

# Today the Threat of Nuclear War is Real: America's 1945 Plan: "Wipe the Soviet Union Off the Map", 204 Atomic Bombs against 66 Major Cities, US Nuclear Attack against USSR Planned During World War II

By [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)

Global Research, January 03, 2022

Region: [Russia and FSU](#), [USA](#)

Theme: [History](#), [Militarization and WMD](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

In-depth Report: [Nuclear War](#), [UKRAINE REPORT](#)

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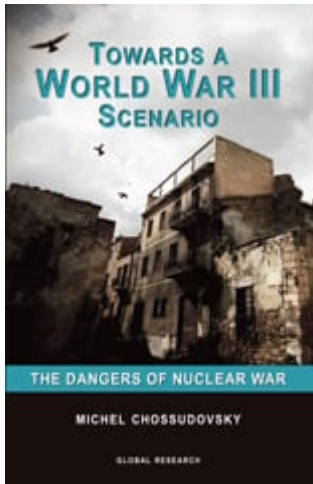
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First published November 4, 2017.

## Author's Note and Update

*The World is at a Dangerous Crossroads.*

*Nuclear war threatens the future of humanity. We are no longer dealing with a hypothetical scenario. The threat of World War III is real:*



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*While one can conceptualize the loss of life and destruction resulting from present-day wars including Ukraine, Iraq, Syria and Yemen, it is impossible to fully comprehend the devastation which might result from a Third World War, using “new technologies” and advanced weapons, until it occurs and becomes a reality.*

*The US administration has endorsed preemptive nuclear war in the name of world peace. “Making the world safer” is the justification for launching a military operation which could potentially result in a nuclear holocaust.*

*Mini-nukes are said to be “harmless to the surrounding civilian population”. Since the George W. Bush administration, pre-emptive nuclear war has been portrayed as a “humanitarian undertaking”.*

*The following article first published in 2017 questions the history of the Cold War. It has a bearing on recent developments.*

*US nuclear threats directed against Russia predate the Cold War.*

*They were first formulated at the height of World War II under the Manhattan Project when the US and the Soviet Union were allies.*

*The secret plan to bomb 66 Soviet cities was released in mid-September 1945, two weeks after the formal surrender of Japan.*

*Had the US decided NOT to develop nuclear weapons for use against the Soviet Union, the nuclear arms race would not have taken place.*

*Neither The Soviet Union nor the People’s Republic of China would have developed nuclear capabilities as a means of “Deterrence” against the US, had it not been for the Manhattan Project which was intended to implement a nuclear war against the Soviet Union.*

**Flash Forward to 2022:**

*President Joe Biden does not have the foggiest idea as to the consequences of nuclear war:*

*“Biden’s announcement that the US will use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear*

*threats, and the knowledge that US nuclear weapons are deployed close to Russia are forcing Putin to abandon his no first use of nuclear weapons pledge.*

In other words, unlike the 20th century Cold War, today there is a hair-trigger on nuclear war.

Now Jens Stoltenberg, the NATO Secretary General says:

*"I fear that the war in Ukraine will spiral out of control and become a major war between NATO and Russia. If things go wrong, they can go horribly wrong."*

[Paul Craig Roberts \(December 11, 2022\)](#)

*Massive amounts of money have been allocated by the Biden Administration to feed the weapons industry including the Pentagon's 1.3 trillion dollar nuclear weapons program first launched under Obama.*

*Humanity is at a dangerous crossroads. Nuclear war has become a multi-billion dollar undertaking, which fills the pockets of US defense contractors. What is at stake is the outright "privatization of nuclear war".*

*The use of nuclear weapons against Russia is currently on the drawing board of the Pentagon. US-NATO war games are being carried out on Russia's doorstep. A first strike preemptive nuclear attack on Russia is not excluded.*

*In the words of Fidel Castro on October 15, 2010*

*"In a nuclear war the "collateral damage" would be the life of all humanity.*

*Let us have the courage to proclaim that all nuclear or conventional weapons, everything that is used to make war, must disappear!" (Fidel Castro Ruz, conversations with the author, October 2010)*

*The use of nuclear war against Russia and the Soviet Union has been on the drawing board of the Pentagon since September 15, 1945. (see Article below). The intent of the Manhattan Project was to wage nuclear war against the Soviet Union.*

.

