[Security Council]

Research Report
The Question of:
Preventing A Renewed Arms Race

Introduction

The developments of weapons for the use of defense and offence by communities and countries has been a common phenomenon throughout the course of human history. This can be traced back to the stone age where, as surrounding predatory threats grew, humans needed to continue developing weapons from wood to stone and eventually into metal. As a species we continually adapt to our surroundings to survive. This is essentially how arms races start. Countries feel afraid of falling behind on weapon technologies and thus develop their own in order to keep their people safe. This phenomenon can easily spin out of control as seen in various historical examples where increased tensions and secrecy resulted in the outbreak of large scale wars. The United Nations and the Security Council were founded in 1945 to resolve such tensions and cases of military aggression. Today, there are various regions that have essentially become exhibitions for arms race developments thus creating volatile environments in areas such as the Middle East and the South China Sea. The main form of arms that are currently being involved in such arms races today are long and short range nuclear missiles by countries such as the DPRK. You may find that although the issue is not specifically on a nuclear arms race, the majority of development competition takes place in the realm of nuclear weapons in recent history.

The Committee

The United Nations Security Council is a very special committee because of the binding nature of its resolutions. Nations are legally bound to adhere to resolutions that have passed. Furthermore, there are 5 permanent members who have a right to veto any clause or resolution leading to its immediate failure. There is also a rotating board of 10 other members who in this case are Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, South Africa. Resolutions and amendments require 9 in favor votes in order to be passed. Because of the resolutions being binding, there are certain clause starters that are unique to the security council. Examples are Condemns and Declares.

Key Terms

Arms Race- Competition between states in order to develop and produce increasing more and more powerful weapons in order to reach military superiority.

ICBM- Intercontinental Ballistic Missile. This is a long range guided missile that is able to travel at least 5500 kilometers. It is generally deployed in order to mobilize nuclear weapons and warheads

Launch On Warning Policy- Protocol installed in various missile defense systems that automatically releases a retaliation strike when an enemy missile threat is detected. This has the fatal flaw of false alarms and human error mistakes.

Enriched Uranium- Changing the chemical structure of naturally occurring Uranium to have a higher concentration of the Uranium-235 isotope which yields a greater nuclear power

Nuclear Warhead- explosive installment to a missile that makes use of a Fission chemical reaction in order to create impacts of approximately 500,000 Tons upon explosion

General Overview

Should agreements on weapons regulation include limitations on missile defense systems? During the implementation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty of 1972, this used to be the case. The agreement itself only considered regulations on strategic large scale missile defense systems but excluded national and local defense systems. This in turn allowed nations to defend their own interests and population while keeping international conflicts at bay. The idea of a large scale arms race was kept unlikely until the US withdrew from the treaty in 2002 and immediately began developing the size and capabilities of its military arsenal. Ever since the agreement fell apart the Russian Federation has kicked off a series of large scale series of advancements in the technology of its missile defense systems with a focus on their signature A-135 system for more international and long range situations. Russia has only recently began to develop its military systems on a more worldwide scale as it took a large military presence in Syria and various other regions in Iraq.

Global powers such as China and Russia have become deeply concerned by the US mobilization of missiles and weapons on a worldwide scale. An example of this is the "Third Site" programme set up by the US with the goal of developing military presence in the Czech Republic and Poland. This was seen by Russia as a threatening move that brought US attack capabilities closer to Russian Land. Diplomatic relations were on a high tension level and so the countries saw development of weapons as the only safekeeping measure when talks were not possible. This approach was neglected during the Obama term and was replaced by what came to be known as an "Adapted Phase Approach". This essentially involved separating the research and development of weapons from actual military use. This serves to slow down the rate at which

