



Middlebury Institute of
International Studies at Monterey



James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies

Critical Issues Forum

2018 Critical Issues forum Project Goals and Outcomes

Student Research and Projects

**Topic: Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons:
Achievements, Aspirations, and Challenges Ahead.**



Online CIF Teachers' Workshop
December , 2017
Masako Toki, CIF Project Manager

Project Goals

(Overarching project goals)

By the end of this year's CIF project, students will:

- Develop critical thinking skills through project activities
- Enhance cross-cultural understanding
- Raise awareness of nuclear weapons related challenges.
- Deepen the knowledge associated with nuclear weapons issues, and international peace and security
- Master the contents of this year's topic
 - "Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: Achievements, Aspirations and Challenges Ahead"

Project Goals and Outcomes (cont'd)

(Goals related to contents mastery)

- Understand the current global nuclear weapon situation
- Understand the basic science of nuclear weapons
- Understand difference between nonproliferation, disarmament, and abolition
- Understand international efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation and reduce the number of nuclear weapons
- Recognize disarmament progress or lack of progress
- Recognize international efforts to abolish nuclear weapons, (such as the civil society movement) and associated challenges
- Understand efforts to bring attention to the humanitarian impact of the use of nuclear weapons
- Understand the objectives of the Treaty of the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (hereinafter Ban Treaty) as well as the important provisions
- Understand international community's efforts to leading to the Ban Treaty negotiation.
- Understand different perspectives toward the Ban treaty, and the different approaches to accomplish nuclear abolition
- Examine how the existing NPT and the Ban Treaty will relate to each other
- Examine whether the Ban Treaty will detract from existing nuclear nonproliferation/disarmament treaties such as NPT or CTBT
- Examine whether the Ban Treaty and existing nuclear nonproliferation/disarmament treaties such as NPT or CTBT have mutually positive impacts that will accelerate efforts for disarmament and abolition
- Incorporate the roles of the Ban Treaty and NPT to develop a vision for, pathway to, or solution for achieving the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons

Project Goals and Deliverables

- To realize the goals, students will work together (as a school) to participate in a three-phase research project to complete one Mini-Project, and one Final Project.
- The Mini-Project must be submitted before the conference (late February), and will be posted on the CIF website upon completion.
- The Final project will be completed in two phases, and will be presented at the student conference in spring. It is important for students to demonstrate their understanding of this year's topic. The Final project will also be posted on the CIF website upon completion
- Students are required to submit a draft of their final project before the spring conference
- All of students' research activities will lead to the Final Project.

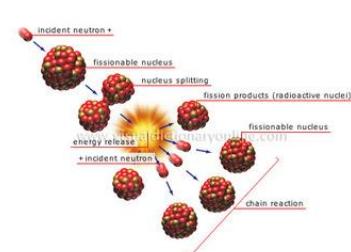
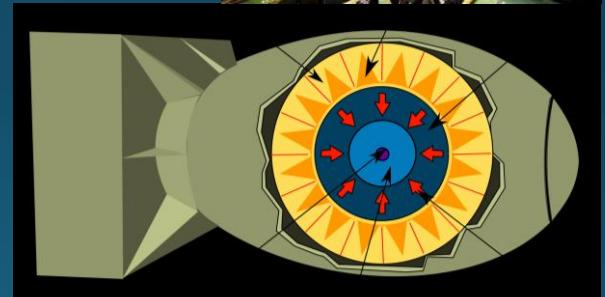
3 Research Phases & 2 Deliverables

Research Phases	Deliverables	Objectives of each phase
Research phase I	Mini-Project	General facts-finding
Research phase II	Background research for Final Project	Begin to Identify specific problems
Research phase III	Your solution, conclusion of Final Project	Analyze problems and find solutions

CIF Four Content Domains

Participants will examine this year's topic in CIF's four content domains:

- Scientific/environmental
- Social/cultural
- Economic
- Political /geopolitical



Requirements for Citation

- Project deliverables must be students' original work
- Material borrowed from other sources must be:
 - Properly and fully cited based on accepted academic practices
 - Quoted and cited, or
 - Paraphrased and cited
- All photos, graphics, multimedia, charts, and other visual material borrowed from elsewhere must be:
 - Available for educational purposes (public sites include governments, international organizations sites, etc.)
 - Photo libraries of UN agencies are the best Un.org, iaea.org, ctbto.org
 - Credited according to the owner's instruction.



