

Chapter 8¹

What we, Dear Reader, can do



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American slavery took three centuries of suffering, indifference, flagrant prejudice, war, and millions of lives stolen before this historically abominable policy was abolished.

Nuclear weapons can match that slaughter and suffering within minutes. Hundreds of thousands have already died or suffered the ravages of radiation poisoning.

We can:

¹ From *New Plant for Global Suicide: Nuclear weapons modernization costs trillions and puts the entire human family at risk*, David C Hall MD, Chapter 8, 2016. [Download PDF here](#)

1. **Understand what modern nuclear weapons do** (Professor Postol's slides in Chapter 2). Understand the environmental and human devastation from exploding even one or a minimal number of modern warheads in rage or retaliation. The scale of devastation, injury and death could quickly become one hundred times Hiroshima and one thousand times 9/11 for just one or two hydrogen bombs.
2. **Support** organization(s) focused on nuclear disarmament with your attention, your money, and your time. There are creative groups doing amazing work near you and around the world. (See Chapter 9)
3. **Support a global ban on the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.** These WMDs violate humanitarian law and any notion of "just war." Help make the international statement that these weapons are not legitimate and cannot be used. Bans now in force outlaw chemical and biological weapons and land-mines.
4. **Challenge deterrence.** Ask those who still believe in deterrence to spell out just how someone would retaliate with a modern warhead and what the consequences of that use would be. Once the firewall between conventional and nuclear armaments is breached, deterrence has failed, and the doctrine of retaliation and Mutual Assured Destruction takes over. Deterrence relies on adversaries being sufficiently afraid of retaliation that they won't attack. But what do we really know about our adversaries' beliefs, motives, ethics, and criteria for attacking us?

5. **Challenge the double standard.** World leaders understand the impact of a single nuclear warhead. That's why we've seen "frenemies" come together to guarantee that Iran will not build even one. The New START treaty allows Russia and the US 1,550 nuclear warheads each, and most are many times more powerful than the atomic bomb. This double standard will not keep the peace indefinitely.
6. **Advocate for global safeguards over uranium and plutonium stockpiles** to minimize the chance that inadequately guarded bomb-usable nuclear materials do not find their way to hostile use.
7. **Contact your political leaders.** Congress decides US budget priorities. Our US commitment to nuclear weapons is a primary driving force in the global nuclear arms race. Cities are likely targets in every nuclear war scenario. Diversion of national resources to unusable weapons costs jobs, access to education and healthcare, and undermines domestic and international efforts at violence prevention. It's time to say about building a doomsday machine, "Not in my America, you don't!" (See contacts, next chapter)
8. **Make it political.** Work for candidates, especially Senators and Congresspeople, who pledge to eliminate these draconian weapons, work for cooperative security measures, and keep our military focused on clear goals that serve restoration of a sustainable planet home. Cities, ports, and military installations are prime targets for MAD retaliation. Try city council resolutions - ballot initiatives at local and

state levels - professional society resolutions - creative initiatives to highlight the present and growing danger (bus ads, flash mobs, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).

9. **Talk it up. Bring it up with friends and family.** Bring it to the groups you belong to: religious, social, athletic, business, professional, and advocacy groups. These weapon systems hang over all of us like swords of Damocles, lethally hanging by a hair over our captured lives. If the firewall against nuclear weapons is breached, the world could end in less time than you've just spent reading this book. It would have been triggered by a few hundred old men and the occasional woman whose own lives and families were likely protected somewhat by hardened shelters. Novels and videos about the end of the world attempt to imagine the devastation they would face if they survived to emerge from their shelters.