

# The Hiroshima Nagasaki “Dress Rehearsal”: Oppenheimer and the U.S. War Department’s Secret September 15, 1945 “Doomsday Blueprint” to “Wipe the Soviet Union off the Map”

By [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)  
Global Research, April 23, 2024

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## Author’s Introduction

*My long-standing commitment is to “the value of human life”, “the criminalization of war” , “peaceful co-existence” between nation states and “the future of humanity” which is currently threatened by nuclear war.*

*I have been researching nuclear war for more than 20 years focussing on its historical, strategic and geopolitical dimensions as well as its criminal features as a means to implementing what is best described as “genocide on a massive scale”.*

*What is presented below is a brief history of nuclear war: a succession of U.S. nuclear war plans going back to the Manhattan Project (1939-1945) leading up to the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.*

*Unknown to the broader public, the first U.S. Doomsday Blueprint of a nuclear attack directed against the Soviet Union was formulated by the US War Department at the height of World War II, confirmed by “Top Secret” documents on September 15, 1945 when the US and the Soviet Union were allies.*

*There is an element of political delusion and paranoia in the formulation of US foreign policy.*

*The Domsday Scenario against the Soviet Union has been on the drawing board of the Pentagon for almost 80 years.*

*Had it not been for the September 1945 plan to “wipe the Soviet Union off the map” (66 urban areas and more than 200 atomic bombs), neither Russia nor China would have developed nuclear weapons. There wouldn’t have been a Nuclear Arms Race.*

*Numerous US nuclear war plans have been formulated from the outset, leading up to The 1956 Strategic Air Command SAC Atomic Weapons Requirements Study (Declassified in December 2015) which consisted in targeting 1200 urban areas in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and China.*

*The World is at a dangerous crossroads: it should be understood that the use of nuclear weapons in relation to the confrontation between US-NATO and Russia would inevitably lead to escalation and the end of humanity as we know it.*

Video: The Dangers of Nuclear War.

Michel Chossudovsky and Caroline Mailloux

April 23 2024,

*What is required is a Worldwide peace movement coupled with the banning of nuclear weapons.*



In recent developments, several EU-NATO proxy heads of state and heads of government including President Macron (acting on behalf of powerful financial interests) have candidly intimated the need for NATO to wage war against Russia on behalf of a Neo-Nazi government, which indelibly would lead us into a World War III scenario.

What is unfolding is not only “the criminalization of *“La Classe politique”*,

the judicial system is also criminalized with a view to upholding the legitimacy of the war criminals in high office.

And the corporate media through omission, half truths and outright lies upholds war as a peace-making endeavor. In the words of the Washington Post, “war makes us safer and richer”

Globe and Mail



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## In the long run, wars make us safer and richer

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Michel Chossudovsky, Global Research, March 3, 2024

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## **The Hiroshima Nagasaki “Dress Rehearsal”: Oppenheimer and the U.S. War Department’s Secret September 15, 1945 “Doomsday Blueprint” to “Wipe the Soviet Union off the Map”**

by

Michel Chossudovsky

February 1, 2023

## 90 Seconds to Midnight according to the Doomsday Clock

The Nobel Peace Laureates are casually blaming Russia, without recalling the history of nuclear war, not to mention Joe Biden's 1.3 trillion dollar program to develop "more usable", "low intensity" "preemptive nuclear weapons" to be used on a "first strike basis" against both nuclear and non nuclear states as a means of "self defense".

This is the nuclear doctrine which currently prevails in US-NATO's confrontation against Russia.

