

WHAT DOES U.S. MILITARY SPENDING BUY?

ITS CONTRIBUTION TO WARS AROUND THE WORLD, AND
ITS THREAT TO END THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT





THE WATSON SCHOOL
of International
and Public Affairs

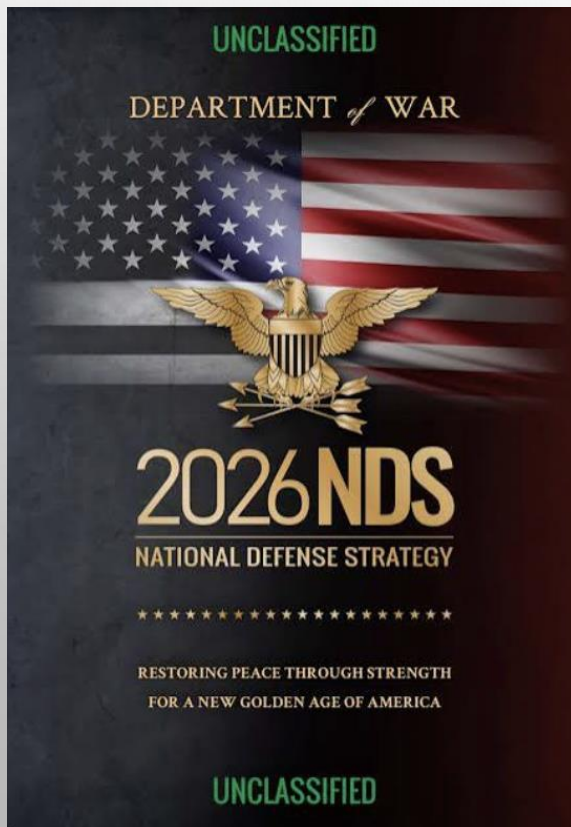
Costs of War

An estimated over 940,000 people were killed by direct post-9/11 war violence in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, and Pakistan between 2001-2023. Of these, more than 432,000 were civilians. The number of people wounded or ill as a result of the conflicts is far higher, as is the number of civilians who died “indirectly,” as a result of wars’ destruction of economies, healthcare systems, infrastructure and the environment. An estimated 3.6-3.8 million people died indirectly in post-9/11 war zones, bringing the total death toll to at least 4.5-4.7 million and counting.



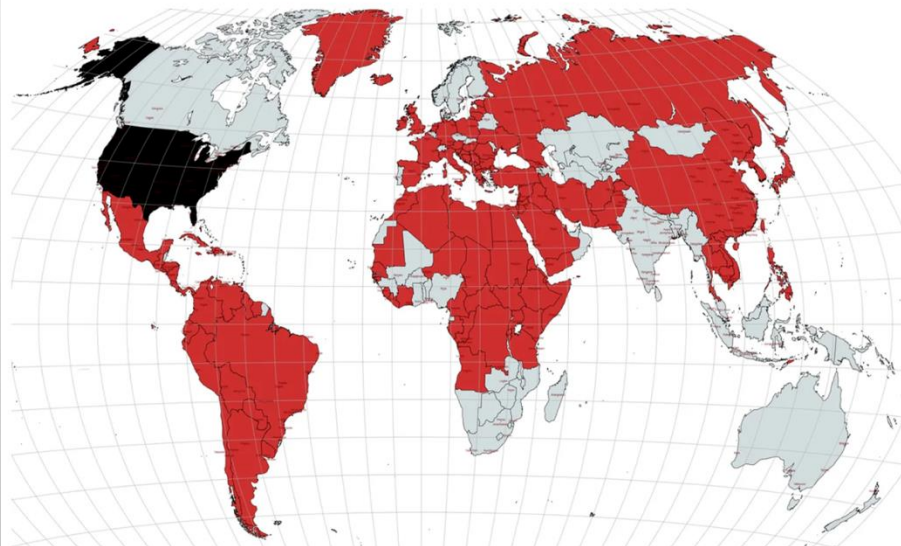
HOW US MILITARY SPENDING PROMOTES WAR

- Sets the example for the world
- “Peace Through Strength” normalizes the pursuit of military violence as the answer to everything
- Buys the silence of people who would otherwise oppose war

