

The nuclear challenge today and tomorrow:

Approaching eight decades
since nuclear weapons were used in war

Dan Smith

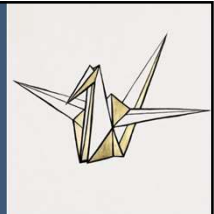
Director, SIPRI

Nagasaki, 2 December 2024

Congratulations to Nihon Hidankyo
and to

the Nobel Peace Prize Committee
for reminding us of two things:

- Nuclear weapons have not been used in war for 79
years; but
- They are not yesterday's problem



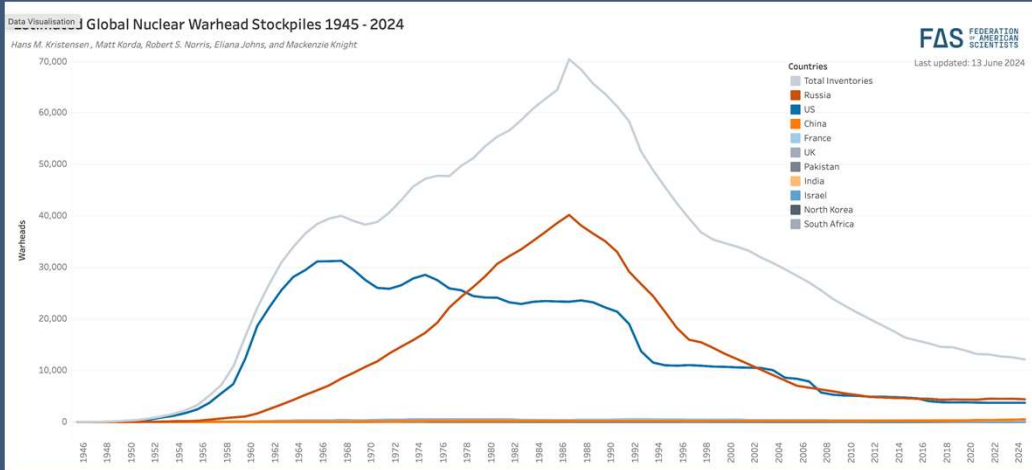
Comparing risks



Afghanistan, SS-20 and the cruise missiles

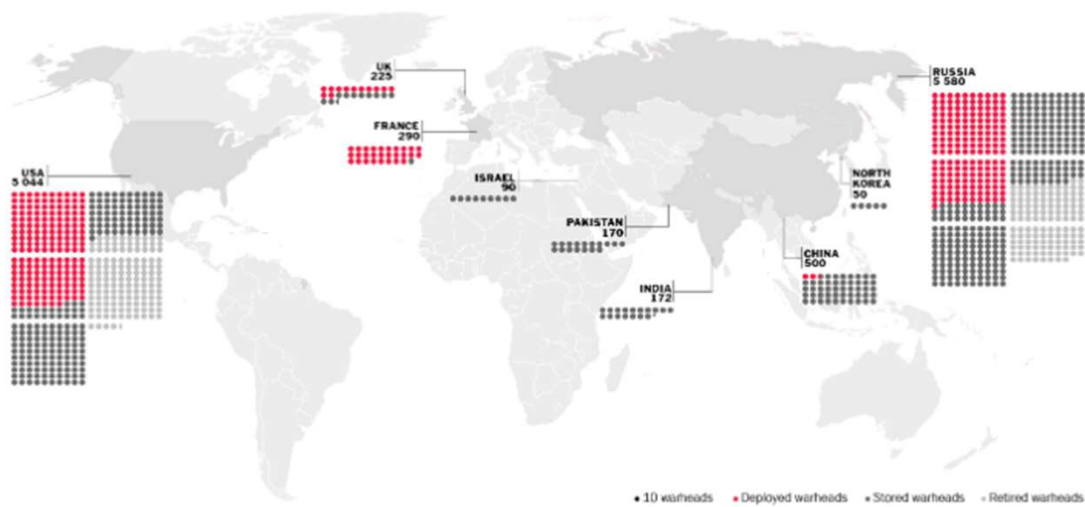


Nuclear warheads



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Global nuclear weapon inventories, January 2024



