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Аннотация. Ядерное оружие - самое опасное оружие на Земле. Его опасность обусловлена самим фактом его существования. Ученые, политики и общественные деятели со всего мира работают над этой проблемой, понимая, что применение ядерного оружия может привести к глобальной экологической катастрофе и уничтожению человечества. Так ли легко отказаться от ядерных технологий?

Ключевые слова: ядерная угроза, ядерное оружие, война, апокалипсис, сдерживание, исчезновение, Военная доктрина России, прогресс.

АТОМНЫЕ ДИЛЕММЫ

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Abstract. Nuclear weapons are the most dangerous weapons on the Earth. Its danger is due to the very fact of its existence. Scientists, politicians and public figures from all over the world are working on this problem, realizing that the use of nuclear weapons can lead to a global environmental catastrophe and the destruction of humanity. Is it so easy to abandon nuclear technology?

Keywords: nuclear threat, nuclear weapons, war, apocalypse, deterrence, disappearance, Russia's Military Doctrine, progress.

ATOMIC DILEMMAS

We live in troubled times. The climate crisis, bloody conflicts and human rights violations, as well as personal tragedies and economic devastation caused by the COVID‑19 pandemic, have created difficulties in our world that have not been there for a long time. One of the acute problems is the nuclear threat in the context of the events in Ukraine. Why this is done is difficult to understand. The theses that sound on this topic from the lips of politicians come down to the fact that this will never happen if the other side doesn’t use nuclear weapons first.

Relations between some nuclear-weapon states are characterized by distrust and enmity, but due to the combination of luck and a judicious approach, nuclear weapons haven’t been used since it burned Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. However, considering that there are more than 13,000 nuclear weapons in arsenals around the world, how long will we be lucky?

Nuclear weapons are gradually disappearing from the news. Nevertheless, the danger they pose remains just as significant and is increasing every year. Nuclear destruction can be caused by misunderstanding or mistake, and this sword of Damocles threatens not only suffering and death on a terrifying scale, but also the disappearance of life on the Earth.

The complete abandonment of nuclear weapons will not save the world from wars, but rather create new threats due to the lack of nuclear deterrence. It will save us from a nuclear apocalypse, but not from wars. Non-nuclear weapons can also cause great destruction. It’s confirmed by Syria, Libya, Iraq, and now Ukraine. Our biological species has been very successful in creating means of destroying their own kind.

Now there is the concept of non-nuclear deterrence, it is spelled out in Russia's Military Doctrine, but this is a very debatable method. According to the doctrine, hypersonic weapons are one of the main factors of non-nuclear deterrence for Russia. No one can be sure that the enemy will be afraid of the possible use of non-nuclear weapons to the same extent that one fears the retaliatory use of nuclear weapons. To give up nuclear weapons means to become vulnerable.

It cannot be said that by giving up nuclear weapons, some state or non-state structures (terrorists) will not try to secretly create a nuclear bomb for a lot of money. If governments refuse to create it, then it is necessary to abandon technologies that allow the creation of nuclear weapons.

It is impossible to abandon nuclear technologies, because:

* The use of nuclear technologies can solve the problem of lack of fresh water in the arid regions of the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa. The use of small power and size nuclear reactors in seawater desalination plants can solve this problem in the near future.
* Today Russia is the only country in the world that has a fleet of nuclear icebreakers. One of the main advantages is that there is no need for regular refueling, which allows it to increase the duration of voyage. It is currently impossible to develop Arctic resources without nuclear icebreakers.
* The global market for nuclear medicine services is growing rapidly. Tens of thousands of hospitals use radioactive isotopes to diagnose diseases. Nuclear technologies make it possible to detect the disease at an earlier date and with a higher probability.

Technological progress cannot be stopped. The emergence of nuclear power could not be prevented, and where there is nuclear power with a complete nuclear cycle, it is one step to the creation of weapons. It is impossible to talk about whether it is a mistake or not. This is the course of history. Such are the atomic dilemmas.