Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction



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Vocabulary

Coalition - a temporary alliance for joint action, especially of political parties forming a government.

Proliferation - rapid increase in the amount or number of something.

Fissionable - (of an atom or element) able to undergo nuclear fission.

Dissemination - the act of spreading something, especially information, widely; circulation.

Interception - the action of stopping and catching something or someone before that thing or person is able to reach a particular place.

Trafficking - deal or trade in something illegal.

Disarmament - the reduction or withdrawal of military forces and weapons.

Detonate: explode or cause to explode.

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Introduction

Nuclear weapons are massive explosive weapons that release their energy and destructive force through nuclear reactions – either fission or a combination of fission and fusion. A single nuclear weapon can devastate an entire city with blast, fire and radiation, making the weapon indiscriminate and unacceptable. In 1945 the United States used nuclear weapons on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as one of the final acts of World War II. A number of states have since tested nuclear weapons and currently stockpile the weapon. Five states were identified as 'nuclear weapons states' under the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty: the United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, and China. India, Pakistan, and North Korea have tested nuclear weapons.

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