*What is now happening in Ukraine has serious geopolitical implications. It could lead us into a World War III Scenario.*

*It is important that a peace process be initiated with a view to preventing escalation.*

Michel Chossudovsky, Global Research, Hiroshima Day, August 6, 2022, December 11, 2022

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**"Wipe the Soviet Union Off the Map", 204 Atomic Bombs against 66 Major Cities, US Nuclear Attack against USSR Planned During World War II**

## When America and the Soviet Union Were Allies

By Michel Chossudovsky

*According to a secret (declassified) document dated September 15, 1945, ["the Pentagon had envisaged blowing up the Soviet Union"](#) with a coordinated nuclear attack directed against major urban areas.*

*All major cities of the Soviet Union were included in the list of 66 "strategic" targets. The tables below categorize each city in terms of area in square miles and the corresponding number of atomic bombs required to annihilate and kill the inhabitants of selected urban areas.*

Six atomic bombs were to be used to destroy each of the larger cities including Moscow, Leningrad, Tashkent, Kiev, Kharkov, Odessa.

The Pentagon estimated that a total of 204 atomic bombs would be required to "Wipe the Soviet Union off the Map". The targets for a nuclear attack consisted of sixty-six major cities.

To undertake this operation the "optimum" number of bombs required was of the order of 466 (see document below)

One single atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima resulted in the immediate death of 100,000 people in the first seven seconds. Imagine what would have happened if 204 atomic bombs had been dropped on major cities of the Soviet Union as outlined in a secret U.S. plan formulated during the Second World War.



Hiroshima in the wake of the atomic bomb attack, 6 August 1945

The document outlining this diabolical military agenda had been released in September 1945, barely one month after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (6 and 9 August, 1945) and two years before the onset of the Cold War (1947).

The secret plan dated September 15, 1945 (two weeks after the surrender of Japan on September 2, 1945 aboard the USS Missouri, see image below) , however, had been formulated at an earlier period, namely at the height of World War II, at a time when America and the Soviet Union were close allies.



It is worth noting that Stalin was first informed through official channels by Harry Truman of the infamous [Manhattan Project](#) at the Potsdam Conference on July 24, 1945, barely two weeks before the attack on Hiroshima.

The Manhattan project was launched in 1939, two years prior to America's entry into World War II in December 1941. The Kremlin was fully aware of the secret Manhattan project as early as 1942.

Were the August 1945 Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks used by the Pentagon to evaluate the viability of a much larger attack on the Soviet Union consisting of more than 204 atomic bombs? The key documents to bomb 66 cities of the Soviet Union (15 September 1945) were finalized 5-6 weeks after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings (6, 9 August 1945):

"On September 15, 1945 — just under two weeks after the formal surrender of Japan and the end of World War II — Norstad sent a copy of the estimate to General Leslie Groves, still the head of the Manhattan Project, and the guy who, for the short term anyway, would be in charge of producing whatever bombs the USAAF might want. As you might guess, the classification on this document was high: "TOP SECRET LIMITED," which was about as high as it went during World War II. (Alex Wellerstein, [The First Atomic Stockpile Requirements](#) (September 1945))

The Kremlin was aware of the 1945 plan to bomb sixty-six Soviet cities.

The documents confirm that the US was involved in the "planning of genocide" against the Soviet Union.



