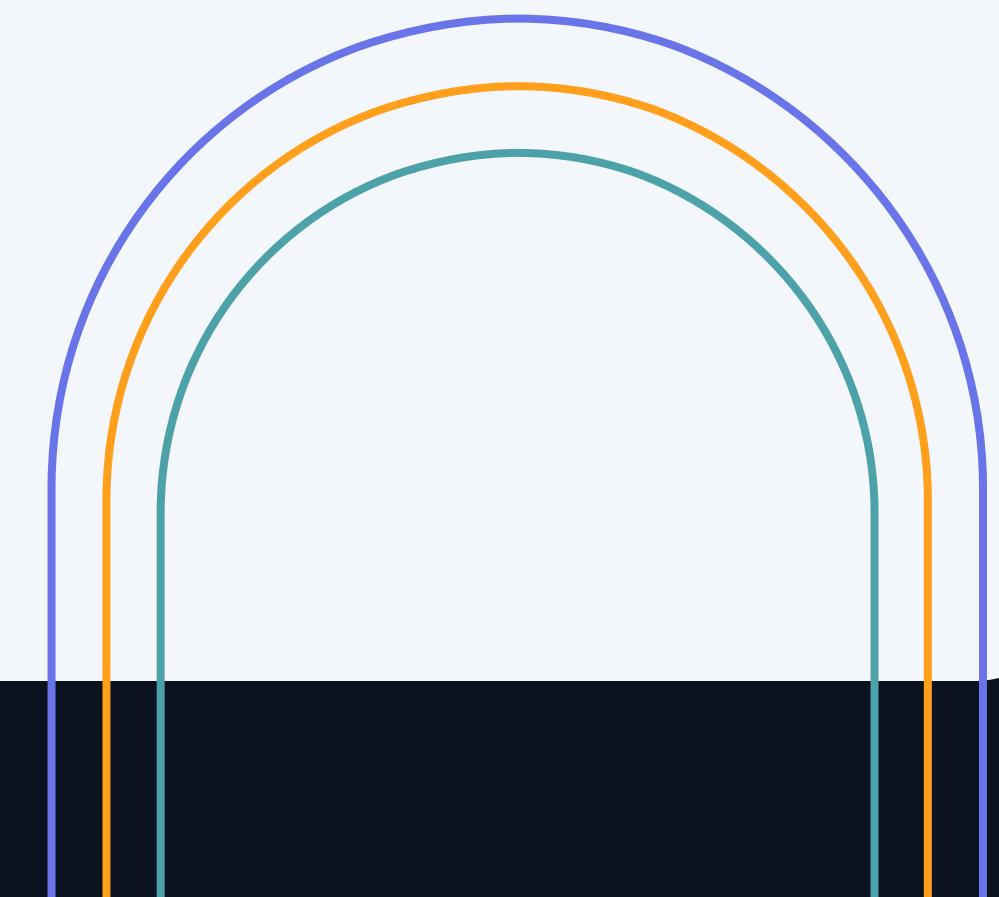


# Doomsday Clock: Are we at doom's doorstep?



# What is it?



- A metaphor that represents how close humanity is to self-destruction
- How many metaphorical “minutes to midnight” humanity has left
- Not designed to definitively measure existential threats; to spark conversations about topics such as climate change and nuclear weapons
- Located at the Bulletin offices at 1307 E. 60th St., in the lobby of the Keller Center, home to the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy

# Who measures the doom?

Bulletin  
of the  
Atomic  
Scientists



- Founded in 1945 by Albert Einstein and University of Chicago scientists who helped develop the first atomic weapons in the Manhattan Project
- Created the Doomsday Clock two years later, using the imagery of apocalypse (midnight) and the contemporary idiom of nuclear explosion (countdown to zero)
- Set by Bulletin's Science and Security Board in consultation with its Board of Sponsors

# How close to doom?

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**1947 - 7 mins**

Martyl set the original Clock at seven minutes to midnight because, she said, “it looked good to my eye.”

