

## **Economic Dimensions of Nuclear Weapons List of resources (first edition)**

In recent months the issue of the cost of nuclear weapons has become more salient in nuclear disarmament debates. This is at least in part due to the intensity of wider debates on the economic crisis, government austerity cuts and in general a sharper scrutiny of public budgets.

At the same time there is growing interest in the role played by private sector actors in the nuclear weapons industry. In both cases, the IPB believes there is a need to share information and ideas, not only about the scale and the nature of the problem, but also about ways to challenge decision-makers in both public and private sectors.

The following list concentrates mainly on recently published materials. It is offered as a toolbox to assist those interested in going further with the economic aspect of this issue. We welcome additions or corrections; write to: [mailbox@ipb.org](mailto:mailbox@ipb.org)

### **World**

Global Zero Technical Report: '[World Spending on Nuclear Weapons Surpasses \\$1 Trillion per Decade](#)'

June 2011 – Continues the work of 'Atomic Audit' and 'Nuclear Security Costs'. Impressively detailed report revealing the entire world's spending on nuclear weapons programs: \$100bn for all nuclear weapons possessors in 2011.

BASIC Trident Commission: '[Beyond the United Kingdom: Trends in Other Nuclear Armed States](#)'

Nov. 2011 - Comprehensive, extensive report detailing nuclear stockpile numbers, force modernization trends, declaratory policy and nuclear doctrine of nuclear-weapons possessing states, as well as some info on spending.

Richard Norton-Taylor: '[Nuclear Powers Plan Weapons Spending Spree, Report Finds](#)'

Oct. 2011 – Summary of BASIC report.

Federation of American Scientists (FAS): '[The Nuclear Information Project - Nuclear Forces Guide](#)'

Cites nuclear contractors in nuclear weapons possessing states.

[Nuclear Weapons: At What Cost?](#) IPB publication by Ben Cramer, 2009, 150pp.  
(currently out of print)

### **Australia**

Sean Parnell: '[Federal Government Block Looms on Nuclear Funds](#)'

Nov. 2011 – Article examining possibility of an Australian government veto over investments in companies associated with nuclear weapons - including, potentially, more than \$135 million worth of investments by the Future Fund.

Dan Oakes: '[Australia Investing in Nuclear Arms](#)'

2011 – News story detailing reports uncovering \$135.4 million invested by the Future Fund in 15 companies involved in the design, production and maintenance of nuclear weapons.

## **France**

Bruno Barrillot, CDRPC: ‘[Audit Atomique: Le Cout de l’Arsenal Nucléaire Francais 1945-2010](#)’

1999 - Book (in French) laying out the costs (projected) of the French nuclear arsenal from 1945 – 2010: at least 1’891 bn in 1997 francs (about €351.6 bn (2010)).

## **UK**

Rob Edwards: ‘[MoD Spends £2bn on Nuclear Weapons Ahead of Trident Renewal Decision](#)’  
Nov. 2011 - The Ministry of Defence is spending £2bn on new nuclear weapons plants, even before a formal decision has been taken over whether to replace Trident warheads.

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: ‘[The Great Trident Job Threat](#)’

Sept. 2011 - CND research shows that replacing Britain’s aging nuclear weapons system will cost far more than expected and will come at the expense of existing public sector jobs.

## **US**

Stephen I. Schwartz (ed.): ‘[Atomic Audit: The Costs and Consequences of U.S. Nuclear Weapons Since 1940](#)’

1998 - The first and seminal book (679 pp) to document the costs of U.S. nuclear weapons, assembling the actual and estimated expenditures for the program since its creation in 1940.

Stephen I. Schwartz: ‘[The Costs of US Nuclear Weapons](#)’

Oct. 2008 – Summary of the ‘Atomic Audit’: from 1940-1996, the U.S. spent a *minimum* of \$5.5 trillion on its nuclear weapons program.

Stephen I. Schwartz: ‘[Nuclear Security Spending: Assessing Costs, Examining Priorities](#)’

Jan. 2009 – An influential, more recent, study calculating U.S. nuclear security budget: \$52 billion nuclear weapons spending in 2008, but only 10 percent of that spent on preventing a nuclear attack through slowing and reversing proliferation.

‘[Pentagon Weighs Cuts to Nuclear Arsenal](#)’

Nov. 2011 - Under pressure to trim the US defense budget, the Pentagon is considering cuts to the country’s nuclear arsenal; but the precise cost of the arsenal is disputed.

‘[USA Spending More on Nukes Now than During Cold War](#)’

Nov. 2011 - The US currently puts around \$55 billion annually into its nuclear weapons program, but only \$35 billion each year during the Cold War.

