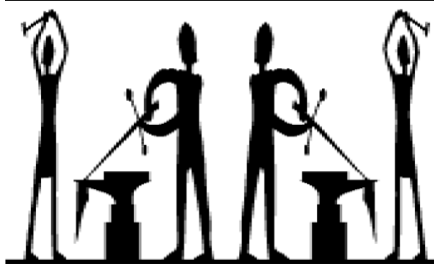


PeaceEconomyNews



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Depressing Military-Industrial-Congressional Trends Summer 2018

During the summer of 2018, it's hard to be upbeat about the state of the world.

- **Climate Change:** Intense heat throughout much of the world, flooding, forest fires, and plenty of other evidence reminds us that global climate change from human activity is a reality that will impact all on earth.

- **Trouble Spots around the World:** U.N Secretary General Antonio Guterres announced in June that the number of countries involved in “violent conflicts” is the highest in 30 years, and that the number of people killed in conflict had risen ten-fold since 2005.

- **Refugees:** The UN High Commission for Refugees stated that forced displacements in 2017 constituted 68.5 million. The President would like to allow no more than 30,000 refugees into the United States.

- **Money for the Military:** The recently enacted National Defense Authorization Act envisions \$716 Billion in the coming year to grow the U.S. Pentagon. Russia reportedly spends around 10 percent of that amount for its military.

- **New Weapons:** The Administration has renewed its commitment to a Nuclear Cruise Missile, Weapons in Space, increased capability to conduct offensive and defensive Cyberwarfare, and so much more.

- **Old Weapons:** In the tradition of preparing for the last war, there is plenty of new money for missile defense that too often doesn't work, tanks that are too hard to get to Europe in any volume, aircraft carriers that make a big target, and much more.

- Of course, there have been some positive occurrences. The University of Maryland has recently produced a “Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START).” They concluded that 2014 was the worst year for terrorism (17,000 attacks, 45,000 victims) compared to 2017 (10,900 attacks, 26,400 victims).

A truce seems to have broken out between Eritrea and Ethiopia and hopefully Columbia versus the FARC. And there is even talk of South and North Korean rapprochement. Many will also be pleased that President Trump has just cancelled (postponed?) his \$90 million Washington, DC parade.

But we won't end on a high note. Some of you will have read the article in the August 12th New York Times magazine entitled “War Without End.” Author C. J. Chivers in an excerpt of his forthcoming book *The Fighters: Americans in Combat in Afghanistan and Iraq*, summarizes the tragedy:

“It is beyond honest dispute that the wars did not achieve what their organizers promised, no matter the party in power or the generals in command. Astonishingly expensive, strategically incoherent, sold by a shifting slate of senior officers and politicians and editorial page hawks, the wars have continued in varied forms and under different rationales every year since the passenger jets struck the World Trade Center in 2001.”

For those who believe in peace, so much remains to be done.

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Taking on the Money Power

By Jason Sibert

A federal jobs guarantee has entered the political discussion as of late.

Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) recently talked about a federal jobs guarantee plan and said he will release more details in the fall. Senator Cory Booker (D-N.J.) introduced legislation for a three-year pilot federal jobs program and Senator Kristen Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) co-sponsored the bill.

The central idea of such plans is that everyone should have access to a job that pays \$15 an hour and comes with healthcare, family leave policies, and child care. Such a program would be good for low-income people. A Levy Economic Institute Report said that a family of five would lift themselves out of poverty with a \$15 an hour wage. In 2016, 9.5 million people who spent half of the year working or looking for work were still in poverty. The Levy report projected that such a plan would cost \$378 billion in the first five years and would rise to \$415 billion in the second five years.

The Levy report said the program will pay for itself through reduced crime, better economic stability, and reductions in social security spending. However, some have already registered opposition to a job guarantee plan. The idea of a guaranteed jobs program sparked off controversy on the grounds of fiscal responsibility. Some oppose the plan because they think it is too expensive. Are we really a spendthrift country? In his first year of office, President Donald Trump boosted defense spending by \$54 billion and Trump's nuclear weapons modernization plan cost the government \$1 billion. President Barack Obama had already approved a \$1 trillion upgrade program before the start of the Trump Administration.

The defense budget for fiscal year 2017 was \$523.9 billion, a \$2.2 billion increase over the previous year. How do such high budget numbers escape the scrutiny of the American taxpayer and the media? There are powerful commercial entities that benefit from ties to the Defense Department. In 2016, the Pentagon awarded \$304 billion in contracts to various companies. This was about half of the department's \$600 billion-plus dollar budget that year. Firms like Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, General Dynamics, and Northrop Grumman were the biggest beneficiaries. Citizens' tax dollars also cover lots of overhead, excessive executive salaries, and cost overruns on weapons systems that don't operate as planned.

Writer Brian Riedi said low-paying jobs in retail, fast food, and landscaping would be negatively affected because workers in those sectors would find it more attractive to work for the government. Again, we see economic power at work. Riedi is most likely worried about labor costs rising for non-governmental businesses. He used the term "negatively affected." However, rising labor costs wouldn't mean the end of those industries, as they would raise their prices to reflect their higher labor costs. The less productive firms in those sectors might go out of business, but other firms would survive and deliver the same products and services. Washington Post



St. Louis demonstrators display signs and prepare for a march supporting refugees at a World Refugee Day assembly in St. Louis on June 20

columnist Robert Sampson said such a plan would lead to inflation because the cost of labor in the private sector would go up and consumers would pay more for the products they purchase. Moderate inflation isn't so bad for those in the middle or lower end of the income spectrum because they pay back loans on dollars that are worth less than when the loans originated.

Like defense contractors, businesses in the lower paying sectors often purchase lobbyists to fight anything, such as stronger unions and higher minimum wages, that might bring about higher wages. Thus, we constantly hear rhetoric in the media about the downsides of high wages. There is also a concern that higher costs will mean fewer purchases by the American consumer and an economy less based around consumption. Another question must be asked. What is really most important to our economy? Would a little less consumption mean the collapse of our economy? Our economy would benefit from more childcare workers, more eldercare workers, and more people working on environmental restoration.

To move in the direction of an economy based on human needs and not money power needs, our country must counter money power with the power of people.

The United States is Building New, More Flexible Nukes. Why Don't I Feel Better?

By Charles Kindleberger

Soon after President Trump took office he directed DOD Secretary James Mattis to prepare a new Nuclear Posture Review (NPR). In February of this year the report was released. Several points were emphasized.

a) **Low Yield.** The report argues that we need new low-yield tactical nuclear weapons. These are warheads of less than 20 kilotons, such as the 15 kiloton bomb that decimated Hiroshima. The suggestion is made that this initiative is not to try to "match or mimic" Russia's weapons, but rather to "counter any mistaken perception of an exploitable gap in the US regional deterrence capability." There are said to be up to

500 nuclear weapons that can be configured to be “low yield” but that could take time. In the short term, some ICBMs with W76 bombs on Ohio Class submarines will be converted to low yield, and as called for in the National Defense Authorization Act, a new low yield submarine launched nuclear warhead will be developed. The current estimate for the new warhead is \$45 million. Some call this approach “escalating in order to deescalate.”

