

Diplomacy in the Nuclear Age

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Process Paper

I selected Nuclear Weapons in Diplomacy to be my topic because of my interest in technology, the twentieth century, and the significance this topic has to this day. My paper is centered around the theme of “Debate and Diplomacy in History.” To arrive upon a topic within the theme, I researched major historical events of the twentieth century with an emphasis on technology and how it shaped the interactions between countries and the evolution of their diplomacy.

I searched online history publications and references within my school’s database for overarching themes in past events. For the various events I researched, I learned the basics and then looked deeper into their relationship with technology and their influence on diplomacy. The Cuban Missile Crisis was the most noteworthy. I read about arms negotiations throughout the late 1960s and 1970s that were inspired by events such as the Cuban Missile Crisis and gathered primary sources surrounding these events as well. I observed that events in the twentieth century were heavily influenced by nuclear weapons and started to develop a thesis around their influence on debate and diplomacy.

I took a slower pace in the writing of my paper, and each day I added one to two paragraphs and read through them again to make sure they pertained to my thesis. I began my paper with this thesis, and I developed a very clear idea of what I wanted to say from my research. I observed that the power of nuclear weapons caused tensions in the Cold War, resulted in arms treaties and helped found the UN, but most importantly, that the presence of nuclear weapons had discouraged direct armed conflict between nuclear powers. This became my thesis, and I constructed the body of my paper with supporting evidence from these events to prove it.

However, while writing my paper, I realized that current events developing in the world

around me heavily pertained to my topic. In particular, the Russia-Ukraine conflict seemed to challenge my thesis. My research found that nuclear weapons have historically worked to discourage direct conflict, and the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine has prompted a counterargument that having nuclear weapons may enable certain countries to act aggressively without consequence. It proved difficult to gather accurate information about the quickly developing situation, as there have not been any books or encyclopedia chapters written. Ultimately, I was able to gather information from interviews of the people directly involved that were published by the Associated Press, and I used this information to strengthen my thesis. I ended my paper with the exploration of this counterargument that the threat of nuclear conflict is enabling Russia's aggressive actions, and although nuclear powers still act aggressively, the mere presence of nuclear weapons remains a deterrent for direct conflict with respect to international diplomacy.

Diplomacy in the Nuclear Age

World War II (WWII), the most destructive war in history, was also responsible for ushering in the Nuclear Age, which would prominently feature the most deadly weapon known to man, the nuclear bomb. The great power of the nuclear bomb, coupled with the dangerous arms race that followed WWII, created a global fear of complete nuclear destruction. This fear was only amplified by the Cold War between the United States (US) and the Soviet Union (USSR). Through my research and the evidence I gathered, I will demonstrate how nuclear weapons have shaped international debate and diplomacy by forcing nuclear powers to avoid direct armed conflict with one another. I will use major historical events to support this thesis and prove that it is still relevant to this day. I will do this despite the counterpoint that possession of nuclear weapons enables aggressive behavior without opposition, which is a theory that has been provoked by the current Russia-Ukraine conflict.

On August 6th, 1945, 350,000 civilians living in the Japanese city of Hiroshima were bombed by the United States. Nearly half of them died that day. Only three days later, the city of Nagasaki was bombed, killing another 75,000 civilians. At the time, the world only knew of “conventional bombs” that used gunpowder to propel shrapnel. However, a confidential operation known as the Manhattan Project discovered how to harness the energy of nuclear fission (the splitting of an atom’s nucleus) to release an amount of energy equivalent to approximately 21 kilotons of TNT in only one bomb, the nuclear bomb.¹ The end of the Manhattan Project would be the beginning of the Nuclear age, an era that would focus on the

¹"Hiroshima and Nagasaki." Gale Middle School Online Collection, Gale, 2019. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/KFEQCP364559056/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=911d44a1. Accessed 27 Jan. 2022.

uses of nuclear energy, such as in the generation of electricity.² Above all else, this age brought about a frightening arms race. Though the end of WWII was met with great relief and prosperity, seeds of tension were planted that would grow into a period of conflict nearly 50 years in length.

