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FACTOR OF NUCLEAR WEAPON IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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At the moment, the word "peace" does not correspond to the term international relations. The escalating crisis in Eastern Europe, as well as the recent statement of Russian President Vladimir Putin on the use of a nuclear arsenal, gives a clear picture of the possible escalation of the conflict. Solutions will no longer be authorized peacefully, but by the use of weapons of mass destruction.

Almost 75 years have passed since the creation of this type of weapon, and humanity has been on the verge of their use more than once. With the progress of technology, nuclear weapons have progressed, and world politics has undergone many changes, both minor and full-scale. If earlier in clashes, states used soft power, now heavy force, including the threat of mass destruction, is now a priority.

Since the beginning of 2022, all the attention of the media and political discussions lies on the conflict between Ukraine and Russia taking place in the east of Europe. A war that lasts in one region attracts increased attention and cannot be ignored by any country in the world due to its influence on international relations. And the recent statement of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin about the threat of using the nuclear arsenal also played a key role. The United States, which is a longtime enemy of Russia, has expressed a desire to use nuclear weapons in the event of a possible aggression against Ukraine and NATO countries. The above indicates that the two superpowers are ready to terminate the nuclear disarmament treaty and continue their proliferation for security purposes. The whole world is now close to the events of the Caribbean crisis, where a nuclear war almost came true. At first glance, it may seem that the real mutual vulnerability of the United States and Russia excludes the possibility of using nuclear weapons. Since, in any realistic scenario, both sides are capable of inflicting colossal damage on each other, many experts doubt that such a weapon could ever be used. However, nuclear weapons are not really just a symbol of the political importance of their owner, they play an important role in relations between the US and Russia, and this role may even be growing.

The purpose of the study is to assess the situations taking place in international relations, about the growing large-scale escalation of the conflict and the factor of the use of nuclear weapons in this area. Thus, this article explores the issue of the relevance of nuclear weapons in the current realities.

The novelty of this article lies in the fact that the threat of a nuclear collision is now incredibly increasing. This affects the change in statistics and the appearance of urgent news. At the moment, among the available studies, there is still no information about an increase in the nuclear arsenal. Since the presence of nuclear weapons serves as a guarantor of the superiority of the two countries, it is extremely important to analyze how nuclear potential can affect the future of international relations and whether it will be used in the near future.

The hypothesis of scientific research lies in the fact that nuclear weapons have had and are having a great impact on the world stage and a number of states are trying to acquire weapons of mass destruction, while others are wary of these developments. since the 21st century, the level of clashes between states has not subsided, but rather increased every year. This may have a bad effect on the position of a number of states seeking to gain dominance in their region. Thus, the question of the scientific elaboration of the problem will always be quite high.

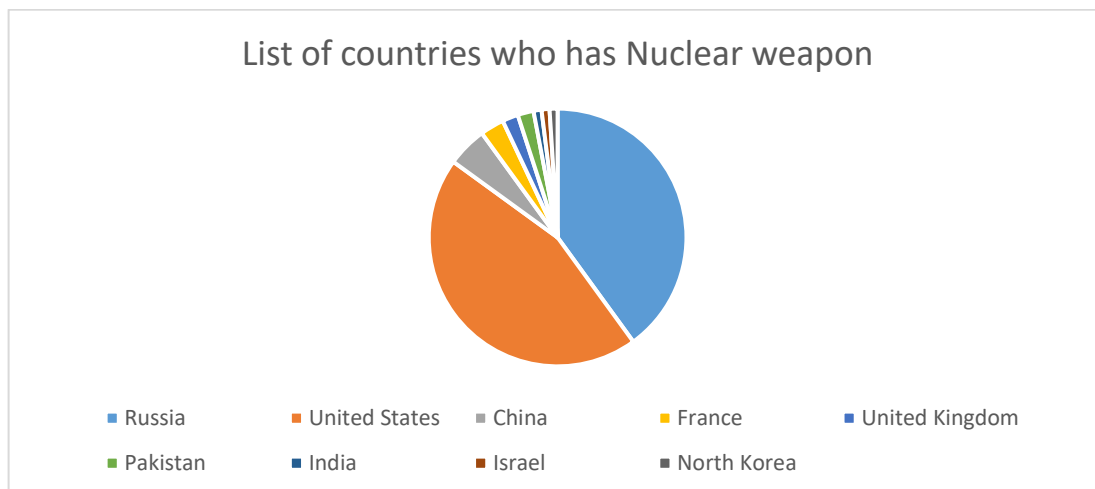
In this regard, the scientific article can be divided into 3 chapters:

1. The development of Nuclear weapon in international arena
2. Attempts to contain nuclear potential in the UN sphere
3. Current relations between USA and Russia.

The methodological base was the following methods of scientific research: theoretical and historical for the analysis of secondary data. Through theoretical and historical methods, the chronology of the emergence of nuclear weapons, the purpose of use and the number of warheads were revealed. Also, by the historical method, international documents were studied, including the UN resolution.

The theoretical analysis made it possible to study the structure of the deterrence of nuclear weapons in international relations and made it clear that the presence of nuclear weapons is the guarantor of security.

1. The development of Nuclear weapon in international arena



There are around 13,000 nuclear weapons in existence worldwide, according to statistics from 2021. This statistic includes the US and Russia to a 90 percent ratio. In the past, these two nations have led the development of the most lethal weaponry [1].

Potentially devastating nuclear weapons are primarily seen as a tool for political pressure, deterrence, or intimidation of other nations rather than as a way of fighting war. It is regarded as a very useful weapon in this capacity for safeguarding national security of the state interests in the broadest sense. As a result, non-nuclear governments occasionally have a wish to get these weapons. As a result, nuclear deterrence always and continuously encourages nuclear proliferation. There is, however, also discussion.

Firstly, nuclear proliferation, like a domino effect, increases the number of states with nuclear weapons, perpetuating nuclear deterrence as a framework for military-political interactions between nations. However, it is difficult to create a credible deterrent, and as deterrence gets more extensive, it becomes less viable and the risk of nuclear war increases.

Secondly, their military forces gain new adversaries and key thing to note, symbolized by nuclear proliferation, even though the political tensions of nuclear nations fundamentally shift and they stop viewing each other as foes (like Russia and the United States after the end of the Cold War). This might evolve to the strategic interactions between former enemies being more focused in nuclear deterrence, with all the associated constitutional repercussions [2].

Overall, the possession of nuclear weapons has given both the United States and Russia significant leverage in international relations. The threat of mutually assured destruction has acted as a deterrent against large-scale conflicts, but it has also created a state of constant tension between the two countries. The proliferation of nuclear weapons to other countries has also added to the complexity of international relations, with countries like North Korea and Iran seeking to develop their own nuclear arsenals and challenging the global power dynamics.

2. Attempts to contain nuclear potential in the UN sphere

Historically, nuclear weapons have been classified as a separate category of weapons. Referring to this, some states claim that they have a legal right to possess nuclear weapons for national or collective security purposes, but their acquisition would be dangerous for other states. At the same time, even the nuclear powers would agree that a world free of nuclear weapons is a desirable goal, but that goal cannot be achieved until an improved security framework replaces nuclear deterrence. Over the years of the existence of the UN, the problem of nuclear deterrence has been on the agenda and the disputes over the deterrence of nuclear potential have not yet been resolved.

Problems of nuclear disarmament were of central importance for International Relations in the second half of 20th century. The idea of “nuclear-free world” underwent a series of transformations based on “obligation of legal nuclear powers” (1960s), “nuclear weapons reduction” (1980s) and signing Fissile material cut-of Treaty (1990s). More recently, an increased focus of attention on nuclear disarmament has led the strategic interest of nuclear superpowers. At the end of 2000s the U.S. diplomacy suggested some initiatives in this sphere. However, the other nuclear powers worry that U.S. initiative will change a global strategic balance.