**1991 - 17 mins**

Furthest ever: 17 minutes to midnight, after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the signing of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty

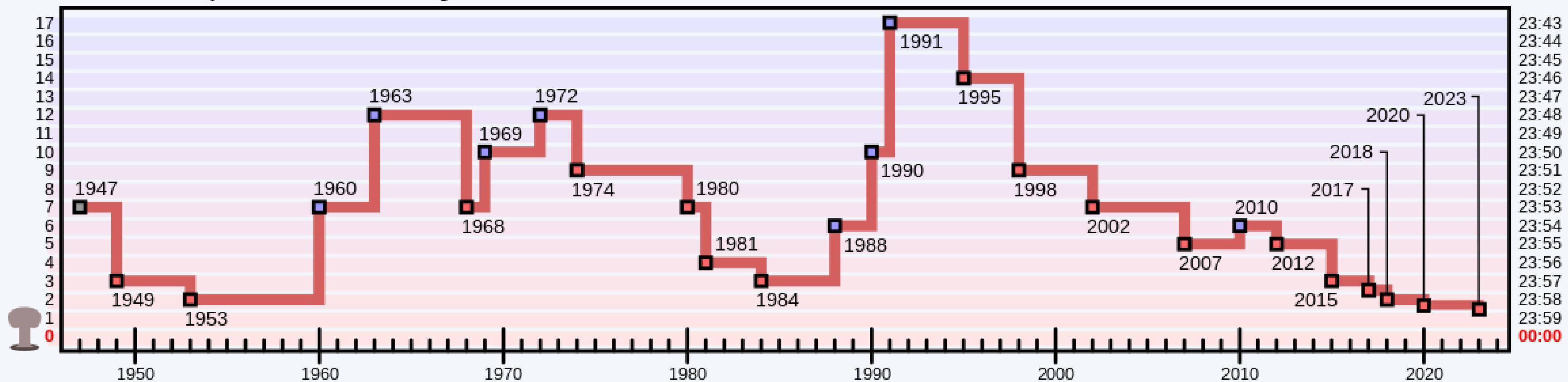
**2018 - 2 mins**

Technological change disrupting democracies; Internet-based deception campaigns aimed at undermining confidence in institutions essential to free thought



# Doom Through the Years

Doomsday clock: minutes to midnight, 1947-2023



# Almost Doomsday?

**2021 - 100 sec**

Nuclear war, climate change, cyber-enabled information warfare, pandemic; dire international security situation, eroding international political infrastructure

**2022 - 100 sec**

Nuclear tightrope; climate change: lots of words, relatively little action; active biological weapon development; Disruptive technology in the age of disinformation

**2023 - 90 sec**

Russia's thinly veiled threats to use nuclear weapons; war brought to the Chernobyl and Zaporizhzhia; no clear pathway for forging a just peace that discourages future aggression





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# Dystopia?

