Introduction

Non-strategic nuclear weapon, also known as tactical nuclear weapon, differs from strategic nuclear weapon in that it is utilized more frequently during wars or battlefields to deter aggression from the opposing side. Non-strategic nuclear weapons were mostly discovered and developed during the Cold War, which was an extended period of conflict and hostility between 1945 and 1989. During this time, United States and Soviet Union (USSR) grew as two superpowers that eventually turned out to become rivals. The two superpowers were explicitly different from each other, as United States supported Capitalism, whereas USSR advocated Communism. Recognizing that the two superpowers of the extended period had extreme dissimilarities, non-strategic nuclear weapons were central to both countries in discouraging each other during battlefields of Cold War. Not only did United States deploy numerous nuclear systems such as ballistic missiles, gravity bombs, or cruise missiles, but they also manufactured specific strategies that incorporated its troops to share these weapons with them. Throughout the Cold War, United States deployed millions of both shorter and longer-range nuclear weapons with its U.S. forces around the world. Not only did these weapons protect United States from debilitating its powers, but they also thwarted the opponents from improving their conventional forces. In contrast to United States, the Soviet Union also utilized non-strategic nuclear weapons in order to control and lead its military strategy to success. Apparently, Soviet Union developed even more powerful and overwhelming weapons to block them from losing during surprise attacks or wars. The use of such diversified weapons also enabled Soviet Union to see rapid improvements in the protection systems of both land and sea operations, which directly strengthened their power.

Definition of Key Terms

Non-strategic nuclear weapons

According to the Department of Defense Dictionary of Military Terms, non-strategic nuclear weapons are defined as “nuclear weapons by land, sea, or air forces against opposing forces, supporting installations or facilities, in support of operations that contribute to the accomplishment of a military mission of limited scope, or in support of the military commander’s scheme of maneuver, usually limited to the area of military operations.”
Strategic nuclear weapons

According to the Department of Defense Dictionary of Military Terms, strategic nuclear weapons are defined as “directed against one or more of a selected series of enemy targets with the purpose of progressive destruction and disintegration of the enemy’s capacity and will to make war. Targets include key manufacturing systems, sources of raw material, critical material, stockpiles, power systems, transportation systems, communication facilities, and other such target systems. As opposed to tactical operations [non-strategic nuclear weapons], strategic operations are designed to have a long-range rather than immediate effect on the enemy and its military forces.”

Nuclear stockpiles

Nuclear stockpile is a combination of both active and inactive warheads. Active warheads include both strategic and non-strategic weapons that can be executed within small periods of time in order to reduce the possibility of receiving attacks. Unlike active warheads, inactive warheads are not in the operating status, and are rather saved for later uses during wars or battlefields.

Warhead Dismantlement

Warhead dismantlement is to pull apart or to break down the warheads in order to improve and guarantee non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, both strategic and non-strategic. As in 1994-2014, it was shown that United States dismantled more than 9,942 nuclear weapons, and that there are much more remains awaiting to be dismantled soon.

Background

During World War II, Soviet Union and United States, the two main superpowers of the extended period, continuously brought into conflict and hostility for believing in different governmental systems. While United States fully supported Capitalism, USSR advocated Communism under their Russian leader, Joseph Stalin. Since United States continuously refused to accept USSR for becoming a part of the international community, as well as to enter the war, the relationship between United States and USSR worsened throughout the period and had resulted in overwhelming enmity after all. The tension between the two nations continued to grow throughout the 20th century, resulting in endless enmity, suspicion, hatred, and conflicts.

The eruption of non-strategic nuclear weapons during Cold War

The tension between United States and USSR during World War II continued even throughout the Cold War, which was a period of extended hostility and conflict between 1945 to 1989. Since both nations during the period possessed overwhelming influence and authority, it was evident that both nations strongly urged to win and eliminate each others’ power. In order to gain more control over the other, each country developed its own
powerful and influential non-strategic nuclear weapons. Throughout the Cold War, United States consistently manufactured weapons such as ballistic missiles, gravity bombs, or cruise missiles, and developed relationships with its allies so that they could possibly prevent any harm that could come during surprise attacks. United States mostly placed its weapons at U.S. bases in Asia and in territories of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies. During late 1970s, United States slowly decreased the number of non-strategic nuclear weapons, leaving it fewer than 1,000 by the end of the 1990s. All this happened because United States and the people of NATO suggested that United States still had the power to maintain and possess deterrence with fewer weapons. This, in fact, helped to reduce proliferation of weapons as well as to increase warhead dismantlement.

