

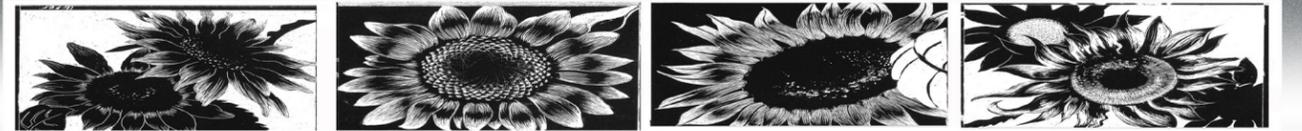


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NUKEWATCH QUARTERLY



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News & Information on Nuclear Weapons, Power, Waste & Nonviolent Resistance

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New Nuclear War "Posture" Degrades National Security

Editor's note: *The Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) is the government's most detailed unclassified nuclear weapons and war planning document. The latest NPR provides smart-sounding euphemistic and abstract terminology to journalists and others who study or report on nuclear weapons. Since such weapons produce firestorms and mass destruction on such a vast scale that adequate medical responses are impossible, the government uses bland, nondescript terminology to advocate the "need" and "usefulness" of H-bombs.*



Engineers lay hands on a Cruise missile warhead.

WWII the US has threatened to use nuclear weapons in the Korean and Vietnam wars, and on many other occasions.

Further, it is hypocritical to point to Russia and China's "modernization" programs as if they are taking place independently. The US has been upgrading its nuclear arsenal all along. In the last few years our country has embarked on a \$1.7 trillion modernization program to completely rebuild its nuclear weapons production complex and all weapons based on land, in the air and at sea.

In Santa Fe, Nuclear Watch New Mexico keeps a critical eye on nuclear policy programs and problems at the state's two national laboratories that design and produce nuclear weapons—Los Alamos and Sandia. In the following article, the group provides expert analysis of the latest official NPR gibberish.

The new NPR begins with, "Many [had] hoped [that] conditions had been set for deep reductions in global nuclear arsenals, and, perhaps, for their elimination. These aspirations have not been realized. America's strategic competitors have not followed our example. The world is more dangerous, not less." The Review then points to Russia and China's ongoing nuclear weapons modernization programs and North Korea's "nuclear provocations." It concludes, "We must look reality in the eye and see the world as it is, not as we wish it be."

If the US government were to really "look reality in the eye and see the world as it is," it would recognize that it is failing miserably to lead the world toward the abolition of the only class of weapons that is a true existential threat to our country. As an obvious historic matter, the US is the first and only country to use nuclear weapons. Since

Moreover, Russia and China's modernization programs are driven in large part by their perceived need to preserve strategic stability and deterrence by having the ability to overwhelm the US's growing ballistic missile defenses. Ronald Reagan's pursuit of "Star Wars" (fed by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's false promises of success) blocked a nuclear weapons abolition agreement in 1988 with the former Soviet Union. In 2002, George W. Bush unilaterally withdrew the US from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, which has been a source of constant friction with the Russian government ever since.

More recently, at Israel's request, the US blocked the 2015 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference at the UN in New York from agreeing to a summit on creating a nuclear weapon-free zone in the Middle East (Israel has never signed the treaty). As an over arching matter, the US and other nuclear-armed treaty signatories have never honored the Treaty's Article VI mandate "to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament..." in effect since 1970. As a consequence, last year more than 120 countries at the UN passed a nuclear weapons ban treaty.

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