

Congress. The latter lists only American forces; the former, Soviet Military Power, first published in 1981, has become a valuable, if sometimes controversial source on Soviet and American strategic systems.

The Military Balance provides the most detailed listing of any public source. The main section provides charts of nuclear capable delivery vehicles listing the accuracies of the weapons where available. Although comprehensive, the Military Balance sometimes obscures critical information, particularly in its failure to distinguish between the different modifications of Soviet missiles.

SIPRI's 1984 Yearbook was the only annual source to make such distinctions between modifications. However, the 1985 Yearbook failed to continue this practice. The yearbook has exhibited a certain inconsistency from year to year, reflecting its use of different sources and information gathering techniques.

In particular, SIPRI's 1985 data on the strategic nuclear balance departed quite dramatically from the style and format of previous years. For the first time, sources were listed, indicating a heavy reliance on the US Department of Defense (DOD) and the Nuclear Weapons Databook (see below). The emphasis in the data is on warheads and warhead stockpiles, not qualitative factors.

By contrast, the US Department of Defense's Soviet Military Power (SMP), assumes that every Soviet missile is deployed in its most current modification with the largest number of multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles (MIRVs). This establishes a maximum warhead total. In sum, Soviet Military Power is geared towards emphasizing the size and quantity of the Soviet forces. Questions of accuracy and overall quality are not addressed. The US Department of Defense statistics on American nuclear forces are, of course, the best sources of information on American