

The Nuclear Weapon Archive

A Guide to Nuclear Weapons

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If we fight a war and win it with H-bombs, what history will remember is not the ideals we were fighting for but the methods we used to accomplish them. These methods will be compared to the warfare of Genghis Khan who ruthlessly killed every last inhabitant of Persia.

Hans A. Bethe

...And these atomic bombs which science burst upon the world that night were strange even to the men who used them.

H. G. Wells, *The World Set Free*, 1914

About This Site

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A "sister site" relationship has been established with **Gregory Walker's Trinity Site**. Greg and I are actively collaborating to provide the broadest variety of nuclear weapon information, in the most convenient form that we can. The two sites each have a different focus. The Nuclear Weapon Archive provides current information, technical data, and informative write-ups. The Trinity Site focuses on historical information, especially reproductions of public domain documents.

Latest Site Updates

3 September 2007

- Updated the [Tsar Bomba](#) page (the world's largest nuclear bomb).

31 August 2007

- Updated pages on the [U.S. Nuclear Weapon Enduring Stockpile](#).

23 August 2007

- Added [Britain's First Plans for Developing an Atomic Bomb](#), William Penney's 1947 first outline of the features of the atomic bomb, and the tasks required to develop one.

3 July 2007

- Updated the [Section 8](#) of the *Nuclear Weapons Frequently Asked Questions*, "The First Nuclear Weapons", now with diagrams.

13 January 2007

- Added the [Enola Gay](#) page.

9 January 2007

- Updated pages on the [U.S. Nuclear Weapon Enduring Stockpile](#), [U.S. Nuclear Forces](#) and the [W62](#) and [W76](#) warheads..

14 December 2006

- Added pages on the [Aleksandr Litivenko case](#) and on [polonium poisoning](#).

25 October 2006

- Most recent update to [North Korea](#).

14 October 2006

- Added [North Korea](#) to the list of declared nuclear states.
- Updated [U.S. nuclear arsenal](#) page.




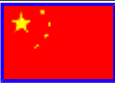

17 May 2006

- Updated [Operation Castle test page](#) and [Nuclear Weapons Frequently Asked Questions, Section 12](#). Contact email changed.





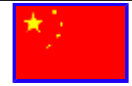






17 August 2003

- Site is retitled **The Nuclear Weapon Archive** with its own domain.

The Past is Prologue

History - World War II (and Before)		
Dawn of the Atomic Age	Invention and Discovery: Atomic Bombs and Fission	The Manhattan Project
Trinity	Little Boy and Fat Man	The Enola Gay
Hiroshima and Nagasaki		
History - Postwar Weapons Development		
<p>The links below take you to pages describing the nuclear weapons tests series conducted since World War II. The ever popular nuclear test images are accessed through these links.</p>		
 United States	 Soviet Union/Russia	 United Kingdom
 China	 India	 Pakistan
		 North Korea

The Present

Arsenals of the Declared Nuclear States			
 United States	 Russia	 United Kingdom	 France
 China	 India	 Pakistan	 North Korea
Nuclear States in the Shadows			
 South Africa	 Israel	 Iraq	

Archive Departments	
<p>Announcements and Reviews</p> <p><i>Last changed 15 August 1999</i> Reviews of products and publications of special interest</p>	<p>Nuclear Wallpaper Image Collection</p> <p><i>Last changed 30 March 2001</i> LARGE high quality images</p>

Reference Library

Background

- [Fission Physics \[1996\]](#)
- [Fusion Physics \[1996\]](#)
- [Basic Principles of Fission Weapons \[1996\]](#)
- [Gun Assembly \[1996\]](#)
- [Implosion Assembly \[1996\]](#)
- [The Teller-Ulam Design: Staged Radiation Implosion \[1997\]](#)
- [Glossary of Nuclear Weapons Terms \[1994\]](#)

Nuclear Weapons Frequently Asked Questions (NWFAQ) by Carey Sublette

Last modified: 3 July 2007 | Inactive links are for section that have not been completed or released

- [0.0 Introduction](#)
- [1.0 Types of Nuclear Weapons](#)
- [2.0 Introduction to Nuclear Weapon Physics and Design](#)
- [3.0 Matter, Energy, and Radiation Hydrodynamics](#)
- [4.0 Engineering and Design of Nuclear Weapons](#)
- [5.0 Effects of Nuclear Explosions](#)
- [6.0 Nuclear Materials](#)
- [7.0 Nuclear Weapon Nations and Arsenals](#)
- [8.0 The First Nuclear Weapons](#)
- [9.0 Hiroshima and Nagasaki](#)
- [10.0 Chronology For The Origin Of Atomic Weapons](#)
- [11.0 Questions and Answers](#)
- [12.0 Useful Tables](#)
- [13.0 Bibliography](#)
- [14.0 Nuclear Weapons FAQ Change History](#)

[Download the whole thing in a zip file](#)

Major Reference Articles and Links

- [Repository of Nuclear Effects Computer Simulations and Models](#)
- [Illustrated Effects of Nuclear Weapons](#)
- [Plutonium Manufacture and Fabrication \(illustrated\)](#)
- [The Smyth Report: Atomic Energy for Military Purposes; the first public description of atomic technology, released in 1945 and still an excellent introduction](#)
- Nuclear Tests
 - [Comprehensive List of All Nuclear Explosions by Jim Lawson \[8/1996\]](#)
 - [Official List of Underground Nuclear Explosions in Nevada \[1995\]](#)
- [Bibliographic Material](#)
 - [Some References \[1995\]](#)
 - [The Big List of Nuclear Weapons Publications \[1995\]](#)
- Links to Important Information Sites.

