

WIN WITHOUT WAR



Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

Intel for Advocacy

TOPLINE TAKEAWAYS

- *Trump at the United Nations: America first really means America against the world.*

YES, IT'S ABSURD THAT TRUMP WILL LECTURE THE WORLD ABOUT NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

Donald Trump will travel to the United Nations General Assembly next week to give his annual address to the global body. While there, he'll also chair a Security Council meeting that will aim to, according to [reports](#), “pressure other world leaders to crack down on Iran and other countries that violate U.N. decrees against nuclear proliferation.”

Of course promoting nuclear non-proliferation is a good thing, and we should welcome such efforts. But the shameless hypocrisy of these demands coming from Trump is galling. Not only has Trump enabled the potential for nuclear proliferation by pulling out of the Iran nuclear deal, but he also wants to dramatically expand America's nuclear weapons program (at ridiculous costs), including loosening constraints on their use and developing smaller, some say “usable,” nukes.

What's more, as today we observe the [International Day of Peace](#), it's also worth noting that Trump has actually spent the better part of his tenure taking us to the brink of (possibly nuclear) war with North Korea, although he's reined in that posture. If anyone has credibility on ways to reduce the nuclear threat on the Korean Peninsula, it's South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

NORTH KOREA

President Moon traveled to Pyongyang this week for the third Inter-Korean summit with North Korea's chairman, Kim Jong-un. The largely successful summit produced a [joint declaration](#) and military [accord](#), with both countries committing to a range of confidence-building measures, like creating rail and road links between North and South within the next year, ending military drills near the DMZ as well as reducing some military presence there, and even submitting a joint bid to host the 2032 Summer Olympics. They also announced a fourth summit in Seoul, which would mark the first-ever visit to the South by a North Korean leader.

Both Moon and Kim also expressed a desire to make the Korean Peninsula a “place of peace that is free of nuclear weapons and nuclear threats.” Perhaps most notably, North Korea

WIN WITHOUT WAR



expressed willingness to permanently dismantle the Yongbyon nuclear site (a key North Korean fissile material production site), should the United States take reciprocal action.

The Trump Administration welcomed the outcome of the summit, with the President [tweeting](#) his excitement and Secretary of State Pompeo [announcing his willingness to "engage immediately" in negotiations](#). On this point, we agree with the administration: The positive momentum displayed by the summit is "very exciting." **Major concerns, however, linger about the administration's patience and willingness to take the reciprocal steps necessary to continue the peace process.** For example, Pompeo set an unrealistic [three-year](#) timeline to achieve denuclearization, with some experts predicting the full, verified denuclearization of the country may take a [decade](#). And we can never forget that John Bolton always lies waiting in the shadows to [once again](#) derail diplomacy.

TALKING POINTS

The Trump administration's fixation on North Korea's rapid, unilateral nuclear disarmament burdens negotiations with unrealistic expectations.

- **U.S. strategy towards North Korea should be primarily premised on maximum engagement, not maximum pressure.** Relying on a strategy of maximum pressure alone resulted in brinkmanship and edged the world closer towards nuclear war, jeopardizing millions of lives.
- **Building a foundation of confidence and trust after years of war and tension is essential to achieving a lasting peace regime on the peninsula.**
- **Denuclearization and peace can only be achieved through reciprocal action.** The United States must be willing to offer security guarantees to move the denuclearization process forward, including an end-of war declaration and renouncing the United States' willingness to use nuclear weapons first on the Korean Peninsula.

In the wake of the third inter-Korean Summit, the U.S. should:

- **Declare a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War.** As President Moon has stated, an end-of-war declaration would not affect U.S. troop levels in the South Korea. Rather, an end-of-war declaration is an important political symbol towards de-escalating tensions. It [supports](#) the goals of our South Korean ally, emphasizes the U.S.'s commitment to peace, and is an appropriate corresponding measure sought by North Korea.
- **Establish an action-for-action roadmap to achieve denuclearization and peace.** The United States should lay out the reciprocal steps it will take towards peace, including humanitarian assistance, the eventual lifting of sanctions and a peace treaty, in exchange for specific North Korean actions towards denuclearization.

WIN WITHOUT WAR



- **Follow South Korea's lead.** The three Inter-Korean summits highlight the two Koreas' shared political will to embark on a peace process on their own terms. If the U.S. wants to be in lockstep with its ally in South Korea, the U.S. should empower both countries' efforts to make peace, not stall them.
- **Recognize that negotiating and implementing North Korea's denuclearization is an incremental process.** The U.S. should not jeopardize slow, forward momentum for the sake of unrealistic, rapid results.

IRAN

The State Department's point person on fostering regime change in Iran gave a speech this week focused mainly on inflating the threat-level coming from Iran (the [highlight](#) of the event was when CODEPINK founder Medea Benjamin managed to get on stage and tell the truth about what was actually going on there). During the speech, Brian Hook, head of the Trump administration's so-called Iran Action Group (read: Iran War Group), claimed Trump is looking to negotiate a treaty with Iran. But as one expert [said](#) of Hook's speech, "If I'm Iran, I look at it as a prelude to regime change."