It is clearly outlined in the NeoCons' Project for the New American Century (PNAC)

**ESTABLISH FOUR CORE MISSIONS for U.S. military forces:**

- **defend the American homeland;**
- **fight and decisively win multiple, simultaneous major theater wars;**
- **perform the "constabulary" duties associated with shaping the security environment in critical regions;**
- **transform U.S. forces to exploit the "revolution in military affairs;"**

**To carry out these core missions, we need to provide sufficient force and budgetary allocations. In particular, the United States must:**

**MAINTAIN NUCLEAR STRATEGIC SUPERIORITY, basing the U.S. nuclear deterrent upon a global, nuclear net assessment that weighs the full range of current and emerging threats, not merely the U.S.-Russia balance.**

## America's Manhattan Project

Let us recall the history of the "doomsday scenario" which was part of *America's Manhattan project* launched in 1939 with the participation of Britain and Canada.

The Manhattan Project was a secret plan to develop the atomic bomb coordinated by the US War Department, headed (1941) by Lieutenant General Leslie Groves.

Prominent physicist Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer had been appointed by Lt General Groves to head the Los Alamos Laboratory (also known as Project Y) which was established in 1943 as a "top-secret site for designing atomic bombs under the Manhattan Project". Oppenheimer was entrusted in recruiting and coordinating a team of prominent nuclear scientists including Italian Physicist and Nobel Prize Laureate Dr. Enrico Fermi who joined the Los Alamos Laboratory in 1944.

Oppenheimer not only played a key role in coordinating the team of nuclear scientists, he was also engaged in routine consultations with the head of the Manhattan project *Lieutenant General Groves*, specifically with regard to the use of the first atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which resulted in [more than 300,000 immediate deaths.](#)

Below is the [Transcript of an August 6, 1945 telephone conversation, declassified](#) (Between Gen. Groves and Dr. Oppenheimer) hours after the Hiroshima bombing:

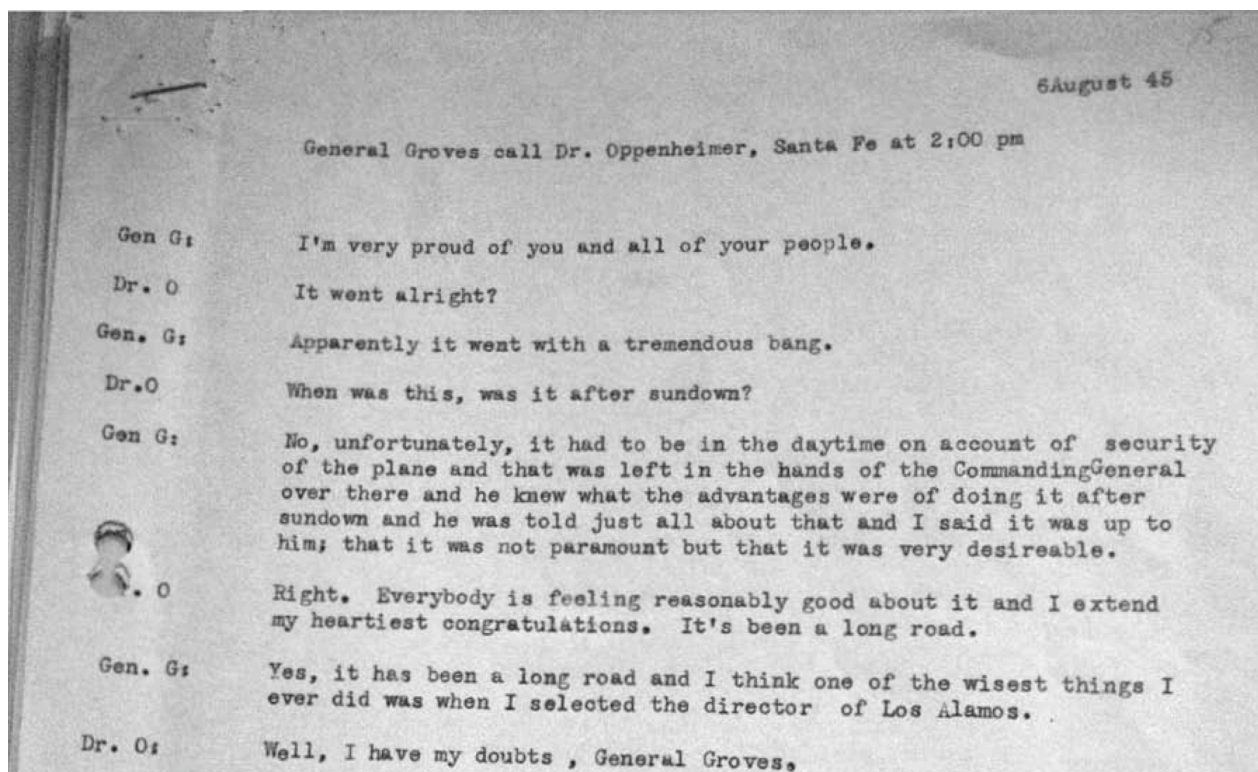
Gen. G. I am very proud of you and your people [nuclear scientists]



