

# Nuclear Weapons

*US must eliminate the threat of nuclear weapons*

Since 1945, the US has spent more than \$5 trillion on nuclear weapons. On dozens of occasions we have reached the brink of nuclear war due to political situations, computer errors and accidents. Many experts agree that we are at greater risk from nuclear weapons now than ever before. Despite such conclusions, the Bush administration proposes to build more nuclear weapons.

**One single nuclear bomb can destroy any major city.** Today, there are more than 30,000 nuclear weapons on the planet. Eight countries possess nuclear weapons including Britain, France, China, Israel, India, and Pakistan. The US and Russia have built 98% of all nuclear weapons created.

## Dangerous New Nuclear Policies

The Bush administration's reckless nuclear policies expand the role of nuclear weapons in US military strategy. The administration's recently completed *Nuclear Posture Review* is an outline for a large US nuclear arsenal and sweeping nuclear weapons upgrades. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, the Bush Plan:

- calls for the potential use of nuclear weapons against at least seven nations, including China, Russia, Iraq, Iran, North Korea, Libya and Syria;
- says nuclear weapons could be used in a number of situations, including "in the event of surprising military developments;"
- suggests that the US may use nuclear weapons in a Middle East conflict or in a conflict between China and Taiwan;
- articulates plans "to build smaller nuclear weapons for use in certain battlefield situations."

The administration has also made it clear that it will prepare to use nuclear weapons against countries that don't possess them.

## Nuclear Weapons and Missile "Defense"

Missile Defense, aka Star Wars, is one more component of the Bush administration's nuclear strategy and is actually an offensive weapon system. If Star Wars worked, it would allow the US to launch a nuclear attack against another country without fearing retaliation.

According to a CIA report, deployment of missile defense will trigger "an unsettling series of political and military ripple effects... that would include a sharp build-up of strategic and medium range nuclear missiles by China, India and Pakistan and the further spread of military technology in the Middle East."

## Nuclear Security

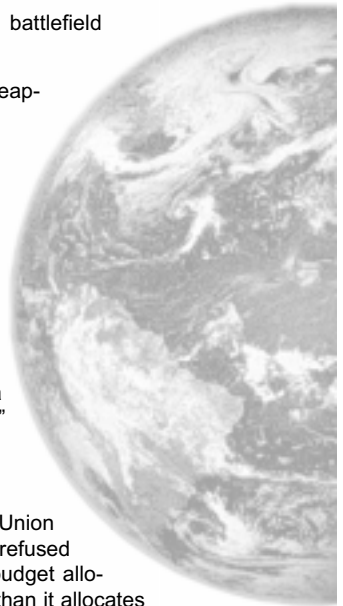
Loosely guarded nuclear weapons and nuclear materials in the former Soviet Union are the most likely to fall into the hands of a terrorist organization. Congress refused to increase funding for securing these "loose nukes." The current federal budget allocates 70 times more funding for developing and maintaining the US arsenal than it allocates for securing these weapons.

We *can* put our country back on the path of nonproliferation. We can change our direction by organizing American citizens and inspiring Congress to provide better principles for America's foreign policy. The US must lead world efforts to secure and eliminate nuclear weapons.



"This is not a legacy worthy of the human race. This is not the world that I want to bequeath to my children and my grandchildren."

**-General Lee Butler, former Commander-in-Chief of US Strategic Command, speaking about nuclear weapons.**



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# Campaign for a New Foreign Policy

Our country deserves a break from the failed policies of the past. Our arms sales and military aid programs have created widespread anti-American sentiment. Our nuclear weapons policies are encouraging nuclear proliferation. Our approach to the international community is leading to growing isolation and foreclosing meaningful leadership.

Huge increases in military spending won't make us safer, but they will take funds from education, health care and other programs and harm the quality of life for all Americans. Eliminating civil liberties will threaten our constitution and undermine the very values that

make our nation great. We'll make our country safer by affirming our values, not abandoning them.

## What You Can Do

There may never have been a more important time to speak up and demand change. Call or write your Representative and Senators and tell them you support a fundamental change in US foreign policy. Urge them to support and sign the Pledge for a New Foreign Policy.

To get involved with the Campaign for a New Foreign Policy see Peace Action's web site or contact the local organization below.

The work of the Peace Action Education Fund is possible thanks to the generous support of the following foundations:

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## Three Steps To A Safer World

### 1. Support Human Rights and Democracy

***We should exhibit international leadership by opposing the policies of human rights abusers, not rewarding them with weapons.***

Democracy and human rights are ideals that the American people hold dear. Our elected officials have not held true to these values. Sadly, our country leads the world in providing arms sales and military training to human rights abusing governments and dictatorships. When US weapons are used to prop up governments hated by their own people, bitterness is the result. When we sell weapons world-wide, those arms end up being used against our own troops.

### 2. Reduce the Threat from Weapons of Mass Destruction

***Our nation should lead a worldwide campaign to reduce and control the threat from weapons of mass destruction - a policy we could be proud of.***

We face no greater threat than nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Such weapons are only effective as a means of terror - that can be aimed at us as well as others. The only way to be safe from this threat is to destroy the stockpiles and secure those facilities that make nuclear materials. Instead of leading efforts to secure and dismantle nuclear weapons, the Bush Administration wants to build new ones. In addition, spending billions on a missile defense that won't work while building new nuclear weapons will only speed the pace of nuclear proliferation.

### 3. Cooperate with the World Community

***We should play a positive leadership role in the world community, planning strategies for a future we can all live with.***

The Declaration of Independence urged "a decent respect for the opinions of mankind." Our foreign policy isn't reflecting that core value. Our elected officials have abandoned or blocked a host of international agreements on arms control, human rights, the environment, and the International Criminal Court. Instead of promoting "pre-emptive strikes," the US needs to promote policies that address the larger needs of the world community and that minimize the potential for hate and anger. The US has the strength and ability to better the working and living conditions of human kind, and to increase our own security in the process - but only if we lead through cooperation.

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