

The Role of International Treaties in Nuclear Disarmament

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NUCLEAR AGE
PEACE
FOUNDATION


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It is now **85 seconds to midnight**

2026 Doomsday Clock Statement

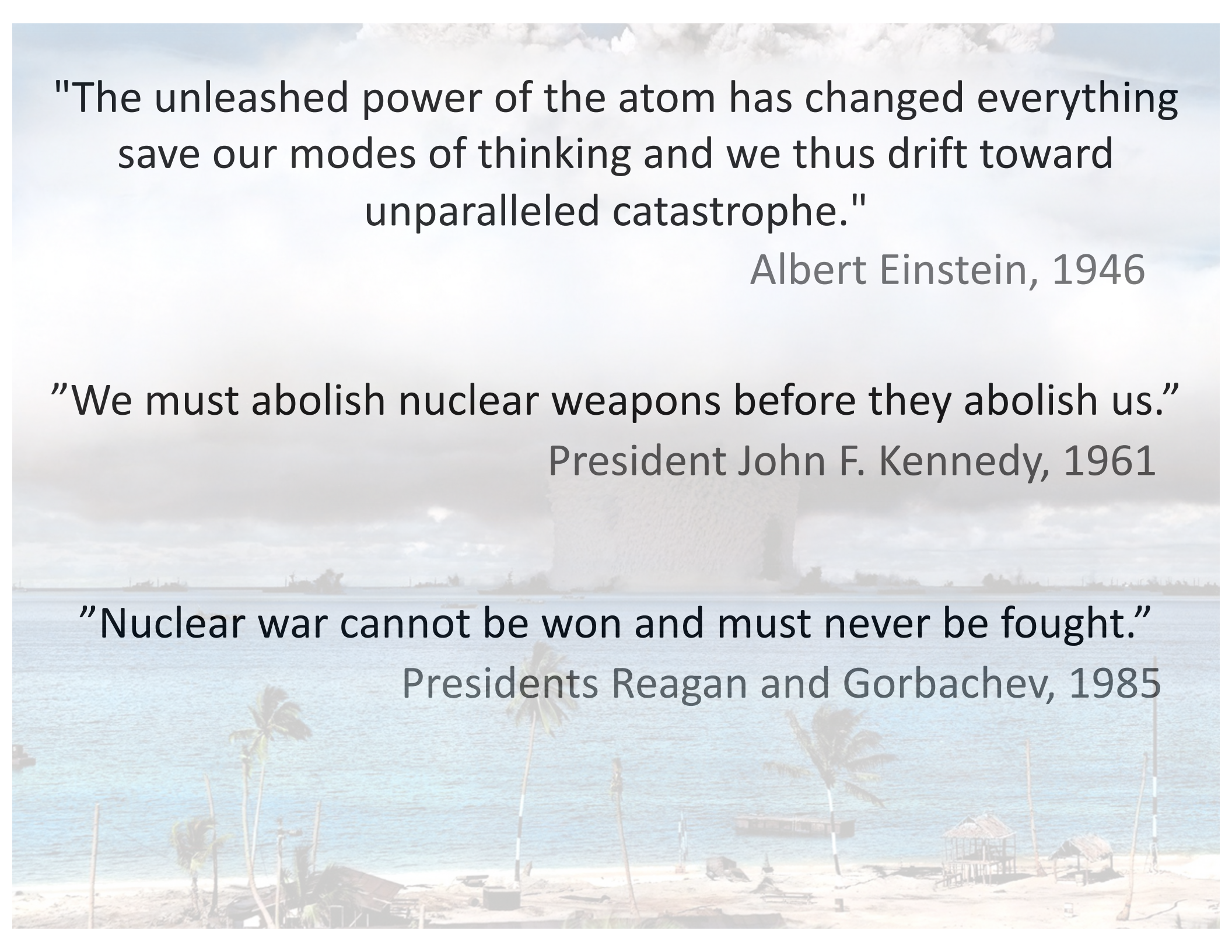
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"The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking and we thus drift toward unparalleled catastrophe."

