

parallel, or complementary, to the global Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) of 1968 — broader in the scope of their prohibitions since they also applied to the stationing of foreign nuclear weapons on the soil of states parties, not simply to their acquisition of an independent nuclear weapons capability, and believed to be more palatable to some potential proliferators which opposed the NPT for discriminating against the non-nuclear weapon states (NNWS). This non-proliferation role of NWFZs received considerable sympathy from the major Western states, which nevertheless continued to resist Soviet-bloc initiatives for NWFZs in areas where the military forces of East and West were directly engaged.

After almost three decades of discussion and repeated proposals, only two NWFZs covering populated areas have actually come to fruition: the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (also known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco), of 1967; and the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (or Treaty of Rarotonga), of 1985. While representing significant achievements and contributions to the cause of nuclear arms control, both of these treaties suffer from serious deficiencies, whether embodied in the agreements themselves or arising from their failure to gain acceptance from regional and extra-regional states. As for the other proposed NWFZs, none has come anywhere close to the stage of a formal agreement being opened for signature, and the prospects for further progress in the foreseeable future appear quite dim. The Nordic NWFZ is a good example of a proposal that has been under consideration for many years but still faces strong obstacles to its coming into being. Yet many proponents of Arctic arms control, and of an Arctic-wide NWFZ in particular, often appear to assume that a Nordic zone, if not already in force, is on the very verge of being finalized in a multilateral treaty.

In any case, given the continued prominence of the NWFZ concept in discussions of Arctic arms control, it is worthwhile here to summarize the experience of the two existing treaties on the subject, as follows:

- No multilateral NWFZ has been created in an area in which