



## Information and Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament

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Newsletter no. 28

February 2021

Welcome to the new era Dear Friends of Peace,

We will review what has transpired so far in this young year, following up some of last month's stories, and look forward to what may be coming. One of the first things coming up is our own **zoom meeting, Wed, Feb 17 at 7 PM**. We are very fortunate to host guest speaker, author and lifelong peace activist **Betsy Bell**, who will share her story of direct, citizen to citizen, antiwar diplomacy with the USSR in the 1980s. Betsy continues to lead and inspire us through her work with [WPSR's Coalition Against Nuclear Weapons](#). Here is the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83559579630?pwd=UEd2VExSb3FSU1ZDUks0NkRTWVgrdz09>

Please join us. Thank you, Tracy Powell for [No More Bombs](#)

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**The ICAN Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons** has gone into effect, amid positive statements from the UN and many others. Here is former Secretary of Defense [William J Perry's encouraging letter to the Biden administration and all American citizens](#).

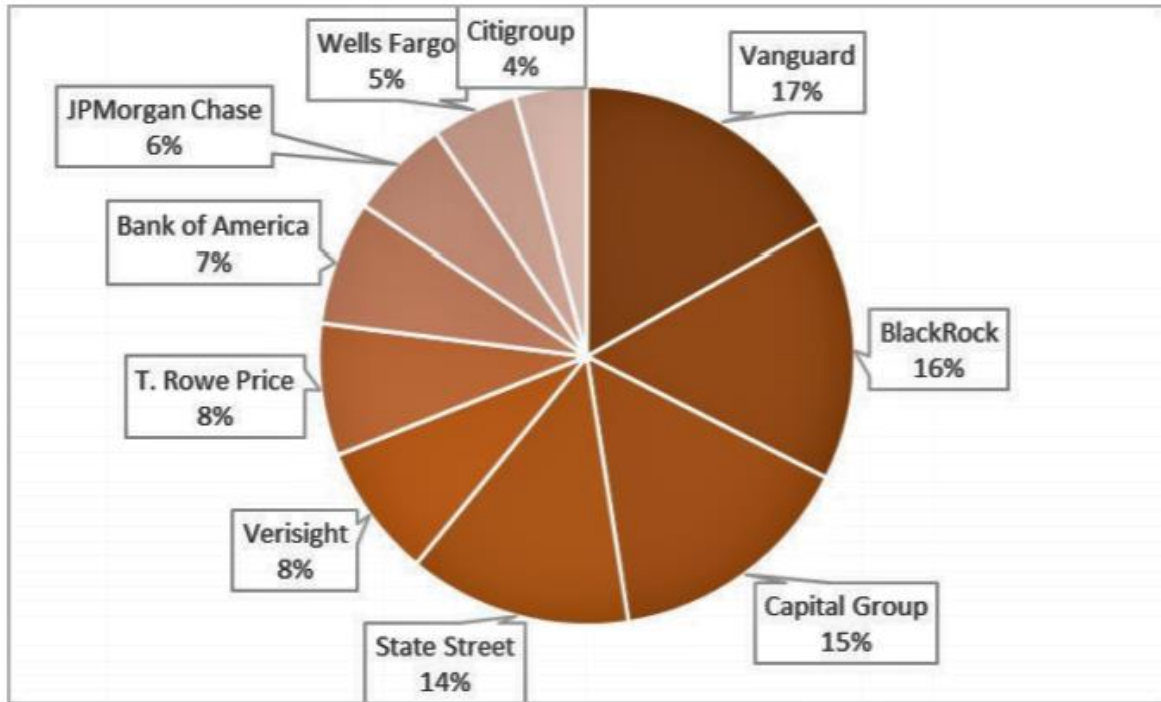
**Of course there are critics too**, like all the corporations whose fortunes are built and sustained by the US nuclear weapons arsenal. Just in case we might have forgotten, [here is a list of the biggest ones](#).

and a snapshot, if you don't want to read the full report

- [Aerojet Rocketdyne](#)
- [Airbus](#)
- [BAE Systems](#)
- [Bechtel](#)
- [Boeing](#)
- [Bharat Dynamics Limited](#)
- [BWX Technologies Inc](#)
- [Charles Stark Draper Laboratory](#)
- [China National Nuclear Corporation](#)
- [Constructions Industrielles de la Méditerranée \(CNIM\)](#)
- [Fluor](#)
- [General Dynamics](#)
- [Honeywell International](#)
- [Huntington Ingalls Industries](#)
- [Jacobs Engineering](#)
- [Larsen & Toubro](#)
- [Leidos](#)
- [Leonardo](#)
- [Lockheed Martin](#)
- [Northrop Grumman](#)
- [Raytheon](#)
- [Safran](#)
- [Serco](#)
- [Textron](#)
- [Thales](#)
- [Walchandnagar Industries](#)

[And here are some of the financiers.](#) and another snapshot

This chart shows the percentage of overall investments that each of the top 10 financial institutions holds.



Now that these weapons are illegal under International Law, what might their liability be for damage caused by the use of nuclear weapons, or the storage, transport, research and development, or even repair and maintenance of nuclear facilities? It seems that there are now numerous negative consequences for any involvement with nuclear weapons, for nations or corporations. All opportunities for challenging the complicit operators and their investors, as well as their political protagonists.