Albert Einstein, 1946

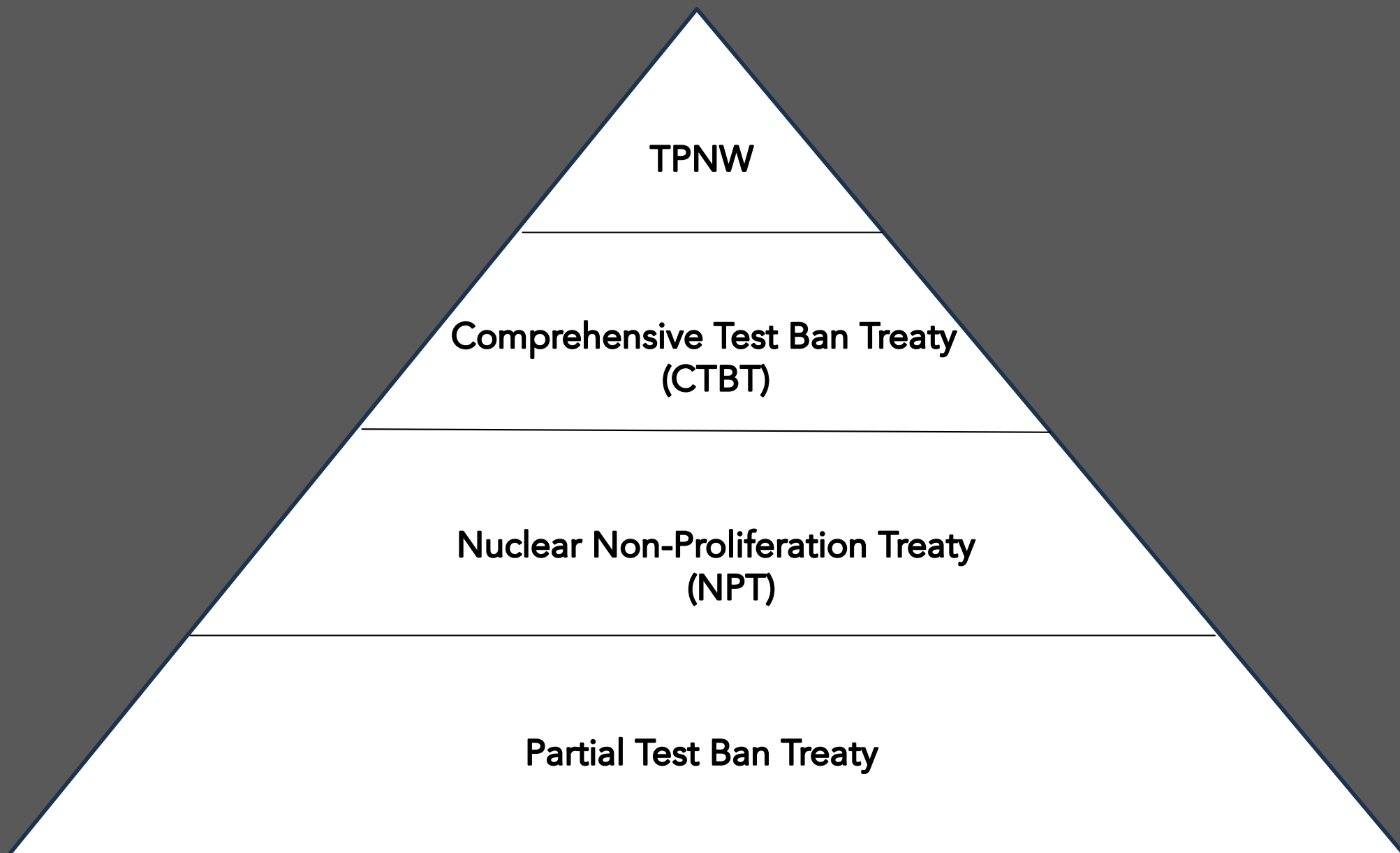
"We must abolish nuclear weapons before they abolish us."

President John F. Kennedy, 1961

"Nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought."

Presidents Reagan and Gorbachev, 1985

International Nuclear Disarmament Architecture



Partial Test Ban Treaty



- Bans nuclear testing in the atmosphere, under water, and in outer space
- Negotiated and entered into force in 1963 (Soviet Union, UK, US)
- 94 ratifications and 23 accessions
- China, France, and North Korea never joined

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)



