

*Payne, chapter 6*

- Be able to explain some of the causes of weapons proliferation.
  - Understand (a) what small arms are (that is, how they differ from ‘conventional weapons’), (b) the different ways they can be acquired, (c) and why they are “instrumental in mass destruction.”
- In short, be able to explain why the proliferation of small arms is such a serious policy concern.
- Be able to explain the purpose of, and to criticize the success of, the *Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty* (NPT) and the *New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty* (New START).
  - Know what is meant by the notion of “mutual assured destruction”—and be able to explain one reason why, despite the reality of this reciprocal destruction, nuclear powers continue to build-up their nuclear arsenals.
  - Be familiar with Payne’s explanations of both the India/Pakistan and the North Korean case study on nuclear proliferation.
  - Be able to explain some of the shortcomings of the U.S. counter-proliferation foreign policies.
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*The Economist – “A Rivalry that Threatens the World”*

- Be comfortable with this case study—beyond what Payne discusses.
  - Be able to explain the specific reasons for the historical and continued hostilities between India and Pakistan—this editorial discusses (7) causes of this animosity.
  - Know some of the reasons why Pakistan poses a unique regional security threat—*beyond* the tenuous relationship it has with India. (Think this through!)
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*Herszenhorn – “Nuclear Talks with Iran End Without Accord or Plans for Another Round”*

- Be able to explain Iran’s two primary justifications for continuing its efforts to enrich uranium.
  - Recognize what could ignite the situation in Iran and create a serious regional security threat.
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*PBS – “Blair: Don’t Rule Out Military Option with Iran” (video)*

- Identify the three reasons Blair notes for why military action against Iran would be justified.
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*PBS – “Syria Eyes Neighbor Iran’s Nuclear Ambitions” (video)*

- Make the connection—this short piece was simply intended to highlight the different political relations in the Middle East that might be cause for concern regarding the region’s stability:

For example, the U.S. is concerned and has a weak relationship with Iran—a state seeking to achieve nuclear capability.

Syria, under al-Assad, is strongly allied with Iran.

Iran and Israel—a nuclear power—are quite hostile toward each other.

Iran has also supported Pakistan—another country aspiring to develop a nuclear weapons program—in its struggles against India—which has strongly opposed Iran’s development of nuclear weapons capabilities, and has placed extensive economic sanctions on Iran.

And let us not forget that shortly after the Iranian—Ayatollah Khomeini—revolution in 1979, Iraq invaded Iran and instigated a war that would last eight years (1980-’88).

Take a closer look at a map of the Middle East, and consider how tumultuous the political circumstance is.

*Pry – “The Danger of Dismissing North Korea’s Nuclear Threat”*

- Appreciate the uncertainty and difficulty in determining whether countries like North Korea, Iran, Syria, Pakistan, etc., are making successful advances in the development of nuclear capabilities.

Note, *e.g.*, Pry’s brief discussion about this with regard to Israel’s weapons development.

- Be able to justify whether or not you believe North Korea is a legitimate security threat—to the United States and the global community more generally.

*PBS – “Rice Discusses U.S., U.N. Response to North Korea” (video)*

- Be prepared to explain and criticize the Obama administration’s reaction to the launching of North Korea’s Taepodong-2 intercontinental ballistic missile; and the administration’s insistence on global nuclear disarmament.
- Know the different components of President Obama’s disarmament plan.
- Whether with regard to North Korea specifically, or to other countries more generally that seek to develop nuclear capabilities (Iran, Syria, Pakistan, Libya, etc.), be able to defend their alleged right to do so.

This will entail finding faults in the international community’s non-proliferation efforts and agreements—namely, the expectations of the “Permanent-5” of the U.N. Security Council: China, France, Russia, the U.K., and the U.S.