

The PLEA

Vol. 34 No. 3

70 Years of the Bomb



Hiroshima

The highly-mediated world
of news reporting

Non-Proliferation

Controlling dangerous
technology

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PLEA 

Legal Information for Everyone

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Don't stop learning now!

It has been seventy years since the invention of the nuclear bomb. As the most destructive physical force ever devised, it is significant to many people for many reasons. Understanding it can be done through the study of science, the study of the humanities, or the study of international law—just to name a few ways!

This issue of *The PLEA* will help build your understandings about the bomb. Largely focused on the early years of nuclear weapons, it considers:

- who developed the bomb,
- what kind of damage the bombs dropped on Japan caused,
- how government and media shaped public understandings of these bombings, and
- why the bomb's destructive power has led to international laws to control it.

While suitable for most any reader, *70 Years of the Bomb* has been written for use with the National Sovereignty and Collective Security unit of History 20 and the International Law unit of Law 30.

Development of the Bomb

Einstein's theory $E=mc^2$ led physicists to start seriously thinking about ways to split atoms and eventually to the development of the atom bomb.

On July 16, 1945, the American government detonated the first atomic bomb. This pre-dawn test on a stretch of semi-desert New Mexico land—officially given the code name Trinity—is widely considered to be the beginning of the Atomic Age. While the explosion may be a symbolic beginning, the dawn of the Atomic Age happened long before the Trinity test. Years of research across many countries led to the creation of nuclear weapons.

To pinpoint exactly when the atomic bomb was conceived is difficult. To understand the bomb's history, perhaps it is most useful to look at Albert Einstein's 1905 theory of special relativity and its famous equation, $E=mc^2$. This theory posits that mass and energy are the same thing. Put more simply, most of the universe's energy is concentrated within atoms. This means that if atoms could be broken apart, the energy that binds them together could be released. The amount of energy that would come from this is immense: the total energy stored in one kilogram of any substance is equivalent to the energy released from burning three *billion* kilograms of coal using conventional methods.



Albert Einstein lecturing in Vienna, 1921.

Photo by Ferdinand Schmutzer; Public domain via Wikimedia Commons.

Einstein's theory led physicists to start seriously thinking about ways to split atoms. The first atom was split by New Zealand-born physicist Ernest Rutherford in 1917. However, he believed that it would be impossible to break atoms apart in a manner that would provide sustained energy.

Hungarian physicist Leó Szilárd felt differently. Living in London in the 1930s, he came up with the idea of the "chain reaction." Szilárd was thinking about the three types of particles that make up an atom: protons, neutrons, and electrons. He thought that if an atom could be hit with a spare neutron, that atom would break apart. The neutrons from the broken atom would hit other atoms, break these atoms apart, and thus spark a chain reaction of breaking atoms. This, Szilárd believed, was the way to efficiently release the energy that binds atoms together.

Physicists in places like London, Chicago, and Montreal were working hard to make Szilárd's idea a reality. To the alarm of many, so were physicists in Nazi Germany. This led Albert Einstein—on behalf of several leading scientists—to send a letter to American President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The letter lobbied the President to speed up nuclear research, and secure a supply of uranium, the fuel needed for atomic energy. Roosevelt agreed, and convened an advisory committee.

Originally, Roosevelt's nuclear research program was small. However, the bombing of Pearl Harbor in

1941 propelled the United States into World War II and led the Americans to re-think their research efforts. Thus, the "Manhattan Project" was born: an ambitious two-billion-dollar project to explore atomic energy and ultimately create an atomic bomb.

The Manhattan Project was led by General Leslie Groves. He was tasked with setting up and overseeing the program, including building research facilities to develop atomic technology and manufacturing plants to purify uranium ore. Groves hired Robert Oppenheimer, a leading physicist of the time, to lead the scientific research. Oppenheimer gathered the elite of the scientific community and moved them to a secret town in Los Alamos, New Mexico. There, they were tightly monitored by the American government and not even allowed to discuss their

atom-splitting work with family members.

The Manhattan Project was a massive—and in many ways global—project. Primarily an American project but

supported by the United Kingdom and Canada, it included scientists from around the world and in total employed 130,000 people in dozens of locations. Canadian connections to the Manhattan Project include the Montreal Laboratory that housed much of the Canadian, British, and French research on building nuclear weapons. As well, some of the project's uranium came from Canadian mines.