Unlike United States, Soviet Union utilized non-strategic nuclear weapons purely for its military. However, Soviet Union had a larger range of weapons, with significantly more developed and reinforced systems for success. For example, it deployed devices that were efficient enough to fit into different places: nuclear mines, gravity bombs, ballistic missiles, air-delivered missiles, etc. Unlike United States, which placed its weapons mostly on territories of NATO, Soviet Union deployed its weapons in Warsaw Pact nations as well as areas throughout Russia.

**Use of non-strategic nuclear weapons after the Cold War**

United States and NATO recognized non-strategic nuclear weapons for acting as a deterrent to adversaries during Cold War. After the Cold War had ended, United States and NATO continuously believed that the weapons had served them infinitely, meaning that the weapons allowed alliance cohesion to take place frequently during 1990s. However, because both countries after the Cold War urged to make peace, or a world with less conflicts and wars, the “New Strategic Concept” was announced from the NATO in 2010. The New Strategic Concept mainly focused on developing capabilities and partnerships between nations, especially Russia. According to NATO regarding the New Strategic Concept, “it will offer partner countries around the globe more opportunities for dialogue and cooperation and commits NATO to reinforce cooperation with Russia. It also keeps the door firmly open to membership in NATO to European democracies”. Moreover the agreement itself “highlights the need for NATO to remain ready to play an active role in crisis management operations, whenever it is called to act”. Therefore, it was evident that United States took an active role in promoting peace or cooperating with other nations to ensure the possibility of erupting another war. Other than promoting New Strategic Concept, U.S. also held numerous discussions and meetings regarding the use of nonstrategic nuclear weapons in deterring threats. During 1990s, United States, along with its President George Bush, announced that they had approximately 1,100 nonstrategic nuclear weapons remaining in its stockpile. However, as time gradually passed by and United States started to gain the understanding of peace and cooperation, they reduced their numbers [weapons] by over 75%, which is a huge decrease from the original number. United States also slowly reduced the number of nuclear weapons in Europe throughout countries such as Green, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, etc.

Russia, an independent country from the territory of Soviet Union, also acknowledged the fact to regain peace with other nations. Therefore, Russia revised and altered its military strategy and its security systems consistently over the past 20 years. In 1997, Russia’s only mission was to attack those who posed aggressive threats
to their country. However, when a finalized version of the military doctrine was published in 2010, it stated that Russia “had the right to use nuclear weapons in response to other weapons against our allies, and in a case of an aggression against her with conventional weapons that would put in danger the very existence of the state”.

Currently, it is difficult to estimate the remaining numbers of nonstrategic nuclear weapons in Russia because not only is it difficult to search how many weapons were stored and eliminated by Soviet Union in 1991, but it was also hard to decide whether Russia should eliminate all the nuclear non-strategic weapons. However, some suggest that Russia may have eliminated 2,000 weapons annually, reducing the number of weapons harshly.

**Major Parties Involved**

**USA and Russia**

USA and Russia are the two main countries that possess the largest number of non-strategic nuclear weapons, with USA having more than 9,400 and Russia having about 12,000. The numbers are incomparable to other nations such as France, China, and UK that possess only 300, 240, and 225 non-strategic nuclear weapons. As stated above, USA and Russia both developed non-strategic nuclear weapons in order to defend their countries from devastating wars or spontaneous attacks. However, now that time has passed and both are urging for peace and cooperation, many Treaties have been assigned and completed. Currently, both countries have reduced more than 40% of their whole nuclear weapons through Treaties such as Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), and Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I).