Dr. O. It went alright?

Gen. G. Apparently it went with a tremendous bang.

screenshot below, [click link to access complete transcript](#) )



## The September 15, 1945 Blueprint to “Wipe the Soviet Union off the Map”

Barely two weeks after the official end of World War II (September 2, 1945), the US War Department issued a blueprint (September 15, 1945) to “Wipe the Soviet Union off the Map” (66 cities with 204 atomic bombs), when the US and the USSR were allies. This infamous project is confirmed by declassified documents. (For further details see [Chossudovsky, 2017](#))

Below is the image of the 66 cities of the Soviet Union which had been envisaged as targets by the US War Department.

[The 66 cities. Click image to enlarge](#)



## The Hiroshima Nagasaki “Dress Rehearsal”

The preparatory documents (see below) confirm that the data pertaining to the Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks were being used to evaluate the viability as well as the cost of a much larger attack against the Soviet Union. These documents were finalized 5-6 weeks after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings (6, 9 August 1945).

## “To Ensure our National Security”

Note the correspondence between Major General Norstad and the head of the Manhattan Project, General Leslie Groves, who was in permanent liaison with Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, head of the Los Alamos team of nuclear scientists.

On September 15, 1945 Norstad sent a memorandum to Lieutenant Leslie Groves requesting an estimate of the “number of bombs required to ensure our national security” ( [The First Atomic Stockpile Requirements](#) )

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~TOP SECRET~~  
LIMITED

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

15 September 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR GENERAL L. R. GROVES:

Subject: Atomic Bomb Production

1. The attached study has been directed toward establishing an official Army Air Forces' view as to the number of atomic bombs which should be available in order to insure our national security.
2. This paper is still on the working level. Prior to concluding this study and forwarding it to the CG, AAF, your comments are requested.

Incl:  
Study abv  
subj w/Tabs A,B,C.

*Lauris Norstad*  
LAURIS NORSTAD,  
Major General, U.S.A.  
AC/AS-5.

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VIEWED BY

DATE

9/25/75

FOR VICTORY

Lieutenant General Groves no doubt in consultation with Dr. Oppenheimer responded to Major General Norstad in a Memorandum dated September 29, 1945 in which he refers to Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

See section 2, subsections a, b and c.

"It is not essential to get total destruction of a city in order to destroy its effectiveness. Hiroshima no longer exists as a city even though the area of total destruction is considerably less than total."

Read carefully. The text below confirms that Hiroshima and Nagasaki was "A Dress Rehearsal".

Bear in mind the name of the country which is threatening America's "national security" is not mentioned.

Answering your memorandum of 15 September 1945, [see response below]





**TOP SECRET**

WAR DEPARTMENT

P. O. Box 2610  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



REFER TO FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

THIS DOCUMENT CONSISTS OF ..... PAGE(S)  
NO ..... OF ..... COPIES, SERIES ..... A.....

