

Alex Robbins

Mr. Durell

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### How Nuclear Weapons Changed the World

Imagine a bomb or missile coming down on a city and murdering millions of people in a single blow. This is the power a nuclear weapon could bring to a city or town at any time. Now with nine countries in possession of nuclear weapons the threat of nuclear detonation is larger than before. Nuclear weapons have been used once before during world war two and kill thousands of people when dropped. They cost billions of dollars to make and maintain and also they have spread to many different countries over the many years making them an unfortunate item to have in the world.

The first nuclear weapons were dropped during the World War II on Japan. The United States' Enola Gay first dropped a bomb called "Little Boy" on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. This happened on August 6, 1945, and killed 70,000 people in the initial explosion, and killed 237,000 overall. It destroyed everything a mile around where the bomb detonated. The pilot of the Enola Gay, Paul Tibbets, said, "We turned back to look at Hiroshima. The city was hidden by that awful cloud... boiling up, mushrooming, terrible and incredibly tall." ("Bombings of Hiroshima"). Most of the deaths came after the bomb was dropped, caused by radiation sickness, with symptoms like vomiting, diarrhea, and hair falling out. The Protestant Minister thought this when the bombs fell: "The feeling I had was that everyone was dead. The whole city was

destroyed...I thought this was the end of Hiroshima- of Japan- of humankind...This was God's judgement of man." ("Bombings of Hiroshima").

The bombing of Hiroshima wasn't all the wrath that the United States had brought upon Japan. A second bomb dubbed the Fat Man was dropped on the Japanese fishing village of Nagasaki. This bomb was dropped just three days later on August 9. The bomber couldn't reach their original target of Kokura which was a large ammo plant for the Japanese. Even though this bomb was more powerful than the one dropped on Hiroshima it had a less severe effect on the citizens and the city. This is because the blast was blocked by a mountain causing the destruction to be much smaller than intended. Even though smaller than intended it was by no means good, it still destroyed a third of the city and killed 40,000 in the original blast and the after affects caused the death count to go up to 180,000 people killed. This was a travesty in Japan and the effects were so bad that nuclear weapons haven't been used since World War II.

Even though they haven't been used since the first bombings in Japan they still have spread to many different countries. The first country besides the United States to obtain nuclear weapons was Russia. One of the people who worked with the United States to create the first nuclear weapons, named Klaus Fuchs, was convicted of giving information about the weapons to Russia. This happened during the cold war and now the US and Russia both have thousands of nuclear weapons each. Now nine countries own nuclear weapons with the newest country being North Korea in 2006. With every country combined there are around 15,000 nukes which people believe that if there is no disarming of the nuclear weapons then there will be a higher risk of other countries obtaining them. This makes them very dangerous and life threatening.

Nuclear weapons also cost countries billions of dollars to make and maintain them as well as the delivery systems. The Department of Energy ,or the DOE, is responsible for creating and taking care of the weapons. 2,000 submarine warheads are currently being revised and updated according to the DOE. This would cost 2 million dollars to renovate each one. Also to fix 400-500 bombs would cost around 8-10 billion dollars. The United States does plan on replacing some of the nuclear weapons in 25-30 years despite agreeing to not make anymore weapons. Maintaining and creating them isn't the only part of nuclear weapons though, the delivery systems also is a major part of it. This is monitored by the Department of Defense ,or DOD for short, and is more expensive than making them. A single delivery system for the nuclear weapons costs about 50 million dollars each. Modifying a submarine would cost around 15 million dollars each. The US navy says that they plan to replace 12 nuclear armed submarines for 8 billion dollars each. These costs are ridiculous especially since we never use them and are trying to get rid of them .

Nuclear weapons destroyed thousands of peoples homes and killing even more during the second World War. They also have spread to many countries as well as the cost of them is ridiculous as well. Which is why they are a bad thing to have on this world and in possession of people who could order millions of deaths. This is why these machines are a blight on this Earth and the people on it.

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