Let's cut to the chase. How many bombs did the USAAF request of the atomic general, when there were [maybe one, maybe two](#) bombs worth of fissile material on hand? At a minimum they wanted 123. Ideally, they'd like 466. This is just a little over a month after the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Of course, in true bureaucratic fashion, they provided a handy-dandy chart (Alex Wellerstein, op. cit)

18. In summary, it is computed that the United States requirements for stocks of atomic bombs are as follows:

<u>Minimum</u>		<u>Optimum</u>	
For incapacitation of 15 first priority targets -	39	For destruction of 66 cities of strategic importance -	204
For neutralization of possible enemy bases in the Western Hemisphere -	10	For neutralization of possible enemy bases in the Western Hemisphere -	10
For Strategic isolation of the battlefield -	<u>10</u>	For Strategic isolation of the battlefield -	<u>10</u>
Total	59	Total	224
Probable effectiveness factor -	48%	Probable effectiveness factor -	48%
Minimum requirement = $59 \div .48$ or		Optimum requirement = $224 \div .48$ or	
<u>123</u> bombs		<u>466</u> bombs	

#### CONCLUSIONS

19. It is concluded that the United States has a requirement for a minimum M-Day stock of 123 atomic bombs and an optimum stock of 466 atomic bombs.

#### Restricted Data

<http://blog.nuclearsecrecy.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/1945-Atomic-Bomb-Production.pdf>

City	Area of City in sq. miles	No. of Bombs
Magnitogorsk	10.0	3
Vladivostok	10.0	3
Stalingrad	20.3	5
Ufa	10.8	3
Irkutsk	11.5	3
Vladi	20.0	5
Voronezh	17.0	5
Izhevsk	7.5	2
Chkalov	10.2	3
Grozny	1.3	1
Stalinsk	10.8	3
Nizhni Tagil	17.3	5
Peresl	5.8	2
Minsk	4.2	1
Kirov	5.3	2
Tallinn	16.0	4
Kemerovo	5.0	2
Ulan Ude	22.3	6
Komsomolsk	5.0	2
Murmansk	4.0	1
Belostok	6.0	2
Vladik	3.9	1
Zhetysay	5.6	2
Makhachkala	1.8	1
Symon	5.4	2
Chimkent	13.4	4
Batum	3.9	1
Komov	1.8	1
Orsk	4.8	2
Kamensk	4.0	1
Brest Litovsk	4.5	1
Grozny	4.0	1
Staritsinsk	3.1	1
Arzamas	4.0	1
Nefteyug		

City	Area of City in sq. miles	No. of Bombs
Magnitogorsk	10.0	3
Vladivostok	10.0	3
Stalingrad	20.3	5
Ufa	10.8	3
Khutok	11.5	3
Vilna	20.0	5
Voronezh	17.0	5
Izhevsk	7.5	2
Chkalov	10.2	3
Grozny	1.3	1
Stalinsk	10.8	3
Nizhni Tagil	17.3	5
Peresl	5.8	2
Minsk	4.2	1
Kirov	5.3	2
Tallinn	16.0	4
Kemerovo	5.0	2
Ulan Ude	22.3	6
Komsomolsk	5.0	2
Murmansk	4.0	1
Belostok	6.0	2
Vladik	3.9	1
Zlatoust	5.6	2
Makhachkala	1.8	1
Syzran	5.4	2
Cherepovets	13.4	4
Batun	3.9	1
Kirov	1.8	1
Orsk	4.8	2
Kemerov	4.0	1
Brest-Litovsk	4.5	1
Gurev	4.0	1
Sverdlovsk	3.1	1
Yaroslavl	4.0	1
Nefteyug		





ADDRESS REPLY TO  
COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~TOP SECRET~~  
LIMITED

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

15 September 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR GENERAL L. R. GROVES:

Subject: Atomic Bomb Production

1. The attached study has been directed toward establishing an official Army Air Forces' view as to the number of atomic bombs which should be available in order to insure our national security.
2. This paper is still on the working level. Prior to concluding this study and forwarding it to the CG, AAF, your comments are requested.

Incl:  
Study abv  
subj w/Tabs A,B,C.

*Lauris Norstad*  
LAURIS NORSTAD,  
Major General, U.S.A.  
AC/AS-5.

