

**Why wars?
Why nuclear weapons?
Peaceful coexistence,
instead**

Angelo Baracca

Florence, 18 April 2018

Wars are increasing in the world, but the majority of people seem indifferent (I mean those who are not directly involved in wars, or suffer from them!).

Proportion of civilian victims is increasing!

World War I (1915-1918) 15 million victims – unknown exactly

World War II (1939-1945) 65 million – 60% civilians – plus the genocides of Jews, Rom, homosexuals, and so on.

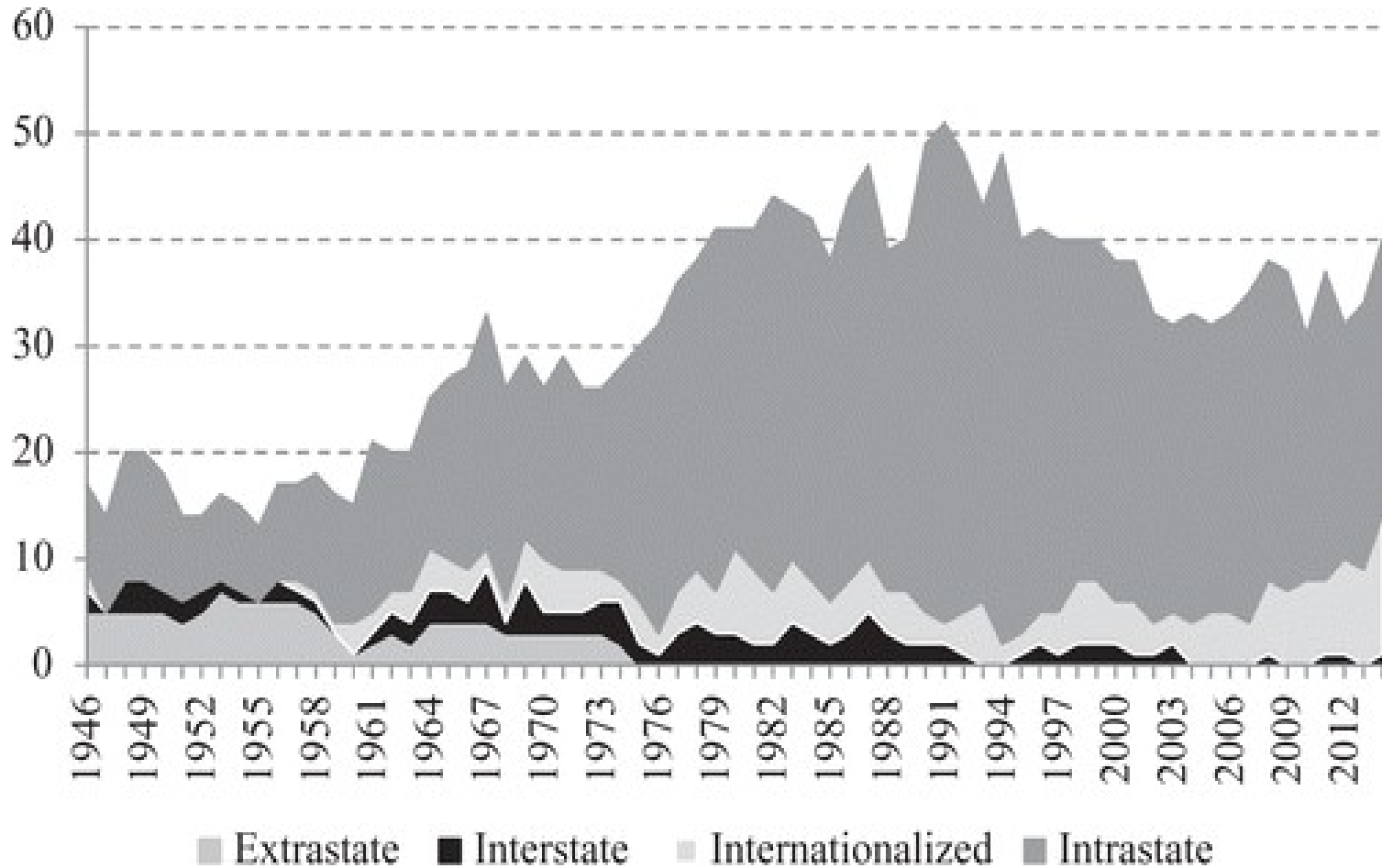
And don't forget the colonial wars, which provided the Western (civilized) world the means of welfare, exploiting the material and human resources of those counties. Not only black lives matter, but also African, Asian ones!