One of the resolutions made at the close of WWII was the splitting of the Axis territories amongst the victorious Allied Powers, which introduced a new set of political challenges. The young Communist Soviet Union, a former Allied force that lay east of Germany, now found itself with neighboring territories controlled by democratic western powers such as the US and the United Kingdom. More importantly, the Soviet Union now had territories to spread its Communist ideology. Shortly after Germany's surrender in early May of 1945, the Soviet Union started to impose new Communist regulations on free trade in the Balkan states (southeastern Europe), attempting to gain control over these new regions. However, there was a stipulation of the resolution specifying that democratic governing bodies would be established in the former Axis territories. The Soviets had clearly violated this accord, and Elbridge Durbrow, the US Foreign Service Officer at the time, gained knowledge of these actions. Alarmed, he informed Washington of the activity in the Balkans, adding that this occurrence, "presents a very serious problem which [the US] must give immediate consideration to."³

The Soviet infractions against the Post-WWII agreement and tensions with the United States led to what is known as the Cold War, a period lasting from the end of World War II to the

²"Nuclear Weapons and the Arms Race." *The Cold War*, edited by Walter Hixson, Primary Source Media, 2000. American Journey. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/EJ2165000402/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=a9d74a7b. Accessed 25 Oct. 2021.

³Durbrow, Elbridge. "Soviet Policy of Tying Up Economic Activities in the Balkans (1945)." *The Cold War*, edited by Walter Hixson, Primary Source Media, 2000. American Journey. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/EJ2165000095/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=a5b33e15. Accessed 12 Dec. 2021.

collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. All conflict in the Cold War, physical or not, was over the debate between capitalism/free trade and communism, as both powers aimed to spread their ideology while limiting the other. In previous years, this may have resulted in a direct military conflict between the Soviet Union and the United States, but the steady generation and increase in deadly weapons would change the method in which this debate, and all those after, would be solved.

The development and stockpiling of nuclear weapons became the focus of the US and Soviet Union in the battle for nuclear might. They concluded that the manufacturing of bombs is more effective than the deployment of thousands of troops overseas, and Dwight D. Eisenhower echoed this exact idea with his “New Look” foreign policy, saying it provided “more bang for the buck.”⁴ This developed into an arms race, as the Americans and Soviets would now rush to develop better nuclear weapons. The two countries eventually grew their stockpiles until they had enough nuclear weapons to ensure complete destruction of one another. The concept that a conflict could very rapidly escalate to both countries’ utter destruction became known as Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD).

Though the terrifying thought of MAD loomed overhead, both sides maintained their nuclear weapons programs. On January 31st, 1950, President Harry Truman of the United States released a statement confirming the continuation of his hydrogen bomb program. This program developed a weapon more than one thousand times more powerful than the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Truman stated he must “see to it that our country is able to defend itself against any possible aggressor.” He declared that they shall continue this program until "a

⁴"Nuclear Weapons and the Arms Race." *The Cold War*, edited by Walter Hixson, Primary Source Media, 2000. American Journey. Gale In Context: Middle School

satisfactory plan for international control of atomic energy is achieved.”⁵ However, a satisfactory plan would not be achieved for many years. Citizen support for the hydrogen bomb program, as well as Soviet Support for comparable Soviet programs, was well-founded. The thought of a Soviet attack frightened Americans to such an extent that schoolchildren were made to practice “Duck and Cover,” as illustrated in Fig 1, to prepare for a nuclear attack. The prevailing theory on how to prevent an attack was to rival the enemy’s nuclear capabilities so MAD would deter them.⁶ It is this thought of deterrence that would prolong the arms race for the next 19 years until limitation talks were finally elicited. However, in the meantime, one island country off the coast of the United States would foster a new Communist government out of turmoil, lead to the most contentious event in the Cold War and act as a stark example of the influence nuclear weapons have on diplomacy.

In 1959, Cuba, a Caribbean country in political unrest, had appointed a new prime minister, Fidel Castro, in hopes of aiding their situation. Castro was a strict ruler, and under his term as prime minister, Cuba turned to Communism. In an attempt to replace this new Communist government and maintain security, the United States coordinated an invasion of Cuba in the spring of 1961, the Bay of Pigs Invasion. The invasion failed, bringing Cuba closer to the Communist USSR when Castro asked for Soviet support.⁷ After several other attempts by

⁵"Truman Announces the Hydrogen Bomb Program, January 31, 1950." DISCovering U.S. History, Gale, 2003. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/EJ2104210057/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=ecc17e2d. Accessed 12 Dec. 2021.

⁶Swift, John. "The Soviet-American Arms Race." History Today, Mar. 2009, www.historytoday.com/archive/soviet-american-arms-race. Accessed 24 Mar. 2022.