By 1944, it was becoming obvious that Germany was going to lose the war in Europe. As Germany fell, the Americans learned that the Germans had never come close to creat-

ing an atomic bomb. However, this did not put a stop to the Manhattan Project. Instead, the American efforts increased as the war raged on in the Pacific. Their efforts at developing the world's first nuclear weapon proved successful with the July 16, 1945 Trinity test.

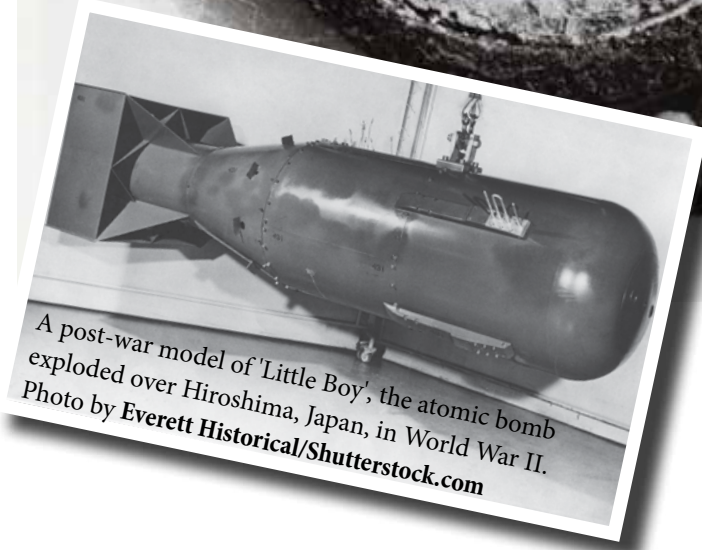
At the time of the Trinity test, Japan was still at war with the Allies. Then-president Harry Truman demanded full surrender, but the Japanese—though experiencing mounting military and civilian casualties—carried on fighting. Further complicating things for Japan was that Stalin had agreed in 1943 that Russia would join the war against Japan once Germany was defeated. These factors led many to believe that Japan's defeat was inevitable. For many American military planners, however, it was a matter of how to end the war: a bloody land invasion involving hundreds of thousands of troops or dropping atomic bombs.

In preparation for dropping atomic bombs on Japan, American forces issued commands to leave several Japanese cities untouched by conventional bombs. This would enable them to demonstrate to the Japanese and understand for themselves the bomb's effects.

On August 6, 1945 American forces dropped an atom bomb on Hiroshima. However, this did not bring about immediate Japanese surrender. Three days later, on August 9, Russians invaded Japan and Americans bombed Nagasaki. President Truman promised to "continue to use [the bomb] until we completely destroy Japan's power to make war." Already having suffered a two-year-long string of losses, Emperor Hirohito realized defeat was imminent. He ordered a Japanese surrender, thus ending World War II. 🇺🇸

THE TOTAL ENERGY STORED IN ONE KILOGRAM OF ANY SUBSTANCE IS EQUIVALENT TO THE ENERGY RELEASED FROM BURNING THREE BILLION KILOGRAMS OF COAL USING CONVENTIONAL METHODS.

The Hiroshima explosion was recorded at 8:15am on August 6 1945 on a watch found in the ruins. Photo by Yuichiro Sasaki, Everett Historical/ Shutterstock.com



A post-war model of 'Little Boy', the atomic bomb exploded over Hiroshima, Japan, in World War II. Photo by Everett Historical/Shutterstock.com

DISCUSS

1. Even though the American government created the atomic bomb, it was a multi-national effort. In fact, international cooperation and technology sharing has been a central component of every nuclear project that has ever taken place, be it for peaceful or for armament purposes. What does this tell us about the inter-connectivity of the world?
2. There are many reasons why Germany failed to develop an atomic bomb. One major factor was Germany's ethnic and political cleansings. The cleansings left the country without many of its great thinkers. Several scientists who fled Nazi Germany ended up working on the Manhattan Project. What does this tell us about making assumptions based on race or creed?
3. Were the Americans justified in using the atomic bomb to end the war?

Manhattan Project? Wasn't the bomb built in New Mexico?

