

Mississippi Model Security Council Issue Papers

Nonproliferation

Nuclear non-proliferation, the stated goal at least, is the limiting or complete halt to nuclear weapons programs by states outside of the principle nuclear powers (P-5 members of United Nations Security Council). The rationale behind non-proliferation is that international tensions will be reduced greatly with the limiting of nuclear weapons considering their destructive properties. The first legitimate efforts to promote non-proliferation began, and from an unlikely source, shortly after the end of the Second World War by U.S. President Harry S. Truman.

The plan Truman proposed, named the Baruch Plan after Bernard Baruch our representative to the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission, essentially called for a complete nuclear weapon ban, the surrender of nuclear weapons by the United States (provided that no nation, specifically the Soviets would not develop similar weapons) and inspections of oversight to guard against violations of the plan. However, this plan failed as a result of the Soviets belief, at the time, that the United States and the West controlled the United Nations. And although this plan fell through before it materialized into resolution or policy, it set the groundwork for its successor the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1968-70.

The significance of non-proliferation to the United Nations Security Council and to IR theory in general is that while nuclear weapons are both destructive and costly in a potential conflict between two or more nations. They arguably serve as a stabilizer for some regional conflicts as is the case for the Indian and Pakistan conflict, Arab-Israel conflict and United States and Russian Federation. However, with stability comes a degree of instability, potential conflicts with nuclear weapons are possible between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United States/South Korea and a little known conflict brewing between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia.

189 Countries are parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). 1 withdrawn state (North Korea). 3 states are not signatories (India, Pakistan and Israel).

The following are significant treaties regarding international nonproliferation:

- Non-Proliferation Treaty-Multilateral treaty (1968-1970)
- Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty I & II-Bilateral Treaty between U.S. and USSR (1972 and 1979)
- Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty-Bilateral Treaty between U.S. and USSR (1987)
- Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty or SORT-Bilateral Treaty between United States and Russian Federation (2002-03)