⁷"Bay of Pigs." Gale Encyclopedia of U.S. History: War, Gale, 2009. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/EJ3048500228/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=a5812b56. Accessed 28 Jan. 2022.

the US to disrupt their Communist government, the Cuban President, Osvaldo Dorticos Torrado, spoke in front of the UN. He discussed the US aggression and sabotage of their country. He claimed that “Cuba did not want to be part of the Cold War,” and that “We have armed ourselves against our wishes and contrary to our aspirations.”⁸ Cuba lacked trust in the US, and this distrust led Cuba to initiate nuclear negotiations with the Soviet Union, and the USSR sent Cuba nuclear missiles to defend itself. On October 14th, just days after Dorticos’ speech, an American spy plane spotted these missiles in Cuba. This marked the beginning of the most tense period of the Cold War and has since been known as the Cuban Missile Crisis.

This crisis drew two nuclear powers dangerously close to war. President John F. Kennedy (JFK) of the US was informed of the missiles and, worried that a Communist state with nuclear weapons was just 90 miles off the coast of Florida, sent warships to surround Cuba. JFK informed the public of this situation on October 22nd. In response, civilians built bomb shelters and stockpiled food in fear that MAD would soon manifest. These citizens’ precautions were not unwarranted, however, because through the next five days, tense negotiations between the US and USSR would only narrowly resolve the conflict.⁹ This was the height of brinkmanship in the Cold War, and is represented by one of the political cartoons of the time that is shown in Fig 2.

The contentious debate represented by arm wrestling is accompanied by each country’s “nuclear button.” Both sides had built their arsenals for a moment like this, and, after almost having to use

⁸Torrado, Osvaldo Dorticos. "Excerpt from Cuban Protests against U.S. Aggression (1962)." *The Cold War*, edited by Walter Hixson, Primary Source Media, 2000. American Journey. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/EJ2165000136/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=86c946a7. Accessed 12 Dec. 2021.

⁹"Cuban Missile Crisis." Gale Middle School Online Collection, Gale, 2019. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/NITMFT844651530/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=680cab42. Accessed 4 Nov. 2021.

them, the US and USSR realized not only how dangerous nuclear weapons were but also how impactful they were in diplomacy.

The Cuban Missile Crisis demonstrated that the creation of nuclear weapons had put an emphasis on solving diplomatic debates without direct conflict between nuclear powers. Wars between world powers had previously been fought with direct conventional warfare. While still devastating, these wars did not result in the complete destruction of entire cities filled with civilians with the drop of one bomb or the launch of one missile. As exhibited by Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the destruction caused by nuclear weapons far surpasses that of anything the world had previously encountered, and this destructive power was only amplified by technological developments in the arms race during the Cold War. In addition to their deadliness, nuclear weapons became more available. Observing Fig 3, nine, possibly ten countries had access to nuclear weapons and many more had access to nuclear power generation. Although the US and Russia had 20,000+ nuclear weapons, 19,000 more than all of the other countries combined,¹⁰ major damage could still be incurred from the small amount of nuclear weapons possessed by the other nations. Furthermore, if large-scale war were to break out, the chance of nuclear weapons being involved became much higher, and because of this, direct military conflicts became less and less viable. The lethality of nuclear weapons and their proliferation by both armament and alliance forced international diplomacy into an “all or nothing” scenario, meaning debates not solved peacefully could have had drastic consequences, as highlighted by the Bay of Pigs. To compensate for this, several steps were taken to reduce the chances of nuclear conflict.

¹⁰"Nuclear Power and Nuclear Weapons Worldwide." Tribune Content Agency Photos, 2010. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/CT3294211384/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=d3cd4bd3. Accessed 26 Jan. 2022.

Some of the most important of these steps were the treaties signed in the 1960s and 1970s. In 1963, the Limited Test Ban Treaty banned space-bound, aboveground, and underwater nuclear tests. Soviet development of Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) defensive systems inspired the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks/Treaty (SALT), a series of negotiations aiming to limit the arms race.¹¹ The era of the SALT negotiations was a high point in the Cold War timeline, not for tension, but for diplomacy, negotiation, and East-West relations as a whole.

