

Chapter 7

What the US should and can do

The United States holds the key to the nuclear arms race.

We are still trapped in the “logic” of deterrence, which sets no limits on armaments. At its core, deterrence theory is never satisfied that one’s armaments are enough. We are locked in a dance with other nationalist military establishments threatening each other with Mutual Assured Destruction. Ending the dance will require dedicated and unrelenting outreach to build confidence in Mutual Assured Security.

How We Got Here.

The US Manhattan Project beat Nazi Germany to the atomic bomb, then demonstrated its “value” as an overwhelmingly destructive weapon. US “cold war” policy commitments to deterring others by threatening to use nuclear weapons, and our determination to build a Star Wars missile interceptor shield continue to drive other nations to build up their own nuclear arsenals—the Soviets first, then Great Britain and France, India and Pakistan, China, and Israel. North Korea and Iran used their civilian nuclear power programs to develop nuclear weapons. Every nuclear nation is building and upgrading their nuclear arsenals as a hedge against nuclear armed adversaries.

In 1946 Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi’s principal political supporter and India’s first Prime Minister, spelled out the “logic” for developing a nuclear weapons program:

"As long as the world is constituted as it is, every country will have to devise and use the latest scientific devices for its protection. I have no doubt India will develop her scientific researches and I hope Indian scientists will use the atomic force for constructive purposes. But if India is threatened, she will inevitably try to defend herself by all means at her disposal."¹

Pakistan started its own nuclear weapons program in 1952. The US has supported India's nuclear program for years, causing reactions in both Pakistan and China.²

Currently, Russian and US/NATO actions showcase increasing mistrust as Russia led by Vladimir Putin seeks to reassert itself as a major player in world politics and NATO consolidates its expansion toward Russia's borders. What's missing in US/Russian relations is high level communication between military, diplomatic, and economic delegations. What's at risk is accidental or intended use of the largest concentration of death machines in history.

The dance goes on.

How We Get Out.

The United States leads the way.

¹ <http://nationalinterest.org/feature/indias-nuclear-weapons-program-5-things-you-need-know-12697>

² https://foreignpolicy.com/2015/12/16/india_nuclear_city_top_secret_china_pakistan_barre/

Solution 1. **Declare no first use of nuclear weapons.** That means no use against non-nuclear aggression.

Solution 2. **Safeguard fissile materials** (bomb-grade uranium and plutonium): Pursue robust international controls over fissile materials in Russia and all other countries with nuclear weapons, nuclear power plants, and/or research facilities.

Solution 3. **De-alert** the deployed nuclear arsenal: take the warheads off the launchers

Solution 4. **Serious talks especially with Russia, China, and Pakistan** to build an international web of control over fissile materials in military, civilian power, and academic research facilities.

Solution 5. **Abandon Mutual Assured Destruction** (deterrence is a morally and militarily flawed concept) in favor of a non-nuclear cooperative global security system.

Solution 6. **Stop “modernization”** of the US nuclear weapons (MAD) complex. This is a \$trillion welfare program for the military-industrial complex - building weapons of mass murder is not a legitimate jobs program, and it fuels a global nuclear arms race. For sure stop the LRSO and Trident rebuild. Defense contractors gain 1,000 to 1 on their political investments in defense contracts from Congress.³

³ <http://fortune.com/2015/07/15/defense-contractors-pac/>

Solution 7. **High-level military dialogues** to create MOUs for military encounters and mechanisms for avoiding accidental confrontations and de-escalating political conflicts.

Solution 8. **Reduce the nuclear arsenal to zero.** If Congress needs a step-down, military experts have calculated that 300 warheads is enough to destroy any attacker. (300 is still a criminally mind-numbing level of destructive capacity!)

Solution 9. **Invest in global surveillance** agreements and robust facilities for detecting nuclear explosions.

Solution 10. **Phase out WMD jobs** that contribute to the manufacture and deployment of weapons of mass destruction and where possible convert them to living wage jobs in the non-nuclear economy.

Solution 11. **High-level military, diplomatic, economic, and cultural meetings** with and between all nuclear weapon states to reduce tensions and create vehicles for cooperation toward common security and global climate management.

Solution 12. **Shared security - focus military and diplomatic policies on** arrangements that protect a global inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness while restoring and protecting a beautiful and sustainable world for future generations.