

The Case For and Against Nuclear Disarmament

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Which strategy do you think the U.S. should pursue: should we dismantle our warheads and eliminate our stockpile of materials, or should we bolster the second-largest arsenal in the world? Why?

Much of O'Hanlon's argument focuses on uncertainty, risk, and the possible reactions of our adversaries and allies? But do these factors really change the moral case? Doesn't the right thing to do remain the same regardless of these additional considerations? Why or why not?

Perhaps nuclear disarmament isn't any different from a problem like climate change. Sure, doing the right thing requires a collective effort, but does that mean we aren't obligated to do our part unless we are guaranteed cooperation from others. Can we be morally required to pursue some action if we know others will free-ride or take advantage of our sacrifice?