

# NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE GETTING MORE DANGEROUS!

**Nuclear war is becoming MORE LIKELY!**  
See historian Lawrence Wittner's new article at <http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/161737>



The *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists'* famous Doomsday Clock is at 3 minutes to midnight because nuclear weapons and the climate crisis pose severe, immediate threats.

**See strong information on the "Nuclear Weapons" part of [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org)** On that page, click the link for **UPDATES from September 2015** and read a few pages of recent information there.

**Short video exposes nuclear deterrence as a myth:** In just 5 minutes, 20 seconds, a sensible and informative online video – "The Myth of Nuclear Deterrence" – exposes the myth that nuclear weapons protect us, and it makes a solid case for abolishing them. See it at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RB4MVVcAi9E&feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RB4MVVcAi9E&feature=player_embedded)

**Nuclear weapons contractors seriously misbehave:** The Project On Government Oversight ([www.pogo.org](http://www.pogo.org)), an excellent watchdog on governmental abuses, updated its **Federal Contractor Misconduct Database (FCMD)**, which catalogues penalties, warnings, and other oversight actions between the government and its contractors. The FCMD offers unprecedented insights into the history of waste, fraud, and abuse by federal contractors, including those that manage and operate the U.S. nuclear weapons complex. See an article about this – and a link to their database itself – at [www.tinyurl.com/h7r9zrc](http://www.tinyurl.com/h7r9zrc)

**In 2009 Pres. Obama opposed nuclear weapons, but in 2016 he wants to escalate more of them. Tell him NO!** Global Zero ([www.globalzero.org](http://www.globalzero.org)), a nationwide non-profit org working to abolish nuclear weapons, provides this information:

In 2009, newly elected President Obama gave a stunning speech in Prague ... [and] promised to lead the world into a future [without nuclear weapons]. [But more recently], our president seems to have taken a 180-degree turn on nuclear disarmament.

President Obama has proposed an overhaul of the U.S. nuclear weapons arsenal that will cost more than \$1 trillion over the next three decades. This overhaul includes funding for a new nuclear-tipped cruise missile that experts say is dangerous, unnecessary and expensive.

... The cost of these cruise missiles would be between \$20-\$30 billion -- that's money we don't have for a weapon we don't need. And because these missiles can be launched without warning, the likelihood of miscalculation or escalation to nuclear war is huge.

President Obama needs to abandon plans to fund the new nuclear-tipped cruise missile. [Global Zero urges people to pressure Obama and Congress to eliminate the budget request for a new nuclear cruise missile.

Other peace organizations also urge Obama and Congress to reject their plans for more escalation of nuclear weapons. (See the September 2015 information link mentioned in the left column for more startling news.)

**Yes, the US specifically aimed nuclear weapons at the USSR's population centers:** Nowadays people denounce terrorists who attack people in cities. We seem to forget that the US was targeting the USSR's cities during the Cold War. Declassified Cold War files reveal the truth. On Dec. 23, 2015, Common Dreams ([www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org)) published an article by a staff writer, Lauren McCauley. Read it at [www.tinyurl.com/jmgggdv](http://www.tinyurl.com/jmgggdv)

**America's Modernized Nuclear Arms Roil Diplomatic Waters:** See this informative and scary article from December 11, 2015: <http://media.mcclatchydc.com/statis/features/irradiated/Modernizing.html>

**Excellent new book – *A Global Security System: An Alternative to War.* – is available in many formats:** It describes practical ways to create a peace system, and also the values and concepts that will help to achieve it. Download the .pdf at <http://worldbeyondwar.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/agss.pdf> or buy the print edition, whose ISBN is 978-0983083085.