Armed conflicts, 1946–2014

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0022343315595927>

In 2014, the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) recorded 40 armed conflicts with a minimum of 25 battle-related deaths, up by six from 2013. This is the highest number of conflicts reported since 1999, and 11 of these conflicts were defined as wars, that is, conflicts generating 1,000 or more battle-related deaths in one calendar year. Further, an escalation of several conflicts, coupled with the extreme violence in Syria, resulted in the highest number of battle-related deaths in the post-1989 period.

Wars 1945-2018



During the Nineteenth century every colonial power had military bases abroad.

After World War II the US has military bases practically everywhere in the World.

Since 1949 (NATO) in Italy more than 100 US military bases, or Commands, or installations, or nuclear ports, etc.

Extra-territorial regime.

Between 40 and 70 nuclear warheads in the bases of Aviano (US) and Ghedi (Italian).

Even in the US a movement: Coalition Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases

US Military bases in Italy

<http://saganic.blogspot.it/2007/06/us-military-bases-in-italy-there-are.html>





Camp Darby



Camp Darby





Aviano



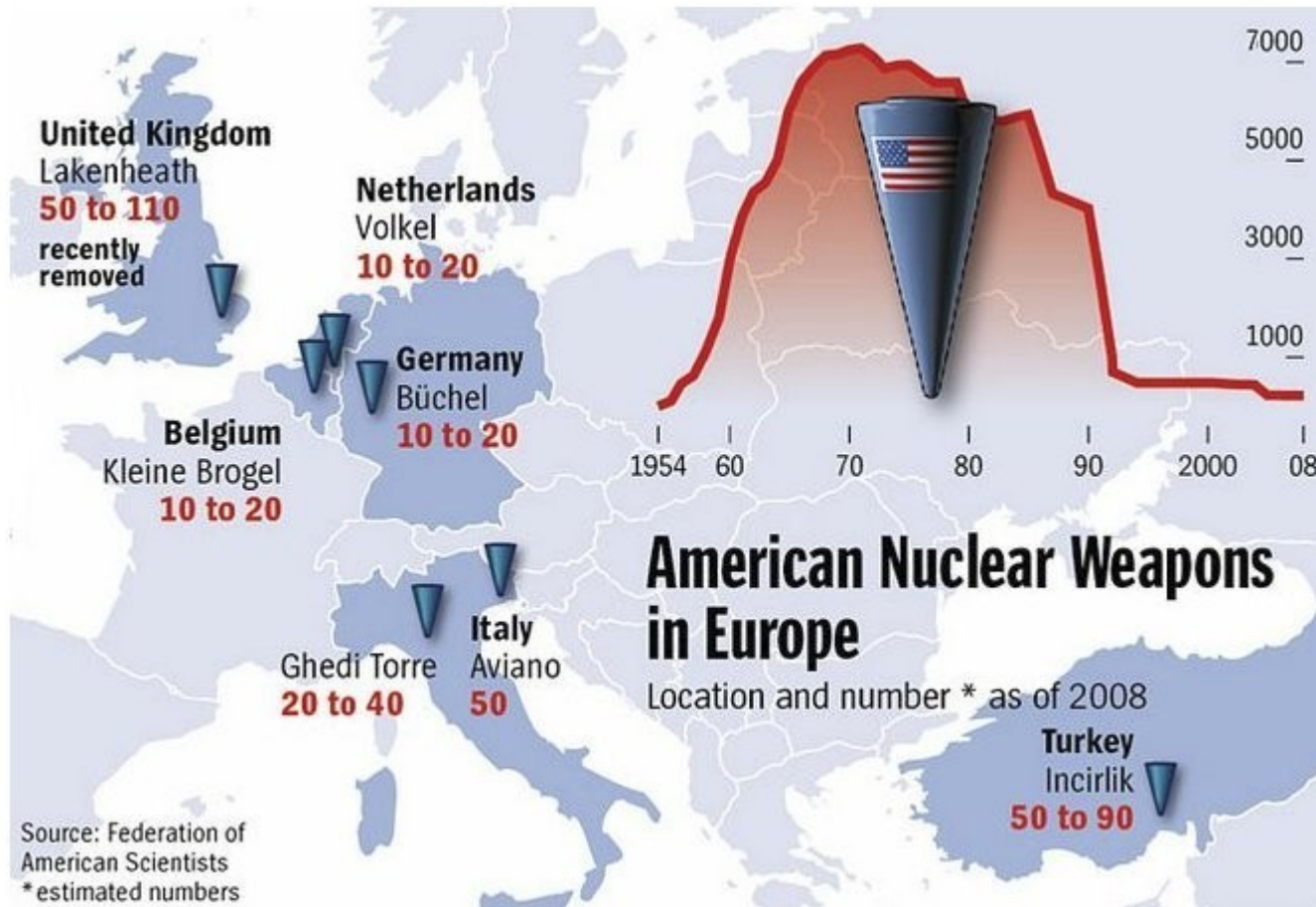
Aviano



Nuclear weapons in Italy



Nuclear weapons in Europe



Nuclear arms

Among armaments, nuclear weapons are extremely particular, not only for their tremendous power, for their indiscriminate effect, permanent radioactive pollution, health consequences (cancer, leukemia, and so on), environmental consequences.

Since 1945 more than 1.000 nuclear tests in atmosphere: long-lasting pollution, Radioactive isotope Strontium-90 in children's teeth.

The specialist Rosalie Bertell evaluated 1 billion 300 thousand victims of the Nuclear Age!

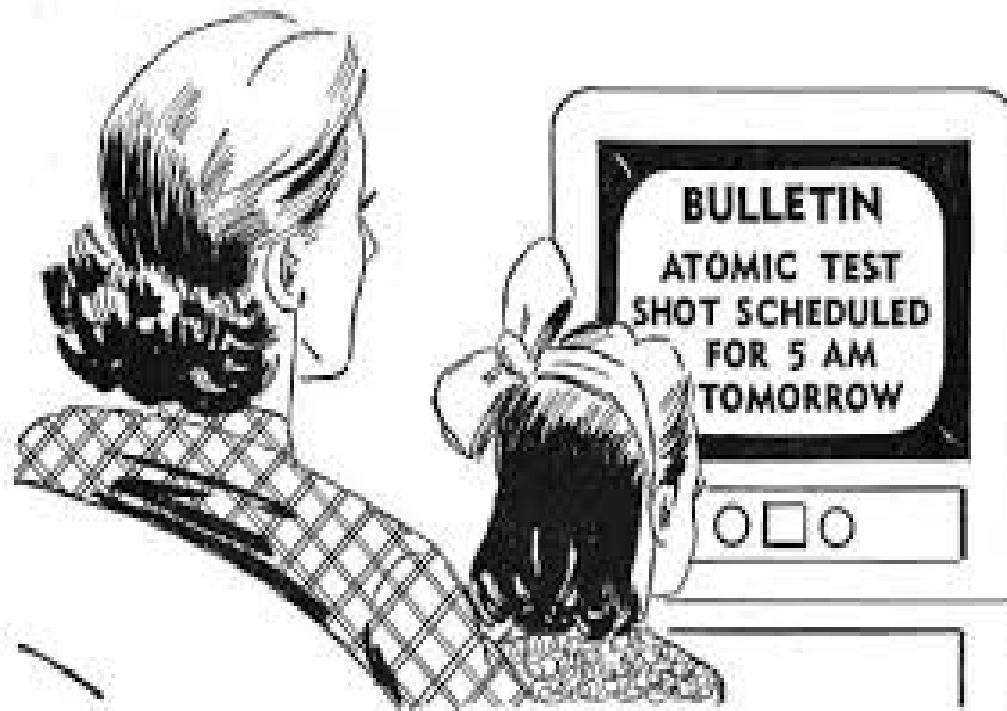
Robert Oppenheimer, "atom bomb pioneer" (NYT): «the physicists have known sin; and this is a knowledge which they cannot lose».