26 September 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR GENERAL LAURIS NORSTAD:

1. Answering your memorandum of 15 September 1945 on the subject "Atomic Bomb Production", the following general comments are submitted:

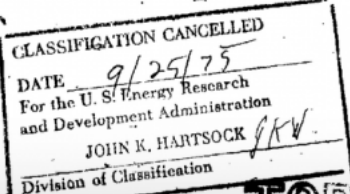
2. The number of bombs for the minimum M-Day stock and the optimum stock are high because of the following factors:

a. The estimates are based on an area of total destruction and amounted to four square miles with an outer bomb damage of 6,000 to 7,000 feet. An area at least twice that should be used. While the damaged area of Nagasaki was considerably less than that of Hiroshima it was because the target was not suitable in size or shape for the maximum effectiveness of the bomb.

b. It is not essential to get total destruction of a city in order to destroy its effectiveness. Hiroshima no longer exists as a city even though the area of total destruction is considerably less than total.

c. While at Hiroshima the frames of a number of reinforced concrete buildings remained intact the windows were blown out and the interiors were gutted. While the buildings could be rebuilt they were made unusable for a considerable period. The Nagasaki bomb did more damage to reinforced concrete buildings. While our studies are not completed it is believed the final results will show a greater radius of destruction for such buildings than is indicated in the report.

3. In the limited time available no detailed analysis has been made of the report but my general conclusion would be that the number of bombs indicated as required, is excessive.



L. R. GROVES,  
Major General, U. S. A.

LIMITED

PROBLEM

1. To determine the United States requirements for atomic bomb stocks in the interim post-war era.

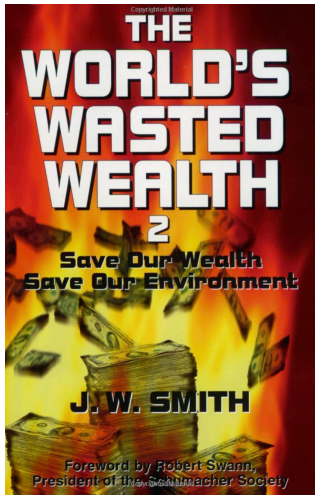
ASSUMPTIONS

2. It is assumed that:
  - a. The United States must be prepared to conduct offensive operations against any other world power or combination of powers.
  - b. The United States will maintain sufficient bases and air forces capable of attacking the strategic heart of any potential enemy.
  - c. The immediate destruction of the enemy's will and capacity to resist is the primary objective of the United States Army Strategic Air Forces.
  - d. Extensive research regarding the strategic vulnerability of all major powers will be conducted later and will permit a more complete analysis of bomb requirements.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

3. At the conclusion of World War II the United States first employed the revolutionary atomic bomb. Only two such bombs were dropped on Japan but these were spectacularly successful. Various conditions limit the reliability of information obtained on the properties of this weapon, and it is impossible to catalogue the full capabilities of any bomb by dropping two. Satisfactory experimentation is extremely difficult. However, photo analysis of the results at Hiroshima indicates the radius of destruction to be approximately 7000 feet. Tab "B" is a more complete description of the results of the Hiroshima bomb as interpreted from photo reconnaissance.
4. The characteristics of this weapon are such that it cannot be regarded as "just another bomb." These bombs are very expensive, cannot be produced in mass, require special storage conditions, require highly technical shipment and assembly procedures, and must be assembled and placed on the objective by highly skilled and specially trained personnel.
5. There is no approved production program for the atomic bomb.

The 1949 "Dropshot Plan": 300 Nuclear Bombs, Targeting More than 100 Soviet Cities



Numerous US war plans (under the Truman presidency) to attack the Soviet Union were “formulated and revised on a regular basis between 1945 and 1950”. Most of them were totally dysfunctional as outlined by J.W. Smith in his book entitled [\*“The World’s Wasted Wealth 2”\*](#).

“The names given to these plans graphically portray their offensive purpose: Bushwhacker, Broiler, Sizzle, Shakedown, Offtackle, Dropshot, Trojan, Pincher, and Frolic.

