CFR Resources


An in-depth look at nuclear nonproliferation, including the current policy landscape. (9,200 words)


An easy-to-read summary of the Iran nuclear agreement. (2,100 words)


A digestible summary of American nuclear policy. (2,300 words)

Articles


An article that provides a framework for thinking about nuclear terror and presents clear, straightforward strategies for preventing it. It is based on a speech made by former President George W. Bush. (3,800 words)


An article that challenges many of the narratives about nuclear weapons put forward by the media and by President Donald J. Trump in a fun, approachable way. (1,800 words)


An article that tells the story of Abdul Qadeer Khan, a Pakistani nuclear scientist who sold his knowledge to countries that wanted to begin
nuclear programs, looking for a lesson for ongoing nuclear nonproliferation efforts. (2,700 words)


A detailed history of South Africa’s nuclear program along with a look at its current nuclear policy. (3,800 words)


A walk-through of what a military strike against North Korea, in the name of destroying the North Korean nuclear program, would entail. (2,900 words)


An evenhanded news story about the signing of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It can be paired with the pieces by Klimas and Slater. (1,000 words)


An opinion piece that suggests that, in spite of concerns about North Korea and President Donald J. Trump’s pessimism, nuclear nonproliferation has been quite successful. (1,000 words)


A classic journalistic account of the effects of the nuclear attack on Hiroshima, as told through the lives of six ordinary people. First published in the *New Yorker*, this piece is also available as a book. (152 pages/30,000 words)

An analysis of South Africa’s nuclear history that draws parallels to more recent nuclear nonproliferation efforts. (1,800 words)


A news story about the military’s negative reaction to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It can be paired with the pieces by Gladstone and Slater. (700 words)


A story of a journalist’s travels, examining the ways in which a nuclear weapon might fall into the hands of terrorists. (10,300 words)


A look at how disarmament in South Africa might serve as a model for disarming North Korea. (1,800 words)


A critical look at the Donald J. Trump administration’s nuclear policy. (1,600 words)


A piece written by four former senior U.S. officials that briefly lays out a path to ridding the world of nuclear weapons. (1,400 words)


An opinion piece supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear
Weapons. It can be paired with the pieces by Gladstone and Klimas. (1,100 words)

Henk Cor van der Kwast, “The NPT: Looking Back and Looking Ahead,” Arms Control Today, July/August 2015.

A detailed, wonky analysis of the most recent NPT review conference. (2,100 words)


An account of a government report about “dirty bomb” detection that also serves as a primer on this terror threat. (1,700 words)

Books


A book that discusses the history and policy of nuclear weapons and nonproliferation, summarizing different perspectives. (224 pages)


A succinct, compelling graphic novel that tells the story of the first atomic bomb, focusing both on the scientific side of its development and on the story of how the people who worked on it came to recognize its power and consequences. (150 pages)


A classic journalistic account of the effects of the nuclear attack on Hiroshima, as told through the lives of six ordinary people. First published in the New Yorker, it is also available in book form. (152 pages/30,000 words)
Classroom Reading List: Nuclear Proliferation


A classic, Pulitzer Prize-winning account of the development of the first atomic bombs. (896 pages)


A brief introduction to nuclear weapons technology and policy—an excellent starting place for many readers. (256 pages)

**Multimedia**


An extensive collection of videos, timelines, and interactive maps and graphs about historical and current issues in U.S.-Russian relations.

“*The World on the Brink.*” John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.

An online exhibit in the John F. Kennedy Library about the Cuban Missile Crisis. It narrates the thirteen-day crisis day-by-day, illustrating the narrative with archival material and recordings from the library’s collections.


A chilling collection of interviews in which U.S. soldiers who were assigned to be close to atomic tests describe what it was like to experience a nuclear blast. (15 minutes)

“*Radiolab: Nukes.*” WNYC Studios, April 7, 2017.

An exploration of the American nuclear chain of command from the award-winning podcast. (58 minutes)

“*Uranium: Twisting the Dragon’s Tail.*” PBS, July 29, 2015.
A documentary on uranium and the science behind nuclear technology, both peaceful and military. Clips are available here. (2 hours)

“What Happens in a Bomb Blast?,” Outrider.

A well-designed tool for visualizing the impact of a nuclear explosion, with clear explanation of each effect. This is a similar tool with more options but less explanation.

Research
Clifton B. Parker, “Public Opinion Unlikely to Curb a U.S. President’s Use of Nuclear Weapons in War, Stanford Scholar Finds,” Stanford, August 8, 2017.

A thorough summary of a scholarly article on public opinion and the use of nuclear weapons. (1,100 words)

“Nuclear Proliferation International History Project,” Wilson Center.

A collection of research and reporting on nuclear nonproliferation from a nonpartisan think tank.