CONSENT

Online Consent to Participate in a Research Study

Purpose:
We are conducting a research study to examine attitudes relevant to American nuclear policy.

Procedures:
Participation in this study will involve completing a short survey which will take you approximately 5 minutes.

Risks and Benefits:
It is unlikely, but possible, that participants in this study may experience distress over the nature of the questions. Although this study will not benefit you personally, we hope that our results will add to the knowledge about public preferences on this topic.

Confidentiality:
All of your responses will be anonymous. When we publish any results from this study, we will do so in a way that does not identify you. We may also share the data with other researchers so that they can check the accuracy of our conclusions but will only do so if we are confident that your anonymity is protected.

Voluntary Participation:
Participation in this study is completely voluntary. You are free to decline to participate, to end participation at any time for any reason, or to refuse to answer any individual question. Refusing to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits or compensation to which you are otherwise entitled.

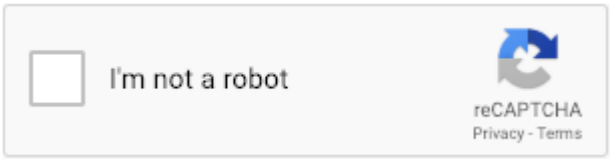
Questions:
If you have any questions about this study, you may contact the investigator, Jonathon Baron at jonathon.baron@yale.edu.

If you would like to talk with someone other than the researcher to discuss problems or concerns, to discuss situations in the event that a member of the research team is not available, or to discuss your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Yale University Human Subjects Committee, (203) 785-4688, human.subjects@yale.edu. Additional information is available at http://www.yale.edu/hrpp/participants/index.html. The IRB Protocol Number is HIC/HSC #2000026191. Additional information is available at http://www.yale.edu/hrpp/participants/index.html.

Do you voluntarily consent to participate in this study?

- ◯ Yes, I would like to take part in this study.
- ◯ No, I would not like to participate.

Please verify that you are a human.



In what year were you born?

DEMOS

We'd first like to ask you a few questions about your background and your views on politics and policy.

What is your gender?

- ◯ Male

- Female
- Other

In which state do you live?

Thinking back over the last year, what was your family's annual income before taxes?

- Less than $15,000
- $15,000 to $24,999
- $25,000 to $49,999
- $50,000 to $74,999
- $75,000 to $99,999
- $100,000 to $149,999
- $150,000 to $199,999
- $200,000 to $249,999
- $250,000 to $499,999
- $500,000 to $999,999
- More than $1 million
- Prefer not to say

What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

- Did not graduate from high school
- High school graduate or equivalent (for example: GED)
- Some college, but no degree (yet)
- 2-year college degree
- 4-year college degree
- Postgraduate degree (MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, etc.)
- Other

POLITICS_POLICY

Here is a scale on which the political views that people might hold are arranged from very liberal to very conservative.

Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you thought much about this?

- Very liberal
- Liberal
- Moderate; middle of the road
- Conservative
- Very conservative
- Haven't thought much about this

What do you most closely identify as? A Democrat, a Republican, or Independent?

- Democrat
- Republican
- Independent

Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or to the Democratic Party?

- Closer to Republican
- Neither
- Closer to Democratic

TPNW_INT

Thank you for your answers so far.

Now we'd like to ask you a few questions that relate to nuclear policy.

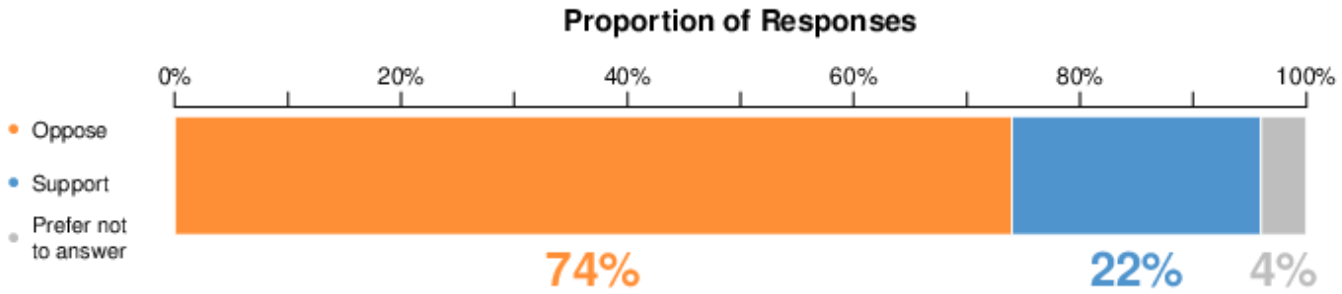
In 2017, 124 countries negotiated the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, known as the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty. No countries possessing nuclear weapons participated in the talks and most of their allies did not either.

The Ban would make nuclear weapons illegal. It would outlaw:

- Nuclear weapons development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, and transfer
- Using or threatening to use nuclear weapons
- Assisting or encouraging other countries to pursue these prohibited activities

TREAT_1

The graph below shows the responses of people who have already taken this survey. Those who answered other survey questions like you **do not support** the Ban Treaty.



TREAT_2

There are serious problems with the Ban Treaty, which is why the U.S. government **does not support** it. For example, the United States faces many rivals like China, North Korea, and Russia. The United States relies on its nuclear weapons for protection against these nuclear-armed threats. The Ban would require the United States to eliminate its nuclear weapons.

TREAT_3

There are serious problems with the Ban Treaty, which is why the U.S. government **does not support** it. For example, the Ban would undermine the powerful global standards established over the course of 50 years by the 1968 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) if countries view it as a replacement for this older agreement. The NPT laid out a long-term goal of global nuclear disarmament, set an expectation that countries would not acquire nuclear weapons, established inspections for civilian nuclear facilities, and prioritized peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

TREAT_4

There are serious problems with the Ban Treaty, which is why the U.S. government **does not support** it. For example, the Ban is a weak international institution that does not include any enforcement means to prevent countries from cheating by secretly keeping or building nuclear weapons. Other nuclear arms control treaties have featured hundreds of pages of detailed technical procedures for verification, including inspections. The Ban does not contain even a single sentence explaining how nuclear weapons would be eliminated under international supervision.

OUTCOMES

Do you think the United States should join the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Nuclear weapons are dangerous and present a threat to the world.	○	○	○	○
Nuclear weapons contribute to peace by preventing conflict between countries.	○	○	○	○
It is unacceptable to use nuclear weapons in any situation.	○	○	○	○
Nuclear weapons help to keep my country safe.	○	○	○	○
Now that nuclear weapons exist, they can never be eliminated.	○	○	○	○
Some countries will always cheat and disobey nuclear treaties.	○	○	○	○
Reducing the number of nuclear weapons over time is safer than immediate nuclear disarmament.	○	○	○	○

DEBRIEF

Thank you for your participation in this study. The goal of this study was to measure how public opinion on nuclear disarmament changes based on exposure to information. For this reason, some of the information you viewed today might not have been representative of the actual positions of governments or your fellow survey-takers.

The purpose of this study was not to deceive you, but rather to allow you to respond naturally to a series of statements. We believe that this study is important because it allows us to better understand attempts to influence U.S. public opinion. All of the information that we collected today will be kept in complete confidentiality. We are not interested in individual responses. Instead, we are interested in the general responses of

all participants when they are combined together. If you have any questions about your participation in this study, please contact the lead investigator.

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