

1. Why do countries still develop nuclear weapons?

The United States opened a dark chapter in human history when it dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Since that awful day, the plot has thickened and new characters have been introduced. Now, America is just one of many nations with nuclear capability. The world has enough nuclear weapons to destroy human civilization three times over. We like to think that we are rational creatures, but why would rational creatures continue to build weapons of mass destruction? I believe there are two reasons.

First of all, we have not learned from Hiroshima. We have forgotten the incredible devastation that nuclear weapons can cause. On August 6th, 1945, the most terrible weapon the world had ever known was dropped on the city of Hiroshima. In a flash of light brighter than the sun, over 90,000 people were instantly murdered. Countless others suffered severe injuries such as painful radiation burns. The bomb killed women and children, priests and doctors. The blast was so powerful that the shadows of people were burned onto the walls of buildings. These shadows are like ghosts and remind us of the awful way that these people died. With 75% of its buildings destroyed, the city was completely leveled. It took tremendous effort to rebuild Hiroshima. However, it will take much longer for the city to heal its emotional wounds.

Secondly, nuclear weapons have become a status symbol. With the cold war over, one would expect the proliferation of nuclear weapons to end. However, the nuclear arms race has spread throughout the world. Nuclear mania has struck India, Pakistan, Korea, China and the list goes on and on. These countries want to establish themselves as world powers by developing nuclear weapons. This is a particularly worrisome situation because countries with bitter rivalries, such as India and Pakistan, now have the ability to blow each other off the face of the planet.

In conclusion, I hope this chapter in human history will end peacefully. To do so, Japan and America, the first characters in this chapter, need to take an active role in promoting nuclear disarmament.