Regrettably a vast amount of reference material once available on-line has been removed in the wake of 9-11, and large amounts of material continue to disappear. For example, all informational sites at Los Alamos have vanished as of this writing (20 May 2002). I removed some links that are no longer active, but many others may be no longer available.

- [DOE Information Bridge](#), Excellent link for accessing millions of pages of on-line information
- [Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Documents On-Line \(currently inactive\)](#)
- [Government Accounting Office Report Page](#). A valuable resource. Go to GAO Access Search Page, use keyword search (like "nuclear"). Many FY 95 and later reports are available online
- [Complete Archive Site for the late lamented U.S. Office of Technology Assessment \(OTA\)](#). Hosted by Princeton Univ.
- [Federation of American Scientists: Nuclear resources](#) Lots of stuff here, browse around.
- [Stephen Schwartz's list of U.S. Nuclear Weapons Facilities](#)
- [Brookings Institute Nuclear Weapons Cost Study Home Page](#)
- [Gregory Walker's Trinity Site](#)
- [The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists](#), this site now hosts the text of many valuable articles, with on-line search capability.
- [Natural Resources Defense Council \(NRDC\) Nuclear Information \(new upgrades in progress\)](#)
 - [The Internet and the Bomb: A Research Guide to Policy and Information about Nuclear Weapons](#), at the NRDC, the best collection of nuclear-related links in existence.
 - [Nuclear Data Table Index](#) For up-to-date data on nuclear forces for all powers (and more), this is *the* place to go!
 - [NRDC table of global nuclear stockpiles from the dawn of the Atomic Age to the present](#)
 - 1996 Strategic Nuclear Forces for the [U.S.](#) and [Russia](#)
- [Center for Nonproliferation Studies \(CNS\)](#) at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS). Excellent repository of on-line materials
- [British American Security Information Council \(BASIC\)](#). An independent research organization that analyzes government policies - a very good site, check out its on-line reports on nuclear issues, e.g. "The Bug in the Bomb" a study of bombs and the Y2K problem.
- [Center for Defense Information \(CDI\)](#). An independent military policy research and analysis organization, has many on-line resources.
- [NBC-Med.Org: Medical NBC \(Nuclear-Biological-Chemical\) On-line](#) Most nuclear related medical data has disappeared but it still has *Medical Management of Radiological Casualties* Still a good resource on biological and chemical weapons. For FM 8-9: *Nato Handbook on the Medical Aspects of NBC Defensive Operations* now see: [the FAS site](#).
- [Plutonium: The First Fifty Years from the US DOE](#)
- [Drawing Back the Curtain of Secrecy: Restricted Data Declassification Decisions, 1946 to the Present \(January 1, 2000\)](#). Version RDD-6. Lots of interesting bits of information about nuclear weapons.
- [T-2 Nuclear Information Service](#). Located at Los Alamos, this is *the* site to go to first for nuclear physics data.
- [Nuclear Data Center of the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute \(JAERI\)](#). This is an excellent source of nuclear physics data also.
- [Greenpeace Report on dual capable technology \(check out Figs 4, 5, 6 and 7\)](#)
- [Sandia Lab News](#)
- [U.S. Dept. of Energy \(Nevada\) Historical Information Home Page](#), regrettably the DOE Nevada site has removed its HTML-format "On-Line Catalog of All U.S. Nuclear Tests", but the same information is available in an Acrobat (.pdf) format document accessible from this page.

- [The "CIA Electronic Document Release Center"](#) hosts downloadable declassified documents. Do a full text search on "nuclear" or "atomic" to see listings of useful documents.
- Other Sites With Nuclear Test Photos
 - [U.S. Dept. of Energy \(Nevada\) Test Photo Page](#)
- Weapons and Related Technologies
 - [Pulse Power Switching Technology \[10/96\]](#)
- Where to Buy Nuclear Weapons Related Materials
 - [Otowi Station - bookstore at Los Alamos](#)
 - [National Atomic Museum Store](#)

Other Archive Materials

- [Richard K. Brown's Warhead Diagrams](#)

Other Pages of Links

- [Historical Links and Articles](#)
- [Eyewitness accounts of Hiroshima/Nagasaki survivors](#)

Rummage Through Past Archives
The 1997 Archives Check here for 1997 stuff no longer on the list above.
The 1996 Archives
The 1994-1995 Archives

Send all feedback to: careysub@gmail.com

Advice for those who wish to contact me:

- Be sure to provide a subject line that clearly indicates it is with reference to this site. With the current avalanche of spam I am forced to delete unread anything that looks like spam.
- If I don't respond, try emailing me again. It is easy for real email to get accidentally lost in the spam flood.
- Don't try to send me an attachment without corresponding by email with me first. I get a lot of viruses arriving as attachments, and I often delete such messages on my mail server without ever downloading them. If you send me an attachment unannounced the odds are good I will delete your message.

