

GREAT DECISIONS

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Nuclear negotiations: Back to the Future?

Acronyms and abbreviations

ABM —anti-ballistic missiles	SDI —Strategic Defense Initiative
CTBT —Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty	SORT —Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty
DoD —Department of Defense	USSR —Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
DPRK —Democratic People’s Republic of Korea	WMD —weapons of mass destruction
EURATOM —European Atomic Energy Community	
FAS —Federation of American Scientists	
GWOT —global war on terrorism	
IAEA —International Atomic Energy Agency	
ICBM —Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles	
INF —Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty	
JCPOA —Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action	
LTBT —Limited Test Ban Treaty	
NATO —North Atlantic Treaty Organization	
NDAA —National Defense Authorization Act	
New START —New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty	
NPT —Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons	
P-5 —Permanent Five of the United Nations Security Council (U.S., UK, France, Russia and China)	
PSI —Proliferation Security Initiative	
SAC —U.S. Strategic Air Command	

Glossary

123 Agreements: Government authorizations for American companies to export materials for the creation of nuclear devices. Countries need this authorization to buy these materials from American vendors.

ABM Treaty: The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty was an agreement between the United States and Russia from 1972 to 2002 that limited the amount of anti-ballistic missiles each country could have.

Adelphi Paper #171: The Adelphi Papers are a series of academic research articles published by the International Institute for Strategic Studies. Adelphi Paper #171 by Kenneth Waltz argues that nuclear weapons can provide stability in international relations.

Atoms for Peace: Part of Operation Candor, a speech by President Eisenhower in 1953 about pathways to nuclear peace

A.Q. Khan: A Pakistani nuclear physicist who assisted in proliferating nuclear weapons and technology to several states and non-states illegally.

Baruch Plan: A 1946 proposal by the United States for the United Nations to regulate nuclear production internationally. It was never implemented after the Soviet Union rejected it.

Benjamin Netanyahu: Israel's prime minister since 2009 who has criticized the Iran nuclear deal and is generally wary of Iran's alleged nuclear program.

Berlin Crisis: 1961 crisis between the United States and Soviet Union about access to Berlin, which culminated in the construction of the Berlin Wall by the Soviet Union to prevent access to Soviet-occupied East Berlin.

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty: Proposed nuclear treaty first conceived in 1963 by President John F. Kennedy, was signed in 1996, but never put into effect. It would have stopped countries that do not have nuclear arsenals from developing them, to ban nuclear weapon testing, and limit arms development.

Cuban Missile Crisis: A 13-day 1962 nuclear standoff between the United States and the Soviet Union over the installation of nuclear-armed Soviet missiles on Cuba, 90 miles from the United States. It was a major event in the Cold War, but ended in an agreement between the U.S. and the USSR.

Daniel Ellsberg: Prominent anti-nuclear activist who gained recognition for the release of the Pentagon Papers and recently exposed government plans from the 1960s and 1970s about nuclear war.

Dmitry Medvedev: President of Russia from 2008 to 2012 and the current Prime Minister of Russia since 2012. He created a plan to develop Russia's nuclear power industry.

Dr. Herbert York: A nuclear scientist and policy adviser who worked on the Manhattan Project; later in life he advocated for arms-control.

European Atomic Energy Community: International organization consisting of members of the European Union to support and regulate nuclear energy and research.

Global Zero: An international non-profit that aims to eliminate nuclear weapons globally.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki: Japanese cities that were destroyed by atomic bombs dropped by the United States in August 1945.

Hotline Agreement: After the Cuban Missile Crisis, the United States and the Soviet Union agreed to create a communication line between the two countries for emergency situations, ultimately aiming to reduce the risk of accidental war and conflict.

Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF): 1987 treaty between the United States and Russia that banned nuclear and ballistic missiles. In 2018 Donald Trump announced his intention to withdraw the United States from the treaty after Russia violated the treaty.

International Atomic Energy Agency: International organization that aims for global nuclear cooperation and peace.

Invasion of Ukraine: In 2014, Russia invaded Crimea, a Ukrainian territory, leading to Russian annexation of Crimea and further invasion of Ukraine.

John Bolton: The current National Security Adviser of the United States since April 2018. He supports nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation.

Kim Jong-un: Supreme Leader of North Korea since 2011. He has engaged in nuclear and military tensions with President Trump.

Korean War: A 1950–53 war between North and South Korea motivated by the Cold War between the Soviet Union, which supported North Korea, and the United States, which supported South Korea.

Manhattan Project: 1939–46 American nuclear research project that constructed the United States' first nuclear weapons.

Mikhail Gorbachev: Last President of the Soviet Union from 1990 to 1991, who held several political positions in the Soviet Union prior to his presidency. He is known for ending the Cold War.

Muammar Gaddafi: The dictator of Libya from 1969 until his assassination in 2011. He gave up Libya's arsenal of nuclear weapons to end economic sanctions against the country.

“New Look” strategy: President Dwight D. Eisenhower's national security policy for the United States, which shifted funding from the army and the navy to nuclear development, strategy and security.

New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START): 2010 treaty between the United States and

Russia that aimed to halve the number of nuclear missiles each country had. It replaced the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty.

Nuclear Nonproliferation Act of 1978: A United States law that aims to promote nuclear peace and reduce the threat of nuclear weapons globally.

“Omnicide”: A term used by Daniel Ellsberg to describe human erasure from the use of nuclear weapons.

Operation Candor: A public relations and media campaign under President Eisenhower to educate and inform the American public about nuclear facts and news.

Osirak: The site of one of Iraq’s nuclear reactors, which Israel attacked in 1981.

Outer Space Treaty: 1967 United Nations treaty that banned nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction from outer space.

Proliferation Security Initiative: Global initiative created by the United States in 2003 with the goal of ending illegal trafficking of nuclear weapons and materials used to produce them.

“Reset” policy: A 2009 Obama administration policy between the United States and Russia “resetting” U.S.-Russia relations in order to achieve mutual interests of the two countries.

Ronald Reagan: President of the United States from 1981 to 1980. He was responsible for implementing the INF Treaty with the Soviet Union, and was influential toward the end of the Cold War.

Space Force: Announced by President Donald Trump in 2018 as a potential sixth branch of the U.S. military, it is planned to control American military interests in outer space.

Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI/Star Wars): An initiative launched by Ronald Reagan in 1983 to defend the United States against ballistic nuclear weapons with missiles.

Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT): 2003 treaty between the United States and Russia that aimed to reduce each country’s nuclear weapon arsenal.

TNT: A unit of measurement for evaluating the energy of nuclear explosions.

Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT): 1970 agreement to achieve nuclear peace through disarmament and the prevention of nuclear weapon development. 191 countries have signed this treaty.

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: A 2017 treaty that negotiates the prohibition of nuclear weapons, ultimately aiming for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

URENCO: A supplier of nuclear fuel and uranium used for generating electricity around the world.

Yugoslavia: A country from 1918 to 1992 that consisted of areas of present-day Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo. It was dissolved due to ethnic conflicts within the country.