**United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)**

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) was settled in January 1998 after the request from the Secretary General in the General Assembly. According to UN, not only does the Office promote non-proliferation of weapons and nuclear disarmament, but they also work for disarmament “in areas of conventional weapons, especially landlines and small arms, which are the weapons of choice in contemporary conflicts”. The Office has been widely recognized as an organization for supporting non-proliferation through different methods such as “dialogue, transparency and confidence-building on military matters”.

**International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is the “world’s center for cooperation in the nuclear field”. It was first established in 1957 under United Nations, and it continuously works in order to “promote safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies”. Because of its relationship with the United Nations, the IAEA sends annual reports to the General Assembly and works to relate most of its work to international peace and security. There are about 2500 staff members located in 100 different countries, and they all work to submit periodic reports.

**Timeline of Events**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description of event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August, 1942</td>
<td>United States established the Manhattan Project to develop its first nuclear weapon. In the same year, Soviet Union also dropped its first nuclear weapon to test the effectiveness in Kazakhstan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August, 1945</td>
<td>United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and more than 200,000 people died within months.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 24, 1946</td>
<td>United Nations (UN) demanded an elimination of nuclear weapons and established conferences to deal with the problem effectively.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1, 1957</td>
<td>International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was established.</td>
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<td>February 17, 1958</td>
<td>United Kingdom held the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, which eventually became the first Campaign to be recognized in the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1968</td>
<td>Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was initiated, with its goal of preventing the proliferation and the spread of nuclear weapons.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 8, 1987</td>
<td>Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) was established on December 8, 1987 to eliminate “ground-launched, mid-range nuclear missiles”.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 31, 1991</td>
<td>Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I) was signed by George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev. The Treaty was a great success to both countries because both were able to reduce numbers of non-strategic nuclear weapons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 8, 2010</td>
<td>Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I) was officially signed and implemented in Prague, which replaced the Treaty that was initiated in 1991.</td>
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**Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue**

- Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was entered into force in 1970, with its goal of preventing the proliferation and the spread of nuclear weapons. Another objective of this Treaty was to promote collaboration between different nations in order to effectively complete disarmament, or to at least reduce the number of unnecessary weapons. More than 190 countries have joined and signed the Treaty,
with the hope of expanding disarmament and reducing different kinds of conflicts within countries. In order to further expand non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, the Treaty enforced a safeguards system under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). With the help of the safeguards system, the Treaty was able to “promote cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear technology, while safeguards was able to prevent the diversion of fissile material for weapons use”.

- Treaty between United States of America and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF Treaty) was signed in December 8, 1987. According to the U.S. Department of State, this Treaty “required destruction of the Parties’ ground-launched ballistic and cruise mollahs with ranges of between 500 and 5,500 kilometers, their launchers and associated support structures and support equipment within three years after the Treaty enters into force”.

- Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I) was a Treaty between United States and the Soviet Union in order to limit the strategic weapons in forms of missiles and bombers. It was officially signed on July 31, 1991, and it turned out to be a great success since approximately 40% of the arms was eliminated and reduced. Since both countries were aware of the fact that reducing arms could help decrease conflicts or consequences, as well as chances of erupting other nuclear wars, this Treaty was effective in encouraging both United States and Soviet Union.

Possible Solutions

- In order to reduce the disparity, as well as the numbers of non-strategic nuclear weapons, more and more international meetings should be held monthly or annually. During the meetings, both nations should encourage each other to reduce their stockpiles for a safe and peaceful future, as well as to increase more cooperation with others as well. Information brought to the meetings should be documented for later references and should particularly contain information as to what each country mentioned for reductions in arms or weapons.

- More campaigns and organizations should influence the public policy in order to involve more people in gaining awareness. International organizations such as Global Zero, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, The Ribbon International, and the World Disarmament Campaign should work together with the United Nations in order to appropriately adjust their actions and to influence a larger audience. All organizations should actively speak in promoting nuclear disarmament and work to create a collectivist society where nations from all over the world could cooperate and collaborate.

Bibliography


Appendix or Appendices


This website is helpful because not only did it explain what the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) looked like, but it also directly showed and explained history in a brief account.


This PDF is extremely helpful because not only does it contain both perspectives of Russia and United States, but it also directly demonstrates how non-strategic nuclear weapons were dealt with and how they were treated in specific time periods.