 Glossary – The Nuclear Age

| Term | Definition |
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| Arms race | A competition between nations for superiority in the development and accumulation of weapons. |
| Atomic bomb | A bomb which derives its destructive power from the rapid release of nuclear energy by fission of heavy atomic nuclei, causing damage through heat, blast, and radioactivity. |
| Capacity | The amount that something can contain or produce. |
| Détente | The easing of hostility or strained relations, especially between countries. |
| Deterrence | The action of discouraging an action or event through instilling doubt or fear of the consequences. |
| Disarmament | The reduction or withdrawal of military forces and weapons. |
| Doctrine | A stated principle of government policy, mainly in foreign or military affairs |
| Fallout | Radioactive particles that are carried into the atmosphere after a nuclear explosion and gradually fall back as dust or in precipitation. |
| Legacy | Something left or handed down by a predecessor |
| Mutually assured destruction | A doctrine of military strategy and national security policy in which a full-scale use of nuclear weapons by two or more opposing sides would cause the complete annihilation of both the attacker and the defender |
| Non-proliferation | The prevention of an increase or spread of something, especially the number of countries possessing nuclear weapons. |
| Nuclear | Denoting, relating to, or powered by the energy released in nuclear fission or fusion |
| Parity | The state or condition of being equal |
| Proliferation | Rapid increase in the number or amount of something |