

The Challenge of Nuclear Weapons

Fourth edition. November 2017.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Begins with World War II.
- Includes Cold War ideology, arms race technologies, detente, Strategic Defense Initiative, proliferation.
- Concludes with North Korea, Iran, and terrorist threats.

STUDENT TEXT

- Shows how nuclear warfare featured in U.S. military strategy and influenced culture.
- Explains arguments for and against expanded arsenals.
- Profiles current problems: controlling stocks, international proliferation, and terrorism.
- Illustrates anti-nuclear activism.

CENTRAL ROLE PLAY ACTIVITY

Question: What should the U.S. nuclear policy be?

Setting: U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

SKILL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LESSONS

A short description of each lesson can be found on the unit webpage [here](#).

Students will:

- **Interpret maps** of nuclear proliferation.
- **Analyze images, fiction, and comics** to understand U.S. views of the Soviet threat.
- **Close read** a speech by Harry Truman.
- **Use film studies techniques** to trace thinking about nuclear war over time.
- **Evaluate continuity and change** over time of nuclear policy.
- **Examine song lyrics** to understand perspectives on nuclear proliferation.
- **Work with a team** to synthesize readings, lessons, and position profiles into class presentations.
- **Listen actively** and deliberate with peers on the complex viewpoints expressed.
- **Reflect** and write their own position on U.S. nuclear policy.

LINKS FOR FURTHER CURRICULUM EVALUATION

Videos - A free online [video collection](#) accompanies this unit, and the videos are incorporated throughout the Digital Editions.

Print Format - This unit [preview](#) includes the table of contents, a reading excerpt, and a sample lesson plan.

Digital Editions Format - Interested in what the Digital Editions format looks like? Check out our web-based curriculum [here](#).