1950s follies in Las Vegas from near Nevada test-site



Nuclear show in Los Angeles





Fun shows



Tourist attraction



Norfolk, Veteran claims three generations of family left with deformities due to nuclear test radiation exposure, 2017

<http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/nuclear-test-veteran-from-norfolk-claims-radiation-caused-family-deformities-1-5276518>



Growth of nuclear warheads

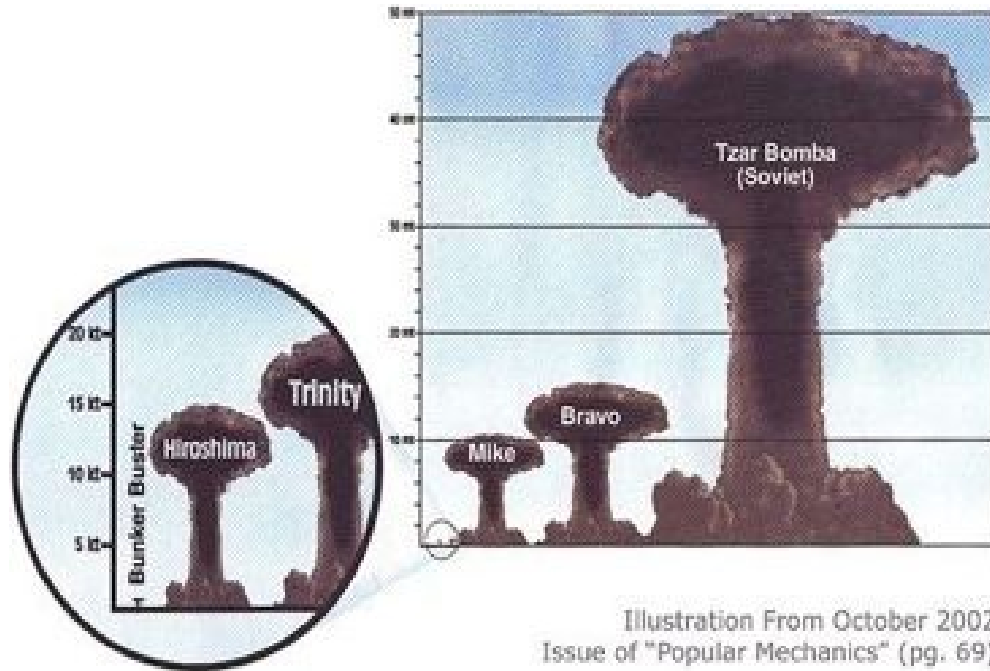
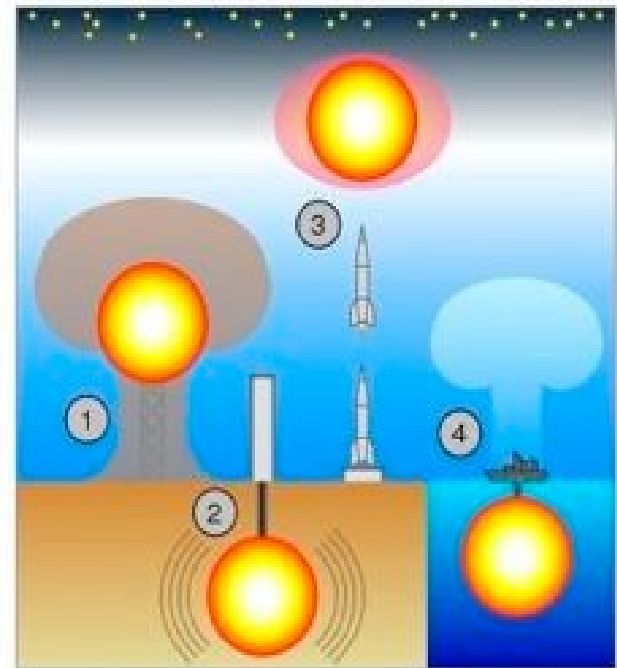


Illustration From October 2002 Issue of "Popular Mechanics" (pg. 69)



Nevada test site



Victims of nuclear tests in the US!

America's own-goal nuclear holocaust: How hundreds of above-ground Nevada A-bomb tests during the 1950s exposed MILLIONS to 'tremendous' amounts of radiation and may have killed up to 695,000

- **New research revealed Cold War nuclear tests caused more deaths than thought**
- **Radioactive pollution got into environment and food supply, especially milk**

22 December 2017

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-5206799/US-nuclear-tests-killed-civilians-Hiroshima.html>

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Celebrated victims

Epic film THE CONQUEROR, 1956, starring John Wayne as the Mongol conqueror Genghis Khan.

The exterior scenes were shot near St. George, Utah, 137 miles downwind of the Nevada Test Site.

The cast and crew spent many weeks on location.