The first attempt to start negotiations on the elimination of nuclear weapons was made immediately after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In December 1945, at the Moscow Conference of Foreign Ministers, the representatives of the USA, the USSR and Great Britain agreed to establish the UN Atomic Energy Commission. In January 1946, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution containing a Commission proposal to work out plans to remove atomic warheads from national control and establish international control over atomic energy.

These sentiments found support among the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States. Washington sought to prevent the appearance of atomic weapons in the USSR, Moscow - to eliminate the American atomic monopoly and buy time to create its own atomic warhead.

The Conference of Foreign Ministers that took place in Moscow between December 16 and December 26, 1945, can be credited as being the direct genesis of this endeavor. There, officials from the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union established a United Nations commission to provide guidance on the elimination of all nuclear weapons now in existence and to strive toward the peaceful use of atomic energy. The resultant organization, the UNAEC, was established on January 24, 1946, with six rotating participants and six current members (the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union, China, and Canada) (3).

Negotiations on the issue of nuclear disarmament began in the late 1960s, when the text of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was being drafted. The center of the negotiations was the Committee of 18 States for Disarmament, established in 1962, co-chaired by the USSR and the USA. On September 15, 1965, its neutral members (Burma, Brazil, India, Mexico, Nigeria, United Arab Republic, Sweden and Ethiopia) submitted a joint memorandum. It stated that the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons should be seen as a stage on the road to general and complete disarmament, including the universal renunciation of nuclear weapons.

On November 19, 1965, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution that "the treaty should be the first step towards achieving general and complete disarmament and, especially, nuclear disarmament". The non-nuclear powers agreed to join the non-proliferation treaty only on the condition that the old nuclear powers move along the path of nuclear disarmament.

The third attempt to start negotiations on the prospects for nuclear disarmament took place in the mid-1980s. January 15, 1986 General Secretary of the Central Committee of the USSR M.S. Gorbachev put forward an initiative to eliminate nuclear weapons by the year 2000. The USSR proposed at the first stage to destroy and reduce by 50% strategic nuclear arsenals, at the second stage - to eliminate tactical nuclear weapons, and at the third - all remaining warheads. The Soviet side intended to make this proposal the agenda for the resumption of the interrupted Geneva talks in 1983 on "Euromissiles" and on the limitation and reduction of strategic arms [4].

The proposals of the USSR provoked a wary reaction from the United States. The White House feared that Moscow wanted to consolidate its superiority in the conventional military. At the Soviet-American summit in Reykjavik on October 12, 1986, US President Ronald Reagan abandoned the Soviet initiative. The parties only agreed to follow the path of limiting the arms race and reducing nuclear weapons.

After the end of the Cold War, the priorities reversed, first in US policy, and then in other powers of the Big Five, including Russia. Since the mid-1990s, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and their carriers, including the strengthening of the non-proliferation treaty, its institutions (International Atomic Energy Agency), additional bodies and mechanisms, measures. Also, more and more importance given to the strategy of counter-proliferation: the use of sanctions, up to military force, against the "threshold" countries. An example of such a line (at least according to official arguments) was the US military operation to overthrow the Hussein regime in Iraq, Washington's pressure on Iran and North Korea, as well as on Russia and other countries cooperating with them in nuclear energy and the development of rocket technology.

In fact, the nuclear powers have promoted a number of measures to prevent the acquisition of nuclear weapons by other states, and have agreed to minimum disarmament steps, such as: reducing stockpiles of nuclear weapons, removing certain categories of nuclear weapons from their

arsenals, and moreover, refusing to express threats to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states, except under certain conditions.

While most states have never adopted a nuclear deterrence security strategy, the fact that nuclear-weapon countries and their allies continue to rely on nuclear deterrence, improve their nuclear weapons systems, and uphold the doctrine of the use of nuclear weapons under certain conditions encourages others countries to acquire nuclear weapons and join the doctrine of nuclear deterrence. Thus, efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons are only partially successful.

