

Spending into Oblivion: The Cost of the Nuclear Arms Race

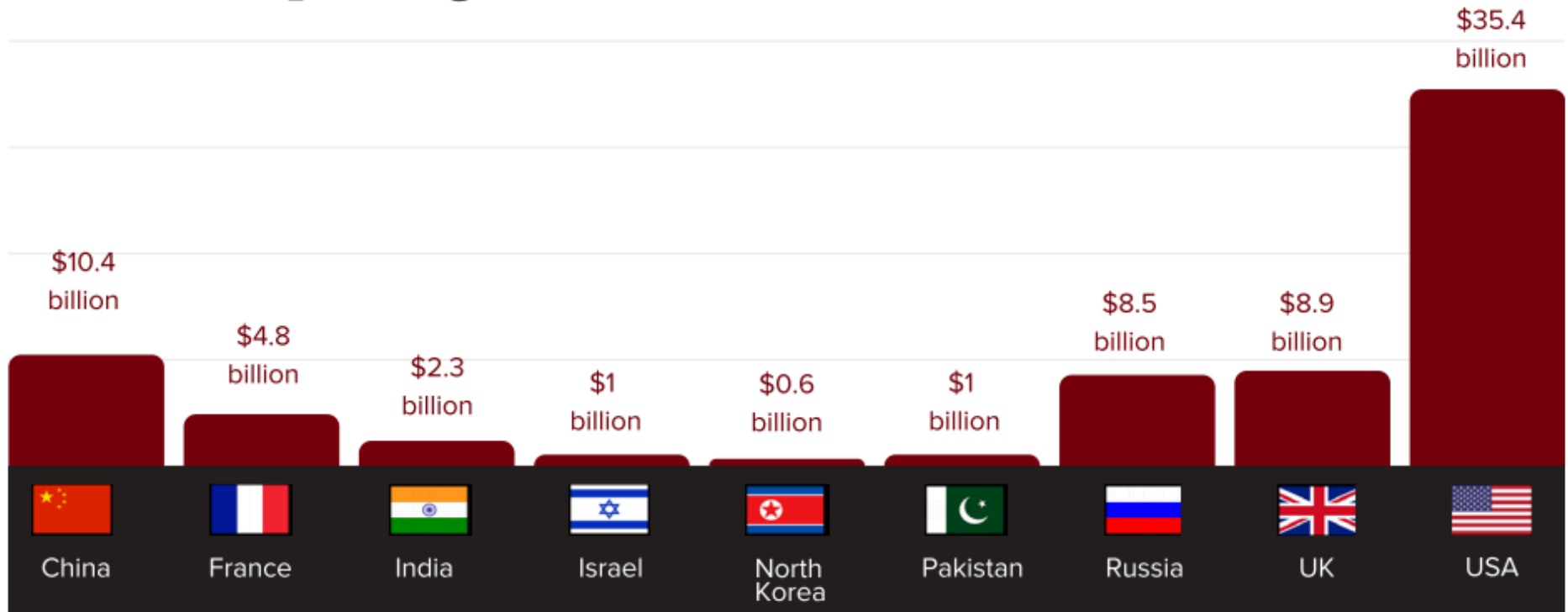
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International Campaign
to Abolish Nuclear
Weapons