Indeed, that's what the Trump administration's Iran policy actually is: [regime change](#) or short of that, [regime collapse](#). And by pulling out of the nuclear deal, Trump not only gives Iran an excuse to restart elements of its nuclear program that were frozen under the agreement, **it also makes war more likely** by giving regime change advocates like John Bolton an excuse to bomb Iran. And we can't forget that [Bolton](#), along with [Secretary of State Pompeo](#) have long called for doing just that.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The Trump administration's nuclear posture review (NPR) released earlier this year is a laughable affront to nuclear non-proliferation and a total rejection of our commitments to reduce our stockpiles under the international treaty that governs their restrictions.

- **Trump's NPR increases the likelihood of nuclear war** by 1) expanding the circumstances in which the United States would use nuclear weapons to include responding to a non-nuclear strategic attack and 2) developing smaller, "usable" submarine-launched nuclear weapons.
- **Trump's NPR is an irresponsible spending spree on top of an already bloated Pentagon budget**, with costs projected [well over \\$1.2 trillion](#) over the next 30 years.
- **Trump's nuclear weapons policy relinquishes American leadership on non-proliferation and disarmament.** The United States should be reducing its nuclear

WIN WITHOUT WAR



stockpile and working to limit the role nuclear weapons play in our national security decision-making. (See Global Zero's [new alternative NPR](#) which proposes a "deterrence-only" posture that includes downsizing the U.S. arsenal and instituting a no first-use policy, moves that will put the United States and the world on a path to the elimination of nuclear weapons.)

- **The American people understand that Trump's nuclear policy will decrease security** by increasing the risk of use and fueling a global nuclear arms race. A January 2018 [poll](#) found that 60 percent of the American public does not trust Donald Trump to have sole authority over the nuclear arsenal. Of those people, 90 percent are at least somewhat concerned that Trump might launch a nuclear attack.

House and Senate Democrats [introduced a bill this week](#) to ban the Pentagon from developing these so-called "usable" nuclear weapons Trump's NPR requested.

Other members of Congress have previously [attempted to limit](#) the president's ability to launch nuclear weapons first in a conflict by requiring the President to seek authorization before a launch and by changing U.S. policy to [establish](#) that "it is the policy of the United States to not use nuclear weapons first." Congress has also tried to slow or cut off the massive expansion of the U.S. nuclear arsenal, specifically going after new weapons -- like the Long Range Standoff Weapon -- that make fighting nuclear wars more likely.

BURIED LEDES

Continuing its policy of [slowly dismantling](#) the entirety of the U.S. resettlement system, the Trump administration announced this week that it will **set a historic low cap of 30,000 refugee admissions** for FY2019. See our statement [here](#).

Canada is hosting a first-ever meeting of female foreign ministers this week which presents an "[opportunity to focus attention](#) on concrete ways to improve women's status globally and advance what has been called a 'feminist foreign policy.'"

The Special Inspector General for Reconstruction of Afghanistan (SIGAR) says the U.S. has [spent nearly \\$100 million](#) to promote the role of women in Afghanistan and **has made little progress in its efforts**.

State Department staffers led by a defense industry lobbyist [urged](#) Mike Pompeo to continue supporting the Saudi/UAE-led war in Yemen because "**restricting U.S. support would endanger billions of dollars in future weapons sales.**" Pompeo recently [agreed](#) to continue supporting that war. (Be sure to check out CNN's [big piece this week](#) on how American made bombs are fueling death and destruction in the conflict.)

WIN WITHOUT WAR



“The last 48 hours have revealed exactly what is driving US policy towards #Yemen, **corruption, greed, and a complete disregard for the lives of millions of people impacted by our actions,**” Win Without War Director Stephen Miles noted in response to reports that Pompeo’s support for the war was influenced by the defense industry. Check out the whole tweet thread [here](#).

Ahead of the UN General Assembly next week, a bipartisan group of more than 80 House members [urged](#) Pompeo “**to continue to publicly call for the release of the two Reuters journalists** unjustly sentenced in Burma for covering the Rohingya genocide and to raise their case with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi.”

Trump is making the State Department White Again. Since his inauguration, Trump has presided over “[the exclusion of minorities](#) from top leadership positions in the State Department and embassies abroad.”

A humanitarian catastrophe in Idlib has been averted -- for now -- as Turkey and Russia struck a [deal](#) on Monday to establish a demilitarized zone between rebel and government forces.

Another week, another piece about progressive foreign policy. But [this one](#) is actually pretty good.

Here’s a [deep dive](#) into all the corporations -- including from the defense industry -- **profiting off immigrant detention.**

The U.S. government [paid more than \\$1 billion](#) to a private security firm in Iraq that **hired racist white South Africans whose careers began in Apartheid-era military** and police forces and others who “allegedly captured, and starved, several animals” including stray dogs.

And finally, [great news fellow nerds!](#) **Congressional Research Service reports are now officially publicly available!** We know what we’re doing this weekend.