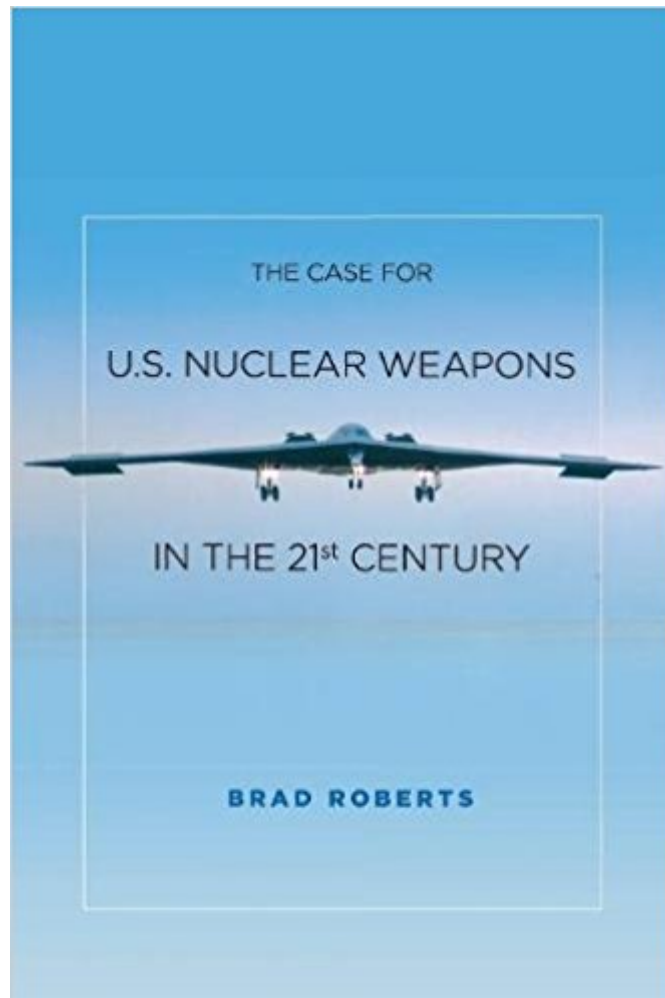




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# **The Case For U.S. Nuclear Weapons In The 21st Century**



## Synopsis

This book is a counter to the conventional wisdom that the United States can and should do more to reduce both the role of nuclear weapons in its security strategies and the number of weapons in its arsenal. The case against nuclear weapons has been made on many grounds—including historical, political, and moral. But, Brad Roberts argues, it has not so far been informed by the experience of the United States since the Cold War in trying to adapt deterrence to a changed world, and to create the conditions that would allow further significant changes to U.S. nuclear policy and posture. Drawing on the author's experience in the making and implementation of U.S. policy in the Obama administration, this book examines that real world experience and finds important lessons for the disarmament enterprise. Central conclusions of the work are that other nuclear-armed states are not prepared to join the United States in making reductions, and that unilateral steps by the United States to disarm further would be harmful to its interests and those of its allies. The book ultimately argues in favor of patience and persistence in the implementation of a balanced approach to nuclear strategy that encompasses political efforts to reduce nuclear dangers along with military efforts to deter them.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This book is an excellent contribution to the debate on the future role of nuclear weapons and nuclear deterrence in American foreign policy [Roberts] rightly argues that the USA cannot ignore North Korea's, Russia's and China's 'red theories of victory' and his book is an invaluable source