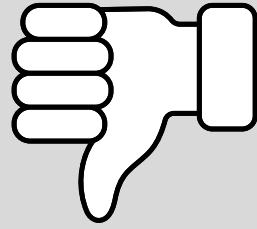




# Stranger than Fiction



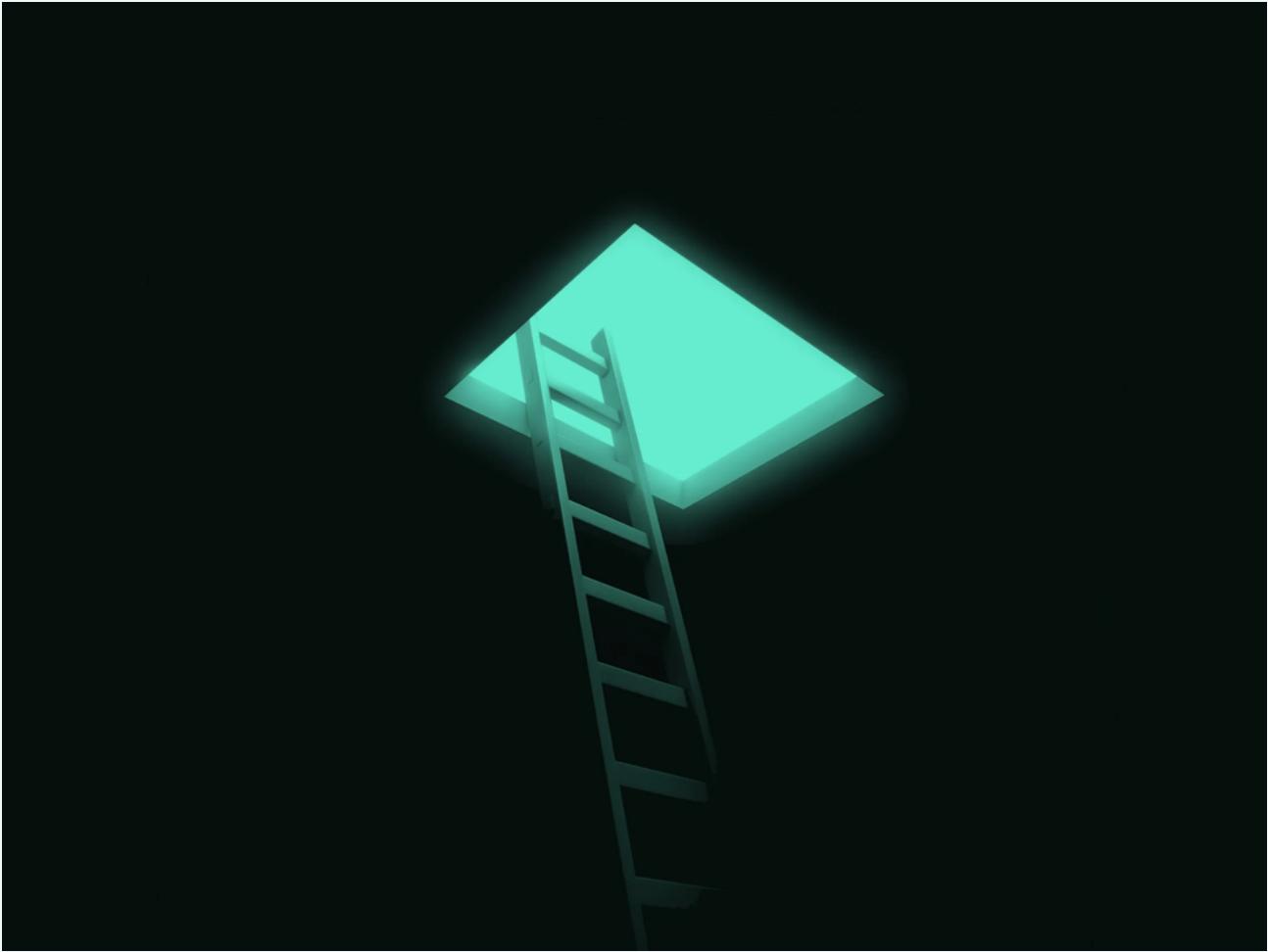
# 'Imperfect Metaphor'?



- Minute hands of most clocks don't move backward
- "Scare-mongering"
- "...to preserve civilization by scaring men into rationality"
- Genuinely unprecedented situation: mid-morning of the 21st century