THE DIVISION OF CLASSIFICATION, U.S. ENERGY  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION, HAS  
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VIEWED BY *John R. Norstad*

DATE *9/25/75*

FOR VICTORY

LIMITED

PROBLEM

1. To determine the United States requirements for atomic bomb stocks in the interim post-war era.

ASSUMPTIONS

2. It is assumed that:
  - a. The United States must be prepared to conduct offensive operations against any other world power or combination of powers.
  - b. The United States will maintain sufficient bases and air forces capable of attacking the strategic heart of any potential enemy.
  - c. The immediate destruction of the enemy's will and capacity to resist is the primary objective of the United States Army Strategic Air Forces.
  - d. Extensive research regarding the strategic vulnerability of all major powers will be conducted later and will permit a more complete analysis of bomb requirements.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

3. At the conclusion of World War II the United States first employed the revolutionary atomic bomb. Only two such bombs were dropped on Japan but these were spectacularly successful. Various conditions limit the reliability of information obtained on the properties of this weapon, and it is impossible to catalogue the full capabilities of any bomb by dropping two. Satisfactory experimentation is extremely difficult. However, photo analysis of the results at Hiroshima indicates the radius of destruction to be approximately 7000 feet. Tab "B" is a more complete description of the results of the Hiroshima bomb as interpreted from photo reconnaissance.
4. The characteristics of this weapon are such that it cannot be regarded as "just another bomb." These bombs are very expensive, cannot be produced in mass, require special storage conditions, require highly technical shipment and assembly procedures, and must be assembled and placed on the objective by highly skilled and specially trained personnel.
5. There is no approved production program for the atomic bomb.



**TOP SECRET**  
WAR DEPARTMENT  
P. O. Box 2510  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



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26 September 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR GENERAL LAURIS NORSTAD:

1. Answering your memorandum of 15 September 1945 on the subject "Atomic Bomb Production", the following general comments are submitted:

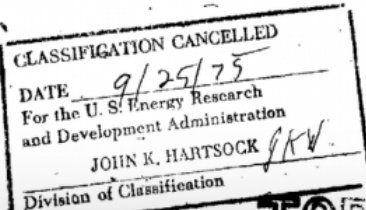
2. The number of bombs for the minimum M-Day stock and the optimum stock are high because of the following factors:

a. The estimates are based on an area of total destruction and amounted to four square miles with an outer bomb damage of 6,000 to 7,000 feet. An area at least twice that should be used. While the damaged area of Nagasaki was considerably less than that of Hiroshima it was because the target was not suitable in size or shape for the maximum effectiveness of the bomb.

b. It is not essential to get total destruction of a city in order to destroy its effectiveness. Hiroshima no longer exists as a city even though the area of total destruction is considerably less than total.

c. While at Hiroshima the frames of a number of reinforced concrete buildings remained intact the windows were blown out and the interiors were gutted. While the buildings could be rebuilt they were made unusable for a considerable period. The Nagasaki bomb did more damage to reinforced concrete buildings. While our studies are not completed it is believed the final results will show a greater radius of destruction for such buildings than is indicated in the report.

3. In the limited time available no detailed analysis has been made of the report but my general conclusion would be that the number of bombs indicated as required, is excessive.



L. R. GROVES,  
Major General, U. S. A.

## The Nuclear Arms Race

Central to our understanding of the Cold War which started (officially) in 1947, Washington's September 1945 plan to bomb 66 cities into smithereens played a key role in triggering the nuclear arms race.

The Soviet Union was threatened and developed its own atomic bomb in 1949 in response to 1942 Soviet intelligence reports on the Manhattan Project.

While the Kremlin knew about these plans to "Wipe out" the USSR, the broader public was not informed because the September 1945 documents were of course classified.

Today, neither the September 1945 plan to blow up the Soviet Union nor the underlying cause of the nuclear arms race are acknowledged. The Western media has largely focussed



its attention on the Cold War US-USSR confrontation. The plan to annihilate the Soviet Union dating back to World War II and the infamous Manhattan project are not mentioned.