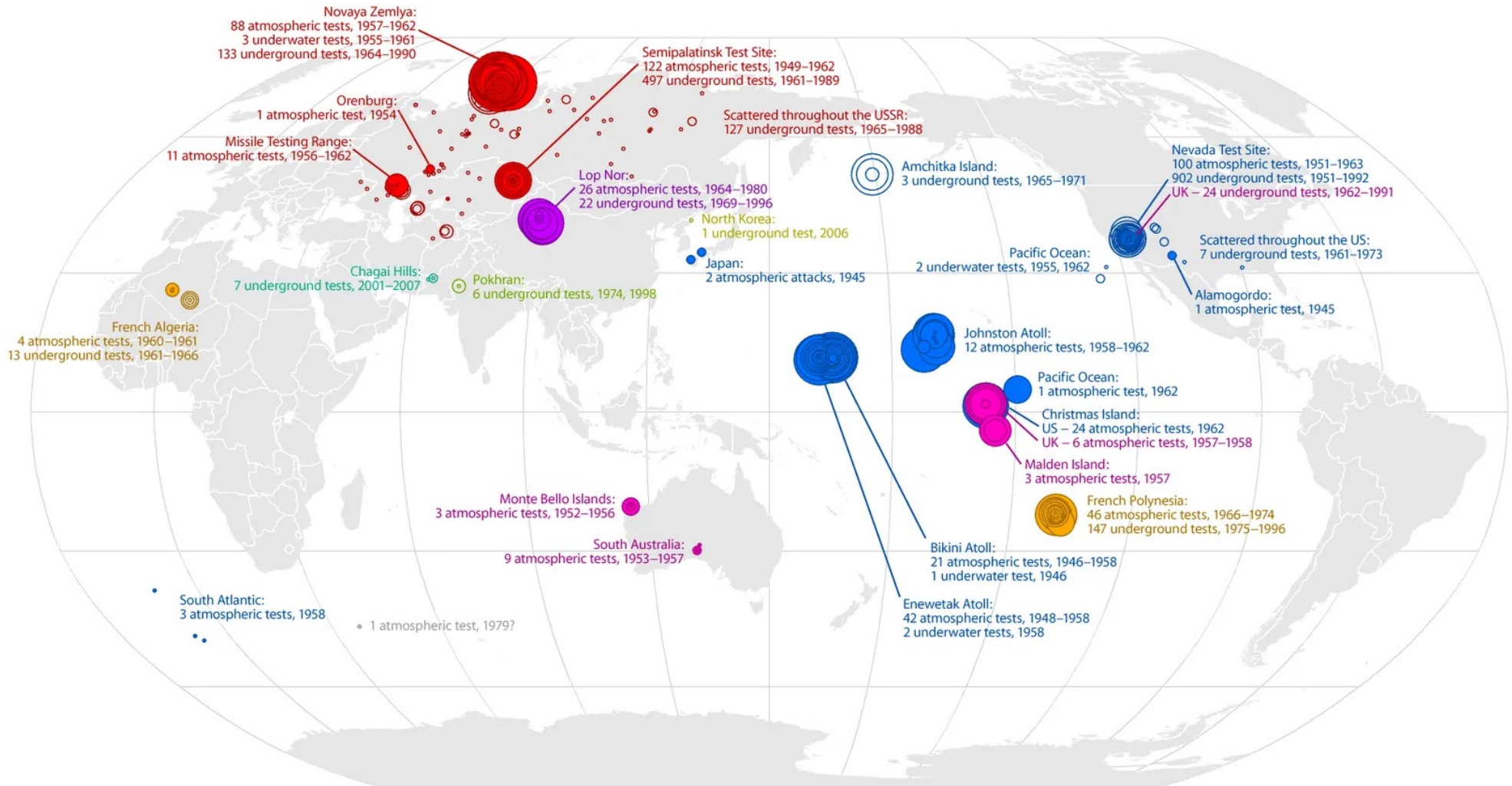
- Three pillars: non-proliferation, “peaceful use,” and disarmament
- Negotiated in 1968 and entered into force in 1970
- 188 states parties (+ two observers); China and France joined in 1992
- India, Israel, Pakistan, North Korea not parties

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)



- Bans all nuclear explosions, whether for military or civilian purposes
- Opened for signatures in 1996; has not entered into force
- 177 ratifications (Russia withdrew theirs in 2023)
- China, Egypt, Iran, Israel, US – signed but not ratified; North Korea and Pakistan – not signed

Nuclear Explosions since 1945



Country:	Year of first detonation:	Number of detonations:		
		atmospheric	underground	underwater
United States	1945	206	912	5
USSR	1949	223	756	3
United Kingdom	1952	21	24	
France	1960	50	160	
China	1964	22	26	
Israel?	1967 ?			
India	1974		6	
South Africa?	1979 ?	1 ?		