Much of the scientific research into developing the bomb was completed in New Mexico. However, the project to build the world's first atomic bomb began in Manhattan. This is partly due to the fact that atomic energy research was already taking place at Columbia University. Other reasons that the American Army chose Manhattan included:

- nearby shipping docks made it easier to import rare uranium;
- many military units were stationed close by; and
- several scientists who had fled Germany were living in and around Manhattan.

Originally, the name "Laboratory for the Development of Substitute Materials" was proposed as the name for the project. However, General Leslie Groves wanted a name that would not draw special attention to the undertaking. Thus, he followed standard U.S. Army practice of naming engineering operations by geographical location. Hence, it was given the name Manhattan Engineer District. This was later shortened to the Manhattan Project.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki

The Damage and the Reporting

When the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the immediate reaction—especially in the United States—was one of triumph. This public reaction was partially created by the U.S. military. They portrayed the bombings around two premises:

1. The United States had dropped atom bombs on military targets. As then-President Harry Truman said in a radio address: “The world will note that the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, a military base. That was because we wished in this first attack to avoid, insofar as possible, the killing of civilians.”
2. The events were recounted from the perspective of the B-29 bombers, thus giving priority to the mushroom cloud in the sky and not the damage on the ground.

The media largely followed the American government’s line. This led to news reports that largely ignored the unprecedented suffering and damage on the ground, as newspaper reports and magazine spreads glorified the mushroom cloud in words and pictures.

Contrary to U.S. reports, however, Hiroshima and Nagasaki were not military bases. They were cities similar in size to Denver or Portland. The damage was extraordinary, especially in human terms. Of the two cities, Hiroshima sustained the worst harm.



Mushroom Cloud of atom bomb exploded over Nagasaki, Japan, on August 9, 1945. Photo by Everett Historical/Shutterstock.com

Almost everything and everybody within a two-kilometre radius of the explosion in Hiroshima perished. The massive death and destruction on the ground was due to several factors:

- The blast had the pressure of several hundred thousand atmospheres. Because of the negative pressure created by the outward rush of air, the wind almost immediately swept back in, amplifying the blast’s effects.
- The heat ray at the centre of the blast reached an estimated 3000 - 4000 degrees Celsius. This immediately incinerated almost everything and everyone in its path. Further out, fires from cookstoves in collapsed homes sparked infernos in the rubble, burning alive trapped survivors.
- The radiation produced by the bomb had both an immediate and a lasting poisoning effect. Initially, people within three kilometres of the blast suffered from radiation poisoning. Shortly afterwards, a soot-filled rain spread radiation as far as 25 kilometres outside of Hiroshima. Because radiation lingers, even those who were outside the three-kilometre radius and who avoided the rain were poisoned as days went on.

So while the destruction of property was phenomenal, even more shocking was the death, injury, and suffering experienced by civilians.

The first comprehensive report to emerge in Western media about the ground-level impact of the blast came from Australian war reporter Wilfred Burchett. Burchett managed to get to Hiroshima before the official American media convoy. His report “The Atomic Plague” appeared in the September 5, 1945 *London Daily Express*. It was not approved by American military censors. While the article discussed the physical damage, more central to the piece was Burchett’s “warning to the world”: his graphic descriptions of how people—even those untouched by the initial bombing—were falling ill and dying from sores, bleeding, and flesh that started “rotting away from the hole” created by vitamin injections given to survivors. Even Burchett himself fell ill with radiation poisoning. He spent several days in a military hospital. Upon his release, he discovered that the film from his camera had been confiscated.

The American media—in conjunction with the American military—tried to dispel such reports. For example, *The New York Times* reported on September 12 that stories of radiation poisoning were nothing more than “Japanese propaganda.” These reports were written despite the fact that many of these reporters had visited Hiroshima. In fact, General Groves, the military head of the Manhattan Project, went so far as to say that even if there was radiation poisoning, doctors claimed “it is a very pleasant way to die.”

However, by 1946 it was becoming increasingly impossible for the official narrative to carry on. Foreign and domestic media reports were starting to outline human suffering from radiation poisoning. Meanwhile, a handful of official government reports theoretically outlined how radiation from atomic bombs could cause human suffering. And perhaps most importantly, there were American journalists who had seen the suffering in Hiroshima first-hand during their U.S. Military-overseen trips but had not reported on it.