Washington's Cold War nuclear plans are invariably presented in response to so-called Soviet threats, when in fact it was the U.S. plan released in September 1945 (formulated at an earlier period at the height of World War II) to wipe out the Soviet which motivated Moscow to develop its nuclear weapons capabilities.

The assessment of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists mistakenly blamed and continue to blame the Soviet Union for having launched the nuclear arms race in 1949, four years after the release of the September 1945 US Secret Plan to target 66 major Soviet cities with 204 nuclear bombs:

"1949: The Soviet Union denies it, but in the fall, President Harry Truman tells the American public that the Soviets tested their first nuclear device, officially starting the arms race. "We do not advise Americans that doomsday is near and that they can expect atomic bombs to start falling on their heads a month or year from now," the Bulletin explains. "But we think they have reason to be deeply alarmed and to be prepared for grave decisions." ([Timeline of the Doomsday Clock](#), Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, 2017)

**IMPORTANT:** Had the US decided NOT to develop nuclear weapons for use against the Soviet Union, the nuclear arms race would not have taken place.

Neither The Soviet Union nor the People's Republic of China would have developed nuclear capabilities as a means of "Deterrence" against the US which had already formulated plans to annihilate the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union lost 26 million people during World War II.

The Cold War List of 1200 Targeted Cities:

This initial 1945 list of sixty-six cities was updated in the course of the Cold War (1956) to include some 1200 cities in the USSR and the Soviet block countries of Eastern Europe (see declassified documents below). The bombs slated for use were more powerful in terms of explosive capacity than those dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



**NEW 2015/12/22**

**U.S. Cold War Nuclear Target Lists  
Declassified for First Time  
Major Cities in Soviet Bloc, Including  
East Berlin, Were High Priorities in  
'Systematic Destruction' for Atomic  
Bombings**



## Special Collection

### Key Documents on Nuclear Policy Issues, 1945–1990

The millions of pages of classified and declassified documents on U.S. nuclear policy during and after the Cold War are beyond the comprehension of any one individual, even any U.S. government organization. The following documents, some published for the first time, address a number of key problems, such as the first use of nuclear weapons, effects of nuclear weapons, early Cold War preventive war thinking, constraints on nuclear weapons use, and possible outcomes of nuclear war.

Source: National Security Archive

“According to the 1956 Plan, H-Bombs were to be Used Against Priority “Air Power” Targets in the Soviet Union, China, and Eastern Europe. Major Cities in the Soviet Bloc, Including East Berlin, Were High Priorities in “Systematic Destruction” for Atomic Bombings. (William Burr, U.S. Cold War Nuclear Attack Target List of 1200 Soviet Bloc Cities “From East Germany to China”, [National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book No. 538](#), December 2015

#### U.S. Cold War Nuclear Target Lists Declassified for First Time

According to 1956 Plan, H-Bombs were to be Used Against Priority “Air Power” Targets in the Soviet Union, China, and Eastern Europe

Major Cities in Soviet Bloc, Including East Berlin, Were High Priorities in “Systematic Destruction” for Atomic Bombings

Plans to Target People (“Population”) Violated International Legal Norms

SAC Wanted a 60 Megaton Bomb, Equivalent to over 4,000 Hiroshima Atomic Weapons

National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book No. 538

Edited by William Burr

Posted – December 22, 2015

For more information, contact:  
William Burr: 202.994.7000 or [nsarchiv@gwu.edu](mailto:nsarchiv@gwu.edu).

#### UPDATE (April 4, 2016)

- Urban-Industrial Target List for Part I – from Abdulino (Russia) to Zychlin (Poland)-- Published in Its Entirety (306 pages)
- Documents Providing Background for SAC Targeting Study Identified; Most Are Still Classified
- Context for the SAC Report on Nuclear Weapons Requirements 1959

Source: National Security Archive

Washington, D.C., December 22, 2015 – The SAC [Strategic Air Command] Atomic Weapons Requirements Study for 1959, produced in June 1956 and published today for the first time by the National Security Archive [www.nsarchive.org](http://www.nsarchive.org), provides the most comprehensive and detailed list of

nuclear targets and target systems that has ever been declassified. As far as can be told, no comparable document has ever been declassified for any period of Cold War history.