All arguments we can use when urging our own country to wake up and disarm.

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**And here is a crazy idea:** if the US is reluctant to sign on to the TPNW, how about the good people of the state of Washington? We know that our state is the third most heavily armed nuclear weapons entity in the world. We could lead the way for the rest of the nation, by declaring ourselves a state party to the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons. This idea was inspired by the many cities, counties, including our own Skagit County, and States, that have adopted nuclear free zone resolutions in the past. The difference now is that an international legal basis and mechanism for making such declarations more real.

Yes I am serious. Shall we try? Let us know what you think.

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[The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists](#) announced on January 27 its latest setting of the [Doomsday Clock](#). As last year, it is 100 seconds to Midnight, closest to apocalypse it has ever been. While they acknowledged that there have been recent positive movement, regarding the TPNW and New START extension, they regard the pandemic as a threat multiplier. Beyond the prospect of extensive illness and death worldwide, the increasing prominence of misinformation and deception, is the confused mismanagement of the crisis by many governments that these trends have exacerbated. What they term an **infodemic** seriously endangers international cooperation, and has become another threat multiplier.

At last week's Doomsday Clock announcement, **Hiroshima Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki** outlined four defects of nuclear deterrence theory and called for powerful momentum toward the abolition of nuclear weapons

**First**, the original deterrence theory is based on the assumption that states are rational beings, making decisions based on facts.

**Second**, given the current unstable relations between US and its allies, the guarantee of extended deterrence (nuclear umbrella) is very uncertain.

**Third**, new technologies, like hypersonic glide vehicles ( and more disruptive cyber systems ) have already changed the threats of nuclear exchange. None of these were envisioned when the currently accepted idea of deterrence was adopted by US and USSR.

**Fourth**, new low yield nuclear warheads have blurred the boundaries between conventional and nuclear weapons.

in other words, the conditions under which nuclear deterrence once operated have drastically changed, due to new technologies and the growing distrust between people and nations. Irrational conspiracy theories and deliberate misrepresentation of facts undermine the assumptions that international trust and predictability of actions can be relied on. Nuclear deterrence was built on a belief that all parties agreed on certain facts and shared assumptions. That is no longer true.

The only way to securely prevent nuclear war is to abolish all of the nuclear weapons.

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[Physicists Coalition for Nuclear Threat Reduction](#), a recently formed group within the American Physical Society, held a webinar on January 29, which laid out their concerns regarding four topics,

**ICBMs** which are linked to **Launch on Warning**

and

**Sole Authority** which is linked to **No First Use.**

They will be lobbying Congress and the Biden Administration to make serious changes to nuclear war policy, and the arguments they presented were full of clearly stated facts, and well structured proposals. These are all experts in their fields. Their analyses of nuclear weapons policy are part of a growing chorus of concerned citizens and experts in many fields who are now speaking out in encouraging new ways. We will be studying these connections in more detail to report further in future newsletters.

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Another recent webinar, put on by CodePink, was [Understanding the True Costs of Nuclear Weapons](#). Presenters were Trisha Pritikin, who will be our guest in May, representing [Hanford Downwinders](#),

Beata Tsoie-Pena of [Tewa Women United](#), New Mexico and other Four Corners indigenous communities, and Joni Arends, of [Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety](#), in New Mexico, who discussed the new dangers around plutonium pit production and waste disposal .

All three explained the lifelong human suffering caused by uranium mining and processing, plutonium production, and testing of nuclear devices, all here in the US, all in poor, underrepresented communities, without adequate health services. All need our help. We will examine these community wide problems more deeply in the future, to see how we can lend a hand.

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**Briefly:**

[The funding for new nuclear weapons tests was removed from the recently passed military budget.](#)

[Medicaid assistance was restored to COFA citizens](#), especially significant for Marshall Islanders, who have been suffering from the devastating consequences of the nuclear weapons detonated there years ago.

[New START has been rescued, and will stay in effect for another 5 years.](#) Now, the US and Russia can begin negotiating substantial further reductions in their nuclear weapons arsenals, and maintain the inspection regime that has served so well.

We will pursue all these stories in coming months.

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**Please stay in touch.** You are encouraged to share your suggestions and requests with any of our steering committee members: Bud Anderson [budathome2012@hotmail.com](mailto:budathome2012@hotmail.com) , Julia Hurd [hurdjulia@gmail.com](mailto:hurdjulia@gmail.com) , Kathleen Flanagan [tomflanagan1@comcast.net](mailto:tomflanagan1@comcast.net) , Wim Houppermans [wh5314b@gmail.com](mailto:wh5314b@gmail.com) , or me Tracy Powell [tracy@nomorebombs.org](mailto:tracy@nomorebombs.org), or call or text me 360-840-3826.

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**"Nuclear abolition is the democratic wish of the world's people, and has been our goal almost since the dawn of the atomic age. Together, we have the power to decide whether the nuclear era ends in a bang or worldwide celebration."**

**Archbishop Desmond Tutu**

