

Jim Giardina
Standards
Rationale

Nuclear Non-proliferation
Lesson

(Two or more class sessions)

This lesson is for U.S. History or American Government. It assumes a class of thirty-seven students, few of whom have personal computers or access to the Internet, attending a school with technological resources that are limited and undependable.

Goal – At the end of the exercise students will be able to do the following:

1. Explain the rise and the course of nuclear proliferation since 1945
2. Understand how the efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons were affected by the Cold War.
3. Appreciate that impact of the ending of the Cold War has had on efforts to control nuclear proliferation.
4. Assess the threat of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism, in the post 9/11 world.

A. Teacher Activity -- Lecture – The History of Nuclear Non-proliferation (15 minutes)

Previous to the lecture the students should have read the materials assigned by the teacher taken from the sources listed below. Teacher may wish to consider creating a packet similar to the one used in this seminar.

B. Student Participation -- Equations – Students are to solve the following and explain their solutions

Students are divided into groups. The instructor determines the size and make up of the groups. The teacher may have the students solve all, or just some of the equations. The teacher sets a time for the exercise. When time has expired the teacher selects one person to explain the group's solution to the problem. Other groups are then asked whether the reporting group has answered adequately, adding, subtracting, or amending information as is necessary. After all the problems are solved, groups are required to write a concise explanation of their solution which will be collected and be into a document that can be used later.

1. Hahn and Strassmann + (Leslie Groves + J.Robert Oppenheimer) x Harry Truman + Joseph Stalin = nuclear arms race
2. (Joseph Stalin + Mao Ze Dong) x HUAC = NSC-68 + Edward Teller + nuclear proliferation
3. "Atoms for Peace" + Russian exportation of nuclear reactors = China and India threatening regional stability
4. The interests of the Developing Countries = The dangerous spread of nuclear weapons
The interests of the United States + the interests of the Soviet Union

5. American national interests + Russian national interests = The desire to stop the spread of nuclear weapons
6. Mikhail Gorbachev + Boris Yeltsin = increased possibility of nuclear proliferation
7. American military power + The Bush Doctrine of Preemptive War = nuclear proliferation in the Middle East and Asia
8. American unilateralism + Al –Qaeda = need for nuclear non-proliferation

C. Homework – Answer each of the following. Be prepared to defend your position.

1. Why must both the United States and Russia cooperate to stop the spread of nuclear weapons since 9/11?
2. In trying to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, should the U.S. emphasize its “hard” or its “soft” power?
3. How would you answer the charge that if the United States hopes to stop the spread of atomic weapons it must first agree to do so itself?
4. How might things have turned out differently if the Soviet Union agreed to the Baruch Plan in 1946?

D. Possible Debate Topics

1. The United States should have worked harder to persuade the Soviets to accept international control of nuclear weapons after World War II.
2. As an example to others the U.S. should voluntarily cease testing and developing of nuclear weapons and turn over its nuclear stockpile to the United Nations.
3. The United States, due to its political culture, developed institutions, and record of responsibility has the right to forcibly disarm those countries that it does not feel are responsible enough to have nuclear weapons.

E. Sources

Books

Barber, Benjamin -- *Jihad vs. McWorld, Fear's Empire: War, Terrorism, and Democracy*
 Nye, Joseph – *The Paradox of American Power*
 Ungera, Carl – *The Politics of Nuclear Non-proliferation*

Websites

Common Dreams
 NA20 Office of Defense and Nuclear Non-proliferation
 Arms Control Fact Sheet
 Nuclear Non-Proliferation 1945-1990
 WMD 411 Origins and Regulation
 Dennis Kucinich for President Weapons and Non-proliferation
 A Nuclear Non-proliferation Strategy for the 21st Century

DVDs

Nuclear Weapons Proliferation and Arms Control