The federal government reassured residents that the tests caused no hazard to public health.

The cast and crew totaled 220 people. By 1981, 91 of them had developed some form of cancer and 46 had died of the disease. Wayne, and others died of cancer in the mid to late 1970s.

Dr. Robert Pendleton, professor of biology at the University of Utah, stated, "*With these numbers, this case could qualify as an epidemic. The connection between fallout radiation and cancer in individual cases has been practically impossible to prove conclusively. But in a group this size you'd expect only 30 some cancers to develop...I think the tie-in to their exposure on the set of The Conqueror would hold up in a court of law.*"

January 23, 1961, a B-52 Stratofortress bomber (kept airborne at all times) carrying 2 hydrogen bombs (260 times Hiroshima's) crashed, the bombs did not possess adequate safety to prevent an accidental detonation: 1969 secret report, revealed 2013 *The Guardian*

<https://www.history.com/news/document-reveals-1961-nuclear-close-call-over-north-carolina>

SOVET UNION: Kazakstan, Semipalatinsk test site remains of concrete test towers



Nuclear crater



Kazakhstan, radiation effects facial tumor



Britain

The Observer 30 November 2003



Children's teeth contain traces of plutonium from the Sellafield plant, study. *Quintin Hooley/Reuters/Amos & Pictario*

