and Iran is not mentioned. On the scale of the nuclear weapons across the world, these numbers mean very little when compared to the United States or Russia, but it’s still incredible to me that one man is responsible for helping kickstart three of the world’s nuclear states.

A.Q. Khan was a criminal mastermind, funnelling illegal nuclear contraband through many countries and companies, encouraging and facilitating the proliferation of atomic weapons across many nation-states. I believe he is near the top of the list of deplorable human beings who have singlehandedly endangered the human race.