

# What's the future of nuclear weapons?



Nine leaders have the power to order a nuclear strike.

Even a small nuclear war could cause catastrophic changes in the climate. A large-scale nuclear war could lead to an extinction event.

## Bad News

## Good News



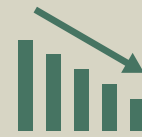
Russia partially suspends participation in New START nuclear treaty



US and Russia have dismantled 65,000 nuclear weapons since 1986



In 2022, world nuclear arsenal increases for the first time in 36 years



From 1986 to 2021, the world's total nuclear arsenal declined by 85%



In recent years, three countries have threatened nuclear strikes



Rate of nuclear proliferation has declined



China announces new nuclear "silo fields"



Nuclear testing has declined



Successful nuclear agreements are being abandoned



Fewer countries seeking nuclear weapons today than in the past



In 2022, Belarus withdrew from a nuclear weapons free zone



International Atomic Energy Agency successfully verifying nuclear agreements



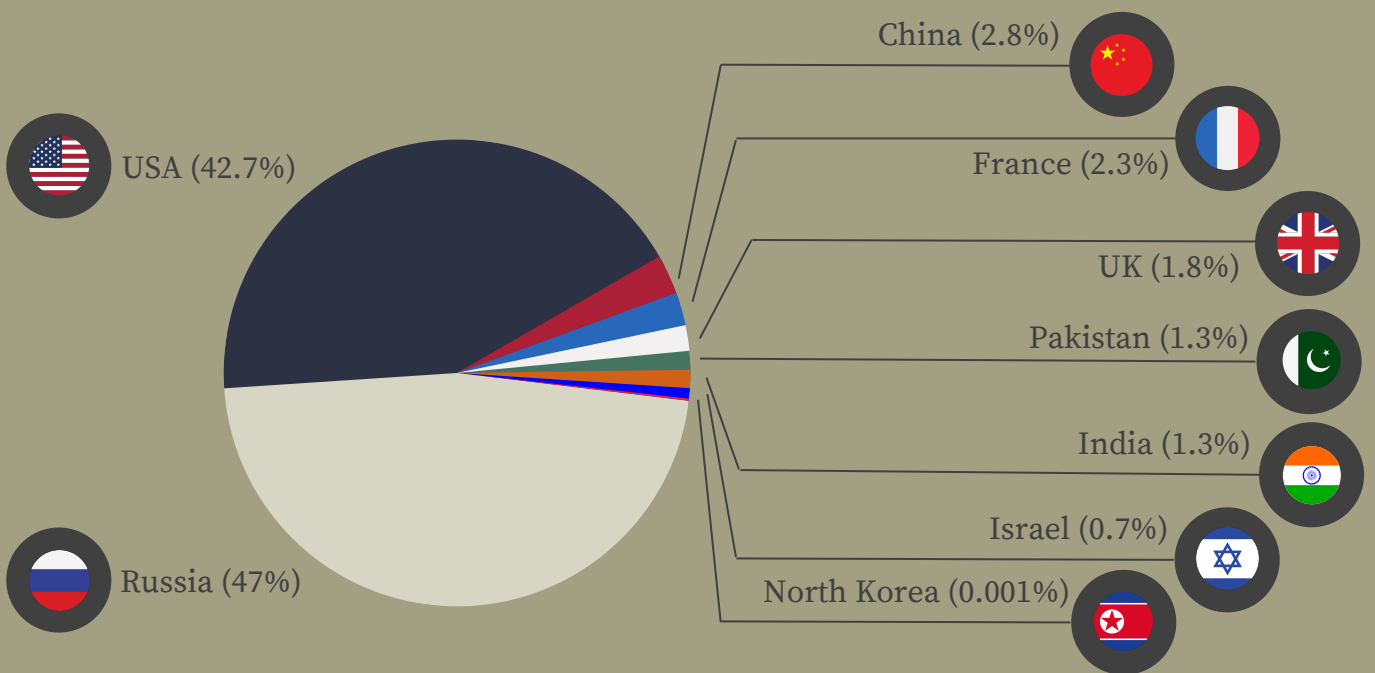
Britain raised cap for 200 new nuclear weapons