Then we learned in August of this year that the Air Force has tested a B61-12 nuclear weapon. The B61 bomb goes back to 1960s and there are many variations – the B61-7 (10kt-360kt), the B61-11(400kt, earth penetrator) and the 83-1 (a high yield bunker buster. Supposedly the B61-12 incorporates all these capabilities. The bomb is designed to be carried by the B-2 bomber of which there are 20, mostly in Missouri. This is a plane that can fly 6000 nautical miles with a large payload. They are being made more “stealthy” even as we await their replacement in the next 5 or 6 years by the B-21 Raider.

b) **Employing Nukes.** In the past there has been considerable interest in a clear policy that the US would use a nuclear weapon only in response to a nuclear attack. Not so. The NPR rejects that idea, stating that nuclear weapons could be used in response to “significant non-nuclear strategic attacks.” It is no wonder that previous leaders like Secretary of State George Shultz, Secretary of Defense William Perry and Former Senator Richard Lugar worry about the decision process to launch a nuclear weapon.

c) **Intermediate -Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.** Some believe that the Russians have violated this treaty which requires both Russia and the United States to eliminate ground launched ballistic and cruise missiles with a range of 300 to 3400 miles. The NPR calls for design of sea launched cruise missiles, and implementation if Russia fails to abide by the treaty. Interestingly, President Obama’s 2010 NPR stated that the US would retire nuclear sea launched cruise missiles.

d) **Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.** It has been ratified by the Russians, but not by seven other nuclear powers, including China. The NPR says that we believe in monitoring, and that we won’t resume testing unless it becomes necessary; however, we are not about to ratify the treaty. Nor would we consider the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons under current conditions.

Money. A year ago, the Congressional Budget Office examined the costs associated with U.S. Nuclear Forces during the time period 2017 – 2046, the next 30 years. The starting point was the Obama FY-2017 budget so changes are likely; nevertheless, the results were staggering. The CBO estimated \$1.2 trillion dollars (October 2017). The Arms Control Association factored in likely inflation and reached a higher number - \$1.7 trillion (August 2018).

Here are a few of the numbers:

- 12 Columbia Class ballistic missile submarines, replacing Ohio class - \$128 billion Navy estimate.
- 600 new Silo based ICBMs, replacing Minuteman IIIs - \$85 - \$140 billion.

- Life Extension Program on current Minuteman program - \$7 billion over last 15 years.
- 100 new B21 Raider Bombers, made by Northrop Grumman - \$100 million each; one Trillion?
- Refurbishment of Trident II D5 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM) - \$6 Billion.
- Replacement of D5 (SLBM)
- New air-launched nuclear cruise missile, fired as Long-Range Standoff (LRSO)
- Life Extension Program that combines a mix of bombs into the B61-12
- Life Extension Program for the new B61-12 when it reaches the end of service life – new B61-12.
- Life Extension Program for SSBN W76 and W88 warheads
- Life Extension Program to refurbish the W80 warhead to be used on LRSO.
- Production of 3 interoperable warheads (IW-1 – IW3) for use with ICBMs and SLBM.
- Tactical Nuclear Delivery Systems and Weapons - \$25 Billion.
- Nuclear Weapons Laboratories and Supporting Activities - \$261 Billion
- Command, Control, Communications and Early Warning Systems - \$184 Billion

Fear. If you are not worried about the rush to make more accurate nuclear bombs and their delivery vehicles, take a look at the August 2018 issue of “Harpers” Magazine. Andrew Cockburn, the Washington editor of Harpers, writes a piece entitled “How to Start a Nuclear War, the increasingly direct road to ruin.”

Cockburn starts with the story of an Air Force Lieutenant in the 1970s who figured out how two lower level officers could launch a squadron of 50 missiles. Beyond that he



Locals prepare for a pro-refugee demonstration on World Refugee Day in St. Louis on June 20.

discovered that if one of the conspirators was at a certain launch control center, they could transmit a message to launch the “entire US strategic nuclear missile force.” The lieutenant, Bruce Blair, had a hard time getting anyone to take him seriously. Later, he founded Global Zero with an immediate goal of changing the policy of “launch under attack.” Cockburn argues that today, the time frame in which a decision to fire our missiles in response to a perceived attack has gotten even shorter. Today the general in charge of the Strategic Command (STRATCOM, located at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha) has to alert the president, patch in other senior officials, if he can find them, discuss retaliation options and get the President to decide. If he doesn’t like the decision, the general can in theory defy it, disobeying the commander in chief. Good Luck.

So here we are towards the end of the second decade of the 21st century intent to build more flexible, tactical “low yield” nuclear weapons, on a path to spending on an array of incredibly expensive new nuclear weapons, and with a decision process that does not allow a judicious review about when to launch retaliatory missiles. No wonder the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists has the Doomsday Clock set at 3 minutes before midnight, the closest to midnight since the early 1980s.

Acknowledgments. Brenda Gautam, LAWFARE, Georgetown University Law Center, February 2018; Kingston Reif, “U.S. Nuclear Modernization Programs”, Arms Control Association, August 2018; Congressional Budget Office, “Approaches for Managing the Cost of U.S. Nuclear Forces, 2017 to 2046, October 2017.

50 Years of the NPT

By Jason Sibert

This year the world commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).

The treaty has established a reputation as a staple of global order, the bedrock of the international nonproliferation regime. The NPT was signed in 1968 by President Lyndon Baines Johnson. The treaty states that all nuclear armed countries must work toward the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. The treaty dealt with the relationship between nuclear and nonnuclear states. Nuclear armed states would work toward disarmament in exchange for nonnuclear states not pursuing nuclear arms. In addition, nations with nuclear weapons capacity would help the nonnuclear countries develop nuclear energy for civilian purposes. A half-century ago, the world was living through the Cold War. Superpowers like the United States and Soviet Russia clashed over matters of ideology.

The NPT was a nine-year process. In 1963, President John F. Kennedy predicted that there would be 21 countries with nuclear arms within a decade. The nuclear armed states feared both the exclusivity of their nuclear club ending and also living

In Memoriam

Our dear friend, Greg Stevens, died in March of this year. Greg was a regular supporter of PEP throughout the years--providing wonderful fundraising meals at the Wine Press and low or no cost printing at the Peace Institute Printing. In addition to the contributions he made to our organization, he supported other peace and justice organizations across the St. Louis area.

Greg was a passionate participant in the work for peace and social justice. He was a man who “walked his talk” and he is greatly missed.

in a less stable and secure world. These concerns led to the establishment of the NPT. President Johnson called the treaty “the most important international agreement since the beginning of the nuclear age.”

Although world tensions have flared in the last half century, the treaty has been a success in some ways. An overwhelming number (185) of nation states have no nuclear arms. In addition, there has been an 85 percent reduction in the

nuclear weapons in the world since the 1960’s. The United States and Russia (in its Soviet and post-Soviet forms) eliminated much of their nuclear arsenal from the 1980’s to the early 2000’s. These actions are consistent with the NPT.