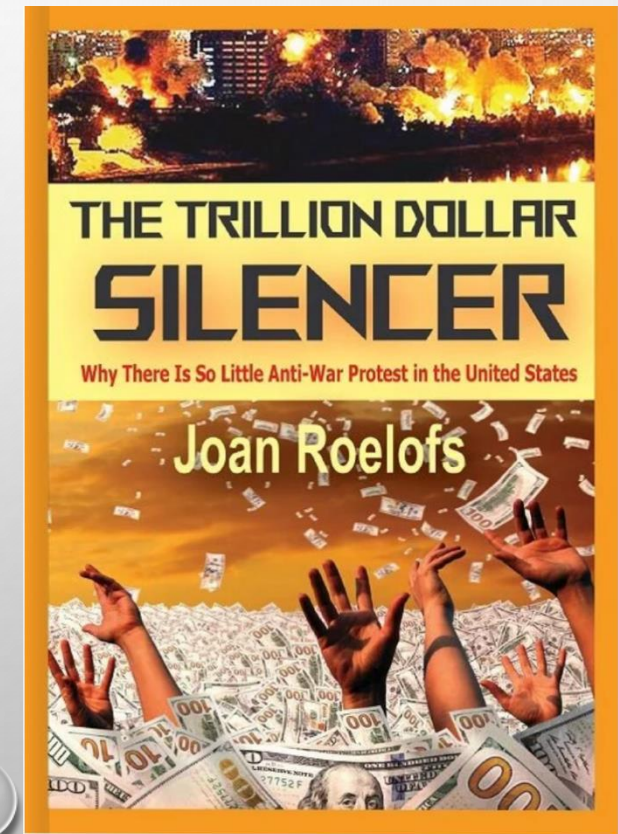


U.S. Launched 251 Military Interventions Since 1991, and 469 Since 1798

September 14, 2022 Benjamin Norton Admin, Americas, Archives



A map of countries where the United States has militarily intervened / credit: Congressional Research Service



THREAT OF NUCLEAR ESCALATION

Explicit Threat

Implicit Threat

Deterrent Threat

Collateral Threat

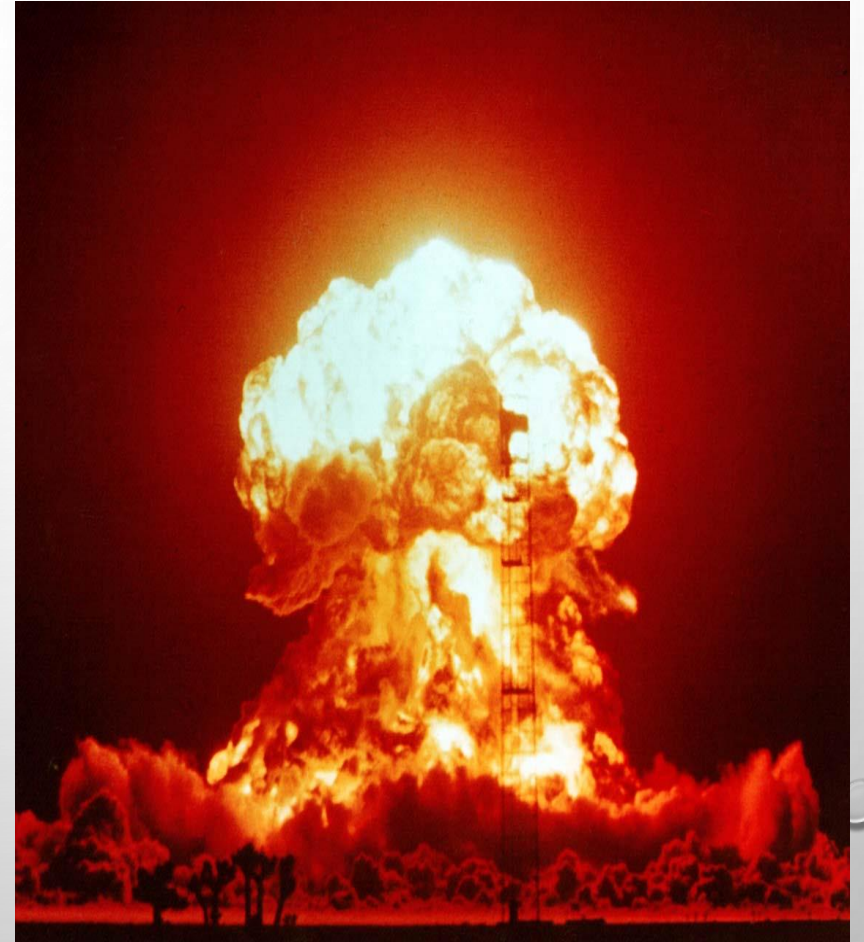
Lesson to many nations that only nuclear weapons
keep a nation safe