A report by journalist John Hersey is widely acknowledged as the work that finally changed the American public's understanding about what happened in Hiroshima. Hersey was sent to Hiroshima in May 1946 to report on the aftermath of the bomb for *Life* and *The New Yorker*. He went there with the belief that an atomic bomb should never be used again, and what Hersey learned dramatically confirmed his belief. After spending three weeks interviewing survivors, he chose six of their stories for his 31,000 word article simply titled "Hiroshima." It graphically recounted their experiences in a plain and detached language, conveying facts with little mediation. Hersey later claimed he chose this style of writing so "the reader's experience would be as direct as possible."

The New Yorker's editors believed that "Hiroshima" was of incredible public importance. They decided to devote the entire August 31, 1946 edition of the magazine to Hersey's work, instead of their original plan to print it in four parts. *The New Yorker* also reached out to other media to ensure "Hiroshima" received the widest-possible audience. Following its widely-publicized initial publication, "Hiroshima" was offered for reprint to other newspapers, ABC was granted free broadcast rights, and by November it was printed in book form and being given away by the Book of the Month Club. These efforts worked. "Hiroshima" became a nationwide sensation, with an overwhelmingly positive response.

"Hiroshima" dramatically reshaped American understandings about the atomic bomb. Its widespread publication worked to end the U.S. military's official narrative about the atomic bombing of Japan. By telling the story from the ground, it forced the public to consider the bomb from a perspective other than the view from the air while debunking the military line that the army simply attacked military bases.



DISCUSS

1. Although the American media eventually reported accurate facts about the effects of the bomb on Hiroshima, it took them a year to do so in-depth. In fact, even after America's Office of Censorship had closed, the media still largely avoided discussion of the effects of the bomb on Japanese civilians.
 - a) Should American reporters have bypassed U.S. military censors and reported on the bomb's effects earlier?
 - b) What do you think are the responsibilities of media during war?
2. Most of the proceeds from "Hiroshima" and its reprints were donated to charitable causes, including the six victims the article profiled. Is it proper for news organizations—or anyone, for that matter—to profit from human suffering?
3. What does the media coverage of the Hiroshima bombing tell us about the media's power to create news and contribute to our conception of common sense?
4. Consider your answer to Question 3 on Page 3, "Were the Americans justified in using the atomic bomb to end the war?" Knowing more about the human impact of the atomic bomb, is your response to this question different?

Shhh!!! War and Media Censorship

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the American government created The Office of Censorship. Its purpose was to keep wartime secrets from being learned by enemies, while helping to ensure domestic unity.

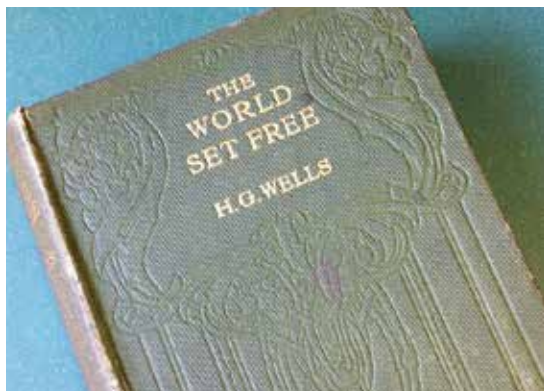
President Roosevelt chose Byron Price, the executive news editor of the Associated Press, as the office's director. Price believed that censorship should be voluntary. For Price, this would get the media onside and make them part of the overall war effort.

The effort was successful. The majority of coverage of the war was upbeat, and very few breaches of the voluntary censorship code are known to have happened. One noteworthy exception, though, was a March 1944 report in a Cleveland newspaper that revealed "Uncle Sam's mystery town" in Los Alamos. General Groves was so enraged by the story, he floated the idea of drafting the story's writer to the Pacific Theatre of war. Upon learning the reporter was in his sixties, Groves changed his mind. The military ended up simply ensuring the story was not syndicated to other papers.

With the end of the war, the Office closed on August 15, 1945. The code was cancelled and Price famously placed an "Out of Business" sign on the office's door. Even so, it has been reported that President Truman had secretly asked media outlets to continue following the code.

Nuclear

The world has been living with the reality of the nuclear bomb for 70 years. Here are just a few interesting facts about it...