The latest UN resolution on the deterrence of nuclear weapons was ratified in 2021. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which prohibits the development, testing, storage, acquisition, transportation and use of nuclear weapons. The Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, according to its supporters, should become a "clear political commitment" to create and maintain a world free of nuclear weapons. However, unlike the Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention, the treaty does not contain all the legal and technical measures necessary to eliminate the threat. Such provisions would be subject to subsequent negotiations allowing the initial agreement to be concluded without the participation of the nuclear-weapon states [5].

3. Current relations between USA and Russia.

The arms race gave other countries the opportunity to test and develop nuclear weapons too. One may recall the development of India and its historical opponent Pakistan, when both countries declared the presence of nuclear weapons in the 1990s. In Europe, in order to secure themselves in further conflicts, Great Britain and France began to develop their nuclear arsenal. In the Asian region, China and North Korea have joined the nuclear club. It is worth noting that China is the first of the countries of the nuclear club to declare the principle of no first use of nuclear weapons. In 2005, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a white paper stating that China would not be the first to use nuclear weapons at any time and under any circumstances. Israel is also suspected of having nuclear weapons. However, he did not officially announce his position.

No matter how all the listed countries try to create and improve their developments, they are very far from Russia and the USA in terms of quantity and perfection.

The US and Russia are the largest nuclear powers in the world. And although today it is still far from the indicators of the "arms race", Moscow and Washington continue to modernize their nuclear arsenals. Historical distrust and rivalry create a competitive element between the two countries and provides an incentive to expand their nuclear programs.

Russia is in the middle of a decade-long process of modernizing its strategic and non-strategic nuclear forces to replace obsolete Soviet-era systems with new ones. The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation is carrying out a large-scale renewal of land, aviation and sea strategic and tactical nuclear missile weapons, which lays the foundation for a qualitative increase in the combat capabilities of Russian nuclear forces under the restrictions of international treaties [6].

Russia has the largest nuclear stockpile - approximately 5,977 warheads, although about 1,500 of them have been decommissioned or are awaiting dismantling. Russia has 1,588 strategic warheads deployed.

In second place is the United States, which is gradually reducing its nuclear potential - 5,428 nuclear warheads. About 1,720 of them have been decommissioned or are to be dismantled, 1,644 are deployed.

Nuclear weapons issues have clouded US-Russian security and military cooperation, and this situation is likely to be exacerbated by major disagreements between Washington and Moscow, as well as ongoing nuclear and conventional weapons modernization programs. both

states. Some analysts deplore (or rejoice in) this, because all indications are that the era of arms control in US-Russian relations is coming to an end, and that efforts to reduce risks need to be renewed. Arms control, risk mitigation and de-escalation measures are especially relevant (albeit complicated) in situations where both sides can realistically come close to exchanging blows. In such cases, such agreements (whether explicit or implied) can make a significant contribution to preventing conflict or reducing the risk of further deterioration of relations [7].

Despite these efforts, the possession of nuclear weapons remains a controversial issue in international relations. The United States and Russia still possess significant nuclear arsenals, and there are concerns that other countries may seek to develop nuclear weapons, which will lead to a resumption of the arms race. In general, the possession of nuclear weapons and their development have had a profound impact on relations between the United States and Russia, shaping their policies and actions and emphasizing the need to continue efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. From the end of the Cold War until recently, because the likelihood of real conflict between NATO and Russia was low, arms control efforts were not very important, although often quite constructive. Conversely, now that the likelihood of war is growing, attention needs to be refocused on reducing the military danger that may arise unintentionally and limiting the unintentional or accidental escalation of hostilities.

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A COMMUNITY OF SHARED FUTURE FOR MANKIND'S STUDY OF HIGER EDUCATION COLLABORATION BETWEEN CHINA AND COUNTRIES ALONG THE "BELT AND ROAD"

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