



The Enola Gay B-29 Superfortress flying away from the giant mushroom cloud created by the explosion of the atomic bomb dropped over the Japanese city of Hiroshima during World War II. (Credit: Mark Stevenson/Stock Trek Images, <https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/illustration/superfortress-flying-away-from-the-explosion-royalty-free-illustration/495835759>)

81 years ago, tens of thousands of people were incinerated under mushroom clouds covering the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

On August 6th and August 9th, 1945, the United States government dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. More than 300,000 people were killed, including those instantly incinerated and those who perished later from radiation sickness, cancer, and other lingering effects of the explosions.

The use of these weapons on a civilian population was a crime against humanity. Horrified by the outcome, some government officials and many of the scientists who had themselves worked to research and develop the weapons called for international control over this new technology. **But the only government that then possessed the technology (ours) refused.**

In the more than eight decades since these shameful acts, humanity has lived under the threat of nuclear war- or, rather, under the threat of nuclear annihilation.

Today, nine countries possess nuclear weapons, **with nearly 90% of them owned by the United States and Russia.** With global violence and political instability escalating daily, both nations are investing billions in enhancement, modernization and expansion of their arsenals, leading non-nuclear states to increasingly consider development of these weapons to be a requirement for their own survival.

Together, the United States, Russia, China, France, India, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom **possess over 12, 300 nuclear weapons**, most of which are exponentially more powerful than the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Notes the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), **“A single nuclear warhead could kill hundreds of thousands of people, with lasting and devastating humanitarian and environmental consequences. Detonating just 1 nuclear weapon alone over New York would cause an estimated 583,160 fatalities.”** (See https://www.icanw.org/nuclear_arsenals)

Did you vote for this?

On July 22nd, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the 2027 National Defense Authorization Act, which authorizes a \$1.15 trillion military budget to include billions more for the development of nuclear weapons, while Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill Act will reduce spending on major social safety net programs by an estimated \$1.4 trillion over 10 years (fiscal years 2025–2034).

(<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/trumps-budget-request-cuts-programs-that-help-ordinary-americans-and-sinks-that-money-toward-war/>)

***Remember Hiroshima- August 6, 1945.
Remember Nagasaki- August 9, 1945.***

***Resist This Endless War
Resist fascism now (before it’s too late.)
<https://newhavensundayvigil.wordpress.com>***

***New Haven Sunday Vigil for Peace and Justice
August 2 and August 9, 2026***