However, the Soviet invasion of Pakistan in the following years showed that the SALT talks did not deter the USSR from acting aggressively or trying to spread Communist policies. Though the SALT limitations of nuclear arms were in place, they were merely a vehicle for political recondition, as they did not limit nuclear arms to the point it would alter the outcome of a nuclear war.¹² Observing Fig. 3 once more, you can see the US and Russia had still amassed many thousands of warheads. Truman's concept of "a satisfactory plan for international control of atomic energy,"¹³ could quite possibly only manifest through another eye-opening event similar to the Cuban Missile Crisis, as MAD was still a real threat, and SALT alone could not prevent it. Thankfully, SALT has not been the only force for diplomacy.

The United Nations (UN), an international organization that coordinates leaders from all over the globe, was created in October following the end of WWII to prevent the type of tragedy

¹¹"Nuclear Weapons and Arms Control in the 1960s." DISCovering U.S. History, Gale, 1997. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/BT2104240408/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=fd231688. Accessed 14 Dec. 2021.

¹²"Detente." The Cold War, edited by Walter Hixson, Primary Source Media, 2000. American Journey. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/EJ2165000407/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=74e2954e. Accessed 12 Dec. 2021.

¹³"Truman Announces the Hydrogen Bomb Program, January 31, 1950." DISCovering U.S. History, Gale, 2003. Gale In Context: Middle School

that can arise from events such as world war and nuclear weapons usage. The General Assembly of the UN votes and deliberates on important world issues and places economic sanctions, or trade restrictions, in an attempt to keep order. The UN created global coordination and cooperation to help prevent major wars over the past 75 years, but as events in Eastern Europe prove, the UN has not stopped aggressive behavior from nuclear powers.¹⁴

Despite the presence of the UN and other international organizations, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and their sanctions, Russian aggression persisted throughout the twentieth century. This aggression continues to this day, as evidenced by the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022. This could be interpreted as a counterpoint to my thesis, as the possession of nuclear weapons appears to have enabled Russia's aggressive behavior. It could be argued that Russia was not fearful of other nuclear powers deploying forces to fight directly against them, so Russia felt confident enough to invade Ukraine, a sovereign country without nuclear weapons. Instead of engaging Russia directly, nations like the US resorted to more peaceful and less direct ways to show support for Ukraine such as imposing economic sanctions on Russia and supplying Ukraine with food and arms.¹⁵ This is in an attempt to aid Ukraine without having to engage in combat with Russia, which avoids a conflict escalating to nuclear war. To exemplify this, NATO has declined Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's request

¹⁴"United Nations." Gale In Context Online Collection, Gale, 2022. Gale In Context: High School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/EZMCXE752744242/SUIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-SUIC&xid=3d218587. Accessed 26 Jan. 2022.

¹⁵"US weighs more military support for Ukraine to resist Russia if it invades." CNN Wire, 18 Jan. 2022, p. NA. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/A689840481/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=9078a2ef. Accessed 28 Jan. 2022.

for a no-fly-zone over Ukraine, despite Zelenskyy's claims that "Russia has turned the Ukrainian sky into a source of death for thousands of people."¹⁶ However, a no-fly-zone would require NATO military forces to engage in combat with Russian aircraft, which would be an act of war. Jens Stoltenberger, a NATO secretary, reasoned, "[NATO allies] understand the desperation, but we also believe that if we did that, we would end up with something that could end in a full-fledged war in Europe."¹⁷ Stoltenberg outlines how NATO engaging in direct conflict with Russia would lead to widespread destruction and possibly nuclear warfare. The fact that NATO and individual nuclear powers refuse to intervene directly despite Russia's aggression towards Ukraine demonstrates that modern diplomacy remains one of direct conflict avoidance with nuclear powers.

The threat of total nuclear destruction has hung over the head of mankind for almost 80 years. But through those years, we have avoided the type of destruction and horror caused by large-scale war as seen in WWII. Not only that, but we have seen the US and USSR come to the brink of war, only to back down because of the threat of escalation to nuclear war. We have recently witnessed aggressive actions from a nuclear power when Russia invaded Ukraine, but due to the threat of destruction presented by nuclear weapons, many of the world's nations have come together to sanction Russia in hope of a peaceful resolution. Nuclear weapons may threaten

¹⁶Kirka, Danica. "EXPLAINER: Why a no-fly zone is unlikely in Ukraine." AP News, 4 Mar. 2022, apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-volodymyr-zelenskyy-technology-business-western-europe-feb816497f0f538b4b17ca7583cb072a. Accessed 14 May 2022.

