

Non-nuclear Powers and the Geneva Conference on Disarmament

The recently signed Soviet-American INF accord underscores the central role that must be played in the arms control field by the two nuclear superpowers. However, many issues on the current international arms control agenda cannot be effectively resolved by the two superpowers alone. Multilateralism is necessary for the negotiation of arms control accords, yet multilateral arms control diplomacy cannot succeed without Soviet-American leadership and a willingness on their part can provide lesser states with an opportunity to help strengthen superpower interests in arms control. These attributes of multilateral arms control, particularly as they relate to the diplomatic behaviour of non-nuclear states, are examined in this case study of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament.

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