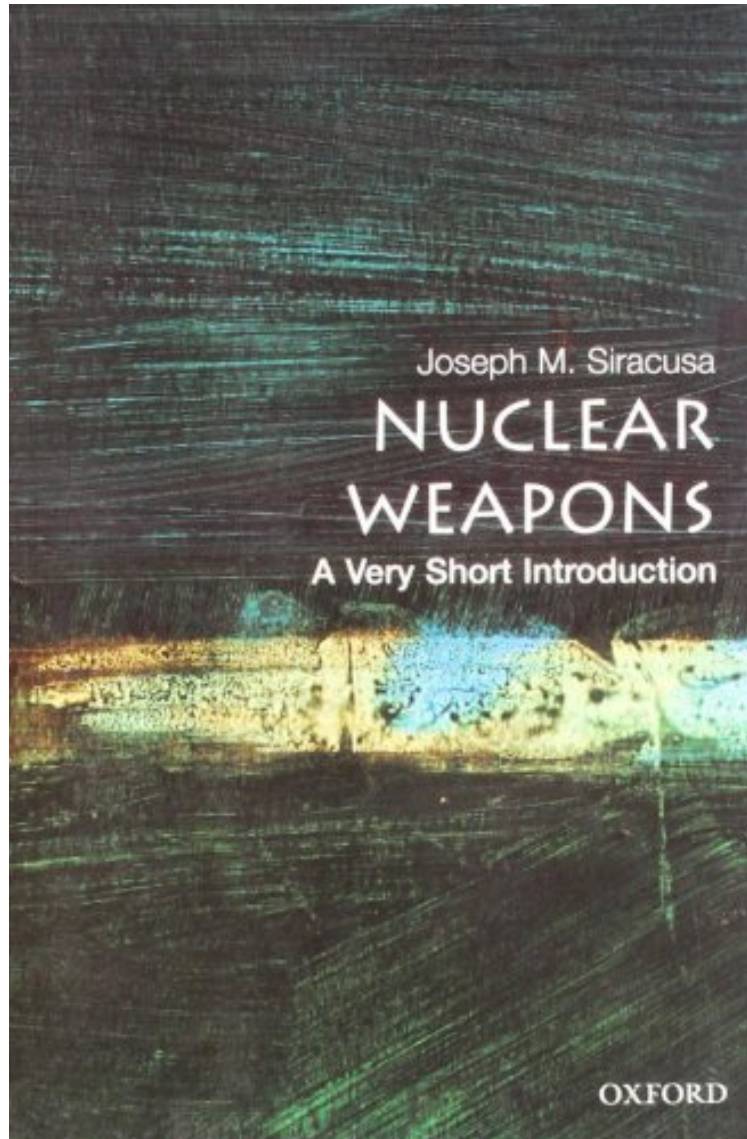


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Nuclear Weapons: A Very Short Introduction

Joseph M. Siracusa

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Joseph M. Siracusa : Nuclear Weapons: A Very Short Introduction before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nuclear Weapons: A Very Short Introduction:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Good Read!By kc-lamThis book offers a lively introduction to the history and politics of nuclear weapons. I find the review of effectiveness of non-proliferation efforts in recent years stimulating. For example, efforts to roll back the India-Pakistan nuclear arms race have been unsuccessful. However, within months of shutting down the international trafficking network of atomic technology and materials setup by

Pakistani atomic scientist Dr. A. Q Khan in year 2004, Libya renounced its nuclear programme. By the way, brief account of the science of nuclear weapons and technology of "Star War" defense system are particularly interesting.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very good introductionBy Robin WareingThis book is limited in scope as it is relatively short, but the author makes good use of his space. The discussion is relatively limited, yet I found the book a fascinating read. Book is definitely aimed at a reader new to such material.5 of 9 people found the following review helpful. An excellent introductionBy Dr. Lee D. CarlsonEven if one has a good background in physics and technology the subject of nuclear weapons awakens a strong sense of foreboding. They have only been used twice in history: in the terrorist attacks perpetrated against Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States. Hopefully they will never be used again in any capacity, but that seems doubtful considering the zeal with which terrorist groups and countries throughout the world attempt to acquire them. Having these weapons seems to instill national pride in the countries that do, or maybe even a strange sense of being invulnerable. It is difficult to assess whether the possession of these weapons by the United States and the Soviet Union averted conflict between these two nations, but there is no disputing that many ideological groups asserted that this was the case.This assertion was the doctrine of 'deterrence', and it and many other interesting topics are discussed in this highly informative book. The author has given the reader a general overview of the physics behind nuclear weapons, how they were invented, the use of them against Japan and the reactions of the world public on this use, and the arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union and the aftermath thereof. There is enough material in this book to satisfy the needs of those readers who are pressed for time but need to gain an understanding of the powerful role that nuclear weapons have played on the world state in the last six decades. It would be an excellent book for young readers, particularly those born at the time that the "Cold War" was ending and need insight into the moods and rationalizations of policy makers in the post World War II era.It is extremely doubtful that nuclear weapons will go away anytime soon, but it is also true that the new technologies of the twenty-first century may make them appear benign by comparison. All technology throughout history has found its way into extremely dangerous weaponry, nuclear weapons being of course the most dangerous to this date. But twenty-first century technology, already dwarfing the imagination and proving to be way beyond the predictions, may result in weaponry that will make warfare unthinkable. But as this book reminds us, this has been said before...

Despite not having been used in anger since Hiroshima and Nagasaki, nuclear weapons are still the biggest threat that faces us in the 21st century. Indeed, for all the effort to reduce nuclear stockpiles to zero and to keep other nations (such as Iran) from developing nuclear capability, it seems that the Bomb is here to stay. In this gripping Very Short Introduction, Joseph M. Siracusa, an internationally respected authority on nuclear arms, provides a comprehensive, accessible, and at times chilling overview of the most deadly weapon ever invented. Siracusa explains the history of the arms race and the politics of the bomb, ranging from the technology of nuclear weapons, to the revolutionary implications of the H-bomb and the politics of nuclear deterrence. The issues are set against a backdrop of the changing international landscape, from the early days of development, through the Cold War, to the present-day controversy over George W. Bush's National Missile Defense, and the role of nuclear weapons in an Age of Terror. Providing an accessible and eye-opening backdrop to one of the most unsettling aspects of the modern world, this compact introduction is must reading.About the Series: Combining authority with wit, accessibility, and style, Very Short Introductions offer an introduction to some of life's most interesting topics. Written by experts for the newcomer, they demonstrate the finest contemporary thinking about the central problems and issues in hundreds of key topics, from philosophy to Freud, quantum theory to Islam.

.com Nuclear Weapons: Questions for Consideration and Discussion Was President Truman justified in his decision to order the bombing of Hiroshima? Was it necessary or unnecessary? Why would North Korea want nuclear weapons? And what would it take for them to forgo their development? Who was J. Robert Oppenheimer? And what does his career have to say about the role of science and scientists in the ongoing nuclear debate? What was the significance of the Cold War in the evolution of nuclear weaponry? Do you agree with the notion that the acquisition of nuclear weapons has become the Holy Grail of terrorists? About the AuthorJoseph M. Siracusa is Professor in International Studies and Director of Global Studies, at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. He is internationally known for his writings on nuclear history, diplomacy, and presidential politics, and is also a frequent political affairs commentator in the media.