



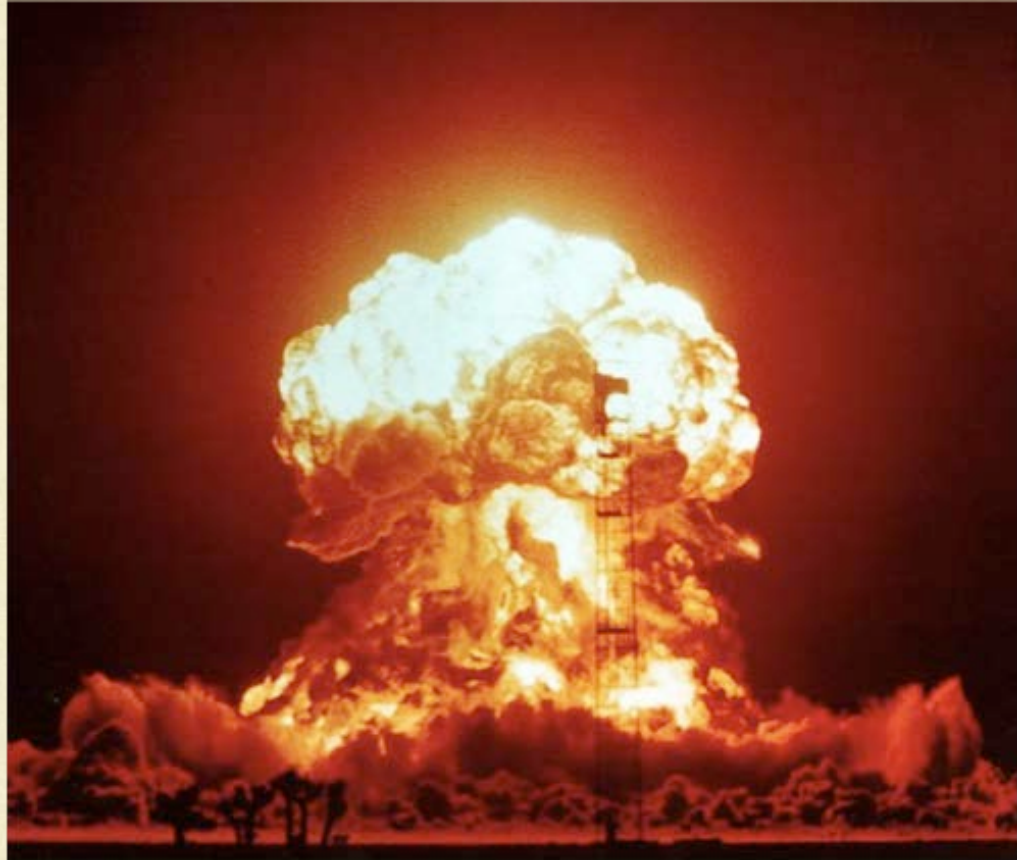
Constructing “Nuclear” in Australia

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What does “nuclear” mean to you?







Taepodong 2
Hwasong 7
(NK name)
Range:
3,500-4,300km
(2nd stage)
4,000-4,300km
(3rd stage)
Length: 32m
Load: ~1,000kg



Taepodong 1
Hwasong 6
(NK name)
Range:
1,500-2,000km
(2nd stage)
2,475-2,896km
(3rd stage)
Length: 25m
Load: 1,000kg



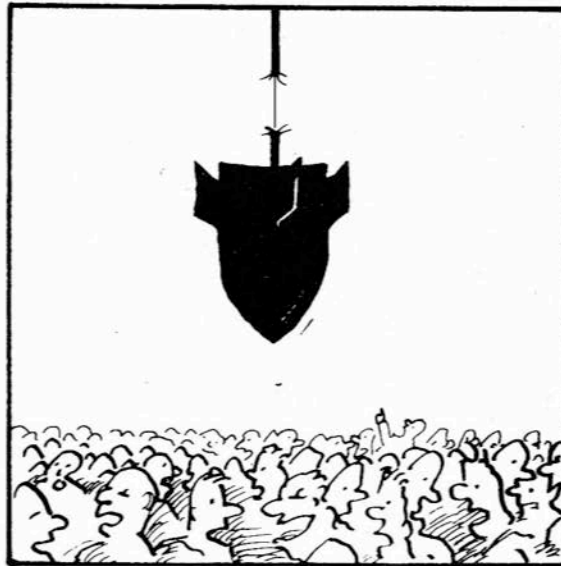
Rodong 1
Hwasong 5
(NK name)
Range:
1,000-1,300km
(2nd stage)
Type: single-stage
ballistic missile
Length: 15m
Load: 1,000kg



Scud-C Upgrade
Range: 550km
Type: single-stage
ballistic missile
Length: 11.25m
Load: 500kg



OFFICIAL BALLOT

☐

YES

Let's have a
nuclear war,
I'm sick of
waiting.

☐

NO

I'd rather
wait a bit
longer.