There are still issues that remain with the treaty such as the extent of nuclear disarmament and the NPT’s inability to bring Pakistan, Israel, and India into the fold. However, the treaty has built a consensus among nations that our world should include as few nuclear weapons as possible.

Despite all of the good news, the ideas behind the NPT are being eroded. President Donald Trump has dedicated our country to a modernization of our nuclear arsenal, a process that started under President Barack Obama. In addition, Trump withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran, a 2015 plan passed under Obama. When he withdrew from JCPOA, Trump turned his back on the type of leadership this country has practiced since the beginning of the NPT.

The JCPOA is still being carried out by all of the other countries in the treaty. Trump has said that he would pressure allies into withdrawing from the treaty by imposing sanctions on countries that continue to do business with Iran. Trump’s actions make it tough for various nation states to cooperate on nuclear disarmament. The NPT has succeeded in eliminating many nuclear weapons because nations understood each other’s interests and decided to cooperate on a goal. The populist nationalism represented by Trump, which views the rest of the world with suspicion, represents a threat to the cause of nuclear nonproliferation. The organized defeat of this populism is essential if we are to progress toward a world free of nuclear weapons.

The Militarization of Immigration Policy

By Abbe Sudvar, MD

For months, headlines have been dominated by the devastating impacts of the Trump Administration’s immigration policies and the growing movement against them. Loved ones have been torn apart at the border, thousands have been funneled into a cruel and inhumane detention and deportation system, and there are almost 500 children who still remain separated from their families.

This devastation is only possible because our elected officials continue to fund it.

ICE's budget has jumped by almost a billion dollars in the last two years, and they are currently funded to detain over 40,000 people every night in detention centers and jails across the country.

(<https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ICE%20FY18%20Budget.pdf>)

Because of ICE's policies – detaining families, refusing to release asylum seekers, conducting raids on homes and businesses, and aggressively targeting immigrant communities – homeland security is claiming that even this astronomically high number of detention beds is not enough.

ICE is causing a tremendous amount of harm to communities across the country as it routinely engages in racial profiling and violations of human rights. Between 2010 and 2017 alone, 1,224 complaints were filed by those in immigrant detention for sexual and physical abuse. ICE provides substandard care, leading to injury and even death for many in ICE custody.

To give just one example, this summer, one-and-a-half-year old Mariee Juarez died shortly after her release from the South Texas Family Residential Center due to the inadequate care she received in ICE custody. Mariee and her mother had come to the U.S. seeking asylum.

While lawmakers may speak out about tragedies like this one, ICE is only able to commit these abuses because Congress votes, year after year, to give them more money. Congress has the power to put a stop to these atrocities by defunding an agency that incarcerates children and separates families.

A peace economy is one that welcomes immigrants and asylum seekers—not one that spends billions to incarcerate families. To be a just nation, we must change our spending priorities.

(Thanks to the American Friends Service Committee for information referenced in this article.)

The Importance of Resistance in the Era of Authoritarian Democracy

By Jason Sibert

The rise of authoritarian democracy around the world has brought change to the international system.

Life in a democratic republic means respect for majority rule and also for dissent and civil liberties. In addition, various political parties are a feature of democratic societies. The free exchange of ideas makes democratic life democratic. We've seen a weakening of these principles

with the rise of authoritarian democracy.

The ideas of authoritarian democracy are displayed in the leadership of President Donald Trump in America, Vladimir Putin in Russia, Narendra Modi in India, Tayyip Erdogan in Turkey, and Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines. Authoritarian democracy maintains the ideas associated with a democratic republic within a limited framework. The party in power uses the power earned in elections to muzzle dissent in various ways, even though some dissent and opposition political parties remain. For instance, Trump attacks the media (a critical institution in a democratic society), peddles conspiracy theories, praises autocrats like Putin, and encourages our country to scapegoat Muslims, minorities, and outsiders. This form of politics discourages dissent even though most dissenters aren't jailed or killed as in Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia. There are similar trends in smaller countries like Hungary, South Africa, and Venezuela. Putin's Russia represents an even harsher version of authoritarian democracy, as Putin has murdered journalists and members of opposition political parties, even though journalists and opposition parties remain. These tactics will chill dissent and keep it within certain boundaries.

Equally as disturbing as the weakening of democratic norms, this form of politics is having an impact on the world of international affairs. The above mentioned national leaders share a suspicion of the other nations and see themselves as defenders of a dominate culture that is under siege in their own countries. Since he started his presidency, President Trump has withdrawn from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) as well as the Paris Climate Accords, and has also slapped tariffs on U.S. trading partners. Since the end of World War II, our country has built multilateral organizations like the United Nations and the World Trade Organization to settle disputes amongst nations. Trump's actions undermine the whole idea of multilateral decision making.

Our country entered into the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1968. The treaty committed all signees to work toward the goal of nuclear disarmament. Very few states have remained outside the treaty and we have seen an 85 percent reduction of the world's nuclear stockpile since the beginning of the treaty. This huge accomplishment came about due to a multilateral agreement Trump undermined when he left the JCPOA.

The type of trust that built a successful treaty like the NPT is waning. The leaders in the realm of authoritarian democracy build their power on mistrust of "the other," meaning foreign lands and foreign people. In the era of authoritarian democracy, we see arms races breaking out throughout the world. Saudi Arabia says it will develop a nuclear arsenal if Iran decides to resume the nuclear path, which the JCPOA prevented. Trump



Janitors and their supporters march in favor of union rights in Clayton on Sept. 6.

pressures members of the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance to spend more on defense while at the same time the European Union is spending more. In addition, Trump has engaged in the largest military buildup in the history of peacetime America. Less cooperation, less trust, and larger military arsenals are the dominant trend.

While some march to the tune of authoritarian leaders, others show their opposition. This opposition is important to building a world defined by law and peace. We've seen this in the United States with movements that go against the grain of authoritarian democracy such as Me Too, Fight for 15, calls for compassion for the immigrant community, stated opposition to the current unilateral foreign policy, and in those who point out the overall danger of authoritarianism. If we are to check the growth of military arsenals, both conventional and nuclear, opposition to authoritarian democracy will have to grow and win!

The Rise in Insecurity

By Jason Sibert

The citizens of our country have long heard that the government is a threat to their freedom, their country's economy, and their livelihood. The political rhetoric of recent years tells us the government does nothing right and wastes our tax money on all sorts of things. However, the inner workings of the Department of Defense, the largest government agency, is rarely discussed when this type of rhetoric is being spouted. As mentioned in the above story "Taking on the Money Power," the Pentagon awarded \$304 billion in contracts to various companies in 2016, about half of the department's \$600 billion plus dollar budget. Firms like Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, General Dynamics, and Northrop Grumman reaped the reward with the taxpayers being asked to cover lots of overhead, excessive executive salaries, and cost overruns on malfunctioning weapons systems.