The SAC study includes chilling details. According to its authors, their target priorities and nuclear bombing tactics would expose nearby civilians and “friendly forces and people” to high levels of deadly radioactive fallout. Moreover, the authors developed a plan for the “systematic destruction” of Soviet bloc urban-industrial targets that specifically and explicitly targeted “population” in all cities, including Beijing, Moscow, Leningrad, East Berlin, and Warsaw. Purposefully targeting civilian populations as such directly conflicted with the international norms of the day, which prohibited attacks on people per se (as opposed to military installations with civilians nearby). [National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book No. 538](#), December 2015

## List of Cities

<del>TOP SECRET</del>						B-54300	
912	4040	KRASnodAR/PASHKOVSKAYA	0249-8188	4502-03909	S	FOIA(b) (3) - 42 USC 2168(a) (3) (C) - FRD	
911	4045	KRASNOGRAD	0234-8074	4924-03529	R		
299	4080	KRASNOVODSK	0326-8003	4003-05300	R		
717	4090	KRASNOYARSK	0159-8004	5602-09254	S		
868	4090	KRASNOYARSK S.E.	0159-8008	5559-09256	R		
662	7732	KRASNY KUT	0282-8645	4431-13250	V		
81	5610	KRECHEVITSY	0153-8072	5837-03123	R		
668	29362	KREMOVO	0282-8646	4403-13217	S		
594	4134	KREST KHALDZHAY	0124-8000	6251-13437	R		
794	4140	KRIVY ROG	0250-8668	4751-03318	R		
949	4150	KRONSTADT	0103-8601	6001-02942	R		
645	4161	KROSNO/IWONICZ, POL	0232-8214	4940-02149	R		

Excerpt of list of 1200 cities targeted for nuclear attack in alphabetical order. National Security Archive, op. cit.

## From the Cold War to the Present

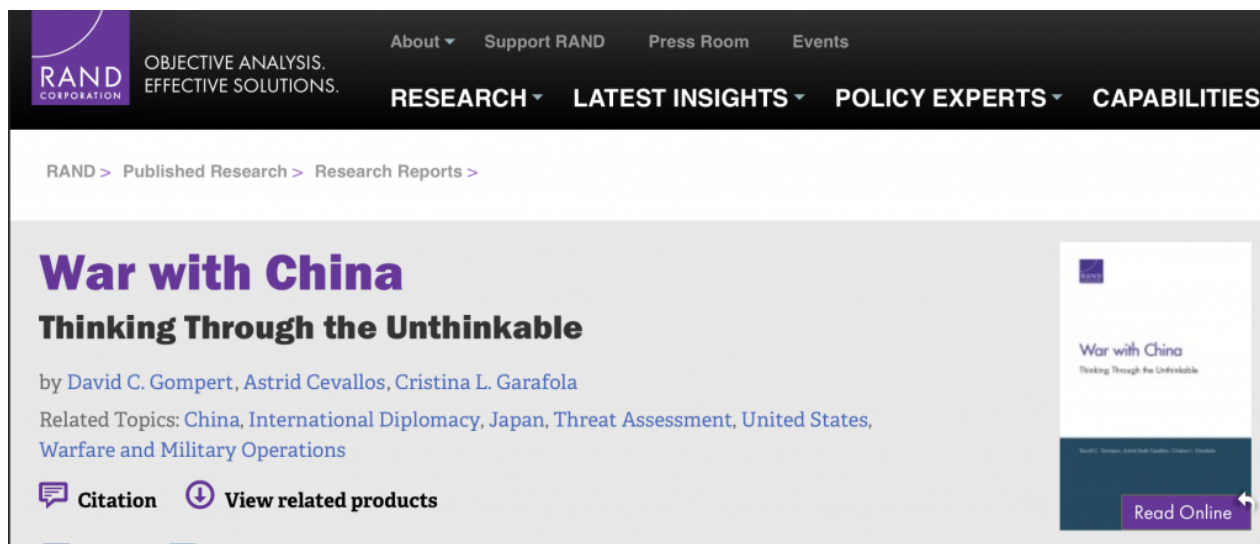
In the post Cold War era, nuclear war directed against Russia, China, North Korea and Iran is “On the Table”.