The US military knew the offensive nature of the job President Truman had ordered them to prepare for and had named their war plans accordingly”

Dr. Michio Kaku and Daniel Axelrod in their book entitled: [\*“To Win a Nuclear War: the\*](#)



[\*Pentagon’s Secret War Plans.”\*](#)

provide evidence (based on declassified documents) that the September 1945 blueprint was followed by a continuous plan by USG to bomb the Soviet Union (as well as Russia in the post-Cold War era):

“This book [preface by Ramsey Clark] compels us to re-think and re-write the history of the Cold War and the arms race... It provides a startling glimpse into secret U.S. plans to initiate a nuclear war from 1945 to the present.”

The September 1945 Blueprint (66 Cities) was followed in 1949 by another insidious project entitled the Dropshot Plan:

According to Kaku and Axelrod, the 1949 DropShot consisted of a plan directed against the



Soviet Union to “drop at least 300 nuclear bombs and 20,000 tons of conventional bombs on 200 targets in 100 urban areas, including Moscow and Leningrad (St. Petersburg).

According to the plan Washington would start the war on January 1, 1957.

The Dropshot Plan was formulated prior to Russia’s August 1949 announcement pertaining to the testing of its nuclear bomb.

## The Cold War List of 1200 Targeted Cities

The initial 1945 Blueprint to attack 66 cities, the subsequent 1949 Dropshot Plan (targeting 100 cities) were updated in the course of the Cold War. The 1956 Plan included some 1200 cities in the USSR, the Soviet block countries of Eastern Europe and China ([see declassified documents below](#)).

The bombs slated for the attack significantly more powerful in terms of explosive capacity than those dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (see below)

We are talking about planned genocide against the Soviet Union, China and Eastern Europe .

**NEW 2015/12/22**

**U.S. Cold War Nuclear Target Lists  
Declassified for First Time**

**Major Cities in Soviet Bloc, Including  
East Berlin, Were High Priorities in  
'Systematic Destruction' for Atomic  
Bombings**



## Special Collection

### Key Documents on Nuclear Policy Issues, 1945–1990

The millions of pages of classified and declassified documents on U.S. nuclear policy during and after the Cold War are beyond the comprehension of any one individual, even any U.S. government organization. The following documents, some published for the first time, address a number of key problems, such as the first use of nuclear weapons, effects of nuclear weapons, early Cold War preventive war thinking, constraints on nuclear weapons use, and possible outcomes of nuclear war.

~~TOP SECRET~~

B-54300

912	4040	KRASnodAR/PASHKOVskAYA	0249-8188	4502-03909	S
911	4045	KRASNOGRAD	0234-8074	4924-03529	R
299	4080	KRASNOVODSK	0326-8003	4003-05300	R
717	4090	KRASNOYARSK	0159-8004	5602-09254	S
868	4090	KRASNOYARSK S.E.	0159-8008	5559-09256	R
662	7732	KRASNY KUT	0282-8645	4431-13250	V
81	5610	KRECHEVITSY	0153-8072	5837-03123	R
668	29362	KREMOVO	0282-8646	4403-13217	S
594	4134	KREST KHALDZHAY	0124-8000	6251-13437	R
794	4140	KRIVoy ROG	0250-8668	4751-03318	R
949	4150	KRONSHADT	0103-8601	6001-02942	R
645	4161	KROSNO/IWONICZ, POL	0232-8214	4940-02149	R

FOIA(b) (3) - 42 USC 2168(a) (1) (C) - FRD

Excerpt from list of the 1200 cities targeted for nuclear attack in alphabetical order. National Security Archive, op. cit.

Details pertaining to the "The SAC [Strategic Air Command] Atomic Weapons Requirements Study for 1959, produced in June 1956 were declassified on December 22, 2015 ([Excerpts below](#), click to access full text).

According to the National Security Archive [www.nsarchive.org](http://www.nsarchive.org), the SAC, 1956:

"...provides the most comprehensive and detailed list of nuclear targets and target systems that has ever been declassified. As far as can be told, no comparable document has ever been declassified for any period of Cold War history.

