

# 12 Steps to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons

"He who knows how to guide a leader in the path of Tao does not try to override the world with military might."

— *Tao Te Ching*, chapter 30

"They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nations, nor will they train for war anymore."

— *Bible*, Isaiah 2:4

"Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I'll meet you there."

— Rumi

"If politics had never called in the aid of religion...it would probably have dealt equally and impartially with all the different sects....The teachers of each little sect...would be obliged to respect those of almost every other sect; and the concessions which they would...make one to another [would] probably reduce the doctrine of the greater part of them to that pure and rational religion, free from every mixture of absurdity, imposture, or fanaticism, such as wise men have, in all ages of the world, wished to see established."

— *The Wealth of Nations*, Adam Smith (1776)

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof"

— Amendment I, *U.S. Constitution* (1791)

"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion"

— Article 18, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948)

"Love alone is capable of uniting living beings in such a way as to complete and fulfill them, for it alone takes them and joins them by what is deepest in themselves."

— *The Phenomenon of Man*, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1955)

1. After the American Revolutionary War, 13 former British colonies joined together peacefully to become the United States of America.
2. After World War II, which included the only use of nuclear weapons, the nations of the world peacefully established the United Nations.
3. The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) opened for signatures in 1968, went into force in 1970, and was extended indefinitely in 1995. 191 States joined the Treaty, including the 5 largest nuclear weapon States. It is still the only binding commitment in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear weapon States. Safeguards under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) verify compliance through inspections.
4. In 1993, 12 Western European nations joined together peacefully to form the European Union. As of 2022, there are 27 nations in the European Union, including 16 additional nations in Central and Eastern Europe minus the UK.
5. In 2016, the First Committee of the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to convene negotiations in 2017 on a "legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination." The voting result was 113 nations in favor and 35 against, with 13 abstentions. In 2021, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force with 86 signatory states. 69 nations did not vote, among them all of the nuclear weapon states and all NATO members except the Netherlands. It is the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons with the ultimate goal being their total elimination.
6. Nations with nuclear weapons are not likely to eliminate them until there is credible assurance international disputes will be resolved peacefully.

7. For international disputes to be resolved peacefully, there need to be additional effective global governmental structures (similar to the World Trade Organization that resolves disputes involving international trade).
8. To create the necessary additional effective global governmental structures, there needs to be a healthy global culture that is both diverse and unified.
9. Creating a healthy global culture that is both diverse and unified may require a global enlightenment.
10. A global enlightenment can result from people all over the world, including national leaders, connecting deeply with people in other cultures through dialogue based on the foundational texts of major spiritual traditions, including the *Tao Te Ching* (Taoism), *Bhagavad Gita* (Hinduism), *Dhammapada* (Buddhism), *Quran* (Islam), and *Bible* (Judaism and Christianity).
11. A global enlightenment can lead to a healthy global culture that is both diverse and unified; and to the global governmental structures necessary to provide credible assurance international disputes will be resolved peacefully.
12. Credible assurance international disputes will be resolved peacefully can lead to the end of war, including the elimination of nuclear weapons, and to many other benefits for people throughout the world.