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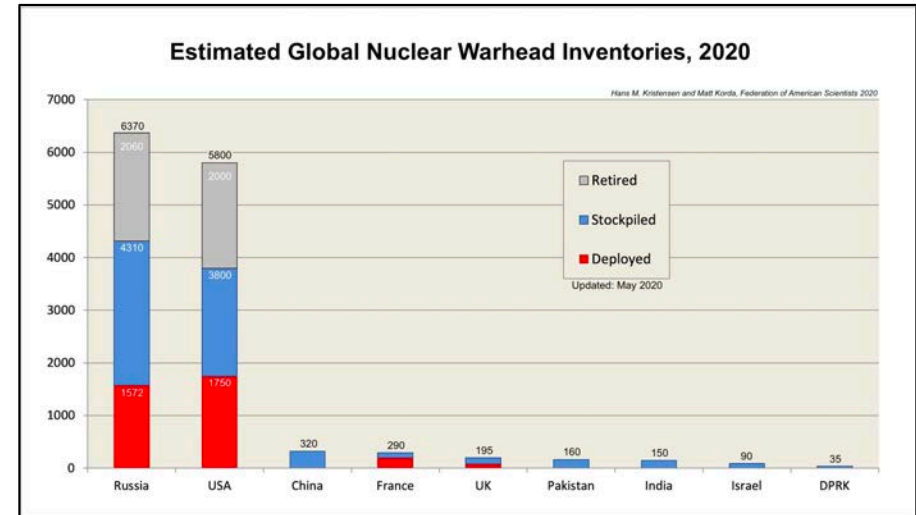
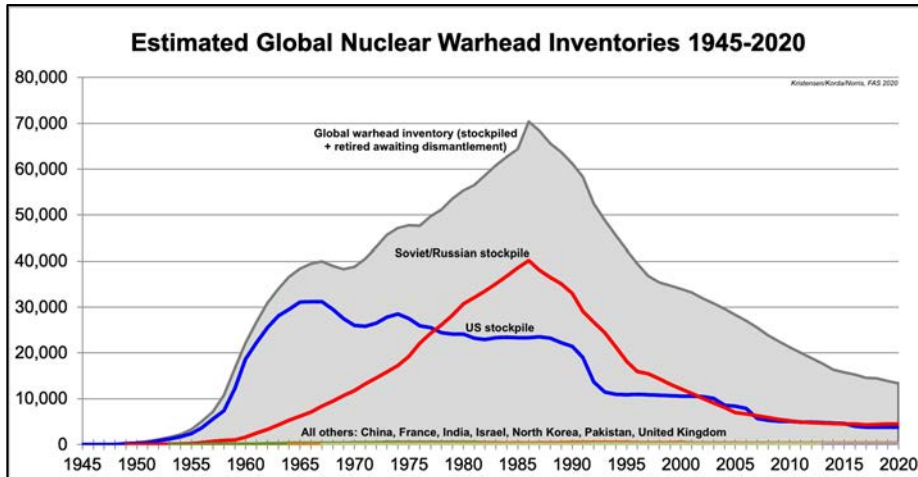
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China-US-Russian Competition Modernizations and Arms Racing

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Reaching Critical Will
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Global Context



Enormous reductions since 1986 peak of 64,500 stockpiled warheads in 1986 (70,300 if including retired warheads):

- 55,000 warhead stockpile reduction
- 56,900 warheads dismantled
- 3,900 retired warheads currently awaiting dismantlement

Overall trend: pace of reductions slowing, everyone is modernizing, increasing role, and reaffirming importance of nuclear weapons

Today: 9,500 warheads in stockpiles (13,400 if counting retired warheads awaiting dismantlement)

US and Russia possess 93% of global inventory; **each has more than 4 times more warheads than rest of world combined;**

15 times more than third-largest stockpile (China)

Decreasing: US, Britain

Increasing: China, Pakistan, India, Russia, North Korea

Steady: France, Israel

Full-Scale Strategic Competition

Post-Cold War thaw is over: US-Russia-China are now in official full-scale strategic and military competition

That means all elements of national power translate that reality into action: doctrine, programs, operations

Although there has always been nuclear modernization, it is now explained as official response to “the other side”

New weapons are added to “strengthen deterrence”

Visible Dynamics:

Political: Hardening of rhetoric, bickering, accusation, blame

Doctrine/strategy: Updating and toughening of policy documents, doctrine changed, and strategy overtly directed at adversary

Operational: Exercises and day-to-day activities increase, move forward, closer, intentionally aggressive and threatening

US Activities

2017 National Security Strategy: Shift from focus on War On Terror to Great Power Competition, reinvigorating role of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear threats



2018 Nuclear Posture Review: Embrace Great Power Competition, all-of-the-above modernization, remove restraints on new nuclear capabilities, new weapons, enhance nuclear role against non-nuclear strategic attacks, nonproliferation profile reduced



2017-2020: Shredding of arms control and international agreements. Proactive arms control replaced with doctrine of complaints and grievances

2018-2019: Increased nuclear secrecy with re-classification of stockpile and dismantlement numbers

2014-2020: Increasing and more offensive operations and exercises closer to Russia and China



Russian Activities

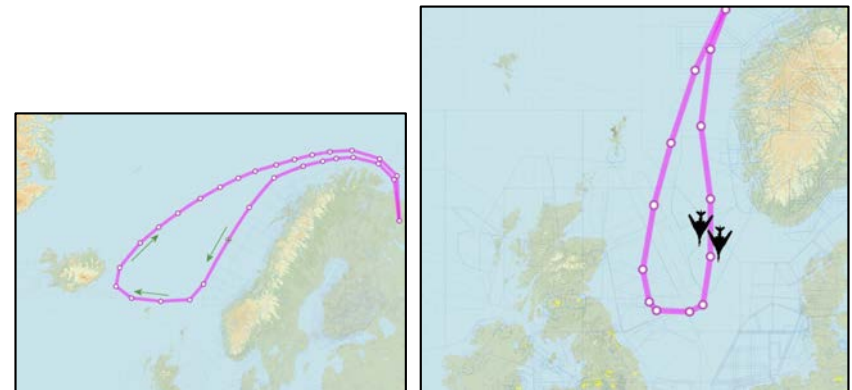
2000-2010 Military Strategy: Updated to include potential nuclear use against not only WMD attacks but also non-nuclear attacks that threaten survival of State

2014: Invasion of Ukraine, annexation of Crimea, ongoing war in Donbas (follows 2008 Georgia conflict)

1997-2020: Modernization of strategic and tactical nuclear forces. Addition of several new systems. Warhead stockpile possibly increasing

2004-2020: Increasing and more offensive operations and exercises closer to NATO countries accompanied by dangerous operations and explicit nuclear threats against individual countries

2010-2020: Growing militarization of Arctic



Chinese Activities

1995-2020: Massive general military modernization program undertaken to give China world stage status

1995-2020: Military operations further away from Chinese coast with frequent operations around Japan and Taiwan

2000-2020: Significant nuclear modernization with increased mobility, accuracy, diversity, and warheads

2015-2020: Annexation of international territory and construction of reef-island bases in South China Sea

2017-2020: Re-assignment of nuclear role to bombers to build Triad of nuclear forces

