

Overview

This lesson asks students to analyze the various policy tools for nonproliferation and then apply them to hypothetical situations.

Length

Two–three classes

Materials

[The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty \(World101\)](#)

[Tools of Nonproliferation \(World101\)](#)

[South Africa: Why Countries Acquire and Abandon Nuclear Bombs \(World101\)](#)

Nonproliferation Tools Graphic Organizer (below)

Nonproliferation Scenarios (below)

Instructional Plan

- Have students watch and read “The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty”, “Tools of Nonproliferation”, and “South Africa: Why Countries Acquire and Abandon Nuclear Bombs.”
- Have students fill out the Nonproliferation Tools graphic organizer either alone or in pairs.
- Pass out the scenarios and discuss which policy tools would be most useful for each scenario.

Extension and Additional Resources

- This activity can be made into a research project by asking students to use the Nuclear Proliferation reading list to discover additional examples and more details about examples for the worksheet.
- The discussion can serve as the basis of (or be replaced by) a writing assignment

Apply Nonproliferation Policy Tools

Nonproliferation Tools

Tool	Strengths	Weaknesses	Specific historical examples
Diplomacy			
Security guarantees			
Sanctions			
Cyber tools			
Military force			
Other			

Apply Nonproliferation Policy Tools

Consider the following:

- Which policy tools have been used most often in nonproliferation efforts?
- Which policy tools seem most effective in limiting proliferation and why?
- Can these policies tools get us to a world free of nuclear weapons?

Apply Nonproliferation Policy Tools

Nonproliferation Scenarios

Discuss each of the following scenarios. For each scenario, discuss:

- What nuclear proliferation and broader security risks do these scenarios present?
- How significant are the threats?
- What policy tools might be most effective for the United States to manage the threats?
- What immediate and/or long-lasting responses should be considered?
- What are the implications of certain policy tools failing or succeeding?

Scenario 1

Country W possesses an extensive nuclear weapons program and is signatory to the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) as a nuclear state. It has used two nuclear weapons in war and is strongly suspected of having shared nuclear weapons technology with allied countries in the past. Although Country W has made statements in favor of disarmament, it has taken few steps toward actually reducing its arsenal.

Scenario 2

Country X possesses a large number of advanced centrifuges and thus the capacity to enrich uranium. It has a small nuclear power program as well as research reactors. It maintains hostile relations with many of its neighbors and has fought various conventional wars with them. Country X has stated it has no intent of developing nuclear weapons, but many scholars and U.S. officials suspect it may be enriching uranium to obtain weapons-grade material. The country is a party to the NPT but has not fully cooperated with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Scenario 3

Country Y possesses nuclear weapons. Although its government claims that its nuclear weapons and components are secure, intelligence reports indicate that officials may be selling nuclear technology and materials on the black

Apply Nonproliferation Policy Tools

market.

Scenario 4

Country Z has been under a dictatorship, which has isolated it from most of the world. In recent years, natural resources have generated considerable wealth, which the government has used to develop a nuclear energy program. The country is not an NPT party, however, and is already under significant U.S., European, and multilateral sanctions over human rights abuses. Now the country's leaders are making vague announcements that their nuclear program, which they previously said was peaceful, could be used to produce weapons.