Accidental nuclear war and what you can do about it

Max Tegmark, MIT
friends – $1,000,000,000,000 goes a long way! To avoid investing in more nukes than you want, click here.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>IMAGE</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Give Everyone in the Military a $10,000 Bonus</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>$14,600,000,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help 9,000 Homeless Veterans Find a Permanent Home</td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>$62,000,000</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$235,998,000,000</strong></td>
<td><img src="cart_icon.png" alt="Cart Icon" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /> <img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /> <img src="image6.png" alt="Image" /> <img src="image7.png" alt="Image" /> <img src="image8.png" alt="Image" /> <img src="image9.png" alt="Image" /> <img src="image10.png" alt="Image" /> <img src="image11.png" alt="Image" /> <img src="image12.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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March 1, 1954, the same day that shots were ringing on the floor of the House of Representatives, another “shot”, unheralded but of sweeping significance, was fired in the Marshall Islands. On that day an American AEC task group detonated a hydrogen bomb of monstrous size. In its widest implications that bomb has not yet ceased to reverberate. A long chain of incidents, ranging from the curious to the tragic, has made it clear that “peacetime” nuclear explosions present a substantial threat to our well-being. Storm signals from earlier atomic tests such as fogged photographic film and radioactive rain have given way to the storm—which has already resulted in the radioactive poisoning of several hundred people. The March 1 explosion also blasted the lid of secrecy from the AEC’s thermonuclear adventures, giving the public its first real look behind the “uranium curtain”; thus it is now known that the AEC touched off three prior hydrogen explosions, the third of which (November, 1952) gave more than five times as great an energy release as predicted by its creators.

I. Chronicle of Events

The March 1 bomb was expected to explode with a force of four to six megatons (a megaton denotes the energy released by exploding one million tons of TNT) but developed instead about fourteen megatons. Stated another way, it released the amount of energy estimated to be possessed by 2,000,000,000 tons of TNT, the entire world’s armament in 1952.
I. Chronicle of Events

The March 1 bomb was expected to explode with a force of four to six megatons (a megaton denotes the energy released by exploding one million tons of TNT) but developed instead about fourteen megatons of energy. Superheated gas was released in a huge mushroom cloud that rose higher than Mount Everest and spread out like a vast umbrella. A ring of fire at the bomb site incinerated everything within a radius of eight miles and created a black hole. On that day an indelible mark was made on the fabric of time. The March 1 bomb, the first atomic bomb to be used in a test, was a catalyst for the nuclear arms race that has ravaged the world ever since.

On that day an indelible mark was made on the fabric of time. The March 1 bomb, the first atomic bomb to be used in a test, was a catalyst for the nuclear arms race that has ravaged the world ever since.
March 1 of the House bringing significant American AEC. In its widest and longest chain of thinking very clear that “peace for our well-being”.

 Chronicle of Events

...expected to explode with a force of four to six times more energy than the energy released by exploding one million tons of TNT...
1) Which one of these people is more famous?

Justin Bieber  Vasili Arkhipov
1) Which one of these people is more famous?

2) Which one of these people should we thank for us all being alive here tonight, because he singlehandedly stopped a Soviet nuclear attack during the Cuban missile crisis?
Lesson: Relying on luck is a poor long-term strategy

Assuming merely 2% chance/year:

- Probability of global nuclear war having happened

Year

2050 2100 2150 2200 2250 2300

Probability of global nuclear war having happened

100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0%
WHAT’S OUR GOAL?
Infighting about end goals is best avoided among all who agree that the first step should be down rather than up!
What can you do?
You have power every time you
- vote
- share (#MITnukes)
- shop
- invest
“If you want to slow the nuclear arms race, then put your money where your mouth is and don’t bank on the bomb!”