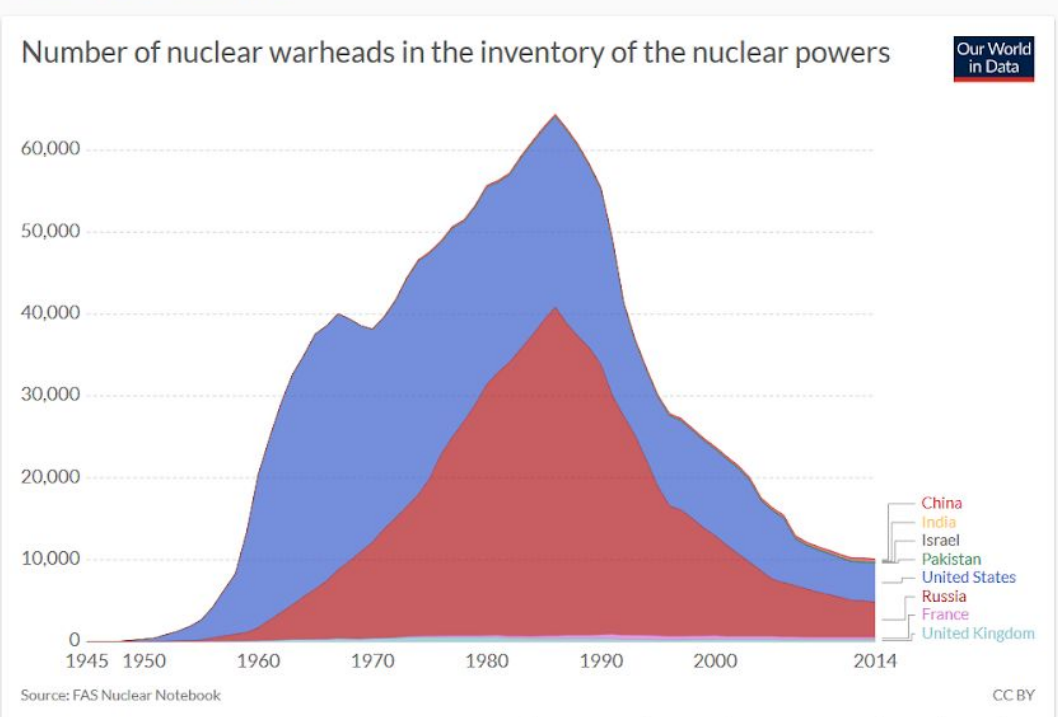
new technologies are phased into destructive use while still allowing for sufficient defence and protection. The issue remains at the fact that global powers such as China and Russia are still skeptical about the authenticity of the US's peaceful strategy. A large group of NATO members have vocalized support for the idea of creating missile infrastructure to react to any aggression from Russia. Russia sees this as a direct threat to its security.

The United States has been preparing for the mobilization of a continental scale missile defense and offence system in the East Asia region. This would be with continued support from South Korea and Japan. This comes after a series of threats from China and the DPRK over territorial and political disputes over North Korean missile tests and Senkaku island conflicts. The defense framework involves battleships for offshore missile interception. Similar systems will be set up on the ground in Japan and South Korean land. The US has stated that this is purely for ensuring the safety of its troops in the Pacific region but China remains highly skeptical and will most likely begin deploying its own weapons in order to defend against those of the US. There have been various UN efforts to ensure the stability of the region. When nations feel threatened by the military presence of one another, an arms race is almost inevitable. These concerns must be addressed. While the most obvious arms developments have been traditional missile range improvement and nuclear strength development, a new form of arms race may soon ensue when nations feel particularly threatened by missiles. An outer space arms race would initially include the deployment of satellites that defend against missiles but these satellites can soon be developed to have the capability of performing their own large scale attacks. This is a direct threat to the integrity of various UN resolutions as well as the Outer Space treaty and should therefore be dealt with promptly.

Many ongoing conflicts such as in Libya and Syria clearly involve large amount of terrorist factions and rogue militias. An arms race involving exponential growth in weapon deployment and distribution to these regions could easily result in such weapons ending up in the hands of violent radicals and aggressors. This has been the case in Libya where various militias were found to be in possession of US and UAE short range ballistic missiles as well

as drones. The growing concern is that arms races are no longer contained between the countries developing the weapons but also other nations they have relations with due to the constant flow of weapons globally. This means that proxy wars in Libya, Syria and Yemen have become a Vice for global powers to test new weapons and showcase power. Experts in the field anticipate that the proxy war situation will act as a catalyst in a future arms race because it will be a means to directly deploy the weapons in the field. Nations will no longer have to speculate on the possible developments their rivals have. The developments will be directly shown in the battlefield.

There are many historical examples of arms races that must be understood in order to prevent new ones in the future. The most prominent example in recent history is the Cold War arms race between the Soviet Union and the United states. After the end of the second world war there was a scramble between the US and the USSR to install either democracy or communism into european and asian countries. This tension was complemented by the desire to perfect and develop the newly introduced superweapon that was the nuclear bomb. By 1986 the amount of nuclear warheads in the world had reached a historical record of 60,000. Propaganda on both sides led the public to believe that they were behind in strength compared to their rivals when that was not the case. This justified further expansion and eventually spiralled out of control.



