

LETTER TO THE EDITOR of the DESERET NEWS 9/12/19

What do you call it when someone threatens to blow up your house? If it's an individual driving a car bomb it's called terrorism; if it's a state brandishing nuclear weapons it's called deterrence. Of course state-sponsored terrorism is a deterrent, and that's a benefit. But regarding "How an announcement in Utah signaled that the new nuclear arms race is on" (Deseret News, Aug 29), we need to look at the costs as well:

- 1) Expense. As Tom Collina put it, "We built (the ground-based missiles) during the Cold War and we're about to spend \$100 billion to rebuild this thing."
- 2) Effectiveness. Nuclear weapons were not used in the Korean and Vietnam wars, thankfully; and they do not protect us from airline hijackers, cyber criminals, or other small attacks.
- 3) Example. If we develop new nuclear weapons other countries will follow our lead.
- 4) Environment. Nuclear bombing could produce enough smoke to block the sun, and even a week of cold would cause crop failure and mass starvation. There would be severe disruption to basic utilities and all the supports of civilization. How would survivors cope?
- 5) Extermination. Even if our county won a nuclear conflict, would we want to be responsible for burning, crushing, and radioactively poisoning millions of innocent people and innumerable other living things?

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