

Hiroshima Day 2023. Towards a World War III

Scenario: The Privatization of Nuclear War

Secret Meeting Held on "Hiroshima Day" Ten Years Ago to Privatize Nuclear.
Behind closed doors at Strategic Command Headquarters at the Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska.

By [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#) and [James Corbett](#)

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Author's Note and Update

Of relevance to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine.

Is the Biden Administration committed to the use of nuclear weapons as an instrument of peace? The cost of America's "peace-making" nuclear weapons program is of the order of 1.3 trillion dollars.

The focus of US military doctrine since the Bush administration has been on the development of so-called "more usable nuclear weapons".

George W. Bush's 2001 Nuclear Posture Review, which was adopted by the US Senate in late 2002. envisaged the development of "a generation of more useable nuclear weapons." namely tactical nuclear weapons (B61-11 mini-nukes) with an explosive capacity between one third and 6 times times a Hiroshima bomb.

The term "more usable" emanates from the debate surrounding the 2001 NPR, which

justified the use of tactical nuclear weapons in the conventional war theater on the grounds that tactical nuclear weapons, namely bunker buster bombs with a nuclear warhead are, according to scientific opinion on contract to the Pentagon “harmless to the surrounding population because the explosion is underground.”

Michel Chossudovsky, Hiroshima Day, August 6, 2023

Video Produced by James Corbett. The Privatization of **Nuclear War, June 2015**

The text below is an excerpt from Michel Chossudovsky's [*Towards a World War Three Scenario, The Dangers of Nuclear War.*](#) first published in 2011.

Towards a World War III Scenario: The Privatization of Nuclear War

Michel Chossudovsky

August 7, 2011.

At no point since the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6th, 1945, has humanity been closer to the unthinkable – a nuclear holocaust which could potentially spread in terms of radioactive fallout over a large part of the Middle East.

All the safeguards of the Cold War era, which categorized the nuclear bomb as “a weapon of last resort”, have been scrapped. “Offensive” military actions using nuclear warheads are now described as acts of “self-defense”.

The casualties from the direct effects of blast, radioactivity, and fires resulting from the massive use of nuclear weapons by the superpowers [of the Cold War era] would be so catastrophic that we avoided such a tragedy for the first four decades after the invention of nuclear weapons.¹

During the Cold War, the doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) prevailed, namely that the use of nuclear weapons against the Soviet Union would result in “the destruction of both the attacker and the defender”. In the post Cold war era, US nuclear doctrine was redefined.

The dangers of nuclear weapons have been obfuscated. Tactical weapons have been upheld as distinct, in terms of their impact, from the strategic thermonuclear bombs of the Cold War era. Tactical nuclear weapons are identical to the strategic nuclear bombs. The only thing that differentiates these two categories of nuclear bombs are:

- 1) their delivery system;
- 2) their explosive yield (measured in mass of trinitrotoluene (TNT), in kilotons or megatons.

The tactical nuclear weapon or low yield mini-nuke is described as a small nuclear bomb, delivered in the same way as the earth penetrating bunker buster bombs.

While the technology is fundamentally different, tactical nuclear weapons, in terms of in-theater delivery systems are comparable to the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.

The Pentagon's 2001 Nuclear Posture Review envisaged so-called "contingency plans" for an offensive "first strike use" of nuclear weapons, not only against "axis of evil" countries (including Iran and North Korea) but also against Russia and China.²

The adoption of the NPR by the US Congress in late 2002 provided a green light for carrying out the Pentagon's pre-emptive nuclear war doctrine, both in terms of military planning as well as defense procurement and production. Congress not only rolled back its prohibition on low yield nuclear weapons, it also provided funding "to pursue work on so-called mini-nukes". The financing was allocated to bunker buster (earth penetrator) tactical nuclear weapons as well as to the development of new nuclear weapons.³

Hiroshima Day 2003: Secret Meeting at Strategic Command Headquarters

On August 6, 2003, on Hiroshima Day, [twenty years ago] commemorating when the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima (August 6 1945), a secret meeting was held behind closed doors at Strategic Command Headquarters at the Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska.

Senior executives from the nuclear industry and the military industrial complex were in attendance. This mingling of defense contractors, scientists and policy-makers was not intended to commemorate Hiroshima. The meeting was intended to set the stage for the development of a new generation of "smaller", "safer" and "more usable" nuclear weapons, to be used in the "in-theater nuclear wars" of the 21st Century.

In a cruel irony, the participants to this secret meeting, which excluded members of Congress, arrived on the anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing and departed on the anniversary of the attack on Nagasaki.

More than 150 military contractors, scientists from the weapons labs, and other government officials gathered at the headquarters of the US Strategic Command in Omaha, Nebraska to plot and plan for the possibility of "full-scale nuclear war", calling for the production of a new generation of nuclear weapons – more "usable" so-called "mini-nukes" and earth penetrating "bunker busters" armed with atomic warheads.⁴

According to a leaked draft of the agenda, the secret meeting included discussions on "mini-nukes" and "bunker-buster" bombs with nuclear war heads "for possible use against rogue states":

We need to change our nuclear strategy from the Cold War to one that can deal with emerging threats... The meeting will give some thought to how we guarantee the efficacy of the (nuclear) stockpile.⁵

The Privatization of Nuclear War: US Military Contractors Set the Stage

The post 9/11 nuclear weapons doctrine was in the making, with America's major defense contractors directly involved in the decision-making process.

The Hiroshima Day 2003 meetings had set the stage for the "privatization of nuclear war". Corporations not only reap multibillion-dollar profits from the production of nuclear bombs, they also have a direct voice in setting the agenda regarding the use and deployment of nuclear weapons.

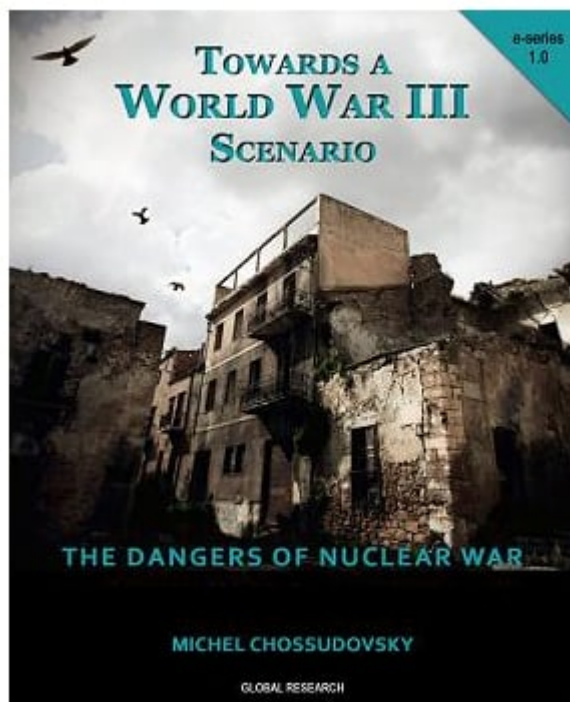
The nuclear weapons industry, which includes the production of nuclear devices as well as the missile delivery systems, etc., is controlled by a handful of defense contractors with Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics, Northrop Grunman, Raytheon and Boeing in the lead.

It is worth noting that barely a week prior to the historic August 6, 2003 meeting, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) disbanded its advisory committee which provided an "independent oversight" on the US nuclear arsenal, including the testing and/or use of new nuclear devices.⁶

The above text is an excerpt from Michel Chossudovsky's [*Towards a World War Three Scenario, The Dangers of Nuclear War*](#).

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