THE NUCLEAR AGE
SIX DECADES ON

By: Graham Allison, director of the
Belfar Center for Science and International Affairs
at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government

1939 — Albert Einstein writes letter to President Roosevelt warning about nuclear bomb and Nazi Germany.

1945 — United States: Tests first nuclear weapon and drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

1949 — Soviet Union: Tests atomic weapon.

1952 — Britan: Tests atomic weapon.

1960 — France: Tests atomic weapon.

1963 — Limited Test Ban Treaty.

1963 — In 1961, President Kennedy warned that on the current path, "by 1970 there may be ten nuclear powers instead of four, and by 1975, fifteen or twenty."

1964 — China: Tests atomic weapon.

1967 — Israel: Believed to have assembled two nuclear weapons on eve of Six Day War.

1968 — The NPT Treaty: 62 Countries Sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

1968 — SALT I and ABM Treaties between US and USSR.

1972 — South Africa: Builds six nuclear weapons.

1973 — India: Tests "peaceful" nuclear explosion.

1974 — Pakistan: Assembles nuclear bombs.

1979 — SALT II Treaty.

1987 — South Africa renounces nuclear weapons and signs NPT.

1987 — START II Treaty.

1987 — Bush and Gorbachev announce unilateral reciprocal reductions of tactical nuclear weapons.

1991 — Soviet Union dissolves leaving third largest nuclear arsenal in newly independent Ukraine; fourth in Kazakhstan; fifth in Belarus.

1992 — Trilateral Agreement: Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus agree to eliminate nuclear arsenals inherited from USSR.

1998 — India and Pakistan conduct nuclear tests.

2002 — SORT Treaty.

2005 — North Korea: Declares itself nuclear weapons state.

2005 — 2005 NPT Review Conference flounders.

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Libya, Romania, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, and Yugoslavia all pursued nuclear weapons programs **but abandoned them**.

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