The above companies aren't so much interested in the defense of our country as they are interested in subsidies that help their bottom line. Last year, the heads of the top five contractors—Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Raytheon, General Dynamics, and Northrop Grumman – made a cumulative \$96 million. Unlike companies that provide Americans' goods and services in the consumer market, defense contractors are not dependent on consumer dollars. The salaries of the executives for defense contractors come out of taxpayers' pockets.

In his first year in office, President Donald Trump backed a \$54 billion boost in defense spending while the Senate backed a \$90 billion dollar increase. The arms industry certainly sports a lot of lobbying power. They've spent a billion in lobbying since 2009 and employ anywhere from 700 to 1,000 lobbyists. These types of practices are usually defended with the terms "strong national defense" and "supporting the troops." But is our current defense/economic arrangement really about security? Our military is already larger than all our geopolitical competitors combined.

What does the large amount of money spent by our government supporting the military-industrial complex do for

the American who is feeling such a deep sense of insecurity? Affordable housing is a case in point. Housing prices are creeping up everywhere from the nation's technology hubs to low-cost cities like Nashville, Tennessee and Boise, Idaho. Thousands on the West Coast are homeless. Every 11 seconds someone in America is kicked out of his or her home and 2.9 million people who work full time can't afford a house or apartment. Many live in homeless shelters.

A quality housing policy would change things dramatically for those in the middle-to-low end of the income spectrum whose lives are more in need of change than overpaid executives at defense contracting firms. A new housing policy would increase the supply of housing and make owning a dwelling easier for people of modest means.

Housing cooperatives are one of the best kept secrets in America for those who are looking for affordable housing. They are like apartment or townhome communities that are owned by the people who live in them. One pays to purchase a share in the cooperative, which can be anywhere from 3,600 dollars to 10,000 dollars, and then pays a monthly carrying cost, like a rent or mortgage, every month. The owner's hard-earned money goes to a cooperative that they own, not to a landlord.

Because co-ops often take the form of townhomes or apartments, they are more affordable than traditional home ownership. When Senator (I-Vt.) Bernie Sanders served as mayor of Burlington, he established the country's first municipally-owned land trust, the Burlington Community Land Trust, which paid for the land where small and affordable houses were built. This made home ownership more affordable because the trust paid for the land while the homeowners paid only for the house itself.

A national affordable housing plan would funnel federal dollars, that are currently being spent on an oversized military, to land trusts that would be established by individual cities around the country. The cities would purchase vacant land for affordable housing, some promoting the ownership of houses, like the Burlington example, and the rest would be in housing cooperatives. The cities would be responsible for the construction of housing.

Our current housing policy subsidizes home ownership in various ways, and we need to have a more inclusive subsidies. For instance, home ownership is subsidized through the tax code because homeowners can deduct the interest on their home loans. The government also supports Federal Housing Association loans, backed by a government-owned corporation called Ginnie Mae (Government National Mortgage Association), which allow lower-to-middle income people to purchase a home over a long period of time. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, backed by the government at one time in history, and still government regulated, also provided liquidity to the mortgage markets.

Our current housing policy needs to be changed because the housing expense of those who rent, who tend to be less economically well off than those who own, are not subsidized. In addition, people who move frequently or live in very costly cities often have no choice but to rent and are missing a

government subsidy. A new housing tax credit for the middle and lower classes would be a general tax credit, like the earned-income tax credit, that would refund taxpayers' money for housing expenses regardless of the type of housing they live in.

A change in housing policy will bring real security to the American people.

The Challenges to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

By Kira Webster

After fifty years of celebrating the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, current political trends are undermining the agreement. Signed in 1968 after the Cuban Missile Crisis, the NPT aims to reduce the spread of nuclear weapons, prioritize peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and achieve global disarmament. One hundred and ninety-one countries signed up, marking it as the cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation efforts. Because only one country -North Korea – has left (2003), the agreement is remarkably stable. However, India and Pakistan, countries that never signed the treaty, became nuclear powers. While the NPT significantly reduced the chance of a nuclear apocalypse, it has created opportunity for certain countries to have more power over others.

Under the original terms of the NPT, five countries were allowed to keep their weapons (the U.S., Russia, England, France, and China) in exchange for committing to reducing their nuclear stockpiles and also helping to develop peaceful nuclear technology. The countries that didn't possess nuclear weapons agreed to never develop them. However, the treaty does not prohibit the five nuclear armed countries from upgrading their arsenal and creating even deadlier weapons (despite this contradicting the way to a more peaceful nuclear strategy). There is also no explicit deadline for nuclear disarmament, which leads to merely relying on these nations to do the right thing in "good faith." Beatrice Fihn, director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, has argued that "the NPT is fundamentally flawed due to the fact that it creates a divide between powerful and non-powerful states."

Currently, with Iran threatening to pull out of the NPT, as well as Trump's questionable loyalties, the risk of a major conflict escalates since the treaty could easily crumble without all signatures on board. The mixture of Middle Eastern conflicts, Trump's aggression and boasts about the size of his "nuclear button," an increasingly emboldened China, and a resurgent Russia points to an international nuclear arms race.

There has been discussion of whether the NPT should be scrapped for something more robust – a Comprehensive Disarmament Treaty that enforces more willingness and effort towards a nuclear-free world. An agreement between a CDT and the NPT was proposed by China in 1964 – a No First Use pledge. This would prohibit nuclear states from being first in using their weapons in a conflict unless in retaliation of a nuclear attack against its own territory or military base/personnel. As of today, China remains the only country to have an unconditional NFU pledge. It has called on other

countries to create a multilateral NFU treaty. So far, no caveats have been found regarding their pledge, however, China has focused so heavily on conventional military modernization that it remains highly unlikely that they will strive for nuclear escalation.

Our country formally made an NFU pledge, in 2010, under



Janitors and their supporters march in favor of union rights in Clayton on Sept. 6. Peace Economy Project Attended.

the Barack Obama Administration. While the U.S. did assure that we would not use nuclear force against other compliant countries in the treaty, we also reiterated that the U.S. still reserves the right to strike first but would continue to reduce the idea of this right as a way of deterrence. This was once an important point to make during the Cold War, when allies in Eastern Asia and Europe needed to be assured that they would be protected should Russia launch any attacks. Due to this, critics of the NFU have suggested that our allies would be opposed to an NFU pledge, feeling that we would endanger them in chemical, biological, conventional, or cyber-weapons attacks. With tensions mounting against Russia right now, our allies in Europe would feel especially vulnerable. Since the Cold War, the U.S. has stated that this method of thinking is outdated, and proponents of an NFU pledge have stated that the U.S. has enough superiority in conventional weapons to deter any kind of threat. Kingston Reif, a member of the Arms Control Association, said that "a clear U.S. no-first-use policy would reduce the risk of Russian or Chinese nuclear miscalculation during a crisis by alleviating concerns about a devastating U.S. nuclear first-strike."

In 2017, for the first time in 42 years, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing regarding the President's ability to use nuclear weapons. Democrats also introduced bills to restrict the President's nuclear use without a congressional declaration of war. It's hard to say whether this would have a serious effect on Trump's ability to use nuclear weapons, but a steady hand could be the largest deterrence to a global nuclear war.

