

BEN CRAMER



**NUCLEAR WEAPONS :
AT WHAT COST?**

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Nuclear Weapons: At What Cost?

Nuclear weapons not only threaten massive destruction, but they also incur enormous costs. Apart from the damage caused by blast, fire and radioactive fallout from actual use in warfare, the weapons impose major financial, moral and political costs on nuclear weapons states and countries that host the weapons. The US alone spends annually over US\$ 50 billion on its nuclear arsenal. At a time of global economic crisis, when the international community is also struggling to come up with ways to respond to climate challenge and dwindling energy resources, can this be the right use of public money?

In contrast to earlier studies which looked at single countries, *Nuclear Weapons: At What Cost?* offers a survey of the costs of the nuclear weapons programmes of all the relevant states – even though in some cases the exact figures are difficult to obtain.

The book also examines other costs associated with nuclear weapons programmes, especially the environmental and health costs. Furthermore, it relates the issue to a whole range of related questions: transparency and the democratic deficit, the spread of military bases, nuclear tests, proliferation, the costs of disarmament, and the wider framework of military versus social and development spending.

The author

Ben Cramer is a Paris-based researcher of the political dimensions of the arms race and a journalist specialised in ecological security. A former Greenpeace nuclear disarmament campaigner, his work on nuclear issues feeds the magazine *'Débat Stratégique'* and French think-tank CEREM (Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches de l'Enseignement Militaire). Some of this research was published in the pamphlet *'Nuclear Fallacies - the Nuclear Fallout of Globalization'* (French title: *Le Nucléaire dans tous ses Etats*, Alias, Paris, 2002).

The publisher

The **International Peace Bureau** is a long-standing global network of over 300 civil society organisations in 70 countries. It won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1910, and over the years 13 of its leaders have been Nobel laureates. Its main programme centres on *Sustainable Disarmament for Sustainable Development*. See **www.ipb.org**

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