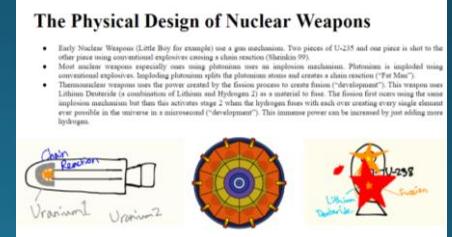
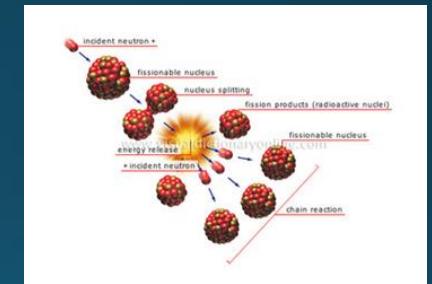
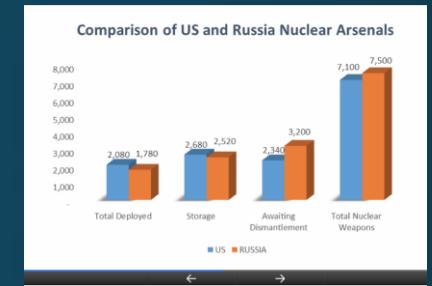
Research Phase I: Fact-Finding on the Status of the World's Nuclear Weapons and Basic Nuclear Science

To understand the status of nuclear weapons in the world today, students will:

- Describe the basic components and physical impact of nuclear weapons
- Study how nuclear weapons work from a scientific perspective
- Identify which nations have nuclear weapons, how many nuclear weapons exist and where they are located
- Identify existing nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament treaties
- Identify the major challenges in nuclear disarmament
- Identify recent efforts for nuclear disarmament and associated challenges
- Understand the basics of the Ban Treaty (origin, basic facts, what the treaty prohibits, etc.)

Mini-Project

- The Mini-Project should be a visual presentation
- It will be presented on the CIF website
 - See last year's students' mini-project 1:
 - <http://sites.miis.edu/criticalissuesforum/student-work-2017/>
 - <http://sites.miis.edu/criticalissuesforum/2016-student-mini-projects/>
- The Mini-Project should emphasize content more than technological tools
- Essays: should include photos, charts, graphs, or other visual aids for presentations on the website.



Example formats for Mini Project

- Interactive map identifying nuclear states and weapon stockpiles
- Interactive timeline of nuclear weapons testing and world nuclear status
- PPT or Prezi presentation
- Word document with visual aids
- Mind-map tool
- Website or blog
- Other: You may propose a unique format for your mini-project, but it should be approved by the Project Manager Masako Toki before submission
- Please see previous years' students mini-projects here:
 - <http://sites.miis.edu/criticalissuesforum/2016-student-mini-projects/>
 - <http://sites.miis.edu/criticalissuesforum/student-work-2017/>

Research Phase II: Identify different views of the Ban Treaty, different approaches to nuclear abolition, and challenges the Ban Treaty faces

This phase will be part of the students' final project.

Objectives of Research Phase II:

- Students will understand the challenges to the NPT, challenges in the world nuclear weapons issues
- Students understand efforts to ban nuclear weapons (both use and possession), and role non-nuclear weapon states played in the origin of the Ban Treaty
- Students understand humanitarian initiatives for nuclear disarmament
- Students understand international efforts to abolish nuclear weapons
- Students understand why there are different perspectives in nuclear disarmament
- Students understand challenges inherent in the text of the Ban Treaty, and challenges posed by opponents of the Ban Treaty

Research Phase II: Identify different views of the Ban Treaty, different approaches to nuclear abolition, and challenges in the Ban Treaty

This phase will be part of the students' final project.

Suggested topics for research in this phase include:

- Identify the difference between NPT and the Ban Treaty, and how these two treaties can complement each other
- Investigate the countries that actively supported the Ban Treaty, and how they achieved success in negotiating the Ban treaty
- Examine the role of the civil society initiative in the Ban Treaty
- Examine the reasons the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) received the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize
- Conduct case studies of some of the countries opposing and supporting the Ban Treaty
- Conduct case studies of some of the countries opposing the Ban Treaty, and consider what factors would lead them to support the Ban Treaty.

