

# NUCLEAR REALITIES

The urgency of a nuclear weapons ban!

Nuclear weapons have unparalleled destructive power. Today, our world faces the possibility of a catastrophic nuclear exchange between the U.S. and Russia. Americans and others around the world need to understand the risks posed by nuclear weapons and take urgent action to allay them.

A single intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) carries warheads with explosive yield equivalent to that of 4,000 - 6,000 Hiroshima-style bombs. With nearly 14,000 nuclear weapons in existence today, the risks to humanity and the environment are unacceptable.

In 2022, Just World Ed presented six public conversations to engage younger generations with nuclear-weapons issues and to celebrate the possibilities offered by the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Access the multimedia records of these convos by scanning the QR code or at:

**[bit.ly/JWE-nukes-hub](https://bit.ly/JWE-nukes-hub)**



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# NUCLEAR APARTHEID

... and the claim of nuclear deterrence

We are currently living in a state of "nuclear apartheid," in which the 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) allows only a select few nations—including the five veto-wielding members of the UN Security Council—to possess nuclear weapons, while all other NPT members are prohibited from having them.

Nine countries, including four that not NPT members, currently possess nuclear weapons (see below.) Their leaders justify these arsenals by claiming that they help to keep citizens safe by promising a harsh retaliatory strike, if attacked—aka, "deterrence." But the war in Ukraine has undermined the claims that such deterrence works, and has brought the world to the brink of a nuclear confrontation.

1	Russia	6,257
2	United States	5,550
3	China	350
4	France	290
5	Great Britain	195
6	Pakistan	165
7	India	160
8	Israel	90
9	Korea (DPR)	40

In addition to this approximate count of nuclear warheads, the United States — arguably in violation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons — keeps nuclear weapons in Turkey, Germany, Italy, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

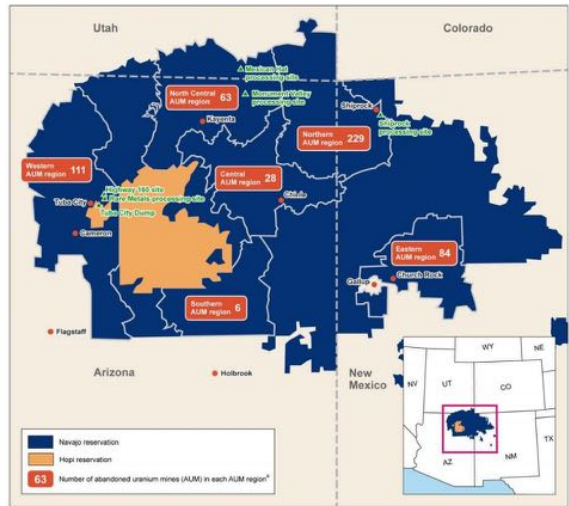
# NUCLEAR INDUSTRIES

## Nuclear colonialism and the myth of clean energy

The nuclear industry has long claimed that nuclear energy is a solution to the climate crisis, yet the reality is that it is extremely expensive and hazardous with no such thing as "safe" nuclear power. All aspects of nuclear business have devastating environmental and human impacts.

Colonial powers have long appropriated native lands and displaced native peoples for the purposes of uranium mining and nuclear testing. Less than a year after the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the U.S. initiated nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands, leading the way for other

colonial powers. From 1946 to 1996, the U.S., U.K., and France detonated 318 nuclear bombs in the South Pacific. The largest bomb ever tested by the U.S. was the Bravo bomb, detonated in 1954 over Bikini Atoll, with an energy yield equivalent to 1,000 Hiroshima bombs. France's first nuclear tests were in the Algerian Sahara where they detonated 17 nuclear bombs, releasing radiation across North, Central and West Africa, and the Mediterranean. These tests caused irreversible contamination to human populations and the environment.



Sources: GAO analysis of EPA and DOE data; Map Resources (map).

Map of abandoned uranium mines in the Navajo and Hopi Reservations. US Government Accountability Office



Three Mile Island nuclear facility, DoE

# THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is a landmark achievement in the global effort to ban nuclear weapons. The campaign for the treaty was spearheaded by nations of the Global South and survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. TPNW signatory states pledge not to develop, test, produce, acquire, possess, use, or threaten to use nuclear weapons. The TPNW also includes crucial provisions for victim assistance and environmental remediation.

The TPNW has received strong international support. It came into force in January 2021, and 68 states have now ratified it. But it has NOT yet been signed by the United States or any of the other eight nuclear-armed states.



**As the world's most powerful nuclear state, the U.S. has a crucial role to play in the campaign for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The TPNW provides key safeguards for all of humankind against the threat of nuclear annihilation. Strong citizen action is needed to push our government to sign, ratify, and implement this Treaty!**



Learn more by scanning the QR code or at: [bit.ly/JWE-nukes-hub](https://bit.ly/JWE-nukes-hub)