Countries that now want to share them:

Poland, Finland, Lithuania, South Korea

Iran ?

Saudi Arabia's new deal for nuclear material



EXPLICIT THREATS



The Times and The Sunday Times

4d · 🌐

President Putin warned on Thursday that Russia could use nuclear weapons if it was faced with a crushing defeat over the war in Ukraine.

"We must realise that the moment when nothing can be changed any longer may come very quickly and unexpectedly for everyone. The logic of escalating, increasingly harsh retaliatory measures leads to a fatal point of no return," he told the annual Valdai foreign policy forum near Moscow

🔗 Tap the link in the comments to read more



Putin threatens to go nuclear
if Russia faces crushing
defeat



U.S. President Donald Trump says that North Korea, led by Kim Jong-un, 'had best not make any more threats to the United States' or 'they will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen.' (Evan Vucelja/Associated Press, Korean Central News Agency/Reuters)

Far-right minister says nuking Gaza an option



Heritage Minister Amichay Eliyahu arrives at a meeting at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on January 29, 2023. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

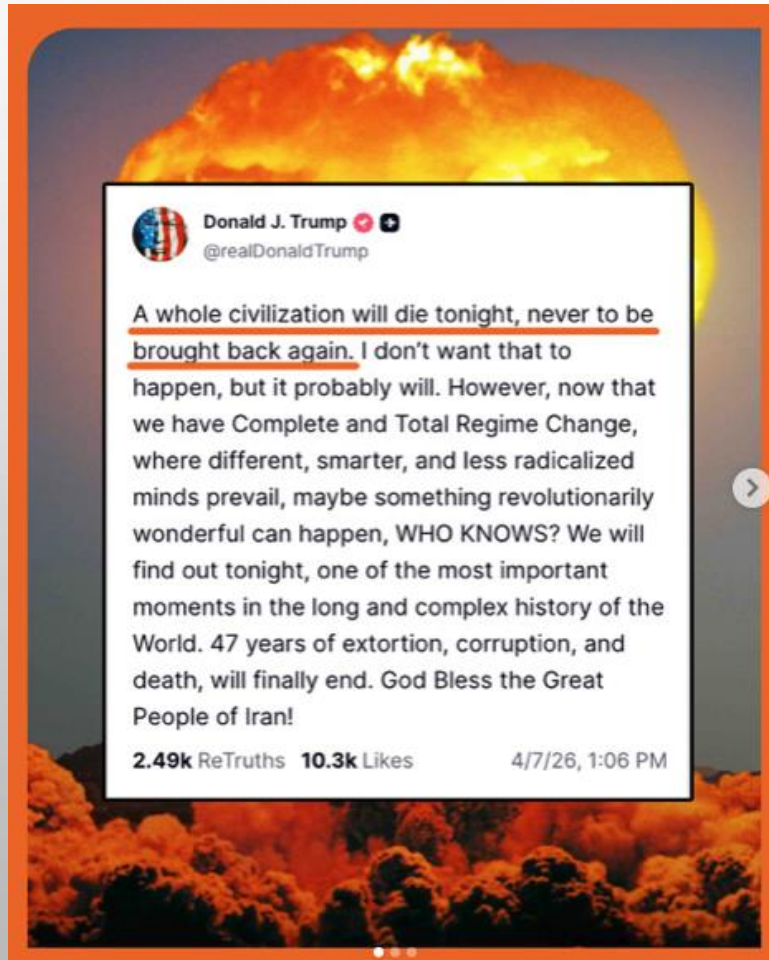
OCTOBER 9, 2026

CURRENT TOP STORIES

IMPLICIT THREATS

Sen. Lindsey Graham says Israel should do 'whatever' it has to while comparing the war in Gaza to Hiroshima and Nagasaki

The GOP senator compared Israel's military operations to the U.S. dropping atomic bombs on Japan in World War II, saying, "Israel, do whatever you have to do."



