

PEACELINE



DOOMSDAY CLOCK: 90 SECONDS TO MIDNIGHT

The Doomsday Clock, a symbol of humanity's proximity to global catastrophe, now remains standing at its closest ever to midnight: 90 seconds. It's a metaphorical countdown to destruction, updated based on expert perceptions of existential threats. This ominous assessment by the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists underscores the gravity of the current global landscape reflecting mounting dangers, including the war in Ukraine, nuclear threats, political tensions, and the looming spectre of climate change. The experts overseeing the clock, including Nobel laureates, meticulously evaluate these factors, signalling the urgency for global action.

In the midst of concerning developments, Defense Secretary Grant Shapps is pushing for increased military intervention and readiness. The recent joint attack on Yemen by US, UK, and allied forces highlights this eagerness, heightening tensions in the Middle East and underscoring the volatile situation. This emphasises the urgent need to de-escalate the conflict in Gaza to prevent further escalation. Shapps' stance is particularly alarming given the troubling incident of January 30th, the second in recent years, when a TRIDENT missile dramatically misfired and crashed into the ocean yards from the British nuclear submarine that launched it. The Ministry of Defence confirmed an "anomaly occurred" during an exercise off Florida, with a source describing the missile as leaving the submarine only to plummet into the water nearby, indicating a serious and potentially dangerous mistake.

Israel's nuclear arsenal, estimated between 90 to 300 weapons, raises grave concerns. Recent construction at the Negev Nuclear Research Centre suggests potential enhancements to Israel's capabilities. With air, land, and sea-based delivery systems, Israel can inflict catastrophic damage on its neighbours, acting with impunity in Gaza and beyond. The historical involvement of the US and UK in Israel's nuclear program highlights their double standards. While condemning nuclear proliferation, both nations facilitated Israel's nuclear ambitions. Britain's role in supplying heavy water to Israel in the 1950s highlights this complicity.

Public opinion reflects a widespread apprehension regarding the prospects of another world war. Recent polling data indicates that a majority of Britons believe that such a conflict is likely within the next decade, with 53% of respondents expressing this concern. Furthermore, geopolitical conjectures suggest potential alliances and adversaries in the event of a global conflict, with the West anticipated to prevail against rivals such as Russia and China, according to 44%.

Throughout its history, the clock has fluctuated, reflecting shifts in political, nuclear, and climate landscapes. Despite occasional positive strides, such as the Paris climate agreement, the trend has been towards increased danger. Even in the aftermath of COVID-19, the clock remained at a precarious 100 seconds to midnight in 2020. As the clock ticks closer to midnight, urgent global action is imperative to address the pressing threats facing humanity, including nuclear proliferation and conflict escalation.

Send news and any topics of importance to: PeacelineCND@gmail.com

News roundup

Westinghouse begins UK licensing process for AP300

The company has formally submitted an application to the UK Department of Energy Security and Net Zero for approval to enter the Generic Design Assessment (GDA) for the AP300 small modular reactor.

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AI Launches Nukes In ‘Worrying’ War Simulation: ‘I Just Want to Have Peace in the World’

“Researchers say AI models like GPT4 are prone to “sudden” escalations as the U.S. military explores their use for warfare”

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UK to test fire nuclear missile from submarine in the Atlantic

“Dummy warhead to launch from HMS Vanguard, off Florida’s east coast, before vessel re-enters service after seven-year refit”

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Hundreds of military vehicles leave for Nato exercise

Marchwood, near Southampton, by the 17 Port and Maritime Regiment.

About 90,000 troops from Nato countries are putting defence plans to the test as part of Steadfast Defender.

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Upcoming events

‘Ukraine: how to stop this war’ - international online rally hosted by CND and Stop The War

Saturday 24th February, 2-3:30pm

‘Lakenheath: its role in the US war machine’ - CND Webinar

Monday 26th February 6:30-7:45pm

Hans Kristensen (Federation of American Scientists); Roger McKenzie (CND Vice-President); Tom Unterrainer (CND Chair); and Kate Hudson (CND General Secretary)

Labour CND 2024 Conference

Sunday 3rd March

CND Responding to Spring Budget

6th March

Pat Arrowsmith - Commemoration

18th April

Staying Social



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No matter how monstrous or appalling an attack or provocation, genocide is never a permitted response.

#CeasefireNow #GazaGlobalAction

