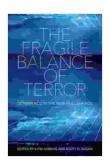
Deterrence in the New Nuclear Age



The Fragile Balance of Terror: Deterrence in the New Nuclear Age (Cornell Studies in Security Affairs)

by John O'Loughlin

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Deterrence in the New Nuclear Age is a comprehensive guide to the theory and practice of nuclear deterrence. This book examines the history of nuclear deterrence, the current state of the nuclear balance, and the challenges and opportunities for nuclear deterrence in the future.

The History of Nuclear Deterrence

Nuclear deterrence is a strategy for preventing nuclear war by threatening to retaliate with overwhelming force against any attack. The concept of deterrence has been around for centuries, but it was only with the development of nuclear weapons that it became a truly global concern.

The first nuclear weapons were developed by the United States during World War II. The atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, in August 1945, demonstrated the destructive power of nuclear weapons and ushered in the nuclear age. In the years after World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union engaged in a nuclear arms race, each side building up its nuclear arsenal in an effort to deter the other from launching an attack.

The nuclear arms race reached its peak in the early 1960s, when the United States and the Soviet Union each had thousands of nuclear weapons. The threat of nuclear war was at its highest during this time.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the United States and the Soviet Union began to negotiate arms control agreements, which limited the number of nuclear weapons each side could possess.

These agreements helped to reduce the risk of nuclear war, but they did not eliminate it. Today, the United States and Russia still possess thousands of nuclear weapons, and the threat of nuclear war remains.

The Current State of the Nuclear Balance

The current state of the nuclear balance is complex and uncertain. The United States and Russia continue to possess the largest nuclear arsenals in the world, but other countries, such as China, France, and the United Kingdom, also have nuclear weapons.

The nuclear balance is also affected by the development of new technologies, such as ballistic missile defenses and hypersonic weapons.

The future of nuclear deterrence is uncertain. The United States and Russia may continue to reduce their nuclear arsenals, but other countries may acquire nuclear weapons. The development of new technologies may also make nuclear deterrence more difficult.

The Challenges and Opportunities for Nuclear Deterrence in the Future

The challenges and opportunities for nuclear deterrence in the future are significant.

One challenge is the proliferation of nuclear weapons. More and more countries are acquiring nuclear weapons, which increases the risk of nuclear war.

Another challenge is the development of new technologies, such as ballistic missile defenses and hypersonic weapons.

These technologies may make nuclear deterrence more difficult, as they could potentially neutralize or defeat nuclear attacks.

Despite these challenges, there are also opportunities for nuclear deterrence in the future.

One opportunity is the development of new arms control agreements. These agreements could help to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in the world and make nuclear war less likely.

Another opportunity is the development of new technologies, such as sensors and warning systems.

These technologies could help to improve early warning of nuclear attacks and make nuclear deterrence more effective. Deterrence in the New Nuclear Age is a complex and challenging issue. There are no easy answers, but there are important steps that can be taken to reduce the risk of nuclear war.

The United States and Russia should continue to reduce their nuclear arsenals and work to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

All countries should support the development of new arms control agreements and new technologies that could make nuclear deterrence more effective.

By working together, we can create a safer world for all.



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