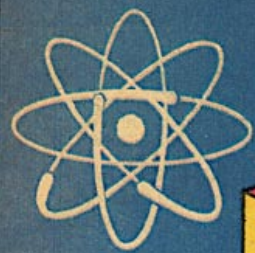
THE...INVENTIVENESS OF MAN SHALL...BE...

TO FIND THE WAY BY WHICH

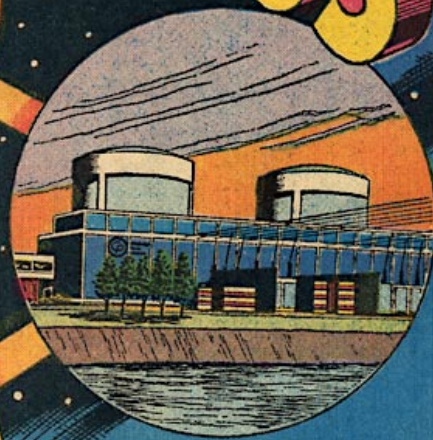
CONSECRATED TO HIS LIFE

ATOMS FOR PEACE

3¢ UNITED STATES POSTAGE 3¢

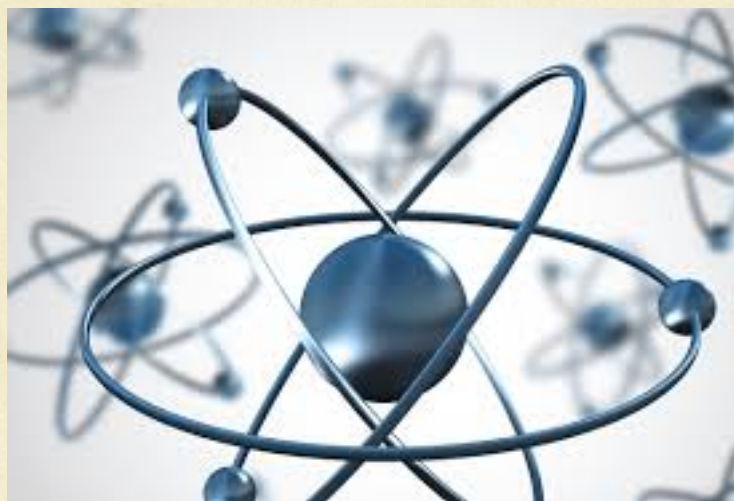


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The Social Construction of “Nuclear”

- In Australia – and in any country – the word “nuclear” is imbued and imbedded with a variety of emotions, images, impressions and meanings
- These meanings are not inherent in the word nuclear – they are at least partially socially constructed

The Social Construction of “Nuclear”

- The meaning of “nuclear” will vary dramatically between countries
- Meanings arise not only from material experiences but also from indirect and direct, passive and active, intentional and unintentional, efforts to construct meaning

Why Care?

- The meaning of “nuclear” in a particular region or country is going to influence all types of nuclear-related policy:
 - Funding for medical and scientific-related research
 - Civilian nuclear power
 - Mining
 - Nuclear weapons

Why Care?

- Therefore, it is important to understand:
 - where Australia's construction of “nuclear” has come from,
 - what the public meaning of “nuclear” is based upon, and
 - the empirical validity of the meaning(s) of nuclear in Australia

Why Care?

- It's also important to realize that current Australian actions contribute toward the meaning(s) of “nuclear,” not only in this country, but in others around the region and the world

Decision Point #1

- Should “nuclear” mean “weapons”?
- South Australia Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission
- “It’s the Enrichment, Stupid”
 - Negative lesson for regional allies
 - Probable ire of US

Decision Point #2

- Should “nuclear” mean “hope”?
- Climate change projections: recent estimates of up to 2m sea level rise in 50 years
- Even some environmentalists are arguing that nuclear power should be part of the solution
 - (This is not a free pass to the nuclear industry.)

Decision Point #3

- Should/can “nuclear” mean cooperation?
- The world is looking for a place for longterm spent fuel storage.
- Australia has the potential to lead a multinational effort to store nuclear waste in an environmentally and politically safe manner.

The Way Forward

- Australia faces critical nuclear-related decisions
- What underlying images, emotions and meanings are informing those decisions?
- How can we promote policies based on best practices and empirical evidence?

The Way Forward

- Changing social constructions are difficult, especially if they are emotion-laden
- Bombarding incorrect social constructions with facts only makes people grip them even more tightly

The Way Forward

- Waiting until the politicians have the courage to look beyond the electoral cycle is not the only option.
- The better option is to change the thinking about “nuclear” so that politicians don’t need courage, so that the electoral cycle is not a barrier

The Way Forward

- Social psychology points the way forward:
 - Building emotionally appealing, empirically valid alternative constructions
 - Linking the alternative construction with already-held values
- Such a plan requires investment:
 - Research to understand the current social constructions and possibilities for alternatives
 - Public engagement to promote alternative social construction(s)