# EXPERTS STRONGLY URGE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR

On January 21, 2016, three long-time experts affiliated with the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation ([www.wagingpeace.org](http://www.wagingpeace.org)) issued “An Open Letter to the American People” about the escalating dangers of nuclear weapons. **The letter by Richard Falk, David Krieger and Robert Laney includes these excerpts:**

- “[A]ccident, miscalculation, insanity or intention could lead to devastating nuclear catastrophe.”
- Humans “have created the means of our own demise.”
- “Even a relatively small nuclear exchange between India and Pakistan, with each country using 50 Hiroshima-size nuclear weapons on the other side’s cities, could result in a nuclear famine killing some two billion of the most vulnerable people on the planet. A nuclear war between the U.S. and Russia could destroy civilization in a single afternoon and send temperatures on Earth plummeting into a new ice age. Such a war could destroy most complex life on the planet. Despite the gravity of such threats, they are being ignored, which is morally reprehensible and politically irresponsible.”
- In the U.S.’s 2016 presidential campaign, “none of the front-runners for the nominations have even voiced concern about the nuclear war dangers we face. This is an appalling oversight. It reflects the underlying situation of denial and complacency that disconnects the American people as a whole from the risks of use of nuclear weapons in the years ahead. This menacing disconnect is reinforced by the media, which has failed to challenge the candidates on their approach to this apocalyptic weaponry during the debates and has ignored the issue in their television and print coverage, even to the extent of excluding voices that express concern from their opinion pages. We regard it as a matter of urgency to put these issues back on the radar screen of public awareness.”
- None of the U.S.’s prominent presidential candidates “has challenged the planned expenditure of \$1 trillion to modernize the U.S. nuclear arsenal, and none has made a point of the U.S. being in breach of its nuclear disarmament obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. ... As a society, we are out of touch with the most frightening, yet after decades still dangerously mishandled, challenge to the future of humanity.”
- “There are nine countries that currently possess nuclear weapons. Five of these nuclear-armed countries are parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (U.S., Russia, UK, France and China), and are obligated by that treaty to negotiate in good faith for a cessation of the nuclear arms race and for nuclear disarmament. The other four nuclear-armed countries (Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea) are subject to the same obligations under customary international law. None of the nine nuclear-armed countries has engaged in such negotiations, a reality that should be met with anger and frustration, and not, as is now the case, with indifference. It is not only the United States that is responsible for the current state of denial and

indifference. Throughout the world there is a false confidence that, because the Cold War is over and no nuclear weapons have been used since 1945, the nuclear dangers that once frightened and concerned people can now be ignored.”

- “[N]uclear deterrence does not actually provide security to countries with nuclear arsenals. Rather, it is a hypothesis about human behavior, which is unlikely to hold up over time. Nuclear deterrence has come close to failing on numerous occasions and



would clearly be totally ineffective, or worse, against a terrorist group in possession of one or more nuclear weapons, which has no fear of retaliation and may actually welcome it. Further, as the world is now embarking on a renewed nuclear arms race, disturbingly reminiscent of the Cold War, rising risks of confrontations and crises between major states possessing nuclear weapons increase the possibility of use.”

- “Those with power and control over nuclear weapons could turn this planet, unique in all the universe in supporting life, into the charred remains of a Global Hiroshima. Should any political leader or government hold so much power? Should we be content to allow such power to rest in any hands at all?”
- “It is time to end the nuclear weapons era. We are living on borrowed time. The U.S., as the world’s most powerful country, must play a leadership role in convening negotiations. ... We all must take action if we want to save humanity and other forms of life from nuclear catastrophe.”
- “Every person on the planet has a right to adequate nutrition, health care, housing and education. It is deeply unjust to allow the rich to grow richer while the vast majority of humanity sinks into deeper poverty. It is immoral to spend our resources on modernizing weapons of mass annihilation while large numbers of people continue to suffer from the ravages of poverty.”
- “While ridding the world of nuclear weaponry is our primary goal, we are mindful that the institution of war is responsible for chaos and massive casualties, and that we must also challenge the militarist mentality if we are ever to enjoy enduring peace and security on our planet.”