

## 4/The Third Nuclear Age: Trump, the Order, and the Bomb

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### Acronyms and abbreviations

**NPT:** The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, signed in 1968, is an international agreement aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons while promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It rests on three key pillars: nonproliferation, disarmament, and the right to peaceful nuclear technology.

**WMD:** Weapons of mass destruction are arms capable of causing large-scale death and destruction, usually including nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. They can devastate large populations, making their proliferation a global security concern.

### Historical Events/Concepts:

**Liberal Hegemony:** Liberal hegemony is a concept in international relations where the dominant power seeks to spread liberal democratic values, open markets, and international institutions across the world. The U.S., after the Cold War, implemented a policy of liberal hegemony.

**Nonproliferation Regime:** The nonproliferation regime refers to the global network of treaties, institutions, and norms designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and related technologies. Centered around the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), it promotes disarmament, safeguards peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and seeks to maintain international security.

**Liberal International Order:** The liberal international order is a system of global governance based on rules,

and norms that promote democracy, free markets, human rights, and multilateral cooperation. Established after WWII, it is encompassed by institutions like the United Nations, World Bank, and International Monetary Fund. Its main goal is to maintain peace, stability, and prosperity through shared values and collective action.

**The First Nuclear Age:** The First Nuclear Age refers to the period in the 1940s after the creation of nuclear weapons through the end of the Cold War. During this era, deterrence, arms races, and the doctrine of mutually assured destruction shaped international relations.

**The Second Nuclear Age:** The Second Nuclear Age refers to the post-Cold War, unipolar era, when nuclear threats arose from the spread of nuclear weapons beyond the U.S. and Russia to additional states and non-state actors. Stability was achieved during this period by incorporating nuclear weapons into unipolar liberal hegemony.

**1997 Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Act:** The 1997 Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Act was a U.S. initiative aimed at reducing the threat of weapons of mass destruction after the collapse of the USSR. It provided funding and technical assistance to help former Soviet states to dismantle nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

**1994 Budapest Memorandum:** The 1994 Budapest Memorandum was an agreement in which Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan gave up their nuclear weapons inherited from the USSR in exchange for security assurances. Signed by the United States, the United Kingdom, and Russia, it pledged to respect the countries' independence, sovereignty, and existing borders.

**Manhattan Project:** The Manhattan Project was a secret U.S. research and development program to create the first nuclear weapons. It culminated in the development of the atomic bomb, marking the beginning of the nuclear age.

**Unipolar Hegemony:** Unipolar hegemony refers to an international system dominated by a single, powerful state. In the post-Cold War era, the U.S. was the unipolar hegemon.

**NATO:** NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is a military alliance established in 1949 by North American and European countries to ensure collective defense against external threats. Under its principle—Article 5—an attack on one member is considered an attack on all.