Passage of the International Nuclear Ban Treaty in 2021

# Nuclear weapons by the numbers

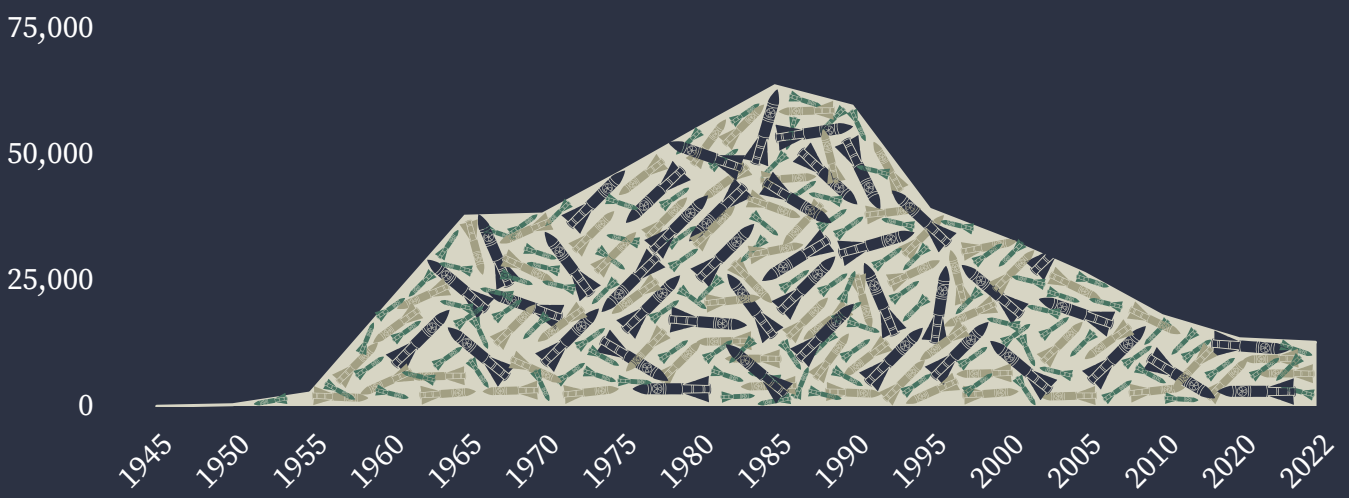
## NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY COUNTRY



Source: FAS.org

## NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARSENALS

Nuclear stockpiles have declined significantly since the Cold War



Source: FAS.org

## NUCLEAR TESTS PER YEAR

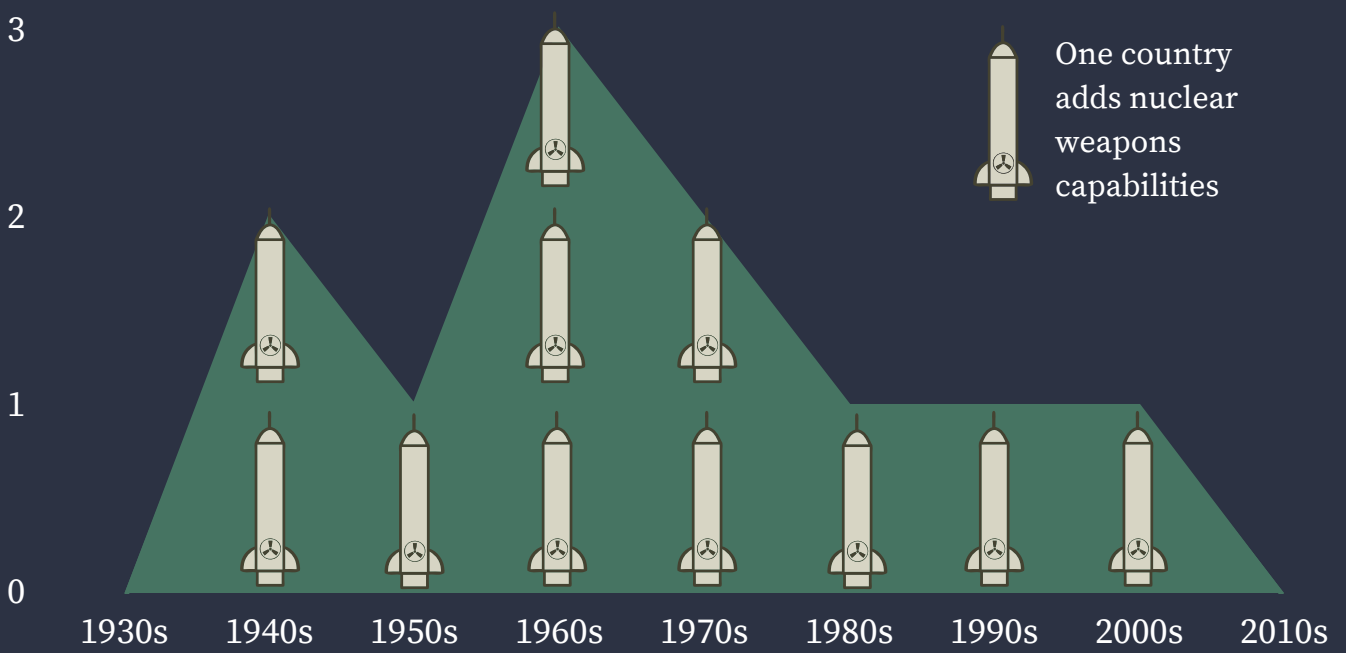
Despite occasional news of a nuclear test, there are significantly fewer today compared to the Cold War era



Source: Arms Control Association

## RATE OF PROLIFERATION

The last time a country launched a new nuclear program was in the 2000s



1940s: US, USSR; 1950s: Britain; 1960s: France, China, Israel; 1970s: India, S. Africa; 1980s: Pakistan; 2000s: North Korea.