Andrew Rosenthal: ‘[The Bloated Nuclear Weapons Budget](#)’

Oct. 2011 - Nuclear-related programs could cost the US \$600 billion or more over the next decade: the US should spend this money elsewhere.

FAS, Stephen I. Schwartz: '[Building Budgetary Transparency and Accountability for the US Nuclear Weapons Program](#)'

Sept. 2011 – Lack of comprehensive accounting of nuclear weapons expenditure

William Hartung: '[The High Price of Nukes: Weapons We Don't Need at a Cost We Can't Afford](#)'

Dec. 2011 – Post criticizing the vast amounts being spent on nuclear weapons programs, arguing that cost estimates at the lower range are understated, and calling for transparency in nuclear weapons budgeting.

David Krieger, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation: '[The High Costs of Nuclear Arsenals](#)'

Oct. 2011 – Critical article arguing that the total accumulated US expenditure on nuclear weapons (\$8 trillion!) could be put to better use, namely in reaching the MDGs.

[The US Nuclear Weapons 'Triad'](#)

Nov. 2011 - Nuclear-armed submarines, intercontinental missiles and strategic bombers make up the US atomic “triad”, which the Pentagon is considering scaling back under budget cuts.

### **US Spending on Nuclear Weapons Programs: Disputes about Exact Costs**

Nov. 2011 – Washington Post's [Glenn Kessler argues](#) that \$700 billion figure is vastly overstated, and [Robert Zarate further details](#) how this number was exaggerated. [John T. Bennett outlines](#) the intense debate this number has sparked among politicians; [Congressman Turner refutes](#) the \$700 billion figure. Joe Cirincione of the Ploughshares Fund, which originally produced the \$700 billion figure, [defends the original analysis](#). [Bruce Blair argues](#) that costs of \$700 billion may even be underestimating the true expenditure.

FAS, Steven Aftergood: '[Cost of Nuclear Weapons Program in Dispute](#)'

Nov. 2011 – Lack of unified, comprehensive budget on nuclear weapons spending leads to widely diverging estimates of the costs among members of Congress.

Jeffrey Lewis: '[The Nuclear Weapons Budget](#)'

Dec. 2011 – Blog post presenting the US administration's and the Ploughshare Fund's estimates of the nuclear weapons budget, commenting on their accuracy.

### **Divestment**

Tim Wright, ICAN: '[Nuclear Weapons Spending: A Theft of Public Resources](#)'

2011 – Conclusive issues paper detailing government investments in nuclear arms, collecting arguments against this practice, and presenting possible actions to urge governments to divest.

Jan Willem van Gelder, Petra Spaargaren and Roderick Bouwers, Profundo: '[Dirty Business: Spanish Banks Financing Producers of Controversial Weapons](#)'

2011 - Detailed report investigating all Spanish banks' financial relationships with regard to involvement in financing controversial weapons producers, uncovering 14 of 80 banks doing so.

Profundo: Projects '[Dutch Pension Funds and Controversial Weapons](#)' and '[German Banks Financing Producers of Nuclear Weapons and Depleted Uranium Weapons](#)'

2010 – Two research projects analyzing investments of Dutch and German banks in controversial weapons producers.

Tim Wright, ICAN: '[Nuclear Weapons and Australia's Future Fund](#)'

2011 – Article detailing why Australia's Future Fund should no longer invest in the 15 companies involved in producing and maintaining nuclear weapons.

## **Disarmament Costs**

Susan Willett, UNIDIR: '[Cost of Disarmament - Disarming the Costs: Nuclear Arms Control and Nuclear Rearmament](#)'

2003 - Nuclear arms control regimes come at a high cost. However, these pale into insignificance when compared with the costs and risks of nuclear rearmament.

Justin Alger and Trevor Findlay: '[The Costs of Nuclear Disarmament](#)'

Sept. 2009 - The paper finds that the costs of disarmament will be high, but that the financial burden of deploying, maintaining and upgrading nuclear arsenals in perpetuity is far more.

## **Selected list of relevant NGOs**

Abolition 2000

Ban all Nukes Generation (BANG)

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space

Global Zero

International Association of Lawyers against Nuclear Arms (IALANA)

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

International Network of Engineers and Scientists against Proliferation (INESAP)

International Peace Bureau (IPB)

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW)

Japan Council against A&H Bombs (Gensuikyo)

Mayors for Peace

Middle Powers Initiative

Mouvement de la Paix

Nuclear Abolition Forum

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND)

Peace Boat

Pugwash

Reaching Critical Will/WILPF

Western States Legal Foundation

**Research institutes**

SIPRI

UNIDIR

Brookings Institution

Carnegie Endowment

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