

Drawing Conclusions

Benchmark III

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Nuclear weapons display the epitome of human ingenuity, and our capacity for destruction; for decades they have represented the extent humans are willing to go for power, prestige, and security. They are complex, stealthy, innovative, and treacherous-having been used only once in actual warfare- they haunt and frighten the world's citizens. Non-proliferation has its origins immediately after their use in Japan during World War II by Robert J. Oppenheimer. Oppenheimer chaired the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission- opposing proliferation, and the creation of more powerful bombs- he supervised so that it did not lead to further death and destruction because he was intuitive enough to know that his research would lead to an arms race, "We knew the world would not be the same."- Oppenheimer ("JRO"). So the question remains, "what to do with these weapons"? Elimination, arms control, and deterrence are sought after solutions- which as single units- have shown unsatisfying to mediocre results, leaving one viable action, a hybrid of diplomatic militarism: alliances and diplomacy, deterrence, and a nuclear weapons free zone.

"Eliminating nuclear weapons now" is wishful thinking and down right impossible. Nuclear weapons cannot be eliminated; they can only be dismantled, leaving their presence to haunt us. If we were to rely on arms control, this implies diplomacy, and to quote current United States President Obama, "We can't talk forever; at some point, steps have to be taken, so that people can see progress..." ("Obama wants progress"). Alas nuclear weapons will spread; diplomacy only prolongs the inevitable. Using nuclear weapons as an essential part of national security will lead to the use of deterrence, which is an unfavorable approach because bitterness and animosity between nations. If the 5 declared nuclear nations that signed the NPT were to ally themselves through diplomatic means as the leaders of non-proliferation, it would prevent nuclear pandemonium. In this said alliance all involved will have equal power, regardless of

nuclear might. Of course such a unity is easier said than done, all nations in the NPT nuclear club have showed signs of wanting to prevent any more nuclear proliferation, with this in mind and the environmental and economic rewards of reducing the current stock piles would be fundamental motives in which to start. The Nuclear club will also dramatically reduce their nuclear total; Russia and the United States will drop to a flat 10,000 (currently the US holds an estimated 10,300 and Russia holds an estimated 16,000) and for assurance the IAEA plus inspectors from the nuclear 5. Whereas China and France will drop to 200 and have similar interaction with inspectors (China has an estimated 410 nuclear weapons, France has an estimated 350, and the United Kingdom has an estimated 200) ("Nuclear Numbers").

The option of deterrence is a belligerent take, however, when the safety of humanity is at stake, deterrence appears to be -along with diplomatic alliances and a nuclear weapons free zone- a helpful resource for the security of the human race. The arms race between the United States and Russia was a major theme during the Cold War; their linear thinking to deter and over power one another inspired other nations to acquire nuclear weaponry. During the Cold war nations wanted the power and prestige the superpowers were given; those are still motivators for aggressive nations currently wanting nuclear weapons. Nations seeking nuclear weapons, and those that are neoteric to nuclear weapons will be considered aggressive and a threat to peace and humanity. Nations like Iran that “allegedly” want nuclear weapons; and nations like North Korea who by allegation have them are aggressors and will be deterred by those in the NPT to stop further advancement. Deterrence will also put pressure on nations not in the NPT like Israel and India to decrease the threat they impose, and in addition, halt their rising nuclear arsenal.

Beyond diplomacy and deterrence a nuclear free zone (specified regions in which countries commit themselves not to manufacture, acquire, test, or possess nuclear weapons;

“NWFZ”) needs conception. Current non-NPT signatories would be forced, through deterrence, to create a nuclear free zone. Those nations that are suspected but have not set an official statement declining or admitting, will be searched, if found those with weapons of mass destruction will be forced to completely dismantle. Though only a handful of countries are the cause, it will affect two geographical regions: the Middle East and South Asia.

Diplomatic militarism, a fusion of: diplomatic alliances, deterrence, and a nuclear weapon free zone, would ensure mankind’s safety when applied to nonproliferation. In order to work efficiently it requires the cooperation of everyone, where they are united under one goal. It requires differences to be put aside in order to ally and to fend off any threats. Under this principle people must stop thinking about themselves and think of the safety of the world.

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