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Lieutenant Colonel Stanislav Petrov



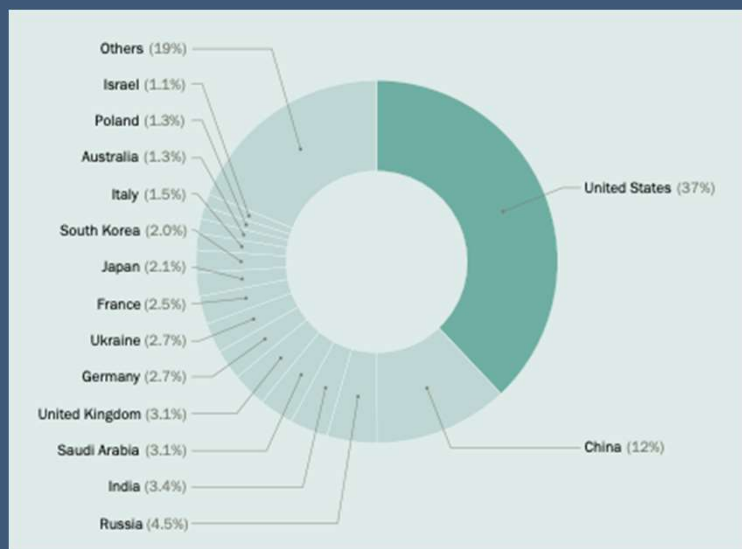
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Military spending 1988-2023



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Military spending in 2023



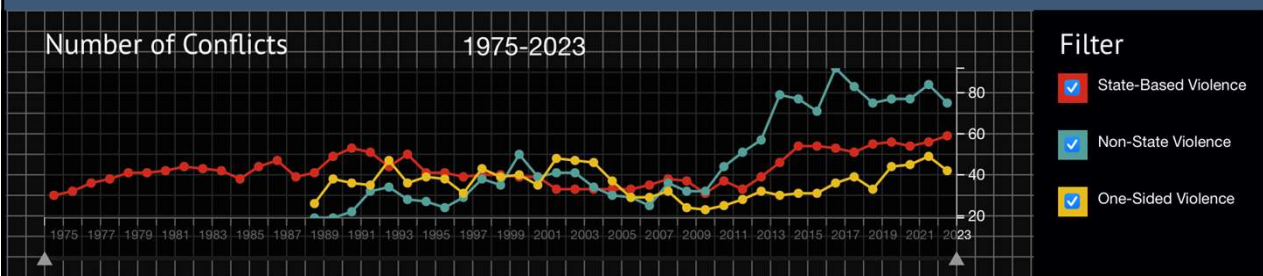
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Military spending as a % of the global economy

- 2023 (military spending highest ever) – 2.3% of world output
- 1983: 4.3%
- 1963: 6%

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Number of armed conflicts year by year



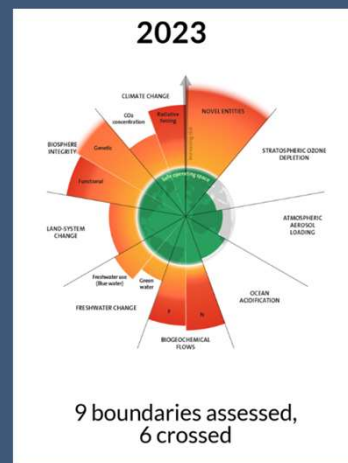
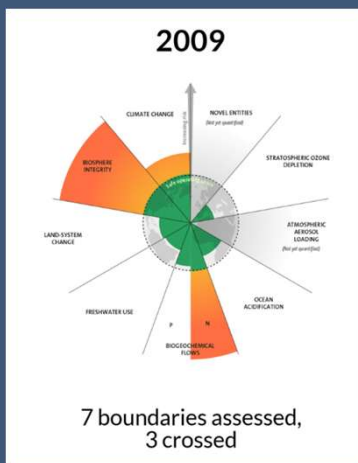
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The Antarctic in summer 2024



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Planetary boundaries



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“I think that people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of their way and let them have it.”

President Dwight Eisenhower
31 August 1959

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Thank you

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