The situation escalated to a point that the only real measure that could be taken was adopting the MAD protocol. This stood for the Mutual Assurance of Destruction which is where both the USSR and the US recognized that in the event of a nuclear strike both sides would launch a retaliatory attack for equal destruction. This put both countries on equal footing and helped get leaders on the negotiation table for placing limits on missiles. It was criticized for using the threat of destruction and war as a deterrent.

Major Parties Involved

USA- The US spends close to $1 Trillion annually on their military. This is equal to the sum of the other 9 countries with the highest military budgets in the world. The military budget has been on the rise since 2001 with the growth of the war on terror in the middle east and the war on drugs mainly domestically and on the mexican border. A lot of the budget is also allocated to military partners such as Japan and South Korea in order to maintain military superiority in the pacific region. The US assumes a role of international peace keeper and nuclear leader which is shown in their constant diplomatic approach in negotiating with aggressors and volatile states such as Iran and the DPRK. Agreements and treaties have not been very successful in the past year as the US pulled out of the Iran deal which previously put a successful halt on uranium enrichment. The US was also unable to reach an agreement with the DPRK on limiting the development of their long range intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Russian Federation- The fourth largest military spender in the world at approximately $80 Billion annually and has the largest amount of nuclear warheads with 6500 which is equal to the amount the US has. Its main military growth activities have been increased active military presence in Syria and Ukraine. In Ukraine they have been supporting separatists and opposing the traditional government. In syria they have been very active in backing the assad regime and have set up various military bases in the region. They have been significantly more present than the US in Syria which has lead

to the international community to call for the US to oppose Russian aggression and support for the Assad dictatorship.

China- China has the second largest global military budget at approximately $200 billion although the number could be much higher due to the lack of public statistics on growth. The biggest development militarily from China has been the militarization of various islands in the south china sea. Where China has been strategically been creating man made islands to militarize in order to increase military control over the disputed sea territory. They have taken aggressive approaches to fishermen in this region. Furthermore, along with the launch of the Belt and Road initiative where China plans to create an intricate trade and military network that mimics the historical silk road, China has been leasing ports from countries such as pakistan and militarizing them which has raised great concern from countries such as the US. The quick growth capability of the Chinese army and aggressive attitude towards regional conflicts has resulted in the US increasing its presence in the pacific region.

Iran- In order to maintain a certain degree of security in the volatile middle east region as well as with nuclear tensions between India and Pakistan, Iran set up its own nuclear programme and even managed to enrich some uranium. The Security Council P5 along with the European union created a regulatory and denuclearizing framework agreement for Iran which was signed in 2015. This deal included the regulations listed below:

- Limits enrichment to only one location (Natanz)
- Enrichment stations are to be converted into research and centrifuge development centers
- Frequent regulatory visits to monitor adherence
- Sanctions will be dropped by EU, UN and the Security Council
- Uranium stockpile must be decreased from 10,000 Kgs to 300 Kgs

Last year, Donald Trump and the United States pulled out of the deal as they believed it did not meet their standards. The rest of the signatories have continued to hold talks with Iran to Maintain the deal

DPRK- North Korea has been a hermit state that has been blocking itself off from diplomatic talks with global powers for years. During this time, their military strength has grown exponentially. US experts say that they may have

between 30 to 60 nuclear warheads. The most worrying developments however have been in their missile testing programmes where they have significantly increased the range of their ICBMs which are believed to have the capability of reaching the mainland US. The US is still in a primary stage of diplomatic talks with no formal agreement as of now

Timeline of Events

All Red Highlights are previous attempts to solve the issue

1936- Global powers begin ramping up weapons production in fears of war as a result of German aggression. This included competition to build the best tanks and submarines.

1939- Start of WW2 with the invasion of poland. Conscription had been introduced in allied and axis nations in order to compete with army size

1945 - The fall of Berlin as well as the two Nuclear bombs being dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki signalling the end of the war and the surrender of Japan.

