Arms and Influence
By Thomas Schelling

DESCRIPTION

This is an influential book written during the Cold War addressing the concept of deterrence. The author’s purpose is to discuss the “diplomacy of violence” in which states use the ability to cause harm to other nations as bargaining power (deterrence and compellence).

- Air University

SIGNIFICANCE TO THE DETERRENCE COMMUNITY

Thomas Schelling was one of the intellectual founders of US nuclear deterrence thinking, and his writing still resonates in the work of deterrence scholars and practitioners today. Schelling’s profound analysis of the impact of nuclear weapons on diplomacy and international relations is timeless and essential reading. This book provides an intellectual and historical basis for understanding contemporary nuclear deterrence issues.
The Case for U.S. Nuclear Weapons in the 21st Century

*By Brad Roberts*

**DESCRIPTION**

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.

- *Stanford Security Press*

**SIGNIFICANCE TO THE DETERRENCE COMMUNITY**

Roberts draws on his experience and academic acumen in this thoughtful, well-researched book. Contrary to those scholars making calls for global nuclear disarmament, Roberts argues the need for and utility of U.S. nuclear weapons now and into the future. After a review of post-Cold War U.S. nuclear policies, Roberts provides in-depth analysis of some of the major nuclear proliferation and deterrence challenges for U.S. policy today, particularly focusing on the nuclear arsenals of North Korea, China, and Russia.
On Limited Nuclear War in the 21st Century
*Edited by Jeffrey Larsen and Kerry Kartchner*

**DESCRIPTION**

The authors argue that a time may come when a nuclear-armed state makes the conscious decision that using a nuclear weapon against the United States, its allies, or forward deployed forces in the context of a crisis or a regional conventional conflict may be in its interests. They assert that we are unprepared for these types of *limited* nuclear wars and that it is urgent we rethink the theory, policy, and implementation of force related to our approaches to this type of engagement.

- *Stanford Security Press*

**SIGNIFICANCE TO THE DETERRENCE COMMUNITY**

Much of the existing literature on the subject of nuclear weapons and nuclear deterrence simply assumes that the taboo against their use will continue to be strong. Rather than doing so, this volume realistically assesses both the likelihood of the future use of nuclear weapons and the consequences thereof. As such, this book supports contemporary DOD nuclear operations planning.
Deterrence

By Lawrence Freedman

DESCRIPTION

In this book, Freedman charts the evolution of the contemporary concept of deterrence, and discusses whether - and how - it still has relevance in today's world. He considers constructivist as well as realist approaches and draws on criminological as well as strategic studies literature to develop a concept of a norms-based, as opposed to an interest-based, deterrence.

- Polity Press

SIGNIFICANCE TO THE DETERRENCE COMMUNITY

One of the most well known works on nuclear deterrence written in the past two decades, Freedman presents a thorough exploration of both the origins and evolution of modern deterrence theory. Practitioners and academics alike will find its succinct analysis useful and approachable. An essential reading selection for all Airmen.
Nuclear Deterrence in the
21st Century
By Therese Delpech

DESCRIPTION

In this book, Therese Delpech calls for a renewed intellectual effort to address the relevance of the traditional concepts of first strike, escalation, extended deterrence, and other Cold War–era strategies in today's complex world of additional superpowers (e.g., China), smaller nuclear powers (e.g., Pakistan and North Korea), and non-state actors (e.g., terrorists), as well as the extension of defense and security analysis to new domains, such as outer space and cyberspace.

- RAND Corporation

SIGNIFICANCE TO THE DETERRENCE COMMUNITY

This volume, by the late Therese Delpech, is a thorough review of the extant literature on nuclear deterrence, an analysis of whether and to what extent it applies for 21st century deterrence problems, and a call to action for a new wave of research on the subject. The DOD nuclear enterprise will benefit from the inclusion of concepts such as cross-domain deterrence and deterrence of non-state actors.
Nuclear Strategy in the Modern Era
By Vipin Narang

DESCRIPTION

Vipin Narang identifies the diversity of regional power nuclear strategies and describes in detail the posture each regional power has adopted over time. Developing a theory for the sources of regional power nuclear strategies, he offers the first systematic explanation of why states choose the postures they do and under what conditions they might shift strategies.