¹⁷Quinn, Melissa. "Zelenskyy calls for no-fly zone over Ukraine in emotional plea to U.S. Congress." CBS News, 16 Mar. 2022, www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/zelensky-congress-ukraine-no-fly-zone/. Accessed 14 May 2022.

us with utter obliteration, but that is precisely what has allowed them to shift international diplomacy to a policy of direct conflict avoidance between nuclear powers.

Fig. 1



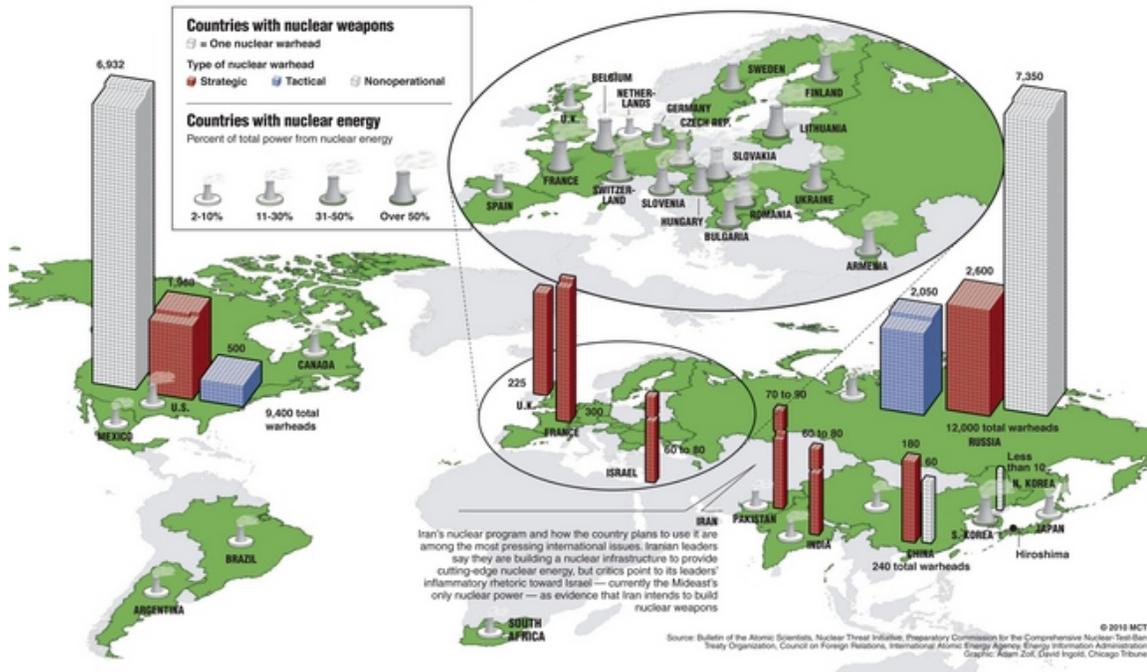
Fig. 2



Fig. 3

A-bomb's chain reaction transformed the world

The atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, 65 years ago, set in motion a chain of events that continues today. Nine nations are believed to have nuclear weapons, and a 10th — Iran — may be trying to build an arsenal. At the same time, the U.S. and Russia, who together possess about 95 percent of all nuclear weapons, have tentatively agreed to further reduce their stockpiles, although a ratification vote in the U.S. Senate is not assured. The bombing of Hiroshima also helped introduce to the world a potent new energy source — nuclear power — that some experts see growing in importance as countries wrestle with diminishing oil supplies and climate concerns tied to fossil fuel use. But nuclear energy has its own risks and environmental concerns, including past safety problems and the question of how to dispose of spent nuclear fuel.



Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

"Duck and Cover: How one desk could save your life." Diefen Bunker, diefenbunker.ca/duckandcover/. Accessed 24 Mar. 2022.

This site contains and was only used for the image displaying students performing "Duck and Cover." The image was used to convey the fear experienced by citizens during the Cold War.

Durbrow, Elbridge. "Soviet Policy of Tying Up Economic Activities in the Balkans (1945)." *The Cold War*, edited by Walter Hixson, Primary Source Media, 2000. American Journey. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/EJ2165000095/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=a5b33e15. Accessed 12 Dec. 2021.

This source shows early/developing tension between the east and west, and provides information on how Soviets started to handle their territory after WWII. I used this to display developing fears in the US of Communism and the start of the Cold War.

Government, U.S. "White House Memorandum to Editors and Radio and Television News Directors, October 24, 1962 (1962)." *The Vietnam Era*, Primary Source Media, 1999. American Journey. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/EJ2162000303/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=34415868. Accessed 28 Jan. 2022.

