THE NUCLEAR SINGULARITY — A Journalist's One-Page Explainer

What the Theory Says

The Nuclear Singularity is the idea that around 1963, nuclear weapons stopped functioning as individual national arsenals and instead fused into one global, interdependent system. After that moment, no country could fully control "its" nuclear weapons, because every arsenal became entangled with every other through command systems, automation, deterrence logic, early-warning links, and political interdependence.

Why 1963 Matters

The Cuban Missile Crisis exposed near-zero predictability in nuclear decision-making. Fail-deadly automation spread rapidly afterward. Early-warning networks linked superpowers into one feedback loop. Deterrence stopped being bilateral and became a system property. By the early 1960s, nuclear weapons had crossed a threshold: no one could meaningfully "use" them without triggering an uncontrollable global event.

The Key Finding

Nuclear weapons cease to behave like national weapons and become one unified global weapon-system. This is why traditional ideas—"US vs. Russia," "first strike," "nuclear strategy"—have failed to produce meaningful predictions or stable policy for 60 years.

Why This Changes Journalism

Most reporting still frames nuclear issues as geopolitical drama, but if the Singularity Model is correct, these narratives are outdated. The real story is system behavior, not national posture. A missile test in one country changes the stability of the entire system. A false radar return anywhere threatens everyone. Accidents propagate globally.

The Journalism Angle

The theory reframes nuclear coverage into a sharper story: The world's 10,000 nuclear weapons do not exist in 9 nuclear states. They exist in one giant, coupled system that no one fully controls. It's simple to explain, radical enough to provoke, and grounded in historical structure, not opinion.

Why It Matters Now

New technologies—AI-enabled targeting, autonomous launch controls, hypersonic weapons—tighten the coupling of the system. The singularity isn't a one-time event. It's a condition we've been living in for 60 years.