'130 missiles kept for India': Pakistan minister's open threat as tension escalates over Pahalgam attack

TOI World Desk / TIMESOFINDIA.COM /
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DETERRENCE

Nuclear doctrines

Strategy on the use of nuclear weapons by country



No first use



First use



Strategic ambiguity

A country has a **first use** nuclear doctrine if it is officially prepared to use nuclear weapons before being attacked, if threatened.



Sources: Center For Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, Post factum

Post factum

DETERRENCE FAILURES

- Argentina vs Britain in the Falklands 1982
- Arab states vs Israel 1973
- Iraq vs Israel 1991
- Iran vs Israel 2025-6
- Ukraine vs Russia 2025-6
- India vs Pakistan 1999, 2001, 2016, 2019, 2025

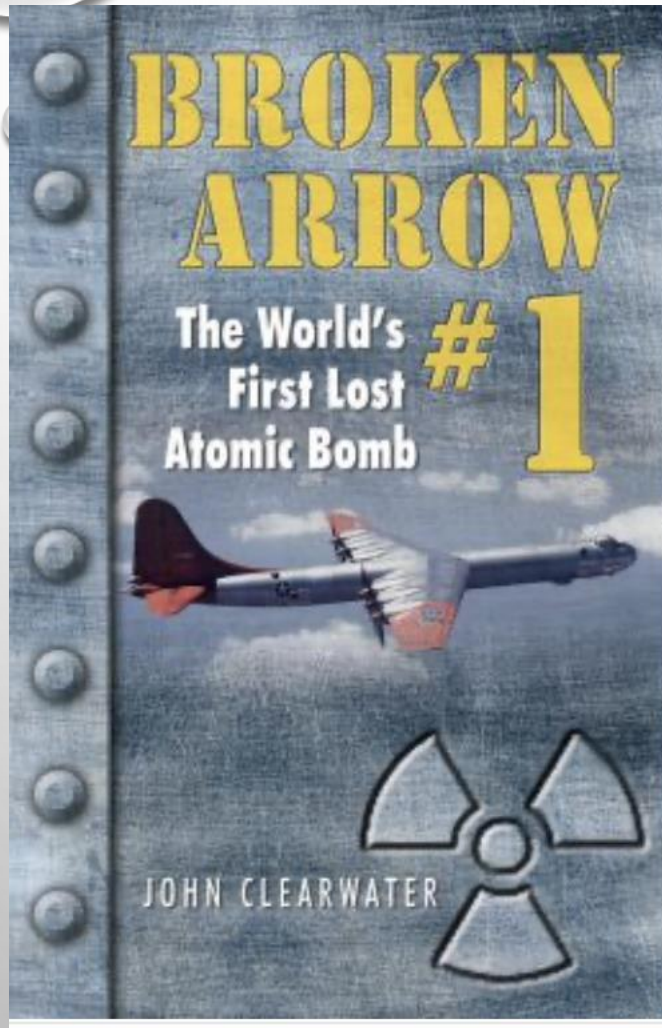
POSSESSION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE BEST PROTECTION OF SOVEREIGNTY