It shows the US government became more secretive to prevent nuclear war, as a nuclear conflict would guarantee destruction of the nation. The public knowledge of confidential information, however much the opposition already knows, is always an increased threat to secrecy, and the importance of confidential information being withheld to keep nuclear conflict away and a peaceful, diplomatic solution closer is amplified.

Kirka, Danica. "EXPLAINER: Why a no-fly zone is unlikely in Ukraine." AP News, 4 Mar. 2022, apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-volodymyr-zelenskyy-technology-business-western-europe-feb816497f0f538b4b17ca7583cb072a. Accessed 14 May 2022.

This source is an article that explains the situation surrounding the no-fly-zone in Ukraine. I used the quote of NATO secretary Jens Stoltenberg to solidify my thesis' place in the current situation by showing his concern for escalation of conflict to world war and possibly nuclear war.

Llewellyn, Jennifer, and Steve Thompson. "The Cuban Missile Crisis." Alpha History, 25 Sept. 2020, alphahistory.com/coldwar/cuban-missile-crisis/. Accessed 24 Mar. 2022.

This source shows early/developing tension between the east and west, and provides information on how Soviets started to handle their territory after WWII. I used this to display developing fears and the start of the Cold War.

Quinn, Melissa. "Zelenskyy calls for no-fly zone over Ukraine in emotional plea to U.S. Congress." CBS News, 16 Mar. 2022, www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/zelensky-congress-ukraine-no-fly-zone/. Accessed 14 May 2022.

This is an article that summarizes Zelenskyy's request to Congress to establish a no-fly-zone or help convince NATO to provide one. I used a pleading quote from Zelenskyy to emphasize that NATO is decided on staying out of direct conflict with Russia.

Torrado, Osvaldo Dorticos. "Excerpt from Cuban Protests against U.S. Aggression (1962)." *The Cold War*, edited by Walter Hixson, Primary Source Media, 2000. *American Journey*. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/EJ2165000136/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=86c946a7. Accessed 12 Dec. 2021.

The Cuban President frequently mentions the aggression displayed by the US in the Bay of Pigs invasion, and then only a couple days later Cuba is seen with Soviet nuclear missiles. This shows that military conflict becomes less and less viable if nuclear weapons become involved, and I was able to implement this within my paper with quotes from Torrado and explanation of their significance.

"Truman Announces the Hydrogen Bomb Program, January 31, 1950." *DISCovering U.S. History*, Gale, 2003. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/EJ2104210057/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=ecc17e2d. Accessed 12 Dec. 2021.

This shows how the country is further making major military conflict unfeasible by making nuclear technologies more and more efficient and effective, ruling out relatively inefficient military conflicts. This solidifies the rule that there must not be direct armed conflict between nuclear powers, or the consequences become even more drastic with this new technology.

Secondary Sources

"Atomic Bomb." Gale Middle School Online Collection, Gale, 2021. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/RTZCPB466806037/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=3107ed3b. Accessed 22 Oct. 2021.

This source was an overview of nuclear weapons. It gave me a foundation of information to start research off, especially about the Manhattan project and Nagasaki/Hiroshima.

"Berlin Wall." Gale Middle School Online Collection, Gale, 2021. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/DHZGNS208543187/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=3ae86b5a. Accessed 27 Oct. 2021.

This covered the facts about the Berlin wall's influence on East-West relations, and it explained how the Berlin Wall was the manifestation of East-West conflict and tension in a physical form. This was used as part of narrowing my topic and generating my thesis.

"Cold War Diplomacy in the 1970s." DISCovering U.S. History, Gale, 1997. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/BT2104240470/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=56854d9c. Accessed 27 Oct. 2021.

This focused on Nixon's Detente and triangular diplomacy. It discussed how Nixon used strategies such as shuttle diplomacy to repair relations between the US, China, and the USSR, but also mentioned its disintegration as the Watergate scandal rose to the public's eye and Nixon exited his presidency.

"Cuban Missile Crisis." Gale Middle School Online Collection, Gale, 2019. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/NITMFT844651530/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=680cab42. Accessed 4 Nov. 2021.

This source covered the Cuban Missile Crisis and lead me to realize how nuclear weapons prevent direct armed conflict between nuclear powers. This was a major part of narrowing my topic and generating my thesis.