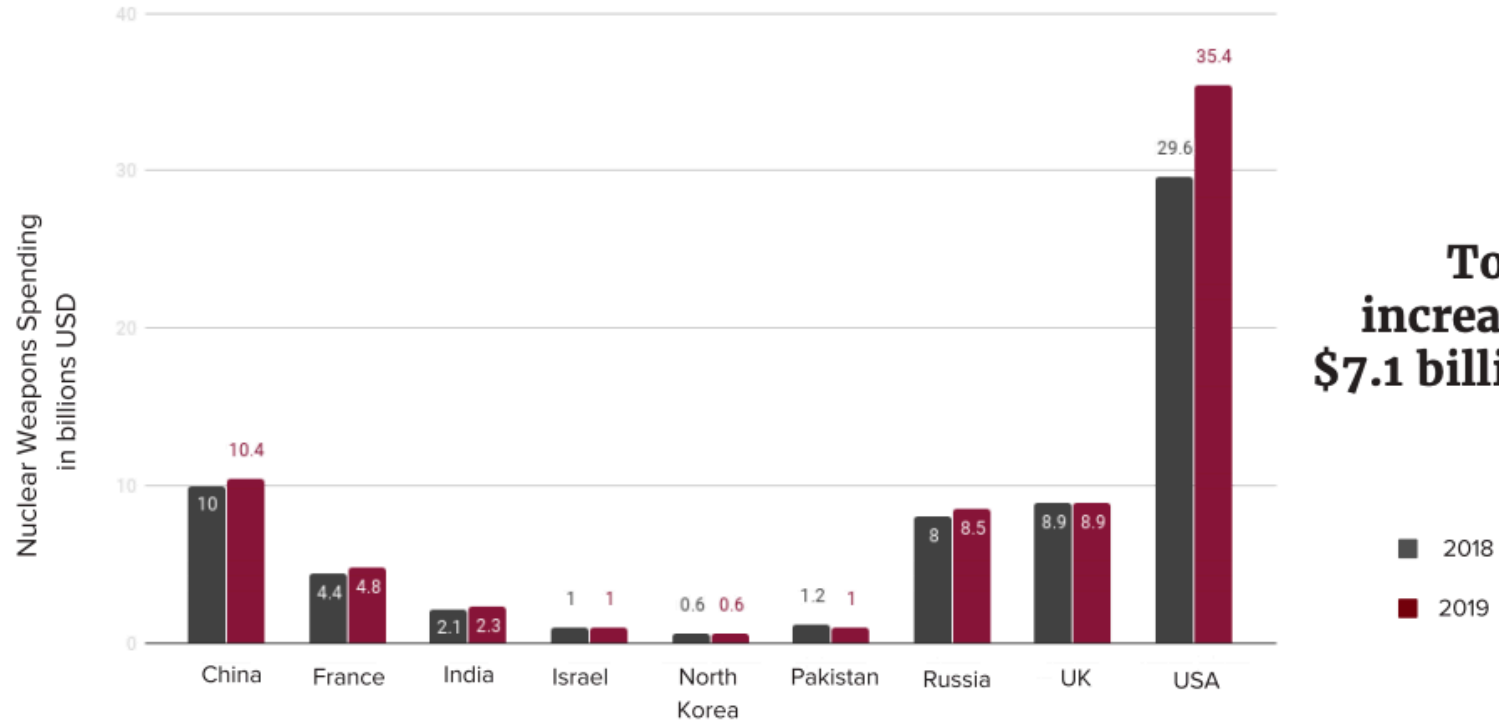
3 June 2020

Enough is Enough: 2019 Global Nuclear Weapons Spending, May 2020

Total 2019 spending: \$72.9 billion



In 2019, nuclear-armed states spent \$138,699 a minute on nuclear weapons.



**Total
increase:
\$7.1 billion**



Behind the Numbers

- Costs include nuclear warhead and nuclear-capable delivery systems operating costs and development
 - Based on open-source annual budget documents and regional experts' estimates
 - Full costs, including victim assistance payments and environmental clean-up, likely much higher
 - Country-by-country explanation of estimates included in [full report](#)
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€4.55
BILLION

**ANNUAL COST
FOR FRENCH
NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

OR



100,000

**BEDS IN
INTENSIVE
CARE**

+



10,000

VENTILATORS

+



20,000

NURSES

+



10,000

DOCTORS

Pandemic
priorities

Sources:

https://www.icanw.org/healthcare_costs

Nuclear Weapons Spending and the NPT



“Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to **cessation of the nuclear arms race** at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.”

Article VI, Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty





NPT & TPNW pave the way for divestment

- The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons build a strong legal case for divestment from nuclear weapons
- [PAX research shows](#) that a factor in the decision of financial institutions to divest from a weapon is its status under international law
- [NYC Resolution 976](#) calls for divestment of NYC pension funds from companies involved in production and maintenance of nuclear weapons



Recommendations

- States-parties to the NPT must:
 - Reiterate the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament to which all States parties are committed under Article VI
 - Condemn nuclear-armed states' qualitative and quantitative advancement of their nuclear arsenals
 - NYC residents call on NYC Council Members to advance [Res 976](#) to a vote to divest NYC pension funds from nuclear weapons companies
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