The National Defense Authorization Act—How does Congress Want to Spend Your Tax Money on the Military in FY 2019?

By Charles Kindleberger

As it is quick to tell you, Congress has passed an NDAA each year for the last 57 years, providing guidance as to how military money should be allocated. This year was no exception. At the end of July, a House-Senate Conference Committee approved a compromise bill, that they claimed will:

- Strengthen Military Readiness
- Provide troops with a pay raise
- Help implement the National Defense Strategy
- Promote Emerging Technologies
- Reform the Department of Defense

It will also cost a lot of money – \$716 billion in the upcoming fiscal year which started October 1st, 2018.

The House of Representatives passed the bill – 359 to 54, with almost all of the Republicans (220 – 5) expressing approval, while a majority of the Democrats (139 – 49) did too. This all comes on top of the \$700 billion approved for FY 2018. The President signed the legislation on August 13th at Fort Drum, New York.

The Senate Armed Services Committee argues that the new NDAA will “help the US change course” after years of “commitment to persistent counter terrorist operations” (read huge resources spent in Afghanistan and Iraq), inadequate funding, and budget insecurities (read the Budget Control Act of 2011) and “misplaced priorities and acquisition failures” (you fill in the blanks).

The Committee believes that “nation-state competition” (which must mean Russia and China) could “threaten the security and prosperity of our country.” Using a lot of two-dollar words, the argument is made that the new NDAA will “recalibrate and refocus our efforts on readiness restoration, capabilities modernization, and concept development, all aimed at reasserting a quantitative and qualitative military advantage over potential adversaries.”

How does one summarize the Authorization Act with its approximately 2000 pages but, fortunately, a 20-page detailed summary? Here are some initial impressions.

Jargon. There is so much to digest. For example:

- European Deterrence Initiative (EDI). More than \$6 billion will go into equipment and troops designed to keep Russia from misbehaving in Europe.
- Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI). An additional \$50 million is authorized (on top of \$200 million) for “lethal defensive equipment.”
- Chemical Weapons Convention. The US will soon impose new sanctions on Russia, though the extent of the pain is as yet unclear.

- Global Engagement Center. A division within the State Department assigned to understand and counter foreign state and non-state propaganda and disinformation efforts.
- National Command Center. Authorized to “deter, disrupt, and defeat ongoing active systemic cyber campaigns”
- Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). Allows the President to waive requirements on third party countries that commit to distance themselves from Russia’ defense and intelligence sectors.
- Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). The review process by this inter-agency committee examines the national security implications of foreign ownership of US companies.

The variety of these organizations and initiatives goes on and on. Tough on those who don’t live in or around the Pentagon.

Requirements. The NDAA is full of directives to the President, the Secretary of Defense, and other high-ranking officials. One is left with the impression that a lot of studies and reports are going to be prepared. For example, the NDAA:

- Directs the NSC to coordinate a “whole of government” response to “malign foreign influence operations and campaigns.”
- Requires the President to certify that he has complied with FY2018 NDAA requirements that he impose sanctions on Russia for violating the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF).
- Provides a report on Russian weapons development before authorizing any expenditure of DOD funds for extending the New START treaty.
- Provides Congress with certification that the President has imposed Open Skies treaty violation responses.
- Requires a report on the impact of Turkey’s bad behavior, etc.etc. and denies delivery of F-35s to Turkey until the report is complete.
- Requires the Secretary of Defense to review if Saudi Arabia or its allies violated applicable laws or policies while conducting operations in Yemen.
- Requires several reports on our legal and policy framework, and our specific missions, operations, etc. in Niger.
- Limits the use of funds until the President submits to Congress a Syria Strategy, as demanded in the FY2018 NDAA.
- Requires the Secretary of State to report on “war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in Syria.”

The new NDAA requires many additional reports, new

and modified policies, master plans and “whole of government strategies” during the new fiscal year. Who is going to read them, and to what effect?

Research and Development.

Suddenly, the NDAA seems to have woken up to the reality of a stronger Russia and especially China. China is reported to have built around one hundred naval ships in the last decade. In terms of ships, their navy exceeds the United States. And their missiles, the YJ-18 and YJ-12 are said to fly 240 miles, where as our subsonic Harpoon missile have a range of 77 miles. That reality places US aircraft carriers, with their 5000 person crew, in a real dilemma.

The Trump Administration claims that “China is using an all-of-nation long term strategy” and “leveraging military modernization, influence operations, and predatory economics to coerce neighboring countries to re-order the Indo-Pacific region to their advantage.”

One result is that the NDAA requires a lot of China oriented studies

- A “whole of government strategy” to examine the Chinese Communist use of “political influence, economic tools, cyber activities, military activities, “etc. etc.
- A five-year plan for an “Indo-Pacific Stability Initiative”
- A public report on the military and coercive activities of China in the South China Sea.
- The annual report on Chinese military and security developments to be modified to include malign influence activities.

There is also a push to develop high tech weapons which will enable us to catch up (in the eyes of DOD Secretary of Defense James Mattis, most Republicans and the President) with China and Russia.

Artificial Intelligence gets lots of support, including creation of an AI National Security Commission.

- Direct energy prototyping, such as the Airborne Laser, the Active Denial System, the Tactical High Energy Laser, etc.
- The rail gun, an electrical propulsion which has reportedly received \$500 million in US past investment, and on which China claims to be making progress.
- Undersea and unmanned aerial warfare research. The US Nuclear Posture review worries that Russia is developing a long range nuclear tipped torpedo, one that we need to defend against.
- Hypersonic weapons with their promise of delivering a cruise missile (a scramjet), or hypersonic glide vehicles,

**2017 Peace Economy Project
Financial Report**

Contributions, Gifts, Grants and other monies received	\$26,502.67
Total Expenses	\$28,689.89

both able to achieve speeds of 5 times the speed of sound. This is an area of reported Chinese and Russian active research. Last spring General John Hyten told Congress last year that we don’t have an effective defense against such a weapon.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is engaged in many more general projects. For example, the Electronic Resurgence Initiative (ERI) is a major effort to prepare for the coming moment when “Moore’s Law” (a 50-year old pattern whereby the number of transistors that fit on a chip has doubled ever several years) no longer applies.

Cyber Warfare. In the midst of an on-going investigation surrounding Russian cyber-attacks and use of social media during the last presidential election, it is not surprising that “cyber” receives a lot of attention. The NDAA is full of language that demands stronger cyber defense, and lots of prioritizing.

It stresses that the Department of Defense should undertake clandestine operations in cyberspace when “appropriately authorized.” Earlier this summer the House version of the NDAA gave permission to the President to launch a cyber war if he or she determined the US to be under attack, Congressional notification or authorization would not be required. It is not clear if that latitude was curtailed in the final legislation.

