

Nuclear weapons have the added advantage of keeping one's own domestic population on a war footing all the time.

Myth #3 — The main reason for our nuclear weapons is to deter the Soviet Union

The descriptions of US nuclear threats goes some way to debunking this myth. If the US and its allies have nuclear weapons primarily to deter the USSR, then why are we usually threatening Third World nations with them?

The US uses nuclear weapons to control its empire; that is, the people at home, and the people in its colonies abroad. The USSR does the same thing, but it started much later and it has a smaller empire to worry about.

The notion of a US empire started back in WWII with an influential group of American industrialists called the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR).

The CFR was, and perhaps still is, the most important organization of business leaders in the US. As WWII broke the backs of the major European powers, members of the CFR realized that the US would likely emerge from the war with its industrial heartland unscathed, allowing it to become the most powerful nation on earth.

One CFR member, multimillionaire publisher Henry Luce (*Time*, *Life*, and *Fortune* magazines), blantly predicted 100 years of American control over the world in a 1941 *Life* editorial entitled "The American Century".

Luce wrote that it was time "to accept wholeheartedly our duty and our opportunity as the most powerful and vital nation in the world, and in consequence to exert upon the world the full impact of our influence for such purposes as we see fit and by such means as we see fit."

Luce could make such a bold forecast because he was also a member of an exclusive CFR/US State Department Planning group which was creating American strategy for the post-war period. The group was called the War and Peace Studies Programme, and it met for six years, starting in 1939.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Noam Chomsky picks up the story:

"(The members of the Programme) knew, certainly by 1941-42, that the war was going to end with the United States in a position of enormous global dominance. The question arose: 'How do we organize the world?'"

They drew up a concept known as Grand Area Planning, where the Grand Area is defined as the area which, in other terms was 'strategically necessary for world control'.

The Secret History of United States First-Strike Nuclear War Threats

DATE	PLACE	PRESIDENT
1946	Iran	Truman
1946	Yugoslavia	
1947	Uruguay	
1948	Berlin Blockade	
1950	Korea	
1953	Korea	Eisenhower
1954	Guatemala	
1954	Dienbienphu (offered to the French)	
1956	Suez Crisis	
1958	Lebanon Crises	
1954, '58	Taiwan (against China)	
1958	Iraq	
1959	Berlin	
1961	Berlin	Kennedy
1961	Laos	
1962	Cuban Missile Crisis	
1968	Indochina War (at least twice)	Johnson
1969-72	North Vietnam	Nixon
1969	Jordan	
1973	Arab-Israeli War	Kissinger/Haig (considered themselves in charge)
1980	Persian Gulf	Carter

SOURCES: (a *Brookings Institute Study funded by the U.S. Dept. of Defense*): Force Without War, by B. Blechman & S. Kaplan, Washington, DC, 1978. and: "Call to Mutiny", by Daniel Ellisberg, in *Protest and Survive*, ed. by E.P. Thomson & Dan Smith, Monthly Review Press, NY, 1981.

In order for the US economy to prosper without internal changes (a crucial point which comes through in all the discussions of this period), without any redistribution of wealth or power or modification of structures, the War and Peace Programme determined that the *minimum* area strategically necessary for world control included the entire Western hemisphere, the former British empire which they were in a process of dismantling, and the Far East. That was the minimum, and the maximum was the universe." (from a speech at the Polytechnical of Central London, *Manchester Guardian*, June 21, 1981.)

If the US was going to maintain power worldwide and yet avoid a revolution at home, it would have to control enough of the world's resources to support a wealthy elite at home and dish out some scraps for social programs to defuse dissent.

Henry Luce also phrased this bluntly in his *Life* editorial: "Tyrannies may require a large amount of living space. But Freedom requires and will require far greater living space than Tyranny."

With a large enough domain, the United States (like other efficient empires in history such as Rome and England) would be able to afford a high degree of freedom at home while being ruthlessly repressive abroad.