Research Phase II: Identify different views of the Ban Treaty, different approaches to nuclear abolition, and challenges in the Ban Treaty – Cont'd

This phase will be part of the students' final project.

Suggested topics for research in this phase include:

- Investigate what are the major obstacles in the Ban Treaty that would prevent disarmament progress.
- Investigate how the Ban Treaty can actually contribute to nuclear abolition
- Examine how and if the Ban Treaty builds norm against nuclear weapons and stigmatize such weapons
- Students investigate policies toward the Ban Treaty of nuclear weapons states, non nuclear weapons states under nuclear umbrella, and non-nuclear weapons states not relying on nuclear umbrella
- Students investigate how these opposing perspectives can find common ground
- Students investigate how/if the Ban Treaty and the existing nonproliferation and disarmament treaties (NPT and CTBT) can complement each other

Research Phase II: Identify different views of the Ban Treaty, different approaches to nuclear abolition, and challenges in the Ban Treaty – Cont'd

This phase will be part of students' final project.

Background for Final Presentation in Research Phase III.

- This phase will be integrated into the Final Project presented at the student conference
- This should provide the foundation for students' final presentation

Accompanied by a plan for the Final Presentation in Phase III

Research Phase II: Identify different views of the Ban Treaty, different approaches to nuclear abolition, and challenges in the Ban Treaty – Cont'd

This phase of studies could include: (suggested activities)

- Timeline of efforts to reduce nuclear weapons, abolish nuclear weapons, and prevent proliferation of such weapons
- Case studies of Humanitarian impact of the use of nuclear weapons to demonstrate why nuclear weapons are considered to be immoral and illegal.
- Description of the overview of the Ban Treaty, the current status including signatures and ratification
- Description or visual chart showing different perspectives toward the Ban Treaty among different groups of countries
- Description of some countries policy towards the Ban Treaty both opponents and proponents.
- Description of how to find common ground or build bridge between opponents and proponent of the Ban Treaty
- Case studies of possibility of Ban Treaty opponents and proponents can find some common ground

Research Phase III: Looking Ahead to the Future, Your Vision, Your Solutions

Suggested topics for research in this phase include:

Students should analyze the information in research phases 1 and 2 to:

- Explore whether nuclear weapons states can make progress toward nuclear disarmament without the Ban Treaty
- Examine the progress possible in nuclear disarmament if the Ban Treaty enters into force without nuclear weapon states
- Analyze how recent security crisis might be effect the Ban Treaty
- Examine pathways to the disarmament and abolition of nuclear weapons with or without the Ban Treaty
- Analyze how Ban Treaty proponents and opponents can find common ground or build bridges
- Examine some bridge building scenarios. Which countries can act to facilitate, what is the role of civil society, and how would such change be implemented?
- Analyze how the Ban Treaty and existing nonproliferation and disarmament regime can enhance each other
- Analyze how to accomplish the goals of peace and security of a world free of nuclear weapons through both the Ban Treaty and NPT
- Analyze the possibility of alternative pathways to accomplishing a nuclear weapons free world with the existing nonproliferation and disarmament regime and without the ban treaty
- Identify concrete action plans to make actual progress in nuclear disarmament based on the Ban Treaty

Final Presentation for Student Conference

Each school has about 20 minutes to present their projects and about 10 minutes for a Q&A session after.

Example formats:

- PPT, Prezi presentation, or other presentation software
- Video and live presentation
- Live skit or panel discussion
- Website or other web-based tool for presenting information
- Other ideas are welcome—please check with Project Manager Masako Toki for pre-approval

For last year's students presentations, please see

- <http://sites.miis.edu/criticalissuesforum/2016-2017-student-presentations/>
- <http://sites.miis.edu/criticalissuesforum/2016/05/10/2015-2016-student-presentations/>
- <http://sites.miis.edu/criticalissuesforum/2015/04/16/studentspresentations/?csspreview=true>



CIF on Social media



- CIF website and blog (For anyone interested)
- <http://sites.miis.edu/criticalissuesforum/>
- CIF Facebook group (closed group. Mainly for participants)
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1507971266122399/>
- CIF Twitter [@CIF_CNS](https://twitter.com/CIF_CNS)



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