

## Topic 4. The Third Nuclear Age

1. To what extent do you think that U.S. alliances are essential to preventing nuclear proliferation in regions like East Asia and the Middle East?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

2. Should countries such as Japan or The Republic of Korea pursue independent nuclear weapons development?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

3. If U.S. security guarantees weaken, would it be justified for allies to seek their own nuclear deterrents?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

4. Should the United States reaffirm its security commitments to allies to prevent further global nuclear proliferation?

- Yes, the U.S. should reaffirm its previous commitments
- No, the U.S. should make new security commitments
- U.S. security commitments won't prevent further nuclear proliferation

5. Do you think that diplomatic engagement with Iran and North Korea is critical to reducing nuclear risk?

- Very critical
- Somewhat critical
- Not very critical
- Not at all critical

6. Strengthening nonproliferation treaties should be a top U.S. foreign policy priority.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

7. Do you believe that advancements in nuclear technology demand an updated global arms-control framework?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

8. To what extent does the weakening of long-standing alliances increase the likelihood of nuclear proliferation?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

# Examples of Nuclear Disarmament

**South Africa Dismantled Its Own Arsenal** - The only country in the world to have indigenously developed its own nuclear weapons and then voluntarily destroyed them. By the late 1980s, the apartheid government had built six nuclear warheads but chose to dismantle them and join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1991.

**Post-Soviet States (Inherited Arsenal)** - Following the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union, three newly independent republics inherited significant portions of the Soviet nuclear stockpile. They agreed to return these weapons to Russia for dismantling under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, signed by four nuclear powers: Ukraine, Russia, the U.S. and the U.K. France & China gave individual assurances in separate documents.

- **Ukraine:** Inherited the world's third-largest nuclear arsenal (approximately 1,900 strategic warheads). The last warheads were transferred to Russia in May 1996.
- **Kazakhstan:** Inherited roughly 1,400 nuclear warheads. It completed the transfer of these weapons to Russia by 1995.
- **Belarus:** Inherited 81 nuclear missiles, which were fully transferred to Russia by 1996. *Note: In 2023, Belarus announced it would again host Russian-owned nuclear weapons on its territory.*