## What distinguishes the October 1962 Missile Crisis to Today’s realities:

1. Today’s president Joe Biden does not have the foggiest idea as to the consequences of nuclear war.
2. Communication today between the White House and the Kremlin is at an all time low. In contrast, in October 1962, the leaders on both sides, namely John F. Kennedy and Nikita S. Khrushchev were acutely aware of the dangers of nuclear annihilation. They collaborated with a view to avoiding the unthinkable.
3. The nuclear doctrine was entirely different during the Cold War. Both Washington and Moscow understood the realities of mutually assured destruction. Today, tactical nuclear weapons with an explosive capacity (yield) of one third to six times a Hiroshima bomb are categorized by the Pentagon as “harmless to civilians because the explosion is underground”.

4. A one trillion ++ nuclear weapons program, first launched under Obama, is ongoing.
5. Today's thermonuclear bombs are more than 100 times more powerful and destructive than a Hiroshima bomb. Both the US and Russia have several thousand nuclear weapons deployed.

Moreover, an all out war against China is currently on the drawing board of the Pentagon as outlined by a RAND Corporation Report commissioned by the US Army



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## War with China

### Thinking Through the Unthinkable

by David C. Gompert, Astrid Cevallos, Cristina L. Garafola

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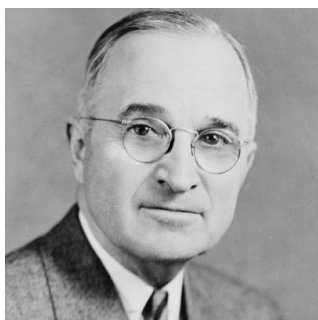
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### Conflict Could Be Decided by Domestic Political, International, and Economic Factors, All of Which Would Favor the United States in a Long, Severe War

- Although a war would harm both economies, damage to China's would be far worse.
- Because much of the Western Pacific would become a war zone, China's trade with the region and the rest of the world would decline substantially.
- China's loss of seaborne energy supplies would be especially damaging.
- A long conflict could expose China to internal political divisions.
- Japan's increased military activity in the region could have a considerable influence on military operations.

## U.S Foreign Policy Insanity

There is a long history of US political insanity geared towards providing a human face to U.S. crimes against humanity.



On August 9, 1945, on the day the second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, president Truman (image right), in a radio address to the American people, concluded that God is on the side of America with regard to the use of nuclear weapons and that

“He May guide us to use it [atomic bomb] in His ways and His purposes”.

According to Truman: God is with us, he will decide if and when to use the bomb:

[We must] prepare plans for the future control of this bomb. I shall ask the Congress to cooperate to the end that its production and use be controlled, and that its power be made an overwhelming influence towards world peace.

We must constitute ourselves trustees of this new force—to prevent its misuse, and to turn it into the channels of service to mankind.

It is an awful responsibility which has come to us.

We thank God that it [nuclear weapons] has come to us, instead of to our enemies; and we pray that He may guide us to use it [nuclear weapons] in His ways and for His purposes” (emphasis added)

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Michel Chossudovsky is an award-winning author, Professor of Economics (emeritus) at the University of Ottawa, Founder and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG), Montreal, Editor of Global Research. He has taught as visiting professor in Western Europe, Southeast Asia, the Pacific and Latin America. He has served as economic adviser to governments of developing countries and has acted as a consultant for several international organizations. He is the author of 13 books. He is a contributor to the Encyclopaedia Britannica. His writings have been published in more than twenty languages. In 2014, he was awarded the Gold Medal for Merit of the Republic of Serbia for his writings on NATO's war of aggression against Yugoslavia. He can be reached at [crgeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:crgeditor@yahoo.com)

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