

EVIDENCE

FOR RES 976 AND INT 1621

New York City Council, 28 January 2020



World's first nuclear submarine, USS *Nautilus* (SSN-571), in New York Harbor, 1958. Photo: U.S. Navy

NEW YORK CITY FOCUSED, NEW YORK CITY GENERATED RESEARCH AND REPORTS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

- [From Manhattan Project to Nuclear Free: New York City's Policy and Practice on Nuclear Weapons](#), by Matthew Bolton, MSc PhD, LHD (hc)
- [Why they call it the Manhattan Project](#), by William J. Broad, *New York Times*, 30 October 2007
- [It's a Superfund site but it is also their livelihood](#), by Vivian Wang, *New York Times*, 4 August 2017
- [The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#)

SHIFTING OUR FINANCES FROM MILITARY TO HUMANITY, DIVESTMENT FROM NUCLEAR WEAPON PRODUCERS, IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING HUMAN NEEDS

- [Producing Mass Destruction: Private companies and the nuclear weapon industry, 2019](#), by Susi Synder, PAX, May 2019
- [Nuclear Weapons are Risky Business: Divestment as Financial Prudence for New York City's Retirement Systems](#), International Disarmament Institute Discussion Paper. Version 13. 24 July 2019, by Matthew Bolton, MSc (LSE), PhD (LSE), LHD (hc)

- **Investing in Our City’s Future: Divesting from Its Destruction: New York City’s Finances and Nuclear Weapons**, A Report to New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer, by Matthew Bolton, PhD; Robert Croonquist, MA; Seth Shelden, Esq., JD; Susi Snyder; Kathleen Sullivan, PhD

INCREASED RISK TO CITIES AND THE HARM NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAUSE

- [City on Fire](#), by Lynn Eden, detailing predicted fire from a nuclear blast over one city. “By ignoring the fire damage that would result from a nuclear attack and taking into account blast damage alone, U.S. war planners were able to demand a far larger nuclear arsenal than necessary... Within minutes of a detonation, fire would be everywhere. Numerous fires and firebrands—burning materials that set more fires—would coalesce into a mass fire. This fire would engulf tens of square miles and begin to heat enormous volumes of air that would rise, while cool air from the fire's periphery would be pulled in. Within tens of minutes after the detonation, the pumping action from rising hot air would generate superheated ground winds of hurricane force, further intensifying the fire. Virtually no one in an area of about 40-65 square miles would survive.”
- [A price too high: Rethinking nuclear weapons in light of their human cost](#) by The International Committee for the Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC).
- Recently, the ICRC teamed up with a popular animation company to produce this short film, [What if We Nuke a City](#), illustrating what could happen when one nuclear bomb explodes over one city.
- More close to home, a brief animation [What if a Nuclear Bomb hit NYC?](#) based on the nuclear detonation simulator by Alex Wellerstein
- [We will all end up killing each other and one nuclear blast could do it](#), by Dr. Phillip Webber, Scientists for Global Responsibility, 18 May 2019
- [The Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons](#), by the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, November 2014
- [Nuclear weapons are an intolerable threat to humanity](#), by the International Committee of the Red Cross, 7 August 2018

INCREASED RISK OF NUCLEAR WAR

The nine nuclear nations have approximately 14,000 weapons between them, most belonging to the US and Russia. Of these, thousands are on hair-trigger alert, ready to be launched in minutes. New York City is likely to be targeted by nuclear weapons owned by Russia.

- [Russian nuclear weapons accident](#) on 8 August 2019
- [Russia explosion: Five confirmed dead in rocket blast](#), BBC News 9 August 2019
- [Too Close for Comfort Cases of Near Nuclear Use and Options for Policy](#), by Dr. Patricia Lewis, et al, Chatham House, April 2014
- [Energy Secretary Rick Perry promises more triggers for nuclear weapons](#), by Paul Sonne, *Washington Post*, 22 March 2018
- [US to loosen nuclear weapons constraints and develop more ‘usable’ warheads](#), by Julian Borger, *The Guardian*, 9 January 2018
- [Pentagon Suggests Countering Devastating Cyberattacks With Nuclear Arms and expanding the role of nuclear weapons to include non-nuclear attacks, for example cyber warfare](#), by David E. Sanger and William J. Broad, *The New York Times*, 16 January 2018
- [Donald Trump’s Nukes Plan Puts the Whole World in Peril](#), by Rajan Menon, *Mother Jones*, 11 March 2018
- [Trump suggests ‘nuking hurricanes’ to stop them hitting America](#), by *Guardian* staff, *The Guardian*, 26 August 2019

- [Mikhail Gorbachev tells the BBC: World in ‘colossal danger’](#), 4 November 2019

