
V. NUCLEAR WEAPONS TODAY

NUCLEAR WEAPONS WORLDWIDE

The INF-treaty (Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty = Treaty for the comprehensive abolition of Intermediate Nuclear Forces between the US and former Soviet Union) and the end of the Cold War stopped the nuclear arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union. However, the threat to humans by nuclear weapons didn't end. Humans began to feel safe with the ending of the east-west tensions.

Nuclear weapons worldwide

Many nuclear weapons have been dismantled since the 90s – most notably by Russia and the United States. Yet the existing warheads have together enough power to destroy our earth more than once.

	Nuclear warheads
Official Nuclear Weapon States	
USA	7 315
Russia	8 000
China	250
France	300
Great Britain	225
Unofficial Nuclear Weapon States	
India	90-110
Pakistan	100-120
Israel	80
North Korea	0 – 10
TOTAL	~16 300

(Nuclear weapons worldwide. (www.fas.org, 12/2014))

The official Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) are those five states which already tested nuclear weapons until the signing of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1968: the USA, the Soviet Union / Russia, China, France and Great Britain. These five happened to be the so called P5 of the United Nations which have a constant seat in the UN Security Council and the right to veto decisions.

India and Pakistan never joined the NPT. Since their nuclear weapons tests in spring 1998, they rank among the unofficial NWS. It is not clear how many of their nuclear weapons are operational. North Korea had been a signer of the NPT until its withdrawal in 2003. There is no concrete evidence of its nuclear arsenals, but the tests in 2006 and 2009 confirm that North Korea has the capability to produce nuclear weapons.

Israel is also no member of the NPT. It neither has confirmed nor denied to be in the possession of nuclear weapons. The amount of 80 warheads is estimated by experts. Former nuclear scientist Vanunu who worked for the Israeli nuclear program brought the secret program to public and was persecuted by Israel and put into prison for a long time. He is still in house detention.

BEE-BEE SIMULATION

MATERIALS: Metal container, 2400 beads or beans

TIME AND LOCATION: 5 Minutes, a silent space

Ask the participants to close their eyes and explain them that they will listen to two sounds.

The first sound represents the whole power explosive force of the First and Second World War including the two nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This results all together three megatons TNT equivalent. This is the sound of the first bead that drops into the metal container.

Repeat the sound of the first bead.

The second sound stands for the explosion power of all nuclear weapons existing in the world today – about 16.300. Drop slowly the 2400 beads in the metal container. After the last one dropped make a short moment of silence. Afterwards you can give the participants the chance to talk about their experience.

COUNTRY QUIZ

MATERIALS: World map, signs with nuclear warheads (5), symbols of radioactivity (4), sunflowers (6), country cards **TIME AND LOCATION:** 20-30 minutes depending on the knowledge of participants, circle with world map in the middle

Unfold the world map in front of the group and distribute the country cards to participants. Then they read out one after the other the name of their countries and the others guess the nuclear situation of the country and the person reads out the solution. The classification is the following:

Official nuclear weapon states: USA, Russia, China, France, Great Britain

Unofficial nuclear weapon states: India, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel

Nuclear Weapon Free Zones: Antarctica, Latin America and Caribbean, Africa, Ukraine, Mongolia, South Pacific (Australia – Philippines)

The example for country cards:

USA

Second biggest arsenal of nuclear weapons with **7 315**

Biggest explosion power

Renewing their arsenals and develop new types of nuclear weapons like Mininukes and Bunker Busters which are claimed to be necessary to react on new security threats

Official nuclear power and member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty

Russia

Biggest arsenal of nuclear weapons with **8 000**

It is not certain whether there are fissile materials of the Soviet Union left in former Soviet Republics. Official nuclear power and member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty

France

Around **300** usable nuclear weapons

All can be used global

And around 1260 nuclear warheads produced from 1945 until 2002

Official nuclear power and member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty

UK

225 nuclear warheads are in the British arsenal. They are leased from the USA.

Except for 25 warheads that are a reserve, all nuclear weapons are based on Trident submarines at Faslane, Scotland. On 14th March 2007, the British parliament decided to renew the Trident nuclear weapons programme.

Official nuclear power and member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty

China

Around **250** usable nuclear weapons
From them only 20 can be used global
And around 600 nuclear warheads produced from 1945 until 2002
Official nuclear power and member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty

Germany

not an official nuclear weapons country
Member of the NATO Nuclear Sharing arrangement so that around **20 US-nuclear weapons** are deployed at the German Army airport Büchel where German soldiers are training to use these weapons with German Tornado planes. Many experts question the legality of this, as according to the NPT, non-nuclear weapon states are not allowed to take nuclear weapons from anyone.
Other countries of the nuclear sharing are Belgium, Italy, Netherlands and Turkey.

Israel

Experts estimate that Israel owns around **200** nuclear weapons.
Israel never officially announced that it has nuclear weapons, but also never renounced it.
Not part of the NPT so it's an „inofficial nuclear power“

India

around **90 to 110** nuclear weapons.
Not part of the NPT so it's an „inofficial nuclear power“

North Korea

Since their nuclear test on October 9th, 2006, it is certain that North Korea owns nuclear weapons. US intelligence says that North Korea had already built at least **two** nuclear weapons before then.
2003, North Korea withdrew from the NPT.

Iran

Iran does not own nuclear weapons.
The USA and Israel suspected that Iran may develop a secret nuclear weapons programme because the IAEA found out that in the past Iran has enriched more Uranium than it declared to the Agency. The western countries call on Iran for giving up its program even if Iran has the right to enrich Uranium for civil purposes after international law. The USA calls for hard sanctions – they all not offering Iran what he needs as a declare enemy: security insurances
Iran says that it does not intend to build nuclear weapons.

Iraq

Contrary to suspicions that led to the Iraq war in 2003, Iraq has never owned nuclear weapons.

Marshall-Islands

The Marshall Islands belong to **the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone of South Pazific**.
The USA has carried out nuclear tests on the atolls Bikini and Eniwetok. Some areas have been declared prohibited areas for 24.000 years. Until today, the USA does not accept compensation demands by affected citizens.

Ukraine

This former Soviet Republic has become nuclear weapons free after becoming independent from the Soviet Union. Until 1996, all nuclear weapons were withdrawn to Russia, and Ukraine signed the NPT.
The Defense Ministers from Ukraine, Russia and the USA symbolically planted sunflowers at the former deployment sites.

South Africa

South Africa destroyed its six nuclear weapons shortly before the end of Apartheid, and became part of the NPT in 1991, to re-integrate into international society.

In 1996, South Africa and all other African countries founded the **Nuclear Weapons Free Zone of Africa**.

Mongolia

Since 1992, Mongolia is the only internationally recognized **Nuclear Weapons Free Zone** which consists only of one state.

Mexico

Mexico belongs to the **Nuclear Weapons Free Zone of Latin America and the Caribbean**.

Uzbekistan

On 8th September 2006, Uzbekistan together with Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan signed a treaty to found the **Nuclear Weapons Free Zone of Central Asia** – against the will of the UK, USA and France.

