Response Week 14

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Why did such incompetent leaders rule so long in the USSR? I thought it would be more cutthroat at the top of the leadership. Did we ever research our own dead man’s hand?

I think the 2020 report is very chilling. Thinking of how covid had impacted us so greatly and only a few people have died in this pandemic compared to the book. I personally think that if that ever happened to us we would be done as a country. I could also totally see this happening and after taking this class I feel like I was scared even more.

What also was disconcerting wasn’t the destruction of our country, but also Donald and Kim as leaders. Donald was portrayed as a baby and everybody around him was a suck up and wouldn’t disagree with him. He also completely gutted our State Department so even if he knew about what was happening in South Korea at the time, we wouldn’t have any proper relations with them anyway. Kim Jong Un world’s view was also pretty crazy, even though he had a good education he was always paranoid and would do anything to stay in power. I guess that is what both of them have in common, they want their image and power.

I personally do not think we ever left the first nuclear age. It has gotten easier to produce nuclear weapons since world war two. However, I think the tensions and complexities have been there since the Soviet Union got its own nukes. We struggle to be on top even though there never was anything to gain in such a superiority. As more countries have gotten more nukes and even when the cold war ended, we still struggle with same issues that we had 50 years ago on arms control and deterrence.

What I noticed is that we focus a lot in our classes is on the arms and nuclear reactors. I know there are other practical applications for nuclear other than power and bombs. For example, what about radiation therapy? I am sure it is not uranium they use but cobalt or something. However, I think other peaceful uses that have revolutionized its own niches would have been cool to know about. I am pretty sure the nuclear age didn’t just bring us electrical power and bombs even though they might have had the greatest impact on us. I think a little 1 hour series on just other applications would have been nice.