The SAC study includes chilling details. ... the authors developed a plan for the "systematic destruction" of Soviet bloc urban-industrial targets that specifically and explicitly targeted "population" in all cities, including Beijing, Moscow, Leningrad, East Berlin, and Warsaw.

The SAC document includes lists of more than 1100 airfields in the Soviet bloc, with a priority number assigned to each base. ...

A second list was of urban-industrial areas identified for "systematic destruction." SAC listed over 1200 cities in the Soviet bloc, from East Germany to China, also with priorities established. Moscow and Leningrad were priority one and two respectively. Moscow included 179 Designated Ground Zeros (DGZs) while Leningrad had 145, including "population" targets. ... According to the study, SAC would have targeted Air Power targets with bombs ranging from 1.7 to 9 megatons.

Exploding them at ground level, as planned, would have produced significant fallout hazards to nearby civilians. SAC also wanted a 60 megaton weapon which it believed necessary for deterrence, but also because it would produce "significant results" in the event of a Soviet surprise attack. One megaton would be 70 times the explosive yield of the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima. (emphasis added).

Read carefully:

Had this diabolical project been carried out against the Soviet Union and its allies, the death toll would be beyond description (ie. when compared to Hiroshima. [100,000 immediate](#)

[deaths](#)). The smallest nuclear bomb contemplated had an explosive yield of 1.7 megatons, 119 times more “powerful” than a Hiroshima bomb (15 kilotons of TNT)

The 9 megaton bomb mentioned above was 630 times a Hiroshima bomb, The 60 megaton bomb: 4200 times a Hiroshima bomb.

## The Bulletin: Founded by Manhattan Project Scientists in September 1945

In a bitter irony, in the immediate wake of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* was founded in 1945 in Chicago by Manhattan Project scientists, who had been involved in the development of the atomic bomb.



Two years later, in 1947, *The Bulletin* devised the [Domsday Clock](#), “with an original setting of seven minutes to midnight”.

The initiative was formulated at a time when there was no arms race:

There was only one nuclear weapons state, namely the USA, which was intent upon carrying out a Domsday scenario (genocide) against the Soviet Union formulated in September 1945.

In 1947, when the Domsday Clock was created, the “justification” which was upheld by *The Bulletin* was that:

“the greatest danger to humanity came ... from the prospect that the United States and the Soviet Union were headed for a nuclear arms race.”

The underlying premise of this statement was to ensure that the US retain a monopoly over nuclear weapons.

While in 1947, “The Plan to Wipe the Soviet Union of the Map” was still on the drawing Board of the Pentagon, the relevant documents were declassified thirty years later in 1975. Most of the former Manhattan project scientists were unaware of the September 1945 blueprint against the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union emerged as a nuclear power in August 1949, two years after the launching of the Domsday Clock, largely in view of applying what was later entitled “deterrence”, namely an action to discourage a nuclear attack by the US. At the height of the Cold War and the Arms Race, this concept eventually evolved into what was defined as “Mutually Assured Destruction”.

While several authors and scientists featured by *The Bulletin* have provided a critical perspective concerning America’s nuclear weapons program, there was no cohesive attempt to question the history nor the legitimacy of the Manhattan Project.

The broader tendency has been to “erase history”, sustaining the “rightfulness” of the

bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, while also casually placing the blame on Russia, as well as China and North Korea.

## Nuclear War versus the “Imminent Dangers of CO2”

In the last few years, The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists “seeks to provide relevant information about nuclear weapons, climate change, and other global security issues”.

[According to Mary Robinson](#), Chair of The Doomsday Clock Elders and former President of the Republic of Ireland (2023 statement):

The Doomsday Clock is sounding an alarm for the whole of humanity. We are on the brink of a precipice. ... From cutting carbon emissions to strengthening arms control treaties and investing in pandemic preparedness, we know what needs to be done. ... We are facing multiple, existential crises. Leaders need a crisis mindset. (emphasis added)

This perspective borders on ridicule. CO2 is casually put forth as a danger to humanity comparable to nuclear war. It becomes an instrument of propaganda.

