

CURRENT JOURNAL CONTENTS

A Monthly Current Information Service



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DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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By Frank N. von Hippel
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Cover photo: The White House, Washington, D.C. on July 18, 2024. (Photo by REUTERS/Kevin Mohatt)

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28 Iran Expresses Support for Diplomacy, U.S. Skeptical

The Biden administration says it is looking for Tehran's new leadership to demonstrate first that it intends to take a different approach to negotiations.

29 U.S. to Deploy Intermediate-Range Missiles in Germany

Russia says it will adopt "mirror measures" in response to the German-U.S. announcement.

30 U.S. to Supply Taiwan With Attack Drones

The \$360 million deal would be the first U.S. sale of attack drones to the self-governing island.

32 Overbudget ICBM Program Survives Review

The United States will continue building a new Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) force despite escalating cost overruns.

33 North Korea, South Korea Strengthen Deterrence

North Korea deployed launchers for nuclear-capable missiles along its southern border after South Korea and the United States announced new guidelines for strengthening U.S. extended nuclear deterrence.

34 China Ties Nuclear Talks To Taiwan Arms Sales

China said it rejected the U.S. offer for more nuclear arms control talks and tied the decision to U.S. arms sales to Taiwan.

35 IAEA Warns of Risks at Russian Nuclear Plant

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency visited the nuclear power plant in the Kursk region of Russia as threats to the facility grew because of the Russian war against Ukraine.

36 Japan, U.S. Bolster Extended Deterrence

At a meeting in Tokyo, the two allies reaffirmed and expanded their commitments to maintain peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region.

37 Meeting Works to Keep NPT Goals Alive

With the future of nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament in the balance, states-parties to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) are persisting in efforts to preserve the regime.

38 Gaza Conflict Casts Shadow on Nagasaki Memorial

Representatives of Canada, France, Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union skipped the ceremony in Nagasaki on Aug. 9, recognizing the anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings, after Israel was disinvited.

39 OPCW Visits Ukraine on Chemical Weapons Allegations

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons conducted its first technical visit in Ukraine as a response to months of alleged illegal chemical weapons use by Ukraine and Russia.

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September 2024

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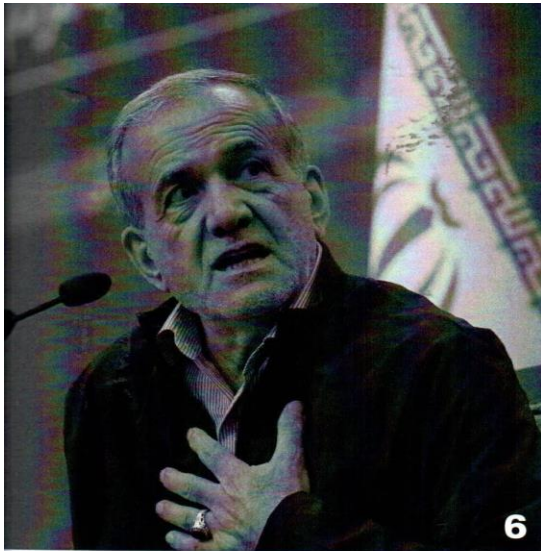
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The next U.S. president will need to move swiftly to engage Tehran because the door for diplomacy may not remain open for long.

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The newly-elected president, Masoud Pezeshkian, faces immense pressure to revive Iran's economy.

18 What the Russian Public Thinks About the Use of Nuclear Weapons

By Michal Smetana and Michal Onderco

Research suggests that the Kremlin could lose popular support if it used nuclear weapons in Ukraine.



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21 Iranian President Opens Door to New Nuclear Talks

Masoud Pezeshkian made his overture to the United States and other key countries in his first address to the General Assembly since being elected Iran's new leader in July.

22 Iran Said to Ship Missiles to Russia

The United States accused Iran of sending ballistic missiles to Russia, but Iran denied the accusation.

23 Guterres Calls for Autonomous Weapons Controls

In a new report, António Guterres reaffirmed the need to preserve human control over the use of force and said “[t]he autonomous targeting of humans by machines is a moral line that must not be crossed.”

24 North Korea Reveals Uranium-Enrichment Facility

In addition to revealing a uranium-enrichment facility and a new, larger launch vehicle for long-range missiles, leader Kim Jong Un pledged to expand the country's nuclear arsenal.

26 Canada and UK Restrict Arms Sales to Israel Over Gaza War

The decision by Canada and the United Kingdom to ban or otherwise restrict arms transfers to Israel over the Gaza War follows similar decisions by Belgium, Italy and Spain.

27 UK, U.S. Seek Indefinite Extension of Nuclear Cooperation Pact

The United Kingdom and the United States said their decision to extend their mutual defense agreement indefinitely is in response to rising threats.

28 World Leaders Adopt UN ‘Pact for the Future’

The initiative is designed to address an era of global transformation and catastrophic risk.

