

No More Bombs



Information and Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament

Newsletter no. 10

March, 2019

Greetings Peace Lovers,

This month we will look at some of the news outside of our country, and catch up on ongoing international struggles involving potential nuclear escalation. Korea is a big one, and South Asia another, as well as the Middle East. We will also look back a few years, and recall a historic sailing vessel making a much needed comeback, the Golden Rule. Next No More Bombs meeting is Friday, April 5, 5 to 7 PM, at Anacortes Library. Please come join us, we need all your help to keep the movement alive. Thanks. Peace and Love, Tracy

Korea: Here is a very brief look at the last 100 + year history of US – Korea relations, as excerpted from this excellent [report by Catherine Killough](#), of Ploughshares Fund.

Following disputes over Pacific territories between the US and Japan, in 1905, the Taft-Katsura Agreement endorsed Tokyo's plans for annexing Korea in exchange for Japanese recognition of American control over the Philippines. The peninsula remained under Japanese control until the end of World War II, when it was divided up, like Germany, between the US and the Soviet Union. The Korean War, from 1950 to 1953, cemented the separation, and the two Koreas have struggled with their imposed adversarial relationship ever since.

It is no wonder that North Korea feels the need to build nuclear weapons to bolster its security: from 1958 to 1991, the US deployed nukes in South Korea, and all that time, the Korean War was technically still going on, and still is. The whole Korean Peninsula has been dominated by foreign powers for over a century, first by Japan, and then by US, Russia, and China. It is not unreasonable to fear one's overlords and strive to empower oneself.

From 1994-2003, the [Agreed Framework](#) succeeded in halting North Korea's plutonium production at its controversial 5 megawatt Yongbyon reactor, which contained up to 30 kilograms of plutonium. It also prevented the construction of a second 50 megawatt reactor facility at Yongbyon and a separate 200 megawatt reactor at Taechon. These additional reactors could have produced hundreds of kilograms of plutonium by the end of the decade. All combined, the Agreed Framework prevented North Korea from producing fuel for as many as 100 nuclear weapons, in the opinion of several experts.

It succeeded because it promised the construction of two light-water reactors, to be completed by 2003, and delivery of 500,000 tons of heavy fuel oil shipments annually. As it happened, every US administration failed to live up to these promises, and by the time it was finally killed by Bolton and Cheney, the agreement was seen to be a farce. It seemed that successive occupants of the White house all believed that if we waited long enough, and kept up the pressure through sanctions and denials, The House of Kim would eventually fall, and North Korea be subsumed by the South.

[The Six Party Talks](#), negotiations among North and South Korea, Russia, China, Japan, and the US, nearly reached agreement that would have “denuclearized” Korea, but repeated surprise sanctions and internal US disagreements scuttled it until North Korea successfully detonated its first nuclear bomb in 2006. Since then, they have conducted 5 more successful detonations, the last in 2017, a thermonuclear explosion of 140-250 Kilotons. They have also tested long range missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads, the last of those an intercontinental missile that could have reached the US mainland. There was a brief opportunity to forestall these achievements, the Leap Day Deal of 2012, which dissolved within a month of its signing, due mostly to misunderstandings among the leadership of both countries.

Now the US and North Korea have had two “Summits”, neither of which have produced any treaties, but have instead paused the rhetorical challenging, and allowed the North and South to pursue some very promising advances in their own relationship. In addition, South Korea has proposed an idea that also has promise: a Declaration of Peace, officially ending the Korean War. So, it appears we will continue to see renewed upgrading of North Korea’s nuclear capabilities, and more of the same complaints without solutions by the US government.

India and Pakistan: This regional conflict has returned to our attention recently because of the latest exchange of attacks in Kashmir, that began with a suicide bombing in the Indian side of the territory, and was followed by Indian air attacks against the Pakistan side, then the shooting down of Indian planes. There were deaths on both sides. Here is a good [Background story from the BBC](#). For decades, conflicts in Kashmir have highlighted this region as one of the most volatile in the world right now. Each country has about 140 nuclear warheads, and together enough to unleash nuclear winter on the entire planet, if they used even half of them. India has a No First Use policy, Pakistan does not. Recent skirmish involved ground forces and fighter jets, both countries using weapons and aircraft supplied by both the US and Russia. Many analysts, including former Defense Secretary William J. Perry, have long considered that this region is the most likely to erupt into nuclear war.

Middle East: Several recent developments are raising security questions about nuclear proliferation possibilities in the region. Beginning with the Trump administration’s rejection of the JCPOA Iran agreement, there is a growing awareness among nuclear security experts that new problems are arising here. Energy Secretary Rick Perry recently visited Saudi Arabia and Qatar, on a sales tour for American nuclear technology firms, proudly announcing their eagerness to sell reactors to anybody who wants them. At the same time, satellite surveillance has recently identified a new ballistic missile factory at the al-Watah missile base. Until now, the Saudi government has purchased intermediate range missiles from China, but now appears to be building its own solid fuel rocket engines there. The crown prince has repeatedly stated, that if Iran resumes its nuclear weapons production, Saudi Arabia will be compelled to do the same. And Israel will certainly not stand idly by. This area will demand more attention from now on.

More resources outside the US: Two more websites to share, offering expert reporting and analysis of Nuclear Weapons issues, and refreshing views of our nation's complicity. Good scholarship, many publications.

<https://disarmingarguments.com/>, and Timmon Milne Wallis's book [Disarming the Nuclear Argument](#)

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/>, a project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

And finally, **The Golden Rule Project:**



The Golden Rule was a 36' ketch, sailed across the Pacific by a group of Quaker peace activists, to protest the atmospheric testing of nuclear warheads in the Marshall Islands. It launched from San Pedro in 1958, bound for Enewetok, where thermonuclear devices were being detonated, and reached Hawaii, where the crew were arrested by the Coast Guard, jailed, and put on trial. Their plight inspired another voyage by the 50' ketch Phoenix of Hiroshima, whose crew were also arrested, on the edge of the testing zone in the Marshall Islands, and also tried in Honolulu. Both boats were later abandoned, and both turned up, decades later, in Humboldt Bay, CA. The Golden Rule has since been rescued and restored to sailing condition, and is cruising again, up and down the Pacific Coast, preparing to embark for the Marshall Islands, this summer, to continue their protest against the US's proliferation of nuclear weapons. I attended a presentation by Veterans for Peace, in Bellingham in February. It was wonderful. Here is a link to [the website, and a 10 minute video](#). The 24 minute version of this video will be featured at one of our meetings soon, and I hope to be able to get one of the sponsors to join us, to speak more about this project. This a very inspiring group of brave souls, doing great work for peace. Please consider a donation to their effort. The [Phoenix of Hiroshima](#) has also been rescued, and that group is currently raising funds for its restoration. Another great video there.

As always, contact us any time: Bud Anderson, budathome2012@hotmail.com, Wim Houppermans wh5314b@gmail.com, Lyndon Greene anacomaritimectr@msn.com, or Tracy Powell tracy@nomorebombs.org, 360-840-3826. We appreciate your questions and suggestions.

