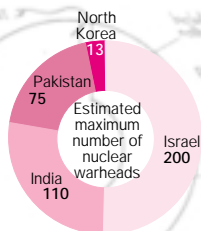


Fat men and little boys

Atomic arsenals and the state of nuclear power play today



The big boys



The bad boys

From a peak of around 65,000 active nuclear weapons in 1985, there were about 20,000 active weapons in the world in 2002. Most decommissioned weapons were stored or dismantled, not destroyed

Several states have abandoned nuclear weapons programmes, including Libya, South Korea and Taiwan. South Africa dismantled its small number of nuclear arms and joined the NPT in 1991

India, Israel and Pakistan are known nuclear nations that have never signed the NPT. North Korea recently claimed to have nuclear weapons and left the NPT in 2003. The development of nuclear arms in North Korea and Iran is currently a source of global tensions

The future of the NPT looks bleak following the May 2005 Review Conference. Consensus failed in the face of US desires to develop a new range of nuclear weapons. The Bush administration requested \$6.6 billion for nuclear weapons research and maintenance in 2005

For over a decade, a secret network run by the Pakistani nuclear scientist AQ Khan was selling nuclear weapons technology. The network was broken in 2003. Khan may have aided Iran and North Korea. Many fear that terrorists may now have nuclear technology

The US remains the only nation to have used nuclear weapons in war, with the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The US spent \$20 billion making the first atomic bomb in the Manhattan Project, fearing Nazi Germany would make and use them first

- US average annual expenditure to prepare for nuclear war: **\$27,000,000,000**, **2.5 times** Pakistan's health spending in 2001
- US 1998 spending on nuclear weapons and programs: **\$35,100,000,000**, **3.2 times** Pakistan's health spending in 2001 and equivalent to the value of the Indian health service in 2005

Checking nuclear weapons?

1963: Limited Test Ban Treaty US, USSR and UK limit nuclear testing to underground. 116 countries later sign

1967: Outer Space Treaty US, USSR and UK ban nuclear arms in outer space. 86 countries later sign

1968: Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] Made permanent May 1995. Signed by US, USSR, UK and 133 non-nuclear weapons countries. Attempts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons

1972: Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty I [SALT I] and Anti Ballistic Missiles Treaty US and USSR agreed to freeze levels of nuclear missile launchers and ban nationwide missile defence systems. Treaties failed as arsenals continued to grow

1979: Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty II [SALT II] First arms-reduction treaty between the US and USSR. Agreed to limit strategic and offensive weapons systems. But arms expansion peaked in the mid-1980s. US walked out of SALT II in 1986

1987: Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty US and USSR agree to dismantle all medium and short-range nuclear weapons. The number of weapons does not fall until the late 1980s

1991: Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty I [START I] US and USSR agree to limit the number of warheads per country to 6,000. Target only reached in December 2001

1993: Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty II [START II] US and USSR agree to cut arsenals to between 3,000 and 3,500 warheads each by 2007

1996: Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT] US, CIS, UK and 90 other countries agree to ban all nuclear tests. World monitoring system established. India the only nuclear country not to sign

2002: Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty [SORT] US and USSR agree to cut warhead stocks to between 1,700 and 2,200 each by 2012. However, the weapons do not have to be destroyed, just taken out of use; critics fear this deactivation is easily reversible