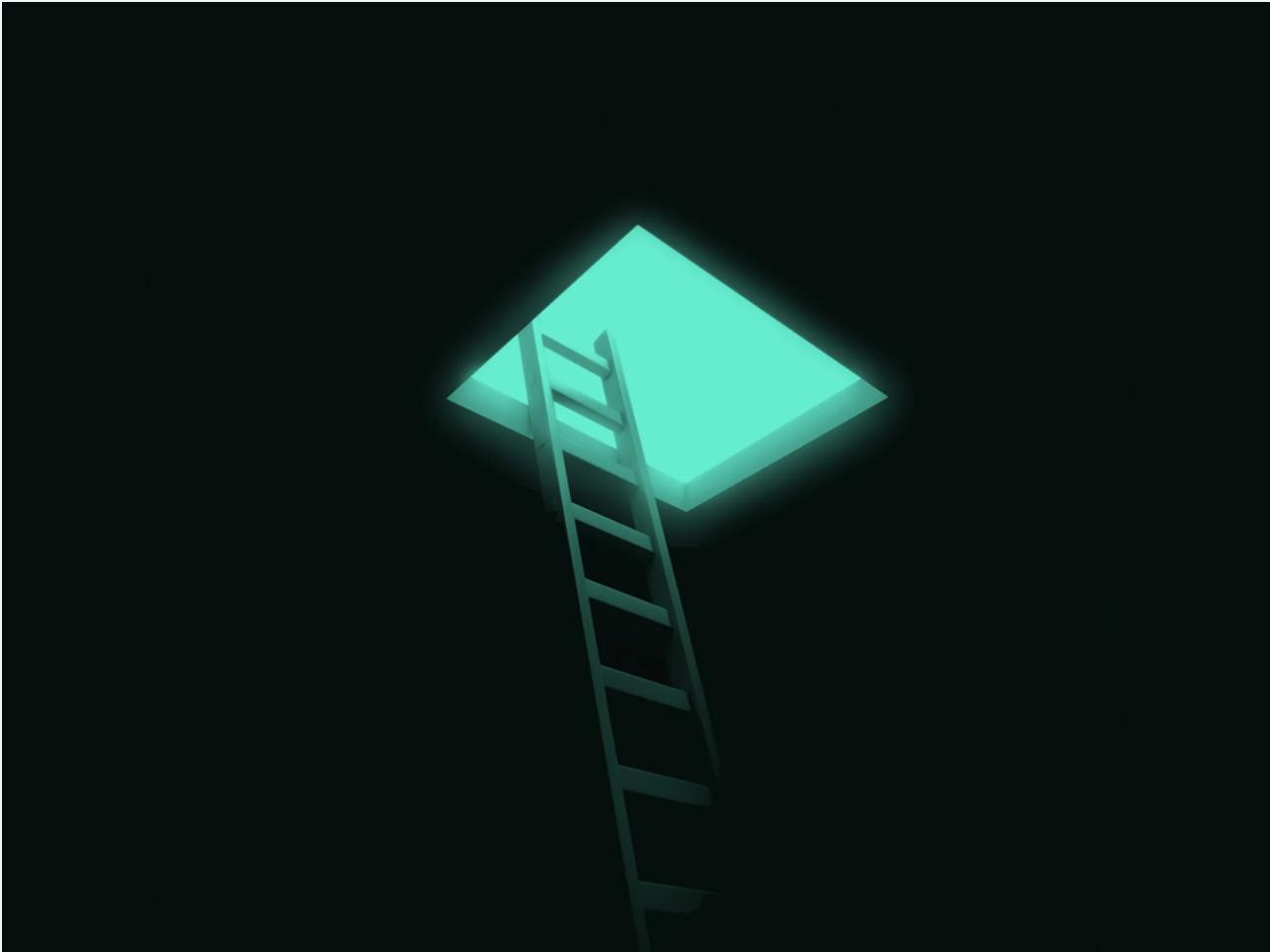


# Hope...?



- Global nuclear powers should agree to reduce reliance on nuclear weapons by limiting their roles, missions, and platforms, and decrease budgets accordingly.
- Reduce biological risks of all kinds through better monitoring of animal-human interactions, improvements in international disease surveillance and reporting, increased production and distribution of medical supplies, and expanded hospital capacity.

# Hope...?



- Countries should accelerate their decarbonization, matching policies to commitments.
- The United States should persuade allies and rivals that no-first-use of nuclear weapons is a step toward security and stability.
- Governments, technology firms, academic experts, and media organizations should cooperate to combat internet-enabled misinformation and disinformation.





# thank you!

In this time of unprecedented global danger, concerted action is required, and every second counts.



# Sources

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCnWPbn-ZKo>

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<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/01/20/world/doomsday-clock-2022-climate-scn/index.html>

# Contributions

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Presentation, Research

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Speaker, Research

**Sidhartha Garg**

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**Parth Garg**

Research, Presentation

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**Riya Sachdeva**

Speaker, Presentation