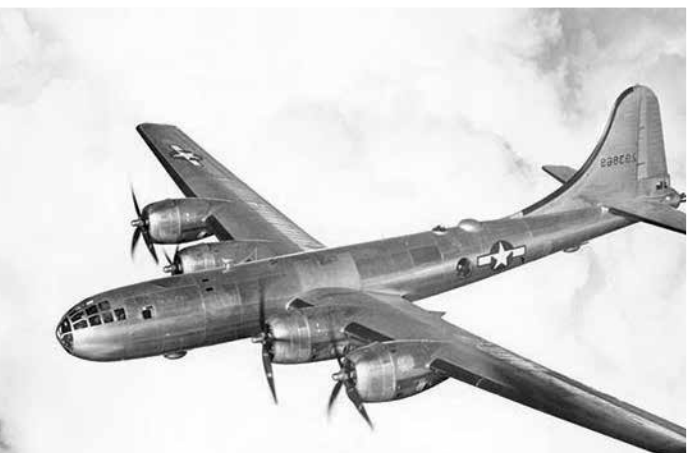


Famous author's predictions almost accurate

The term atomic bomb first appeared in H.G. Wells' 1914 novel *The World Set Free*. The book imagined "atomic bombs" that had the same force as a grenade but blazed on for days.



The first test explosion of the bomb, the Trinity test, produced a mushroom cloud almost 13,000 feet high. This is over twice as high as Canada's highest mountain, Mt. Logan.

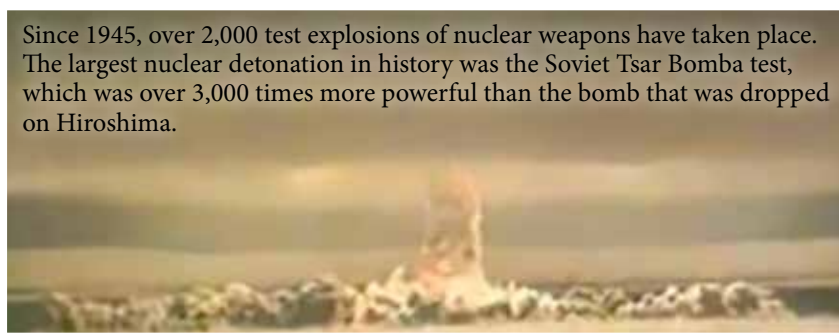


Suggesting how little consideration Americans had given to the moral complexity of bombing Japan, in October 1945 a "Tribute to Victory" pageant was held at the Los Angeles Coliseum. 100,000 people cheered on as a pyrotechnic explosion re-created the Hiroshima bombing as a B-29 Superfortress bomber like the one pictured flew overhead.



Only one country with a fully-developed nuclear weapons program has voluntarily disarmed. South Africa disbanded their nuclear weapons program in 1989, just prior to the end of the apartheid regime.

Since 1945, over 2,000 test explosions of nuclear weapons have taken place. The largest nuclear detonation in history was the Soviet Tsar Bomba test, which was over 3,000 times more powerful than the bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima.



The *Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty* was adopted by the United Nations in 1996 to prohibit all testing of nuclear bombs. However, it has failed to come into effect due to several nations refusing to ratify it.



Albert Einstein—shown in a 1956 commemorative stamp—famously said "I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones."