Finally, you may feel better when you learn that a Cyberspace Solarium Commission will be established to recommend a “strategic approach to defending the US in cyberspace against cyber-attacks of significant consequent.” Proposed by Senator Ben Sasse, it is actually a good idea whereby a bipartisan commission might bring some consensus and sanity to this strange world.

Weapons Acquisition. The NDAA authorizes acquisition of a lot of weapons.

Navy. Sixteen new ships are authorized including a new Ford class aircraft carrier (the 4th to be built, costing around \$13 billion); two more Virginia Class attack submarines; three DDG Arleigh Burke destroyers; and three Littoral Combat ships. There is money for unmanned air vehicles (UAV) to be placed on an aircraft carrier; for E-2D Advanced Hawkeye (carrier based early warning capability), Polar Icebreakers, and plenty more.

Air Force. The hugely expensive B-21 bomber program is fully funded, as is support for the President’s call for 77 more F-35s. There is support for 15 KC-46 Pegasus refueling planes, and a requirement to keep 479 air refueling tanker aircraft in the Air Force inventory. The NDAA funds the VC-25B Presidential Recapitalization Aircraft program which will result in several new Air Force One planes. President Trump claims to have saved \$1.5 billion off the \$3.9 billion price; however, details have not been forthcoming.

Army. NDAA authorizes lots of money for Stryker A1

combat vehicles, Abrams tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles, armored Multi-purpose vehicles, improved recovery vehicles and Joint Light Tactical Vehicles. There is more than half a billion for the Paladin self-propelled howitzer, and a like sum for AH-64E attack helicopters.

Nuclear Weapons. The NDAA supports the Trump/Mattis Nuclear Posture Review, which in many respects continued Obama's commitments. The big news is authorization of \$65 million for a low yield war head to be carried on a submarine. The justification for such a weapon is that the US would not have a proportional response if Russia or China used one against us. Jeff Pudlo of the Friends Committee on National Legislation reminds us that such bombs are not small: he suggests that the Oklahoma Bombing in 1995 (168 people killed) had the power of 2 tons of TNT. By contrast the kind of weapon proposed by the Trump administration would be equivalent to 5000 tons of TNT, enough to kill 15,000 in a typical city. The only good news is that actual development of this new bomb would require a specific Congressional appropriation.

The NDAA provides additional money (\$154 million) and requires acceleration of the Long Range Stand Off weapon whereby a nuclear tipped cruise missile will be carried on B-52s and Northrup Grumman's new B-21. Raytheon and Lockheed Martin are the prime contractors. A similar message is directed to those developing a new Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) which would replace the ICBM Minuteman missiles, now more than 40 years old. Boeing and Northrup Grumman received contracts in excess of 300 million each last year for this purpose.

There is additional attention in the legislation dealing with nuclear weapons modernization plants, nuclear cleanup, nuclear waste and more.

Space War Fighting. For the last several years there has been growing debate between those in Congress who argue that a new branch should be created devoted to warfare in space, and those in the Department of Defense who believe the work should be carried out within the Air Force.

The NDAA does not come down clearly on this organizational issue, but it expresses concern that our space efforts have fallen behind Russia and China. More is demanded in terms of:

- Acquisition reform including a separate process for developing and obtaining space material.
- Additional resources.
- Improving the capability/quality of the space cadre.
- A "space war fighting policy" that identifies "joint mission-essential tasks."

Missile Defense. Fear of missiles launched from Iran or North Korea has intensified, as has uncertainty as to what the US can do about it. The NDAA pushes ongoing cooperation with Israel, supporting \$500 million for improvement of Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow Weapon systems.

An additional \$140 million is added to the already substantial amount proposed for the Missile Defense Agency. There is also a hint of frustration in the prohibition of funding for the Redesigned Kill Vehicle before further flight testing.

Recall that there are three times during which an ICBM can be attacked: the 5 to 10 minute "boost" phase when the missile is launched; the longer "midcourse" phase during which the missile travels through space; and the "reentry" descent back through the atmosphere towards the target.

Many experts are skeptical about the tests that the Missile Defense Agency has conducted, arguing that they were far from realistic. Theodore Postol, MIT emeritus professor of science, technology and national security believes (Harpers Magazine, December 2017) that stopping the ICBM in midcourse is bound to fail. First because the enemy can fool the MDA sensors with balloons, or other chaff or fragments. Second, because even if the kill vehicle selects the correct target, it must hit the high-speed missile within an accuracy of several inches. He and others would argue a better way to go would be to attack the missile(s) during the phase.

This brings another set of problems – where to place the radar and anti-missile weapons. Placement on ships in the Yellow or Japanese Sea, or on South Korean land, would all raise political and security concerns. So too would Postol's preference of airborne drones, equipped with "fast accelerating interceptors."

Others like Rebecca Heinrich (senior analyst at the Hudson Institute, and Fox News commentator) believe that stopping a nuclear missile during its boost phase could happen from space. Thus, she argues that we need to "rapidly deploy a sensor architecture in outer space" and then to develop an "intercept layer" able to destroy the missile.

One can sense Congress's frustration. The NDAA requires a report from the DOD examining the costs and strategic stability associated with DOD's review of Ballistic Missile Defense. Then they ask that the Congressional Budget Office do a separate review of the costs. Need some more analysis? The NDAA also asks that the DOD review the findings of the JASON Defense Advisory Group (independent group of 30-60 elite scientists) regarding "missile defense counter measures test program".

Summary. This article captures only a fraction of the details covered in the legislation. From my perspective there is some good news, as well as additional bad news.

Good News. The conference committee did not include money for the President's Wall, nor did they include \$69 million for a new "High Value Detainee Complex" in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba as requested by the President. Troops will receive a 2.6 percent salary increase, something they have not had for a long time.

The NDAA includes tighter directives for dealing with domestic violence, sexual assault, opioid problems and child abuse. There is evidence of some environmental sensitivity – for example, the Greater Sage Grouse and the Lesser Prairie Chicken may be listed on the Endanger Species Act, rather

than prevented from such action for 10 years.

There are requirements that US Officials prohibit inflight fueling of Saudi Planes, unless the Saudi coalition mends its behavior in Yemen; and that the Secretary of State report on war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in Syria. However, a tougher policy on the Myanmar (Burmese) military (given their Rohingya atrocities) was not included.

Bad News. There is plenty on top of what you have read. The parade that the President wants is authorized, though he has apparently postponed it. Despite the Pentagon's claim to have 20 percent excess capacity in bases, the NDAA make it clear that there is nothing authorizing a new Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. Congress remains deathly afraid of anything that might reduce jobs within their districts.

Interestingly, this year's National Defense Authorization Act is named after recently deceased Senator John McCain, Chair of the Armed Services Committee. He, along with the ranking Democrat Senator Jack Reed, advocated for more base closures. But they could not overcome the perennial fear on the part of Congress.

On September 13th, a "minibus appropriations package" was passed by the Senate and forwarded to the President's desk. This measure covers the Defense Department's massive budget (\$20 billion more than last year), several other departments, and a continuing resolution that will cover other federal government costs until December 7, 2018.