"Detente." The Cold War, edited by Walter Hixson, Primary Source Media, 2000. American Journey. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/EJ2165000407/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=74e2954e. Accessed 12 Dec. 2021.

This source gives an overview of Richard Nixon's Detente foreign policy and how he used it, along with triangular diplomacy, to lessen tensions between the US, the USSR, and China. This was used as part of narrowing my topic and generating my thesis, as well as one reference in the paper.

"Nov 9, 1989: The Fall Of The Berlin Wall." Youngzine, 5 Nov. 2019, p. NA. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/A605440904/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=b56364d5. Accessed 11 Dec. 2021.

This was a source showing how the Cold War started to end. It explained how the Soviet Union started to collapse and how it resulted in the Berlin Wall's destruction and eventually the end of the Cold War.

"Nuclear Power and Nuclear Weapons Worldwide." Tribune Content Agency Photos, 2010. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/CT3294211384/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=d3cd4bd3. Accessed 26 Jan. 2022.

This image / graph gives information on the nuclear status around the world, regarding both power and weaponry. It shows the towering nuclear weapon stockpiles of the US and Russia over the relatively small ones of the other nations, and I was able to use this to emphasize the destruction that would be caused by direct conflict between nuclear powers.

"Nuclear Weapons and Arms Control in the 1960s." DISCovering U.S. History, Gale, 1997. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/BT2104240408/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=fd231688. Accessed 14 Dec. 2021.

This source covered limitation treaties such as SALT and the Limited Test Ban Treaty. This gave me the ability to connect the main cause of these treaties, the Cuban Missile Crisis, with the prolonged existence of the effects of nuclear weapons on diplomacy

"Nuclear Weapons and the Arms Race." The Cold War, edited by Walter Hixson, Primary Source Media, 2000. American Journey. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/EJ2165000402/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=a9d74a7b. Accessed 25 Oct. 2021.

This article gave me an idea of how nuclear weapons were involved in the Cold War. It showed the development of nuclear arms, such as nuclear submarines and missiles, and it explained how these influenced diplomacy, such as how missiles made defense against nuclear weapons unfeasible and increased deadliness/risk of direct conflicts.

"Strategic Arms Limitations Talks/Treaty (SALT) I and II." Office of the Historian, history.state.gov/milestones/1969-1976/salt. Accessed 11 Dec. 2021.

This provided in-depth information about arms limitation treaties such as SALT, and showed how the Cuban Missile Crisis led the US and USSR to realize the risk of these weapons. However, these would not turn out to be as effective as intended, as SALT II was never officially ratified, both countries withheld some of their best technology from negotiations, and Soviet aggression continued regardless of the treaties.

Swift, John. "The Soviet-American Arms Race." History Today, Mar. 2009, www.historytoday.com/archive/soviet-american-arms-race. Accessed 24 Mar. 2022.

This was a source that outlined motives for the cold war and arms race. It discussed civilian feelings and highlighted that the cold war is largely based on fear, and I used this information in the arms race paragraph to explain why the arms race was prolonged by fear.

"The Cold War." SuperScience, vol. 29, no. 2, Oct. 2017. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/A510480767/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=2ceaa492. Accessed 11 Dec. 2021.

An overview of the Cold War, covering the basis of the conflict and the occurrences within it such as the Korean War and the Vietnam War. This served as part of my overarching research that helped me get closer to information I would make an argument about/with.

"The Korean War." Gale Middle School Online Collection, Gale, 2019. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/EEFWGL438661587/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=fe7257fb. Accessed 28 Oct. 2021.

This source also gave a simple overview of how the Korean war happened and fit into history. This was used as part of narrowing my topic and generating my thesis.

"United Nations." Gale In Context Online Collection, Gale, 2022. Gale In Context: High School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/EZMCXE752744242/SUIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-SUIC&xid=3d218587. Accessed 26 Jan. 2022.

This source gave me information on the United Nations and how they influence the world. I also learned that the United Nations was founded to prevent more tragedies such as the ones that occurred during World War II, and this was used as part of showing how nuclear weapons have influenced diplomacy and prevent direct conflict between nuclear powers.

"Vietnam Era." Gale Middle School Online Collection, Gale, 2021. Gale In Context: Middle School, link.gale.com/apps/doc/WDSUVO430338734/MSIC?u=j246913045&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=7ed49e5e. Accessed 28 Oct. 2021.

This source simply covered the roots and overview of the Vietnam War. This was used as part of narrowing my topic and generating my thesis.