

North Korea's Bomb Test Hysteria

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Region: [Asia](#)

Theme: [Militarization and WMD](#)

In-depth Report: [NORTH KOREA](#)

Here media hysteria goes again. This is [BBC](#).

It is very difficult to know what has happened. The media and many governments around the world immediately condemn this test. The EU says it is against UN Security Council resolutions - a council consisting exclusively of much stronger, nuclear powers.

Before we get carried away, it should be pointed out that North Korea's military expenditures (US\$ 7-10 bn and very complicated to calculate, but anyhow) is around 1% of those of the U.S., about 20% of South Korea's and about 15% of Japan's.

North Korea's entire military costs a bit less than the newest single nuclear bomb [the U.S. tested last year](#).

Nuclear weapons remain a huge problem to the world. However, countries that have nuclear weapons themselves focus on *proliferation*. Humanity focuses on the *existence* of nuclear weapons. Simply put, as long as there are some who have nuclear weapons, others will try to acquire them.

Mass media that blow this inferior nuclear power's test of whatever it was up on the front pages but forget to tell their audiences much much more serious nuclear stories are - knowingly or not - part of a militarist propaganda machine. Thereby they promote what I have called MIMAC - the Military-Industrial-Media-Academic Complex.

That should not be the role of any media. It would be to highlight all nuclear activities by any government, get some proportions, highlight how these weapons violate international law and inform the world about both the huge risks and what would happen if they are used and, finally, inform us about the activities for nuclear disarmament and abolition.

Just contributing to "fearology" about a nuclear dwarf and keep us uninformed about the giants militates against objectivity, pluralism and freedom of the press. And it contributes indirectly to militarism.

What are the much more serious nuclear stories I mentioned above?

Well, it has just been [revealed](#) that 33,000 U.S. atomic factory workers have died over the last 70 years because of the dangerous environment.

Fact is that nuclear weapons cause many problems even without being used directly - such as the war on Iraq, such as polluting the environment and making large areas - like in Khazakstan - uninhabitable. There are constant nuclear accidents and the world could be

more or less totally destroyed from a single technical or human failure.

And what does the U.S. do with a president who wanted to work for a nuclear-free world and received the Nobel Peace Prize?

It has decided to spend US\$ 1 trillion – i.e. 1000 billion – the next 30 years on new nuclear weapons. Read more about this perverse ‘peace’ policy [here](#).

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