Plutonium from Sellafield in all children's teeth



Marshall Islands

Bikini Atoll, 1946-1958, 23 nucl. Tests

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_testing_at_Bikini_Atoll





Marshall Islands, concrete deadly dome

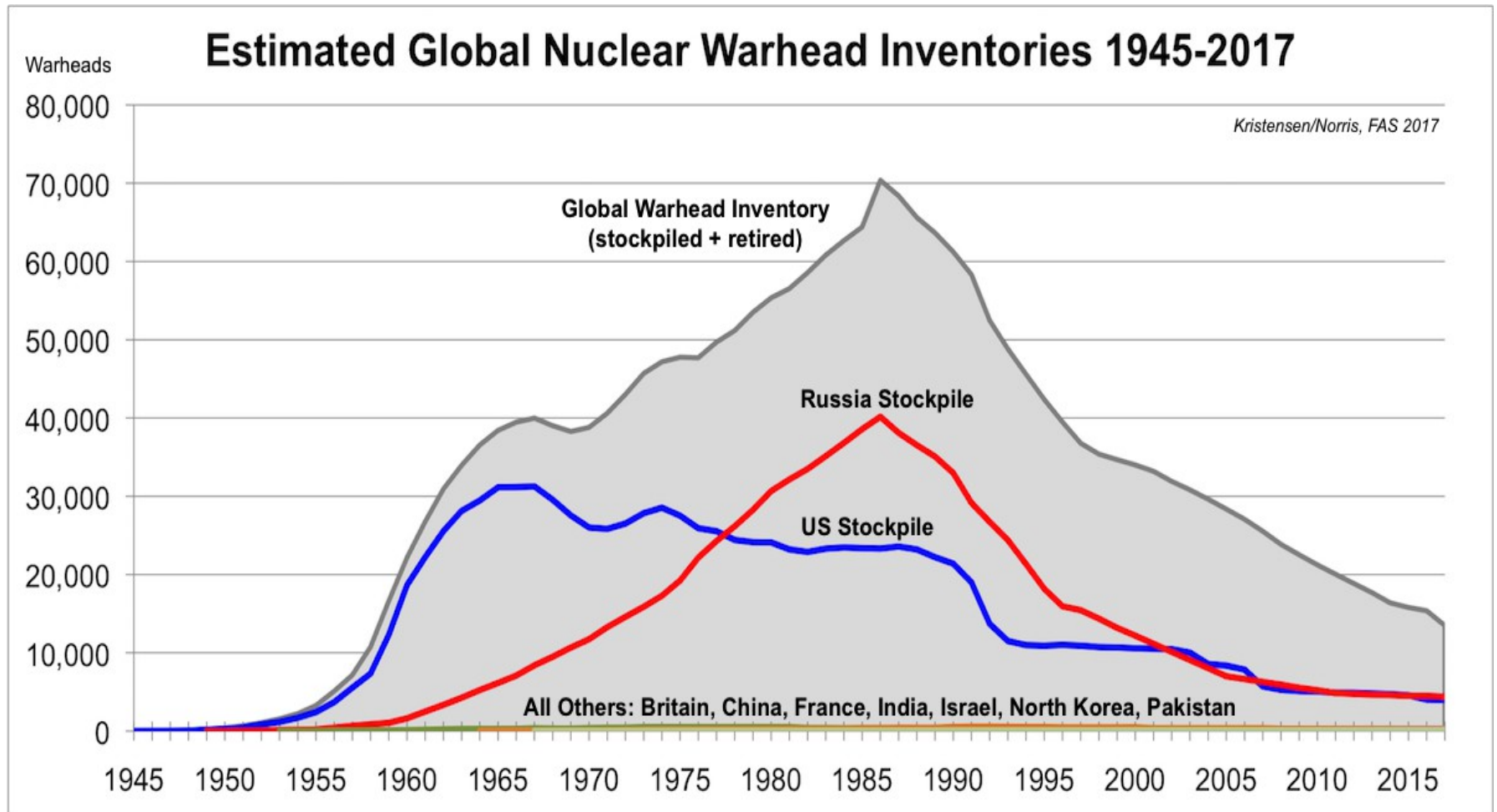


Marshall Islands affected by nuclear test



by,
Hiroshi V. Yamamura

**During the Cold War, world nuclear stockpiles peaked at the crazy number of 70.000!
The strategy was really MAD (Mutual Assured Destruction).**



After the collapse of the Soviet Union (1989) nuclear weapons apparently lost their role of deterrence, and the hope arose of their elimination.

During the 1990s in fact:

- **Strategic Arms Reduction Treaties (START), Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT, never ratified by the US);**
- **nuclear stockpiles almost halved**

But at the turn of the millennium international tensions rose again:

- **1998, India and Pakistan went nuclear (now 120-130 warheads each);**
- **September 2001, Twin Towers;**
- **2002, George Bush Jr. retired from ABM Treaty and launched the Ballistic Missile Defense Program (\$ tens billions);**
- **2003, Iraq war;**
- **2006, first nuclear test of North Korea;**
- **2011, war to Libya, against the *former ally* Khadafy!**

Nuclear disarmament strongly slowed: nuclear weapons forever!

**2010, New START Treaty, deeply unsatisfactory:
1.550 deployed warheads per part (at present total
stockpiles almost 15.000). Persisting Cold War
strategy of *launch on warning*, danger war by
error! **Noam Chomsky: "It's a miracle we are alive".****

**Russia deeply worried about Ballistic Missile
Defenses! An aggressive, not defensive system:
the country which packs it may potentially launch a
first-strike. Moscow cannot compete on this
footing.**

**Missile Defenses reinforce the danger of nuclear war
(the US never renounced *first-strike*).**

**Obama (Peace Nobel Prize!) gigantic \$ trillion
program "modernization"!**

Last updates

- **February 2018, Trump *Nuclear Posture Review*: new nuclear weapons.**
 - **March 2018, Putin DISCORSO: new missiles to skirt missile defenses.**
 - **January 2018, *Doomsday Clock***
- 2 MNUTES TO MIDNIGHT, the highest danger since 1945!**

The biggest dangers

Hard to believe that Russia may launch a nuclear *first-strike*.

Trump's *fire and fury* against North Korea is unrealistic: the US could not launch a nuclear strike: 1 surviving warhead could cause an unacceptable retaliation, fallout on South Korea (20.000 American soldiers), strong artillery (Seoul 50 Km from the border, 20 million people), China would not accept, it would be a generalized nuclear war!

THE KOREAN PROLIFERATION AND CRISIS IS THE BLATANT EVIDENCE THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE USELESS, ONLY AN EPOCHAL DANGER!