YES

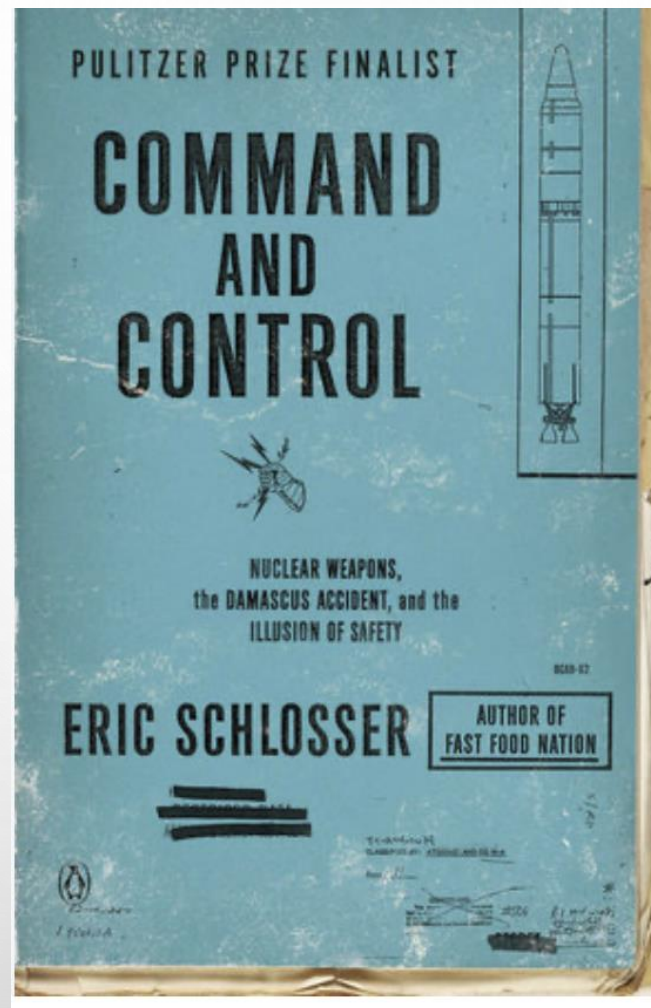
- No nuclear states invaded
- No further use in hot wars
- Those who gave up nukes
 - Libya
 - Iraq
 - Ukraine

No

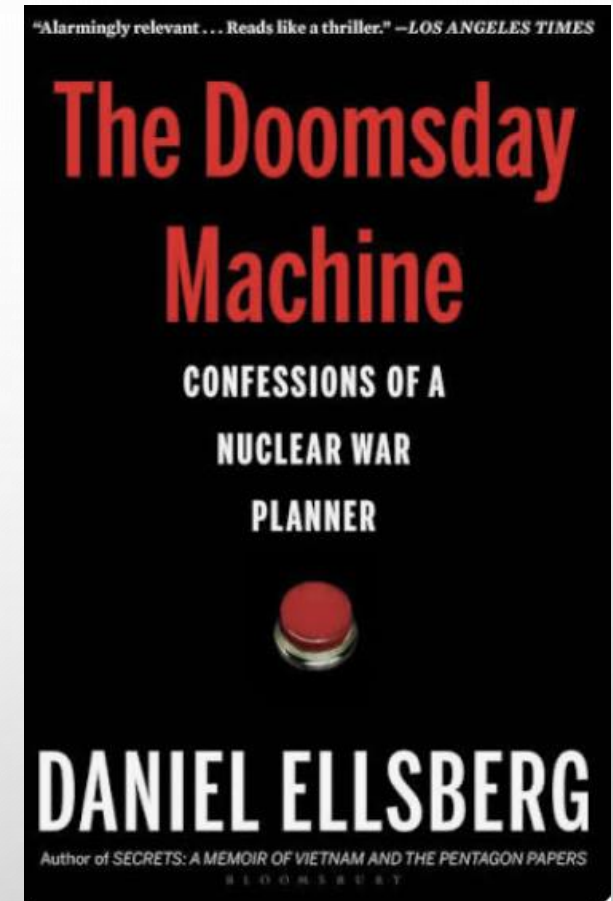
- South Africa
- Kazakhstan
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Bhutan
- Iceland
- Thailand
- Japan
- Australia
- New Zealand
- Canada
- Costa Rica
- Many microstates



Accident/Theft



Miscalculation



Madness

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

STOP THE FLOW OF MONEY INTO WAR AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Immediate Action – Stop the National Defense Authorization Act

This will be voted on in November or December

It barely passed the House in July, and was blocked in the Senate

They are working on making it acceptable, let your reps know it is **not**
Other Advocacy -

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Back from the Brink, Slash the Pentagon Act

Long Term: Educate the public that military spending as a job killer

General Strike

Tax resistance