Freedom requires and will require far greater living space than Tyranny

The American empire reached its peak in the early 1970's, when the following American allies received military aid and training from the US: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Phillipines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Spain, South Korea, South Vietnam, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay and Venezuela. (All were reported as using some degree of government sanctioned torture.)

But how was the United States going to control its Grand Area? It couldn't possibly afford a massive standing army to police the biggest empire in history.

The significance of nuclear weapons becomes clear. Imagine the strategic importance of a weapon which would make it unnecessary for US troops to be everywhere (which they could not be).

Yugoslavia shoots down an American spy-plane in airspace? Threaten to blow it off the map (1946). Guatemala elects a popular Christian Democrat that the US doesn't like? Sponsor a *coup d'etat* and back it up with nuclear-equipped B-29 bombers (1954). This is what the nuclear weapons are for.

"My feeling was then," wrote former President Eisenhower in his memoirs, "and still remains, that it would be impossible for the US to maintain the military commitments which it now sustains around the world if we did not possess atomic weapons and the will to use them when necessary." (from Eisenhower, *Mandate for Change*, 1963, page 180.)

Students mock Star Wars

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So far 98 U.S. universities are circulating or have said they will circulate the pledge.

At Cornell, more than one half of physical sciences and engineering professors have signed the pledge.

Gronlund is also an organiser of SCAMM. She says the contest is to "point out the absurdity of this whole thing."

"This new program is part of SDI's advertising budget," she says. "They are trying to turn universities into lobbyists."

"As well as trying to get the best researchers to work on their problem, they are also trying to sell the program to the public and Congress by getting universities involved."

A sample abstract proposes the development of Various Efficient Growth Enhancement Techniques Applied to Beating Leftist Enemies (VEGETABLE).

The key weapon is a HEDGE (Highly Effective Defence by Gardening Expertise). By stimulating plants with high-power UV lasers and special chemical fertilizers (Seedling Activation by Lasers and Drugs or SALAD), this system will provide an impenetrable hedge one thousand kilometers high with only five minutes warning.

"This Space Hedge for Removal of Unfriendly Boosters (SHRUB) will be Fatal to Attacking Russian Missiles Attacking any Territory of Our's

(TOMATO), thereby freeing us from the threat of Communist Activated Radical Revolution on Our Towns (CARROT)."

Fettes says "it's a novel way of getting the university community to think about Star Wars and its implications."

"Star Wars won't be able to gain momentum once most people have found out that it is scientifically worthless," he says.

Those wishing to submit Potentially Libelous Anhilistic Numb-brained Schemes (PLANS) can write to the Innovative Science and Technology Program, Strategic Defense Initiative Organisation, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Washington, D.C. 20301-7100.



This perpetual state of "almost-war" is called the cold war. Eisenhower's Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, explained the utility of this "cold war" idea thirty years ago: "In order to make the country bear the burden of arms expenditures, we have to create an emotional atmosphere akin to wartime psychology. We must create the idea of a threat from without."

"The cold war," says Noam Chomsky, "was a marvelous device by means of which the domestic population could be mobilized in support of aggressive and interventionist policies under the threat of the superpower enemy."

"That is exactly the way the cold war is functioning today. The cold war is a highly functional system by which the superpowers control their own domains. That is why it continues and will continue. It is also a very unstable system and could blow up at any time. But planners on both sides are willing to accept the risk for the utility of being able, in the case of the US, to control its Grand Area, and, of the Soviet Union, its minor Grand Area."

For proof that this policy continues right up to the present, we need look no further than *the Globe and Mail*. On Oct. 3, 1983, *the Globe's* front page carried a Reuters report titled: "US More Apt to Fight in Third World States, Air Force Study Says." Leaked to the press agency, the study, called Air Force 1000, warned that "the US is much more apt to be drawn into wars involving Third World nations than into a war in Europe, where combat with Soviet forces is not likely in this century." The most likely battleground is "the areas plus or minus 30 degrees from the equator. For example ... war in the Middle East is virtually inevitable."