

Meeting the Challenges of the New Nuclear Age: U.S. and Russian Nuclear Concepts, Past and Present



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Acknowledgments

This is the first Occasional Paper of the project on Meeting the Challenges of the New Nuclear Age, an initiative of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The project focuses on the dangers and opportunities presented by an increasing complex world shaped by nine states that possess nuclear weapons. The initiative addresses three dimensions of an evolving global nuclear order: 1) how the geostrategic relationships between the nuclear powers have shifted since the first nuclear age, and the impact of those changes; 2) how technological innovations (in the space, cyber, and bioweapons realm in particular, although not exclusively) are affecting existing nuclear arrangements (including the extended deterrence architecture and strategic stability); and 3) how the changes in the current global nuclear order affect the prospects for nuclear arms control, recognizing that the framework in which we are operating has changed and is increasingly challenged. The first phase of the project has concentrated on core questions generated by these changes.

This first publication, *Meeting the Challenges of the New Nuclear Age: U.S. and Russian Nuclear Concepts, Past and Present*, specifically explores the underlying principles, assumptions, and worldviews that underpinned and largely informed the complex interplay between these two nuclear superpowers during the Cold War and beyond.

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