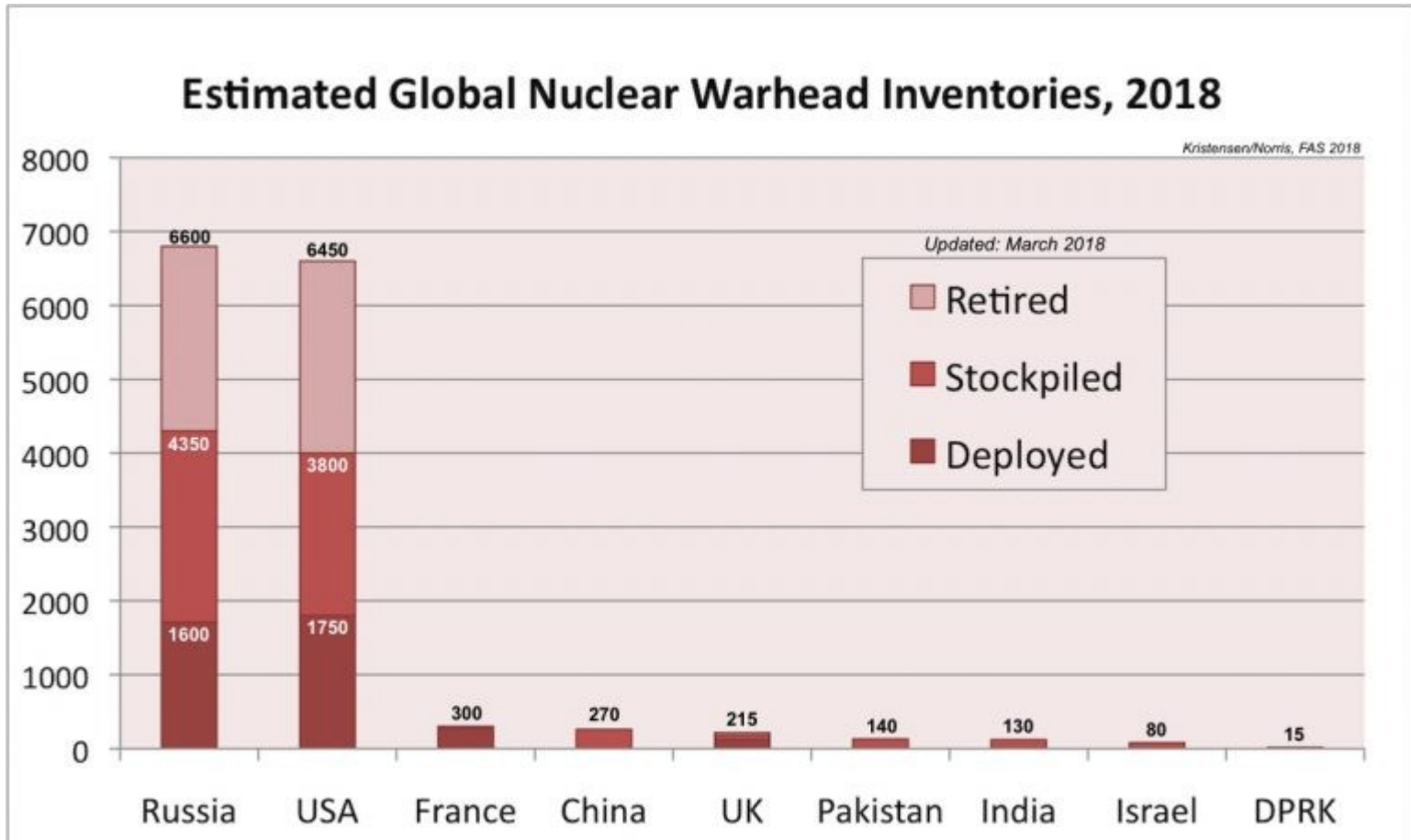
American stockpile and modernization are the strongest danger, a squandering that worsens the threats!

Other nuclear States: ~ 100-300 warheads each: China, France, UK, Israel, India, Pakistan.

India-Pakistan on brink of war, big danger.

Just 200 nuclear blasts could cause, besides the direct victims, a long “nuclear winter”, years of starvation, up to 2 billion deaths!

World nuclear stockpiles



THE NEW HOPE

7 July 2017, UN approved a new Treaty of Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

US, NATO and nuclear Sates strongly strenuously against! Although in 72 years the danger of nuclear weapons has only grown, and is unprecedented at present.

The stakes are human survival.

The wars of the future imply increasing deadly dangers. The new arms systems would be increasingly terrible and deadly (“autonomous” arms!).

The costs of wars are increasingly unacceptable.

No strategy of power, no conquest of resources may justify them.

Never in history we have produced so much wealth, but economic and social differences and discrimination, world hunger, have continuously grown, environmental problems are unprecedented.

The equivalent of military spending could solve all the problems of humankind.

Only peaceful coexistence can solve the problems of humankind.

“We have learned to fly as birds and swim as fishes, but we have not learnt to live as brothers” (Martin Luther King).