

Can we track the world's nuclear weapons?

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The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists has unveiled an [interactive infographic](#) that tracks the number and history of nuclear weapons in the nine nuclear weapon states: the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel, and North Korea. The Nuclear Notebook Interactive Infographic is designed to provide a visual representation of the Bulletin's famed Nuclear Notebook, which since 1987 has tracked the number and type of the world's nuclear arsenals.

"I don't think people truly understand just how many of these weapons there are in the world," said Rachel Bronson, executive director of the *Bulletin*. "The Interactive is a way to see, immediately, who has nuclear weapons and when they got them, and how those numbers relate to each other. It is a startling experience, looking at those comparisons."

The authors of the Nuclear Notebook are Hans M. Kristensen and Robert S. Norris, both with the Federation of American Scientists. In the most recent edition of the Nuclear Notebook, the authors discuss the Notebook's 28 year history and describe how sometimes host countries learned of foreign nuclear weapons on their soil from the Nuclear Notebook: "For instance, Japan—which was the target of two atomic bomb attacks and has a law against nuclear weapons on its territory—learned from the Notebook that there were US nuclear weapons on Chichi Jima and Iwo Jima, an enormous and varied US [nuclear arsenal](#) on Okinawa, US nuclear bombs (without their fissile cores) stored on the mainland at Misawa and Itazuki air bases (and possibly at Atsugi, Iwakuni, Johnson, and Komaki air bases as well), and nuclear-armed US Navy ships stationed in Sasebo and Yokosuka."

Over 28 years of weapons analysis, the Nuclear Notebook column has revealed surprise nuclear activity and spot-on arsenal estimates while becoming a daily resource for scholars, activists, and journalists. "We wanted a way to communicate those numbers visually, because the world we live may be data-driven, it's also visual," said John Mecklin, editor of the *Bulletin*. "The new Infographic makes this vital information even more accessible."

More information: thebulletin.org/nuclear-notebook-multimedia

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