- Princeton University Press

SIGNIFICANCE TO THE DETERRENCE COMMUNITY

Much of the classical literature on deterrence focused on U.S. or Soviet nuclear strategy, but deterrence in the modern era also requires understanding the nuclear strategies of regional nuclear powers. Narang offers an analytical framework and typology to understand and characterize the nuclear strategies of six countries: China, France, Israel, India, Pakistan, and South Africa. Narang’s framework is useful for deterrence practitioners and scholars wanting to gain a better understanding of states’ nuclear strategies and how those strategies could change in the future.
Nuclear Statescraft: History and Strategy in America’s Atomic Age
By Francis Gavin

DESCRIPTION
How do these nuclear states—and potential future ones—manage their nuclear forces and influence international conflict? Examining the reasoning and deterrence consequences of regional power nuclear strategies, this book demonstrates that these strategies matter greatly to international stability and it provides new insights into conflict dynamics across important areas of the world such as the Middle East, East Asia, and South Asia.

- Princeton University Press

SIGNIFICANCE TO THE DETERRENCE COMMUNITY

Gavin asserts that policy makers and academics too often misunderstand or are ignorant of nuclear history, which leads to problems developing proper policy or theory. This book provides thoroughly researched accounts of key debates and moments in the history of U.S. nuclear policy and shows how history’s lessons can apply to contemporary nuclear policy debates. Gavin also challenges some of the current conventional wisdom or myths surrounding nuclear deterrence and proliferation and pays special attention to challenging camps of the nuclear proliferation debate.
The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: An Enduring Debate
By Scott Sagan and Kenneth Waltz

DESCRIPTION

Over the past fifteen years, *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons* has been a staple in International Relations courses because of its brevity and crystal-clear explanations. The new edition, *An Enduring Debate*, continues the important discussion of nuclear proliferation and the dangers of a nuclear-armed world. With new chapters on the questions surrounding a nuclear North Korea, Iran, and Iraq and the potential for a world free of nuclear weapons...

- WW Norton and Co.

SIGNIFICANCE TO THE DETERRENCE COMMUNITY

This update to what is now a decades long debate between two of the most well-known and knowledgeable scholars of both the causes and consequences of the spread of nuclear weapons is significant as it provides new insights on current and future proliferation challenges. In order to better develop military capabilities for deterrence, it is vital to understand all sides of the debate on global nuclear proliferation.
Asia, the US, and Extended Nuclear Deterrence
By Andrew O’Neil

DESCRIPTION

This book provides the first detailed analysis of the way in which extended nuclear deterrence operates in contemporary Asia. It addresses the key question: What does the role of extended nuclear deterrence in Asia tell us about the broader role of extended nuclear deterrence in the contemporary international system?

- Routledge

SIGNIFICANCE TO THE DETERRENCE COMMUNITY

The threat posed by North Korea’s nuclear weapons to the United States and US allies in Asia dominates current headlines, but O’Neil’s book deftly chronicles the long history of extended nuclear deterrence in Asia. O’Neil shows that nuclear weapons have increased in importance in US relations with Asian allies over time, which is a trend that is likely to continue with nuclear modernization underway in China and North Korea. This book provides insight to analyzing current and future extended deterrence challenges.
To Kill Nations
By Edward Kaplan

DESCRIPTION

In *To Kill Nations*, Edward Kaplan traces the evolution of American strategic airpower and preparation for nuclear war from this early air-atomic era to a later period (1950–1965) in which the Soviet Union’s atomic capability, accelerated by thermonuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, made American strategic assets vulnerable and gradually undermined air-atomic strategy.

- *Cornell Univ Press*

SIGNIFICANCE TO THE DETERRENCE COMMUNITY

This book is a well-researched history of Strategic Air Command (SAC) and of SAC’s influence on US national security strategy during the first 20 years of the Cold War. Kaplan shows how US nuclear strategy went from being focused on winning nuclear war to being more in line with the MAD thinking made famous by early deterrence scholars. This book is essential for understanding how US nuclear strategy evolved to where it is today.
Nuclear Weapons & Coercive Diplomacy  
*By Todd Sechser and Matthew Fuhrmann*

**DESCRIPTION**

Nuclear weapons are useful mainly for deterrence and self-defense, not for coercion. The authors evaluate the role of nuclear weapons in several foreign policy contexts and present a trove of new quantitative and historical evidence that nuclear weapons do not help countries achieve better results in coercive diplomacy. The evidence is clear: the benefits of possessing nuclear weapons are almost exclusively defensive, not offensive.

- *Cambridge Univ Press*

**SIGNIFICANCE TO THE DETERRENCE COMMUNITY**

From the beginning of the nuclear age, deterrence scholars have proposed that nuclear weapons could be used for both deterrence and compellence. Sechser and Fuhrmann use both quantitative and qualitative methods to analyze whether nuclear weapons states are more successful at compellence than non-nuclear weapons states. This is an interesting study for considering the overall impact that nuclear weapons has on international relations.