1946- UN calls for the eradication of nuclear weapons. UN sets up a commission to help do so

1949- The Soviet Union performs its first successful Nuclear Test calling it the "First Lightning"

1954- US introduces and successfully tests its first Hydrogen bomb which is believed to be 500 times more powerful than the nuclear weapons used inNagasaki. Testing was further increased in the pacific ocean

1959- UN talks result in the banning of Nuclear tests in the Antarctic region

1961- Largest ever nuclear weapon test performed by the Soviet Union. It has a 58 megaton power and was nicknamed the tsar bomb

1962- Manifestation of an arms race conflict in the form of the Cuban Missile Crisis. This is where The US was concerned over USSR placement of warheads in Cuba. Ended by an agreement for the removal of weapons in cuba if the US removes its weapons from Turkey

1963- Partial Test ban treaty drafted. This aims to ban the testing of nuclear weapons under water, in the atmosphere and in space.

1968- Non-Proliferation Treaty is signed. This is where nations with nuclear weapons legally vow to disarm. Nations without nuclear weapons agree to not create any

1986- Israel's nuclear programme is exposed and they are believed to have around 200 warheads

1987- Mid-range missiles are banned in an agreement between the US and the USSR. Specifically focussed on land based missiles.

1996- Treaty for Total Nuclear Test ban is signed by all the P5 nations. This was facilitated by the United Nations but they are unable to convince India to sign.

2006- The DPRK performs its first full nuclear programme tests

2007- The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons is created with the aim of eradicating the development and use of nuclear weapons

2017- Nuclear Ban treaty is drafted and signed by ⅔ of nations. This was facilitated by the United Nations and went on to prohibit the use of Nuclear weapons. The deal also has clauses that bans states from possessing nuclear weapons and also prohibits threatening to use nuclear weapons.

The Future

The future of preventing arms races currently lies in negotiations with aggressive volatile countries the main 2 being Iran and the DPRK. The main goal for iran talks is to make sure that the nuclear deal can be upheld without the involvement of the United States. On the other hand, global powers must find a way to make genuine progress in talks with the DPRK and move past informal talks. This has proven to be difficult because the DPRK has continued testing even during periods of talks between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer (Q.A.R.M.A.)

1. How can we stop nations from being skeptical that their enemies are secretly developing weapons?
2. How can the house bring the US back in talks for the Iran deal?
3. If the US refuses to re enter talks, how can the remaining signatories ensure the success of the deal?
4. How can we stop proxy war situations from becoming catalysts for a future arms race
5. How can the house ensure that the DPRK is no longer a threat to neighbouring nations such as Japan and South Korea?
6. What are the consequences for nations that do not adhere to previous arms limitations treaties and agreements? How about future ones?

Further Reading

https://www.icanw.org/

https://www.rand.org/paf/projects/us-china-scorecard.html

https://ourworldindata.org/nuclear-weapons

Bibliography

Amadeo, Kimberly. "Why Military Spending Is More Than You Think It Is." *The Balance*, The Balance, 22 Apr. 2019, www.thebalance.com/u-s-military-budget-components-challenges-growth-3306320.

Amadeo, Kimberly. "Why Military Spending Is More Than You Think It Is." *The Balance*, The Balance, 22 Apr. 2019, www.thebalance.com/u-s-military-budget-components-challenges-growth-3306320.

"Avoiding Renewed Arms Races." *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, thebulletin.org/roundtable_entry/avoiding-renewed-arms-races/.

"Fearing New Atomic Arms Race, First Committee Delegates Call for International Law to Settle Missile Treaty Dispute between Nuclear‑Weapon States | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/press/en/2018/gadis3607.doc.htm.

"An Interactive Look at the U.S.-China Military Scorecard." *RAND Corporation*, www.rand.org/paf/projects/us-china-scorecard.html.

"Nuclear Weapons Are as Confusing as They Are Deadly - Here Are 16 Terms You Keep Hearing and What They Actually Mean." *Business Insider Nederland*, 22 July 2018, www.businessinsider.nl/nuclear-arms-deal-terminology-definitions-2018-7?international=true&r=US.

Pazzanese, Christina, and Christina Pazzanese. "Stirrings of a Renewed Nuclear Arms Race." *Harvard Gazette*, Harvard Gazette, 16 May 2019, news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2018/03/stirrings-of-a-renewed-nuclear-arms-race/.

"The Soviet-American Arms Race." *History Today*,

www.historytoday.com/archive/soviet-american-arms-race.

"What's the Status of North Korea's Nuclear Program?" *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/backgrounder/north-koreas-military-capabilities.