

# weapons - who has what?

"We have guided missiles and misguided men."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

There are currently around 36,000 nuclear weapons in the world's arsenals, primarily in those of the five Nuclear Weapon States. This is estimated to be 2,667 times the firepower experienced in the entire six years of World War II\*.

At the height of the Cold War there were around 65,000 nuclear weapons.

The obvious decrease in the quantity of nuclear weapons is partly a result of the commitment of governments and people around the world to work towards complete disarmament. Unfortunately, however, these reductions are also the result of technical developments in nuclear weapons production, which result in many earlier models being rendered less "efficient" or potent, thereby becoming redundant. The motivations for governments to disarm are not always obvious to them. With the large amount of weapons still in existence some would argue that we are no better off than in the darkest days of the Cold War.

Current nuclear weapons are distributed as follows:

## NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES:

### UNITED STATES

~ 12, 070 weapons\*\*

(of these, 7, 450 are strategic nuclear weapons)

### RUSSIA

~ 22, 500 weapons\*\*

(of these, 6, 240 are strategic weapons)

### CHINA

~ 400 weapons\*\*

(of these, ~20+ are strategic weapons)

### UNITED KINGDOM

260 weapons\*\*

(of these, 160 are strategic weapons)

### FRANCE

450 weapons\*\*

(of these, 429 are strategic weapons)

**Point to note:**  
*Strategic nuclear weapons use long range missile systems*  
*Tactical nuclear weapons use short range missile systems*

## NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABLE STATES:

### ISRAEL

100-200 weapons •\*

### INDIA

65 weapons (median approximates only) •\* •

### PAKISTAN

39 weapons (median approximates only) •\* •

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References & Information sources:

\* 'Is Everything Secure? Myths and Realities of Nuclear Disarmament'. IPPNW publication 1998

\*\* data provided by Coalition to Reduce Nuclear Dangers – last updated February 1999 : [www.clw.org/coalition/nukelev.htm](http://www.clw.org/coalition/nukelev.htm)

•\* approximates are those of the Federation of American Scientists: <http://www.fas.org/nuke/guide/israel/index.html>

•\* • approximates are those of ISIS in the report titled: India's and Pakistan's Fissile Material and Nuclear Weapons Inventories, end of 1999 by David Albright <http://www.isis-online.org/>