NUCLEAR WAR, MILITARISM AND CLIMATE CHAOS

- [Nuclear Weapons and Our Climate](#), by Tilman Ruff, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, 2019. “Global warming is upon us – in overwhelming scientific evidence, increasingly palpable in our lives, impossible to ignore. It is accelerating. Most of us now understand how crucial to human and planetary health is a stable and hospitable climate and securing this is the defining challenge of our age. Human disruptions to climate are frequently discussed, yet too few of us are aware that the most acute, immediate danger to our climate comes from nuclear weapons.”
- [Researchers to study environmental, human impacts of nuclear war](#), by Jim Scott, *CU Boulder Today*, 18 July 2017. “The new study will calculate in detail for the first time the impacts of nuclear war on agriculture and the oceanic food chain and on humans, including food availability and migration activity, said Toon of CU Boulder’s Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics. The team is using various scenarios to calculate how much smoke produced by fires in modern cities initiated by nuclear blasts would be produced by urban firestorms and their available fuels, Toon said.”
- [How an India-Pakistan nuclear war could start—and have global consequences](#), by Dr. Alan Robock et al. *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 28 October, 2019. “This article describes how an India-Pakistan nuclear war might come to pass, and what the local and global effects of such a war might be. The direct effects of this nuclear exchange would be horrible; the authors estimate that 50 to 125 million people would die, depending on whether the weapons used had yields of 15, 50, or 100 kilotons. The ramifications for Indian and Pakistani society would be major and long lasting, with many major cities largely destroyed and uninhabitable, millions of injured people needing care, and power, transportation, and financial infrastructure in ruins. But the climatic effects of the smoke produced by an India-Pakistan nuclear war would not be confined to the subcontinent, or even to Asia. Those effects would be enormous and global in scope.”
- [War on the World: Industrialized Militaries Are a Bigger Part of the Climate Emergency Than You Know](#), by Murtaza Hussain, *The Intercept*, 15 September 2019. “We have been killing, dying, and polluting to ensure our access to the same toxic resource most responsible for our climate disruption. It took this perfect symmetry between industrial warfare and industrial exploitation of the earth to bring about the unspeakable emergency we now face.”
- [Warheads to Windmills: How to pay for a Green New Deal](#), by Dr. Timmon Wallis, Nuclear Ban, US, 2019. “Our survival as a planet depends on drastically curbing greenhouse gas emissions in the very near future. Our survival also depends on completely eliminating the danger of nuclear weapons. By fortunate coincidence, the resources (federal funding, private funding, scientific and technical expertise, jobs and infrastructure) currently being wasted on nuclear weapons can be shifted to the production of green technologies to address the climate crisis.”

HEALTH IMPACTS IN THE US FROM NUCLEAR WEAPON TESTING

- [Radioactive Fallout from Global Weapons Testing](#), by Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 6 January 2014
- [US nuclear tests killed far more civilians than we knew](#), by Tim Fernholz, *Quartz*, 21 December 2017
- [Radioactive Heaven and Earth: the health and environmental effects of nuclear weapons testing in, on, and above the earth](#), a report of the IPPNW International Commission to Investigate the Health and Environmental Effects of Nuclear Weapons Production and the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, 1991.
- [Gender and Radiation Impact Project](#), by Mary Olson, January 2020. “The realization that girls and women have a greater risk of cancer, disease and death from radiation exposure than do boys

and men is important news. We must gain a better understanding of this difference, and ensure that society provides adequate protection, through scientifically informed regulations and practices.”

HEALTH IMPACTS ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE FROM MINING AND TESTING

- [Nuclear War: Uranium Mining and Nuclear Tests on Indigenous Lands](#), *Cultural Survival Quarterly Magazine*, September 1993
- [Health Impacts on Indigenous Communities Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons A Pacific Islands Priority](#), by Nic Maclellan, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, March 2017. “Some islanders have been permanently displaced from their homes and disconnected from their indigenous way of life. They have suffered, and continued to suffer, untold anguish, heartache and pain.”
- [Uranium Miners Pushed Hard for a Comeback. They Got Their Wish](#), by Hiroko Tabuchi, *The New York Times*, 13 January 2018. “All but a few of the 500 abandoned mines still await cleanup. Mining tainted the local groundwater. Mr. Holiday’s father succumbed to respiratory disease after years of hacking the ore from the earth. But now, emboldened by the Trump administration’s embrace of corporate interests, the uranium mining industry is renewing a push into the areas adjacent to Mr. Holiday’s Navajo Nation home: the Grand Canyon watershed to the west, where a new uranium mine is preparing to open, and the Bears Ears National Monument to the north.”