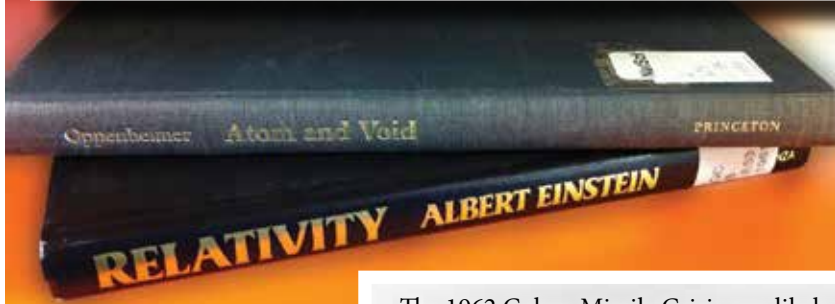
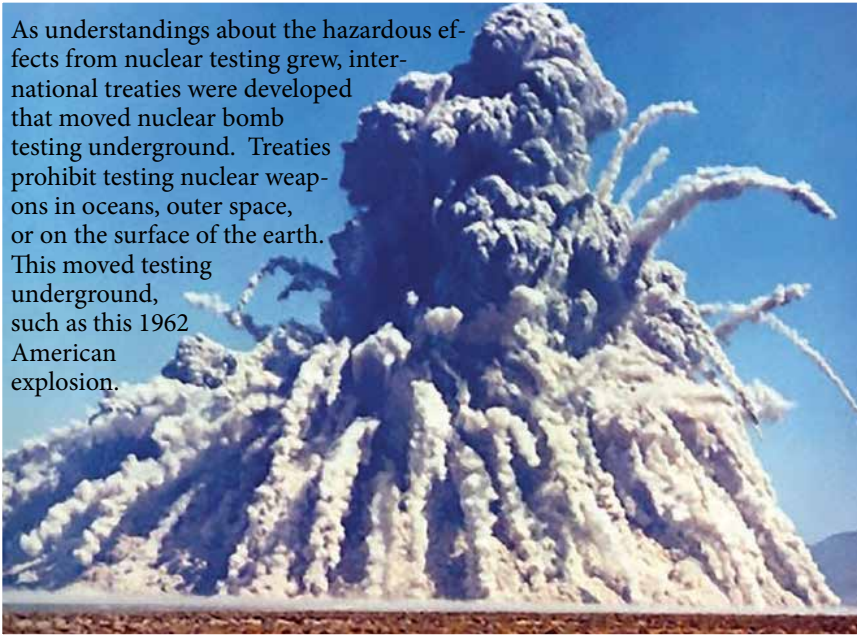
Notes



Statue survives atomic bomb

A statue of Shinran Shonin, an influential Japanese Buddhist monk, can be found in front of the New York Buddhist Church. Originally about two kilometres from ground zero in Hiroshima, the statue survived the blast and was brought to New York in 1955. A plaque calls it “a testimonial to the atomic bomb devastation and a symbol of lasting hope for world peace.”

As understandings about the hazardous effects from nuclear testing grew, international treaties were developed that moved nuclear bomb testing underground. Treaties prohibit testing nuclear weapons in oceans, outer space, or on the surface of the earth. This moved testing underground, such as this 1962 American explosion.



Many scientists who helped develop the bomb had regrets. Albert Einstein said “had I known that the Germans would not succeed in developing an atomic bomb, I would have done nothing.” Robert Oppenheimer said “we have raised the question of whether science is good for man.”

The 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis was likely the closest the world ever came to an all-out nuclear war. So close, in fact, war would have been likely had the level-headed commander of a Russian B-59 submarine—such as the one pictured—not vetoed an order from two other officers to fire their nuclear torpedo.



Proponents of bombing Japan such as New York Times journalist William Laurence claimed that “Thousands of young Americans thus may owe their lives to the theory of relativity,—which is another way of saying that pure science, no matter how impractical it may appear, pays high dividends in the end.”



The mushroom cloud became a symbol of American exceptionalism in the 1940s and 1950s. It was put on everything from record labels to jawbreaker candies as a symbol of what was exciting, cutting edge, and American.



Controlling the Bomb

International Law and The Non-Proliferation Treaty

At the end of World War II, only three countries—the United States, Great Britain, and Canada—held the secrets of nuclear weapons. And only one country—the U.S.—had actually used them. This monopoly on the bomb did not last for long. In a Cold War effort to show its counterbalance of power, the Soviet Union developed its first nuclear weapon in 1949. The United Kingdom followed suit in 1952. In 1960 France joined the nuclear club, with China next to test a nuclear bomb in 1964. A troubling trend was emerging: a 1963 U.S. Department of Defense report estimated that at least 14 countries could have nuclear weapons by the early 1970s.

THERE WERE PUBLIC PROGRAMS TO PREPARE CITIZENS FOR NUCLEAR WAR, NUCLEAR ATTACK DRILLS IN SCHOOLS, AND FAMILIES BUILDING BOMB SHELTERS.

This rapid proliferation heightened international concern. The more countries with nuclear weapons, the greater the chances of a conflict escalating into nuclear war either purposefully or by tragic error. Of further concern was that the science behind nuclear technology was becoming public knowledge, especially through academic journals. This even led private companies into the pursuit of nuclear research. A world where every country possessed nuclear weapons was becoming a real possibility, and the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki made the consequences of using nuclear weapons well-known.