A Reflection of Police Militarization

By Maggie Hannick

Black Lives Matter, protests, riot police, and police brutality are connected. One of the answers to the connection may be in a new study that found militarized police units are used in communities of color more often. Living in St. Louis, I am familiar with this. After numerous killings of unarmed and innocent black men and women by the police, I have seen how police militarization affects these communities.

When people think about police brutality, they think of "the unrest in Ferguson," a phrase we hear a lot. For some, it represents the cry for justice and the need for an end to police violence. For others, it's used to ignore this cry and show the protests in a negative light. Regardless of how you think of it, which I personally believe empirical evidence recognizes the greater likelihood of minorities being pulled over and shot by police, the militarization of our police forces is wrong. In addition, such militarization doesn't reduce violent crime or prevent officers from being killed, which is found from a study of 9,000 law enforcement agencies in the U.S. – one

of the first studies to research systematically the use and consequences of militarized police forces. For example, in Maryland, militarized police units are more likely to be deployed in black neighborhoods. The study also showed that militarized units hurt public confidence in law enforcement and portray police departments as being overfunded.

Some in the world of policing say that SWAT teams and other militarized forces are necessary for police and public safety, particularly in situations involving active shooters or hostages. Another statistic of note, the Department of Defense gave local law agencies over \$4 billion in military equipment between 1997 and 2014. In a different report by the Proceedings of the National Academies of Science in August, it stated that police militarization works against law enforcement in the court of public opinion.

The events surrounding the shooting of Michael Brown on August of 2014 received lots of media attention. In reaction to this deadly event between a young (only 18 years old) unarmed black man and a white police officer, protestors and law enforcement were pitted against one another in the streets. Pictures show unarmed racial minorities standing just feet from police officers' guns. I, myself, was at the protests on West Florissant Avenue in Ferguson and witnessed the terrifying police presence on this one block of the street. Right beyond it was a Walmart that looked like a warzone. Tanks were everywhere, SWAT teams were heavily present, and tear gas and weapons were all around me. As a child during this time, I didn't understand the show of force. Why was there so much police militarization on one street and why were police tear gassing people? However, I am white. Yes, I was scared, but I cannot imagine how any person of color would feel. The police were not targeting me, and they never will because of the color of my skin. We protested because of a racist, prejudice, bias, discriminatory, unjust, and institutional system.

The events in Ferguson led to national coverage on police brutality and to some reform of policing, such as demilitarization and body cameras. Also, people started looking into the connection between police militarization and race. Others became curious about the costs of militarization on police forces. Researchers and scientists found that it was hard to study police and their impact on communities of color because recordkeeping differs and varies widely from each agency. Some forces do not even have data.

Some argue police militarization infringes civil liberties for public safety's sake, and some strive to implement it in all police forces. SWAT should take care of high intensity, dangerous situations nationwide, while our police forces should protect their communities and not kill



Maggie Hannick, Peace Economy Project Intern.

them. Military tactics and weapons used by police in communities, especially those of color, not only take away civil liberties but also target and hurt people. Individuals feel less safe, secure, and protected and more fearful and at risk when the militarization of the police is present on their own streets.

Space Dominance! Must We?

By Charles Kindleberger

Vice President Mike Pence recently proclaimed the creation of the Department of Space Force by 2020, following the announcement earlier in the summer by President Trump and the initial pushback, from the Pentagon, especially the Air Force.

Quoting the President, Pence proclaimed “it is not enough to have merely a presence in space, we must have American dominance in space.”

We can look forward to a Space Development Agency, followed by a Space Operations Force (“to provide expertise and surge capabilities to the combatant commands”). Laws will have to be changed to create a Space Force, followed by the creation of a U.S. Space Command (“in order to direct employment of the Space Force”). The Vice President stated that the President would ask for \$8 billion to fund this effort.

More recently in mid-September, Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson sent a memo suggesting that the first-year cost of the Space Force would be \$3.3 billion, and that over 5 years it would be \$12.9 billion. There is a proposal that the Missile Defense function would be placed within the new branch. The last independent service was created in 1947, the Air force.

Not everyone is excited about the Vice President’s declaration. Here, for example, are just a few of the comments placed on Military.com:

- “The ideal candidates for this unit will be aliens who, no doubt, will be offered a path to US citizenship for volunteering to serve. As for Pence he is an empty suit with an open line of communication to the supernatural.”
- “This is so unnecessary and a huge waste of our tax \$. We already have a Space Command in the Air Force! There is NO need for another expensive bureaucracy...”
- “Space Force is as likely to get through Congressional approval as me winning the Mega-lottery, without buying a ticket”

These comments are funny, but the concept of a space race is scary. In the 1960s prolonged negotiation resulted in a treaty signed by most countries in the United Nations in 1967. Article IV restricted activities as follows:

There is an undertaking not to place in orbit around the Earth, install on the moon or any other celestial body, or otherwise station in outer space, nuclear or any other weapons of mass destruction.

And the use of the moon and other celestial bodies are exclusively for peaceful purposes Their use for establishing military bases, installation, or fortifications; testing weapons of any kind; or conducting military maneuvers is expressly prohibited.

Check the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (www.unoosa.org) for related treaties and principles dealing with space. Note that in 2006, the United Nations General Assembly proposed a resolution against all space weapons; the United States was the only nation to vote against it. Again a few years later the US voted against joint China and Russia resolutions on limiting weapons in space.

Long time members of the Peace Economy Project will recall that the use of weapons in space is an old fight. In the past we have been visited by Bruce K. Gagnon, an activist who has long cared about these and other peace issues. A book containing many of his articles about his struggles is *Come together Right Now, Organizing Stories from a Fading Empire, Just Write Books, 47 Main Street #3, Topsham, Maine, 04086; www.jstwrite.com; 2005.*

Space Force, a Trigger for a New Arms Race?

By Jason Sibert

President Donald Trump has voiced support for a new armed service, the Space Force.

The concept of an armed service for space first emerged in 2000 in a recommendation led by Donald Rumsfeld, Defense Secretary from 1975 to 1977 under President Gerald Ford and from 2001 to 2006 under President George W. Bush. The proposal disappeared after the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. It reappeared a little over a year ago when the House of Representatives discussed legislation that would direct the Defense Department to create a “space corps” inside the Air Force. The legislation failed but supporters remained optimistic with Trump proposing a similar idea. Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson responded by saying “the Pentagon is tough enough” and also pointing out a space



Jobs with Justice employee Cody Burlison (left) talks with a participant in a march in favor of union rights for Janitors on Sept. 6 in Clayton.

corps would make it more complicated.

The Space Force would head all military space operations that are currently under the Air Force and other agencies. The Air Force, the newest armed service, came about in 1947 with a reshuffling of the defense infrastructure after World War II. The Space Force would be established by an act of Congress, just like the Air Force.