ECUMENICAL/INTERFAITH RESOURCES ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

- [Pope Francis’ recent visit to Hiroshima and Nagasaki](#), National Public Radio, November 2019
- [Address of the Holy Father on Nuclear Weapons](#), Atomic Bomb Hypocenter Park Nagasaki, 24 November 2019
- [Faith Communities deliver public statement on nuclear weapons](#), World Council of Churches, 2 May 2019
- [WCC leadership celebrates steps toward world free from nuclear weapons](#), World Council of Churches, 22 November 2017
- [Islamic Society of North America Reiterates Stand Against Nuclear Weapons](#), Islamic Society of North America, 24 October 2018
- [Presbyterians Call for Compliance with Nuclear Ban Treaty](#), Nuclear Ban US, 20 June 2018
- [General Synod calls for Elimination of Nuclear Weapons](#), by Hattie Williams, 9 July 2018
- [World Evangelical Alliance Task Force on Nuclear Weapons](#), World Evangelical Alliance, 2019
- [One Year Later: the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty](#), by Mark W. Harrison, United Methodist Church, 24 July 2018
- [Campaigning for nuclear disarmament](#), Quakers in Britain, 2017
- [Faith communities issue joint interfaith statement calling for urgent action toward nuclear abolition at UN headquarters](#), Religion News, 28 October 2018

STUDENTS RESPOND TO HIBAKUSHA TESTIMONY

- [A-bomb survivor testimony](#) as heard by NYC high school students
- [NYC Students Responses](#) to hearing first hand testimonies of A-bomb Survivors
- [If You Love This Planet](#), Setsuko Thurlow’s Speech on the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, United Nations, NYC by Amber Cooper-Davies & Hibakusha Stories/Youth Arts New York, 7 July 2017

- [Unspeakable Suffering: the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons](#), by Ray Acheson, et al, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, February 2013

NOTEWORTHY BOOKS

- **Jonathan Schell (1982)** — [*The Fate of the Earth*](#). New York: Alfred A. Knopf. Dr. Schell, was a native New Yorker, who woke up tens of millions of people to the reality of full-scale nuclear war. Described by the New York Times as “a horror beyond comprehension”, some argue that Schell’s *Fate of the Earth* was the most important popular book in support of the global movement for nuclear disarmament. He went on to write several essential books and articles on nuclear abolition. He was a staff writer for *The New Yorker* and also chief contributor to *The Nation Magazine*, writing regularly as their Peace and Disarmament Correspondent. In 2002, Dr. Schell participated in SANITY’s Youth Caucus at the United Nations. Students Against Nuclear Insanity for Tomorrow’s Youth was a project of Educators for Social Responsibility, Metro NYC. During the 2002 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee SANITY convened a youth-led gathering of 300 New York City high school students to inform and engage youth about nuclear weapons’ constant threat to humanity and the biosphere. *Fate of the Earth* was instrumental in the group’s thinking and Dr. Schell lent his support to these young New Yorkers, not to mention thousands of his own students spanning decades teaching at New York University, the New School, Wesleyan University, Princeton University, Emory University and the Yale Law School.
- **Kristen Iversen (2012)** — [*Full Body Burden: Growing Up in the Nuclear Shadow of Rocky Flats*](#). New York: Random House. Dr. Iversen [has been a visiting educator](#) for Youth Arts New York/Hibakusha Stories reaching thousands of NYC high school and university students sharing her story as an American unwittingly exposed to radiation growing up near the plutonium pit facility, Rocky Flats. The sprawling industrial park shuttered its production after the FBI raided the DOE plant site for violating basic health standards by burning plutonium contaminated materials and mismanaging other radioactive and toxic wastes over decades. Dr. Iversen’s book has been recommended as a text for NYC students participating in Youth Arts New York/Hibakusha Stories programming, as well as Hibakusha Stories annual staff development day at the United Nations for NYC teachers to learn about education for nuclear disarmament.
- **Eric Schlosser (2014)** — [*Command and Control: Nuclear Weapons, the Damascus Accident, and the Illusion of Safety*](#). New York: Penguin Books. Mr. Schlosser’s book has been recommended as a text for NYC students participating in Youth Arts New York/Hibakusha Stories programming.
- **Susan Southard (2015)** — [*Nagasaki: Life After Nuclear War*](#). New York: Penguin Books. Ms. Southard represented ICAN at the United Nations in New York on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, and participated in a [public forum](#) in Manhattan on the value of survivors’ testimony. Her book has been recommended as a text for NYC students participating in Youth Arts New York/Hibakusha Stories programming, as well as Hibakusha Stories annual staff development day at the United Nations for NYC teachers to learn about education for nuclear disarmament. Ms. Southard has been invited to present testimony to the hearing on Dromm et al’s disarmament legislation before New York City Council.
- **Dan Ellsberg (2017)** — [*The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner*](#). New York: Bloomsbury Publishers. Dr. Ellsberg, who famously leaked The Pentagon Papers, spent his young career as a nuclear war planner who later came to the realization that if nuclear weapons exist they will some day be used. He has dedicated his life to social justice and nuclear abolition. Dr. Ellsberg’s book has been recommended as a text for NYC students participating in Youth Arts New York/Hibakusha Stories programming, as well as Hibakusha Stories annual staff development day at the United Nations for NYC teachers to learn about education for nuclear disarmament.