All this led to an environment of fear. There were public programs to prepare citizens for nuclear war, nuclear attack drills in schools, and families build-

ing bomb shelters. Perhaps ironically, even though people were preparing to survive, their chances of survival were slim. While magazines ran pictures of unscathed families happily carrying on in their fallout shelters, one study out of the RAND Corporation suggested that a 3000-megaton nuclear attack on the United States would leave 80% of the population dead.

It was widely agreed that something had to be done to curtail the growth of nuclear weapons. Proposals to limit or completely ban them began to appear not long after the bomb appeared. However, the world had to wait until 1961 for the first major step towards global disarmament, when Ireland proposed a ban on the distribution of nuclear technology.

This proposal laid the groundwork for a 1965 United Nations disarmament conference held in Geneva.

The conference resulted in the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* (NPT). First signed in 1968 and put into effect in 1970, the NPT was built on three pillars meant to limit the spread of nuclear weapons and re-frame the use of nuclear technology:

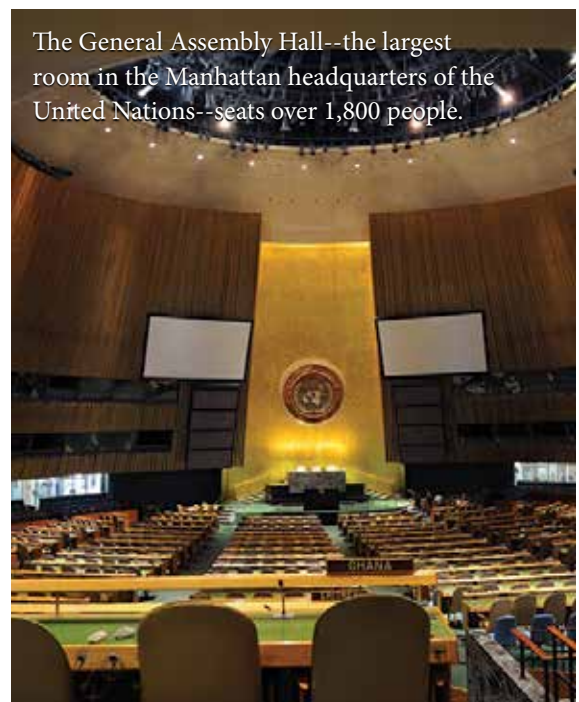
1. **Non-Proliferation** The nuclear power signatories (The U.S., the U.K., the U.S.S.R., then later France and China) agreed not to transfer nuclear weapons or nuclear weapons technology to other

states. States without nuclear weapons agreed they would not receive or develop nuclear weapons.

2. **Disarmament** Signatories agreed to negotiate in good faith to work towards nuclear disarmament.
3. **Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy** Signatories agreed to be free to share nuclear technology, so long as it was for peaceful purposes such as energy or medical use.

States who signed onto the NPT agreed that they would be subjected to inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to ensure compliance with the treaty.

The NPT was meant to last for 25 years, but has been renewed indefinitely by its signatories. Today almost every country in the world has signed on. However, four countries with nuclear weapons



The General Assembly Hall--the largest room in the Manhattan headquarters of the United Nations--seats over 1,800 people.

have not: India, Israel, and Pakistan have refused to sign, while North Korea has withdrawn from the treaty. It should be noted that Israel has never publically declared it has nuclear weapons, but it is widely-acknowledged that they are in possession of them.

Gauging the success of the NPT—forty-five years into its existence—is complicated. Indeed, the treaty has helped reduce the number of nuclear warheads in the world. There are approximately 17,000 today, compared to a peak of 64,000 in 1986. However, less weapons does not necessarily make us safer. The treaty does not specifically prohibit nuclear-armed signatories from replacing older weapons with newer, more advanced ones. This means that even though there are less nuclear weapons in the world today than any time since 1958, the weapons that do exist are becoming increasingly

more powerful. In fact, some modern nuclear weapons are *thousands* of times more powerful than the bomb used on Hiroshima. Another consideration is the total number of countries with nuclear weapons. While predictions of dozens of nuclear-armed countries did not come true, the number of countries with nuclear arsenals has increased since the NPT was signed. Today, there are nine nuclear-armed states, compared to just six when the treaty came into effect.