The Doomsday Clock is now said to “represent threats to humanity from a variety of sources” according to a collective of Nobel Prize Laureates.

What nonsense.



[2023 January Statement, ScreenShot from WP](#)

Presenting CO2 or Covid as a danger comparable to nuclear war is an outright lie.

Its intent is to mislead public opinion. It is part of a rather unsubtle propaganda campaign which provides legitimacy to the US doctrine of first strike “preemptive nuclear war”, i.e. nuclear war as a means of “self-defense” (formulated in the 2001 Nuclear Posture Review).

What is of concern is that U.S. decision makers including Joe Biden believe in their own

propaganda, that a preemptive first strike nuclear war against Russia is “winnable”. And that tactical nuclear weapons are “instruments of peace”.

Meanwhile history is erased. America’s persistent role in developing “a Doomsday Agenda” (aka genocide) since the onslaught of the Manhattan Project in 1939 is simply not mentioned.

What is of concern is that there is a continuous history of numerous projects and WWII scenarios consisting in “Wiping Russia off the Map” and triggering a Third World War.

Nuclear war against Russia has been embedded in US military doctrine since 1945.

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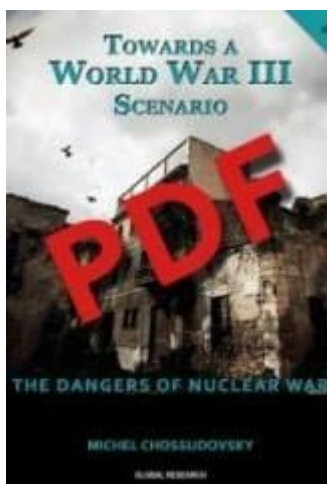
#### Related Article



[“Preemptive Nuclear War”: The Historic Battle for Peace and Democracy. A Third World War Threatens the Future of Humanity](#)

By [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#), January 31, 2023

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[“Towards a World War III Scenario: The Dangers of Nuclear War”](#)

by Michel Chossudovsky

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[Michel Chossudovsky](#) is Professor of Economics at the University of Ottawa and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG), which hosts the critically acclaimed website [www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) . He is a contributor to the Encyclopedia Britannica. His



writings have been translated into more than 20 languages.

## Reviews

"This book is a 'must' resource - a richly documented and systematic diagnosis of the supremely pathological geo-strategic planning of US wars since '9-11' against non-nuclear countries to seize their oil fields and resources under cover of 'freedom and democracy'."

*-John McMurtry, Professor of Philosophy, Guelph University*

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*-Denis Halliday, Former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations*

Michel Chossudovsky exposes the insanity of our privatized war machine. Iran is being targeted with nuclear weapons as part of a war agenda built on distortions and lies for the purpose of private profit. The real aims are oil, financial hegemony and global control. The price could be nuclear holocaust. When weapons become the hottest export of the world's only superpower, and diplomats work as salesmen for the defense industry, the whole world is recklessly endangered. If we must have a military, it belongs entirely in the public sector. No one should profit from mass death and destruction.

*-Ellen Brown, author of 'Web of Debt' and president of the Public Banking Institute*

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Michel Chossudovsky is an award-winning author, Professor of Economics (emeritus) at the University of Ottawa, Founder and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG), Montreal, Editor of Global Research. He has taught as visiting professor in Western Europe, Southeast Asia, the Pacific and Latin America. He has served as economic adviser to governments of developing countries and has acted as a consultant for several international organizations. He is the author of 13 books. He is a contributor to the Encyclopaedia Britannica. His writings have been published in more than twenty languages. In 2014, he was awarded the Gold Medal for Merit of the Republic of Serbia for his writings on NATO's war of aggression



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