But what long-term impacts would a Space Force have on the future of our country and space exploration? The commercial space sector has grown in importance over the years with \$314 billion added to the world economy. Space gives us so much in the way of economic growth and one can only imagine what the future will bring. However, the militarization of space would mean an undoing of its positive benefits. First, there is the question of the negative financial impacts. Spacecraft are more delicate than many realize. Destroying a satellite, which cost billions, can be accomplished by blowing it up with a space weapon. However, a satellite can also be destroyed by something as small as a pebble.

In the years since the Cold War, when Soviet Russia and the US engaged in a space race, the struggles of world geopolitics have projected themselves into space. Our competitors, Putin's Russia and China, are trying to challenge U.S. superiority in space.

Although not often discussed in the media, the world is divided into competing blocks. Russia and China are a part of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The organization was founded in 2001 and includes Iran and India and excludes our allies, with the exceptions of Pakistan and Turkey. The United States filed an application with SCO in 2005, but the application was rejected. In addition, the United States has also taken part in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue along with Japan, India, and Australia. The Quad is widely viewed as a de facto anti-Chinese alliance, part of what President Barack Obama called the U.S. "pivot to Asia."

The geopolitical struggle played out at the United Nations three years ago when a plan to establish laws for spacefaring nations, drafted by the European Union, failed due to opposition from various countries, including China and Russia. Arms control expert Michael Krepon has lectured on the need to consider space a part of the commons, that part of our economy that cannot or should not be reduced to private property. Roads, a clean environment, and education are considered a part of the commons. They have economic spillover effects into many economic sectors and benefit those sectors more than if they were considered private property. Private toll roads might benefit the operators of the toll roads but would add costs to many businesses. Space adds billions to our economy. The militarization of space defeats the purpose of space considered a part of the commons, as all sides in a potential conflict would fight over space as if it belonged to them.



Locals display signs supporting St. Louis refugees at a pro-refugee demonstration on World Refugee Day in St. Louis on June 20.

If space were law-governed, the commons would be preserved along with the economic benefits space creates for all of humanity. The various power centers of the world, the U.S., E.U., UK, China, and Russia, should cooperate and try to build this world. The cost is too high not cooperate in space. The establishment of a Space Force would provoke a response by our geopolitical foes - an arm race. Like any arms race, each power would have to spend to match the other and the whole project of the growing space economy would suffer.

Thoughts from St. Louis Women for Peace

By Lynn Sableman

As of late, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has been active in the St. Louis region and around the country in showing dissent to the current political environment. WILPF marched with 350.org here in St. Louis on Sept. 8 with the encouragement of the national office. We held a banner that said "Peace and Planet before Profit" in the demonstrations held near St. Louis University and Harris Stowe University. There were signs showing support for renewable energy carried by 350.org, a group deeply concerned about climate change. The group's name issues a warning, as 350 parts per million is the level of atmospheric carbon dioxide that climate models suggest would lead to irreversible planetary destruction. The answer to the problem of the greenhouse effect is to create a plan to move from fossil fuels to renewable energy. In addition, the WILPF chapter near Lawrence Livermore Lab concentrated on radiological weapons and power plant pollution.

As of this writing, Hurricane Florence has not touched down on the U.S. coast. News stations are warning populations to move out of the hurricane's path. Our work in local demonstrations provide an exercise in consciousness raising. Climate change causes more forceful destructive weather patterns and hurricanes. America's emergency services are not

prepared for all the issues that the greenhouse effect presents. Something to note, there are six nuclear power plants in this hurricane's path. Journalist Julia Conley, a staff writer for Common Dreams, recently pointed out that there are several Fukushima-style reactors and one is the flood-prone Brunswick Nuclear Power Plant. History has a lesson to teach us here - the devastation after Chernobyl, the vast territory that was evacuated during the meltdown, and those left uninhabitable and abandoned.

Also, local journalist Ray Hartman writes in the current St. Louis Magazine about the good news at Cold Water Creek. Seven decades of heroic activism, by generations of women leading community groups over the continued high occurrence of rare autoimmune disease and rare bone, lung, breast, and brain cancers, have at last been confirmed to be the result of contamination from leaking drums, spillage, and glowing trucks of uranium tailings left in landfills from uranium refining activities by St. Louis Mallinckrodt Chemical Works for the secret Manhattan Project in 1942. Missouri, which has the lowest funded and least responsive government agencies, finally sent a "compassionate bureaucrat" who listened, took soil samples, gathered facts, and finally confirmed the link. The EPA worked on this morass of human suffering, Missouri's

worst environmental disaster, without result.

Radiation has a long life in the ecological systems we depend on for our lives and uranium-238 and thorium-232, with half-lives of 4.5 billion and 14 billion years, produce forever lasting harm. There is no safe way to secure this waste when earthquakes, thermal currents, and ground liquefaction occur. Another thought - there is a new nuclear arms race that includes modernized weaponry. The new low-yield nuclear bombs have the same destructive power as Hiroshima - 15 kilotons! Of course, these weapons of mass destruction are immoral and unethical to use. We must say goodbye to the whole nuclear era!

Talk is essential to winning the war for nuclear arms control - tell stories of survivors, rally a strong resistance, and pressure politicians to speak out against nuclear weapons. We must urge our representatives to sign on to the United Nation's Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and boycott institutions funding the nuclear program.

If you find the subject of nuclear arms control interesting, attend Women's International League for Peace and Freedom's World Denuclearization Salon the second Friday of the month at Plowshare at 6:00 p.m. in University City.

2018 Annual Report The Peace Economy Project

The Peace Economy Project has spent 2018 producing media that is consistent with our mission. We oppose bad military policy – and we put energy into a call for the transfer of funds from the military to health care, community policing - and -yes - nation-building. Executive Director Jason Sibert regularly argues for less military spending, a more diplomatic approach to foreign policy, the establishment of international law, and more spending for human needs in letters to the editor for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the Belleville News Democrat. He also writes op-eds for Today's Advantage and stories for the Progressive Populist. When not publishing in outside publications, Sibert also writes stories for PEP's website.

PEP's Mission

The Peace Economy Project researches military spending, educates about the hazards of an unchecked military-industrial complex and advocates for conversion from a military- to a more stable, peace-based economy. We focus our attention on local weapons manufacturing, arms proliferation and worldwide militarization. We collaborate with other organizations to raise consciousness about where our tax dollars are invested and to encourage others to reinvest in their communities.

PEP's Accomplishments

PEP collaborates with Veterans for Peace, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Empower Missouri, the Table, Drone-Free St. Louis, the United Nations Association, Interfaith Center on Latin America, Show Me \$15, Jobs with Justice, Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration, Netroots Nation, Amnesty International, Civitas Model UN, and Forward Through Ferguson,

PEP publishes a monthly eZine, maintains our website, and publishes an annual newsletter

The organization published a Call to Congress to cut military spending, collected signatures, and delivered the signatures to Members of Congress.

PEP currently works with three different college interns who produce stories for our website. The interns, Kira Webster, Brenna Sullivan, and Maggie Hannick, tackle subjects such as police militarization, nuclear arms control, international law, and obscene military spending. Between the interns and the executive director, readers of our website are treated to a new story each week. PEP has created a credible news site for those who are interested in the topics we report on.

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