Response Week 12

Theodore Jagodits

HST 415 / Alex Wellerstein

There are records of plutonium stolen a while back. What happened to that? Is there any evidence or theory on to where that went? Nuclear terrorism does not seem very likely, at least politically. Another question would be why are we not investing more into fusion technology? Is it political or are people just not thinking it will not work ever?

After watching the lecture and reading the article about nuclear terrorism, it seems that it would take 6 months or so to make the bomb, which is very disconcerting since everything but the highly enriched uranium would be easy to build. Which is honestly mind boggling to think about that, since it took the US 27 months to build our first bomb (Trinity Test). The technical advances and what we learned about the bomb would give anybody who would want to build it, give people way more access than I think anybody would be ever comfortable with. However, what was proposed with Oppenheimer and his crew of scientists still holds today. Highly enriched uranium that is very controlled, severely limits people building it in general. What Oppenheimer proposed years earlier has come mostly to fruition. Data about nuclear bombs and how to build them is public knowledge but the material is heavily regulated and restricted. I think this is pretty funny.

What I find very interesting as well is the concept of international terrorism. The rise or threat of nuclear terrorism rose around the same time as international terrorism. As the world became more globalized and connected.

Peaceful nuclear fusion before I listened to the lecture has always sounded like a pipe dream. I have also heard of the saying that fusion is twenty years away and always will be. I have also heard that quantum computing was like that too, maybe you should teach a class one that :?. However, quantum computing has very real applications in telecommunication that AT&T is working on very seriously. I feel like no large corporations that I know of are working on fusion. It seems like only governments are interested in the fusion. Maybe that is because the entry cost into building these projects is massive. I couldn’t see any utility company investing in fusion. Maybe google or tesla? It seems like most people don’t want to touch fusion. I did not know that we already achieved fusion. I feel like that was not publicized.