that helps to understand them." (Mario E. Carranza Contemporary Security Policy)"Brad Roberts combines analytical skills and government experience to illuminate the nuclear choices of the 21st century. This lucid and original analysis of the deterrence landscape is just what we need to counter the misplaced hopes of 'urgent abolition' and the fallacies of the 'irrelevance of nuclear weapons'. Many Americans and Europeans need a nuclear reality check, and Brad Roberts has just offered it." (Dr. Bruno Tertrais, Senior Research Fellow, Foundation for Strategic Research Paris)"The Case for U.S. Nuclear Weapons in the 21st Century, covers the nuts and bolts of the nuclear issue. It provides an important contribution to understanding how government policy and programs actually have been constructed... Roberts' book is a thorough and carefully argued case for maintaining a robust U.S. nuclear force indefinitely into the future." (Jan Lodal ,Arms Control Today)"Brad Roberts brilliantly analyzes today's security landscape, the theories of victory by which nuclear-armed adversaries hope to prevail against a conventionally superior United States, and what America needs to do about it. A must-read for scholars who want to understand and practitioners who need to manage 21st-century nuclear realities." (Linton Brooks, Former Administrator National Nuclear Security Administration)"As an 'intellectual veteran' of the Cold War, I'm amazed at how much harder it is to comprehend the nuclear weapons issues of this new century. Brad Roberts's new book, The Case for Nuclear Weapons in the 21st Century, can bring you up to date, as it did me. This is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the new complexity of nuclear strategy and defense strategy more generally." (Thomas Schelling, University of Maryland College Park)"Arms control wonks willing to have their assumptions and policy preferences challenged would benefit from reading this book" (Michael Krepon Arms Control Wonk)"Well-researched and carefully argued" (Lawrence D. Freedman Foreign Affairs)

Brad Roberts is Director of the Center for Global Security Research at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. From 2013 to 2014 he was a William J. Perry Fellow at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation. From 2009 to 2013, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy.

Brad Roberts has written a very coherent treatise on the case for nuclear weapons in US national policy. He covers the different challenges we face in various parts of the globe where nuclear weapons exist in varying quantities and threats. His discussion allows the reader to understand how much different nuclear deterrence in the 21st century is from the Cold War MAD doctrine. With the recent adversarial activities in Crimea and the Ukraine it behooves our present and future leaders to

study the scenarios they could face. I found the discussion of limited ballistic missile defense to be very helpful in understanding its value against state actors like North Korea. Neither the ultra pro-hawk nuclear weapons advocates nor the global zero community will most likely agree with this book, but it develops the most credible strategy for nuclear weapons in today's world that I have read. Overall a very clearly written and very important book on a subject that has been neglected for the past 25 years.

Compelling and frightening. Having been in that business myself, will nukes become just another part of everyone's arsenal, or the route to Armageddon?

Great insights with even better analysis. A worthy read for any strategic warrior wondering what is our mission in the twenty-first century.

This book is not easy to read, but it is useful if you can get through it. Since it was also written by a former Obama official--who favored keeping our nuclear option--I thought it worthy of reading. He also changed my mind about keeping the triad intact, even though it might be expensive to do. It is necessary at the present time given the hostility exhibited by Russia, China, North Korea, Iran, and the volatile Mid East area in general. I conclude that the author< Brad Roberts, does in fact make the case for the US to continue to possess the Triad of nuclear weapons it currently has. However, he also makes the case that to keep a credible nuclear defense for both ourselves and our allies, we must modernize our nuclear warheads , our missiles , and our bombers since neither Russia , North Korea, Iran, or China seem willing to forgo, reduce their stockpiles, stop improving, or eliminate their respective nuclear weapons, as the case may be. What I did not like about the book though is the writing style. It was too bureaucratic, and tome like in style, division, and character. It simply was not reader friendly. And no pictures, other than the awesome cover with a stealth strategic US bomber (B1 or B2 ?) , I forget which is which. Nonetheless explanation of the "Red theory of victory", a military concept supposedly held by Putin and Kim Jong Un discusses taking provocative political, military, or economic actions even if that might start a a limited nuclear war. Putin and Kim Jong Un think that is a winning viable scenario in world affairs. That concept is VERY disturbing! Furthermore, Putin's irrational fear of NATO and our overall economic and diplomatic, military posture, coupled with Chinese upgrades to their respective: nuclear weapons, air force, navy, army, and ballistic missile, satellite , and cyber warfare capabilities-- pose a serious defense challenge to the US, and our NATO allies, plus Japan, and South Korea in the next decade. Our

need to develop a better defense strategy, is of paramount importance within the next year. Who among the current crop of presidential candidates from the two major parties would you trust, dear voter, to devise such a plan? Choose carefully when you go to the voting booth in November. Our national security may depend upon your decision. Terry Jenrich

Magnificent book. Dr. Roberts offers a comprehensive policy discussion on the complex challenge of nuclear deterrence given current and future issues of the day. This book is valuable for both defense analysts seeking to learn more about nuclear deterrence and assurance issues as well as for seasoned hands. I was particularly impressed by his discussion on "assuring the United States" which is a topic that one does not generally hear in this community.

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