As a whole, then, it is perhaps more accurate to say that the *Non-Proliferation Treaty* has had successes than to say it has been an overall success. Even with almost every country in the world having signed onto the NPT, global nuclear disarmament is a long way away. 🇺🇸

DISCUSS

1. The Arms Control Association has said that one of the most important factors in controlling the number of nuclear states has been the non-proliferation norm established by the NPT.
 - a) How does society create norms? Do some people or groups have more power than others to influence what becomes a norm?
 - b) Legal scholar Richard Posner has said that “norms, once created, are difficult to uncreate.” Do laws create norms, or do laws simply strengthen already-existing norms by formalizing the rules surrounding them?
2. The NPT is not a perfect safeguard against nuclear proliferation. For example, following the 1991 Gulf War, IAEA inspectors discovered that Iraq had a previously-undetected nuclear arms research program. As well, after India declared itself a nuclear power in 1998, the United States entered into agreements to grant India many of the privileges meant for the NPT’s nuclear power signatories without having to sign the Treaty.
 - a) Do such events cast doubt on the concept of international law? Or do they simply cast doubt on the willingness of some states to keep their obligations?
 - b) If international law is not perfect, what course should nations take? Abandon international collaboration and go their own way, or work together to find solutions to its shortcomings?
3. What would be lost if the world abandoned international organizations such as the U.N.?

How does international law work?

The development of international law is one of the primary goals of the United Nations. According to the U.N., “International Law defines the legal responsibilities of States in their conduct with each other, and their treatment of individuals within state boundaries.” It is meant to build co-operative relationships between states and create minimum standards so that conflict between states can be avoided.

International laws, such as the *Non-Proliferation Treaty*, are created when the U.N. adopts a particular treaty and opens it for signature and ratification by its member states. Other ways that international laws are created include bilateral treaties between two nations, international customary law which looks to common patterns that have become accepted practice, and generally-accepted principles of law that will be looked to when no other precedent exists. When a signatory to a treaty breaks their responsibilities, the dispute can be resolved by the U.N.’s International Court of Justice.

International law most often works exceptionally well. However, it is not without problems. For example, unlike the laws of Canada which all Canadians and the government itself are obliged to follow, international law could be seen as a voluntary system. This is because only the countries that sign onto international treaties are obliged to follow those treaties. However, the main benefit of international law is that it creates a global framework that is generally understood and generally agreed-upon by all nations.

Further Resources

Nuclear weapons are a broad and intense field of study. Below are just a few of the resources that helped inform this issue of *The PLEA*.

Nuclear Notebook

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists was founded by scientists from the Manhattan Project and has become a leading journal on nuclear developments.

www.thebulletin.org

Arms Control Association

The Arms Control Association builds public understanding of arms control, including efforts to reduce and eliminate nuclear weapons.

www.armscontrol.org

The Atomic Plague

William Burchett's 1945 newspaper report on the damage caused by the bombing of Hiroshima has been called one of the greatest scoops of the twentieth century.

http://assets.cambridge.org/97805217/18264/excerpt/9780521718264_excerpt.pdf

Radio Report to the American People on the Potsdam Conference

Harry Truman delivered his vision for the post-World War II order just prior to the bombing of Nagasaki in a nation-wide radio address.

www.trumanlibrary.org/publicpapers/?pid=104

Dawn Over Zero: The Story of the Atomic Bomb

William Laurence was the New York Times journalist hired by the American Military as their official historian of the Manhattan Project. His 1946 book describes the bomb's creation.

Find it at your public library.

Hiroshima

John Hersey's 1946 piece on six Hiroshima survivors is considered one of the most important pieces of journalism to come out of World War II.

Find it at your public library.

The Day After Trinity

This 1981 documentary tells the story of Robert Oppenheimer and the atomic bomb, then outlines his life post-World War II including his persecution in the hands of Senator McCarthy's anti-communist hysteria.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1DhWglFeLU

The Atomic Café

This 1982 documentary is made from a collection of American nuclear propaganda films, advertisements, and news clips from the 1940s through to the 1960s.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssKiI1P3lT4

Dr. Strangelove

Stanley Kubrik's 1963 dark comedy exposes the risks of nuclear arms. Written after intensive research by Kubrik, it is considered one of the greatest satires of motion picture history.

Find it at your public library.

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