

The Doomsday Clock: Ticking Closer to Midnight [A2]

Questo orologio misura ogni anno quanto tempo manca alla “mezzanotte” del pianeta terra. Le sue lancette si spostano in funzione del rischio di autodistruzione della nostra specie.



We've never been [closer](#) to global annihilation. That's [according to](#) the [Doomsday](#) Clock, which is a symbolic representation of how close we are to destroying the world through nuclear war, the global climate emergency and disruptive technology. On the clock, midnight represents a hypothetical global catastrophe, and the number of minutes and seconds we are to midnight shows how close we are to [such an event](#). This January we moved from one hundred to ninety seconds to midnight — the closest to annihilation we've ever been!

WHO [SETS](#) THE CLOCK?

The [Doomsday](#) Clock was introduced in 1947 by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. This US [non-profit organisation](#) was founded after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the same scientists that helped

[develop](#) the world's first nuclear [weapons](#). The [aim](#) was to educate people about them. Today, eighteen experts from the fields of [policy](#), diplomacy, military history and nuclear science [make up](#) the Bulletin's Science and Security [Board](#). In consultation with the Bulletin's [Board](#) of Sponsors, which includes numerous Nobel [laureates](#), they [update](#) the time on the clock every January, based on current catastrophic [threats](#) to the planet and humanity.

BACKWARDS AND FORWARDS

Originally, the clock was used to measure the danger specifically [posed](#) by nuclear [weapons](#); in 1947, it was [set](#) at seven minutes to midnight to represent this threat. [However](#), in 2007, the Bulletin began considering the threat of climate change, too. It now also considers the threat [posed](#) by disruptive technologies, such as artificial intelligence and biotechnology. The [furthest](#) the clock has been from midnight was seventeen minutes in 1991, the year the Soviet Union collapsed and the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty was signed. The reason it moved to its closest point this year was primarily but not exclusively Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has revived fears of nuclear war.

TURN BACK THE CLOCK

"We are living in a time of [unprecedented](#) danger," said Rachel Bronson, president and [CEO](#) of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. She and her colleagues, past and present, have always insisted that the clock is [intended](#) not to [frighten](#) people, but to [encourage](#) them [to take action](#) to make the world a [safer](#) place. "The US government, its [NATO allies](#) and Ukraine have a multitude of channels for dialogue; we [urge](#) leaders to explore all of them [to their fullest ability to turn back](#) the clock," she said.

Glossary

- **unprecedented** = senza precedenti
- **frighten** = spaventare
- **Doomsday** = apocalisse, fine del mondo
- **to take action** = prendere iniziative
- **NATO** = Organizzazione del Trattato dell'Atlantico del Nord
- **weapons** = armi
- **according to** = secondo
- **develop** = sviluppare
- **policy** = politica
- **furthest** = il punto più lontano
- **allies** = alleati
- **to turn back** = riportare indietro
- **closer** = più vicini
- **make up** = costituire, formare
- **threats** = minacce
- **However** = tuttavia
- **aim** = obiettivo, scopo
- **CEO** = amministratore delegato (chief executive officer)
- **intended** = da intendersi
- **urge** = esortare
- **Board** = Consiglio
- **set** = regolare
- **safer** = più sicuro
- **laureates** = vincitori del premio
- **update** = aggiornare
- **posed** = rappresentare
- **encourage** = spingere
- **to their fullest ability** = al massimo delle loro capacità
- **such an event** = questo tipo di evento
- **non-profit organisation** = organizzazione senza scopo di lucro