29 Ukraine Presses Request To Use U.S.-Origin Long-Range Missiles

The United States continues to weigh appeals from Ukraine to use U.S.-origin missiles against targets behind Russian frontlines.

30 Israel’s Use of Exploding Pagers May Violate International Law

Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons prohibits the production of large quantities of apparently harmless objects that are constructed to contain explosive material, experts say.

31 IAEA Chief Visits Zaporizhzhia Power Plant

The situation at Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant “remains precarious” due to regular explosions and drone attacks, Rafael Mariano Grossi said after the visit.

33 India Commissions Second Ballistic Missile Submarine

Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh said the new submarine, INS Arighaat, would “help in establishing strategic balance” in the region.

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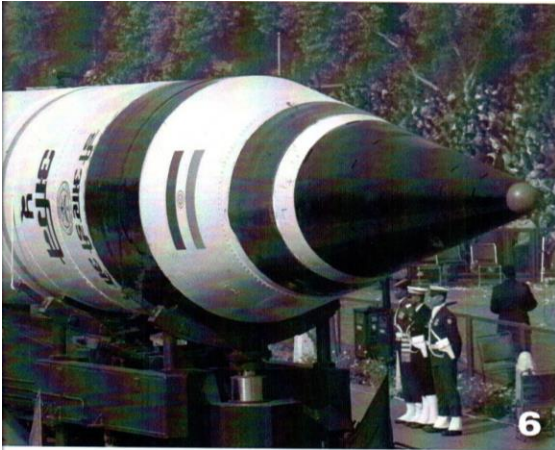
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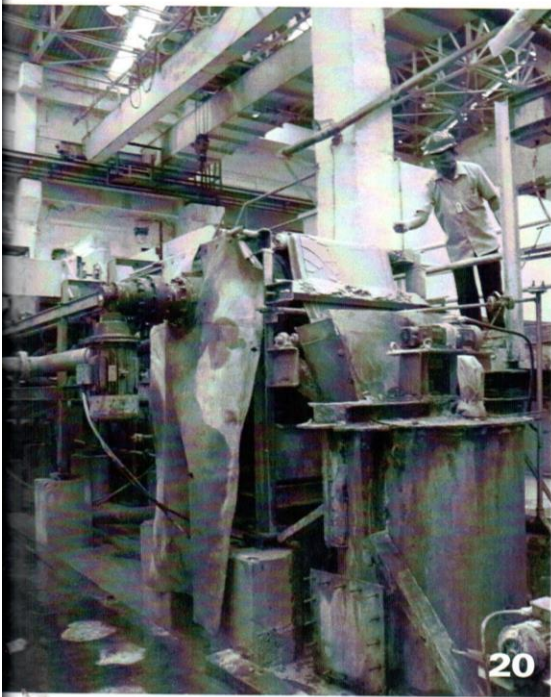
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Confronting the Threats Posed by Threats of Nuclear Use
By Daryl G. Kimball
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15 Years Ago in *ACT*



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Decades after India and Pakistan joined China in conducting nuclear tests and declaring themselves states with nuclear weapons, the region remains risk prone and there is little chance of engagement on nuclear issues.
- 12 Will India and Pakistan Ever Join the Nuclear Suppliers Group?**
By Mark Hibbs
Membership bids by the two southern Asian countries present a unique challenge for the world's leading multilateral nuclear export control group.
- 20 The Legacy of India's Nuclear Weapons Test**
By Nasir Hafeez
Strategically, India has not been able to achieve what it desired, despite building a nuclear arsenal.

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- 25 The Global South and Autonomous Weapons Controls**
By Alexander Hoppenbrouwers
Division within the Global South makes it more difficult for states favoring legally binding autonomous weapons systems regulation to achieve consensus.



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29 Japanese A-Bomb Survivors Group Wins Nobel Peace Prize

Nihon Hidankyo was honored for its work reminding people of the horror of nuclear weapons and strengthening the taboo against nuclear use.

31 Under U.S. Pressure, Israel Avoids Iran Nuclear Targets

Prior to Israel's retaliatory attack, President Joe Biden said that the United States would not support Israeli strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities.

32 North Korea Suggests U.S. Election Will Have No Impact

A North Korean official said the election will not influence its approach to engagement with the United States and blamed Washington for escalating regional tensions.

33 Japan's New Leader Stirs Debate on Nuclear Sharing

Japan's new prime minister stirred controversy by proposing an Asian version of NATO that could include introducing nuclear weapons into the region.

34 China Conducts Rare ICBM Test Over Pacific

The country's first launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile in international waters since 1980 landed near French Polynesia.

35 Sarmat Failure Casts Doubt on Russian Heavy ICBM

The Russian RS-28 Sarmat heavy intercontinental ballistic missile exploded in September at its test launch site.

36 Putin Previews Changes To Nuclear Policy

Russia is expected to reserve the right to use nuclear weapons "when the enemy, using conventional weapons, creates a critical threat to our sovereignty," President Vladimir Putin said.