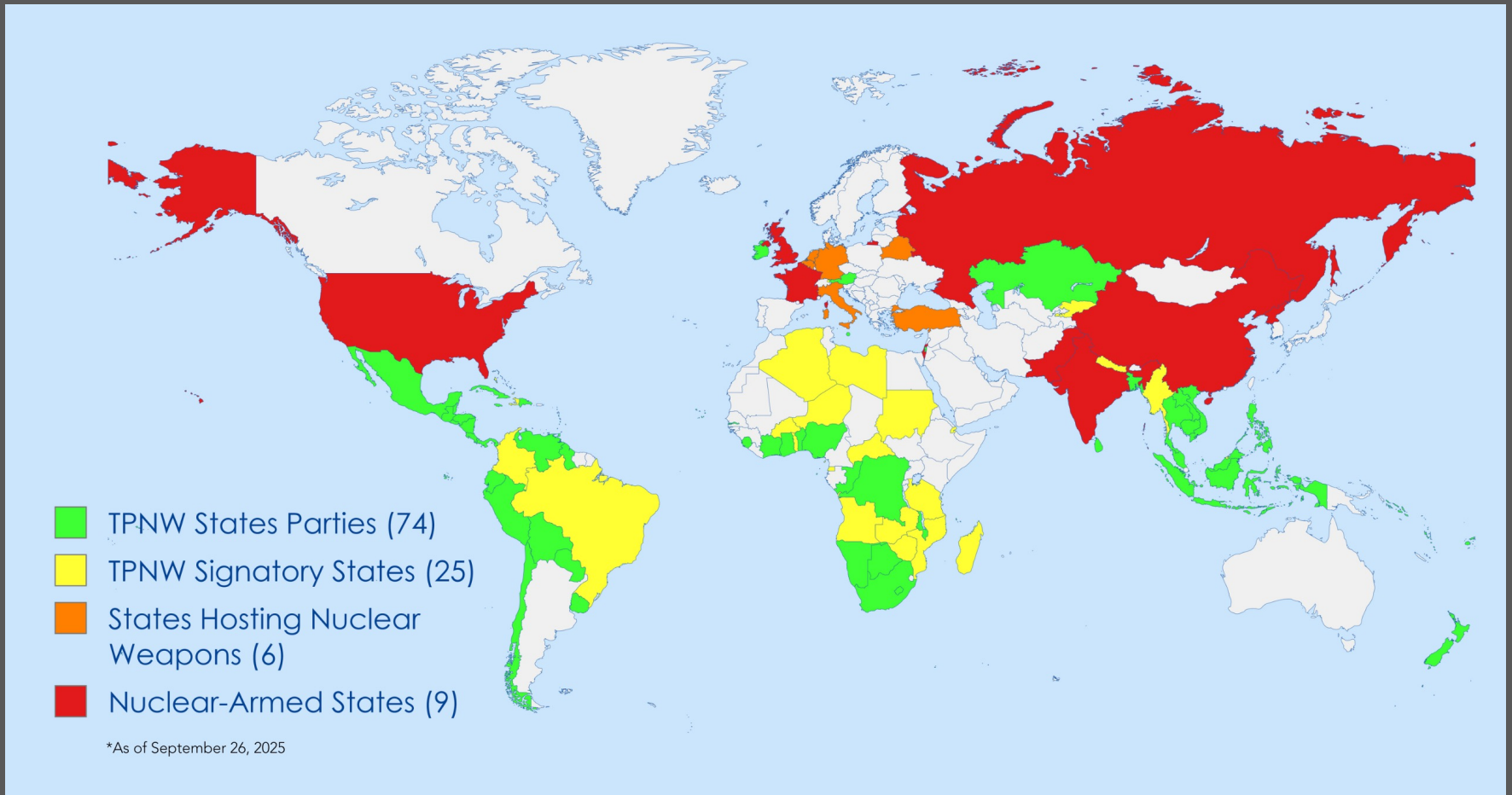
Each explosion is represented by a circle. Many of these circles overlap.

- Filled circles are atmospheric detonations
- Hollow circles are underground or underwater tests

The size of each circle represents the yield of the blast. The scale is not linear:

— more than 20 megatons

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons



- Negotiated in 2017
- Entered into force in 2021
- Bans all nuclear weapon activities
- Humanitarian provisions for victim assistance and environmental remediation