38 New Group Seeks Progress on Fissile Material Treaty

Twelve countries launched a cross-regional group with the aim of expanding support for negotiating a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons.

39 NNSA Loses Environmental Regulation Lawsuit

A U.S. judge ruled that the National Nuclear Security Administration violated the law by failing to properly analyze alternatives that consider environmental impacts.

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Experts Dismiss Speculation Over Iran Nuclear Testing
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5 PROVOCATIONS

7 China's US-Driven Middle East Strategy

■ *Jon B. Alterman*

The Middle East has become increasingly important to China, but Beijing does not want to replace the US in the region. China does, however, want to advance its security at American expense. It is especially important for US policymakers to have a clearer understanding of what China is doing, and respond with a US strategy asymmetrically, recognizing enduring US strengths, advantages and interests.

25 Preventing Mass Atrocities with a Divided UN Security Council

■ *Anjali Dayal*

It is in the US interest to help prevent mass atrocities, but what strategies are available as the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) is in decline in an era of great-power conflict? Especially after Ukraine and Gaza, without appearing to be the key player, the US can and should support multilateral, regional and local diplomatic channels available outside the UN Security Council.

41 Hong Kong: Exporting International Law with Chinese Characteristics

■ *Anouk Wear*

After the 2020 National Security Law, the Hong Kong Special Administration Region passed new security legislation on March 19, 2024, titled the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance.

The PRC's legal maneuvers showcase how it is seeking to export its own vision of international law—one with “Chinese characteristics”—that reshapes and undermines the rules-based international order.

59 **The Illusion of Germany's *Zeitenwende***

■ *Rafal Ulatowski*

Days after Russia invaded Ukraine, Chancellor Scholz declared it a *Zeitenwende*, or turning point, for Germany. While many point to its strategic culture as the reason for subsequent skepticism and inertia, at least four other factors help explain why fulfilling the Chancellor's promises will prove illusory, with far-reaching implications for Germany, the EU and the US.

77 **UKRAINE'S RIPPLE EFFECTS**

79 **Upsetting the Balance: Why Russia Chose Hamas over Israel**

■ *Kimberly Marten*

Immediately after the horrific Hamas terrorist onslaught against Israel, Putin's Russia seemed to abandon Israel in favor of Hamas, bringing Russia's relationship with Israel to a post-Cold War low. Why? There are at least three possibilities, including one frequently overlooked: that Putin recognizes the power balance between Russia and Iran has shifted in Tehran's favor.

103 **Russian Nuclear Weapons in Belarus? Motivations and Consequences**

■ *Liviu Horovitz and Lydia Wachs*

By summer 2023, nuclear weapons appeared to have returned to Belarus. What drives Minsk's desire to have Russian nuclear weapons deployed on its territory? Why would Putin, long critical of NATO's nuclear sharing, decide to deploy nuclear capabilities abroad? And who retains decision-making authority over these weapons? There are benefits and risks to both countries, but renewed Russian nuclear risk-taking should raise concerns for policymakers and analysts.

131 **Starving Russia's War Economy**

■ *Noel Foster*

For the first time in its history, Moscow has embarked on a major war without a decisive advantage in manpower—labor shortages are the Achilles heel of the Russian war effort. Those who wish to defeat Russia should think the unthinkable, or the politically controversial, and consider actually opening their doors to select workers from Russia and the former Soviet republics.

143 **Will Putin Stop at Ukraine? That's the Wrong Question**

■ *Samuel Charap and Miranda Priebe*

Four questionable assumptions about the Russian threat to NATO allies have led to focus on planning for opportunistic Russian aggression after the Ukraine war has ended. This mistaken focus actually exacerbates two more likely pathways to NATO-Russia conflict. The US and its allies should optimize their posture and strategy around these more likely routes, not a single, highly unlikely scenario.

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2	Arms Control Today	http://www.armscontrol.org
3	Asia Pacific Viewpoint	http://www.wiley.com/journal
4	Asian Perspective	www.asianperspective.org
5	Asian Survey	as.ucpress.edu/
6	Asia – Pacific Review	http://www.informaworld.com
7	China Review	https://www.chineseupress.com/
8	Civil Wars	http://www.informaworld.com
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21	International Affairs (Moscow)	http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/
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23	International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence	www.tandfonline.com
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25	International Peacekeeping	http://www.informaworld.com
26	International Security	http://mitpress.mit.edu
27	Israel Affairs	http://www.informaworld.com
28	Journal of Contemporary China	http://www.informaworld.com
29	Journal of Current Chinese Affairs	http://journals.sub.uni-hamburg.de/giga/jcca/
30	Journal of Military History	http://www.smh-hq.org/jmh.html
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35	Perspectives on Politics	http://journals.cambridge.org
36	RUSI Journal	http://www.rusi.org/publications/journal
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