



**Give Me Liberty Or...**





# Open Borders: Important Concepts

**Question:**

**Are we justified in forcibly preventing would-be immigrants from living in the United States?**

Huemer ([2010](#)) argues that...

Not allowing immigrants (who are suffering from poverty, oppression, etc.) into the country is a prima facie rights violation.

Moreover, the economic objection to open borders is flat out wrong (Huemer 2010: 437).



**“At the same time, economists are nearly unanimous in agreeing that the overall economic effects of immigration on existing Americans are positive” (437).**



**“Some economists have accused immigration opponents of overlooking the economic benefits of immigration due to a bias against foreigners or members of other races” (438; see also [Caplan 2011: 58-9](#)).**



Caplan's references:

Borjas, George. 1994. "[The Economics of Immigration](#)." *Journal of Economic Literature* 32(4): 1667–1717.

Lee, R., & Miller, T. (2000). [Immigration, social security, and broader fiscal impacts](#). *American Economic Review*, 90(2), 350-354.

Simon, J. L., Ungar, S. J., & Moore, S. (1999). [The economic consequences of immigration](#). University of Michigan press.



S | D E B A R

# According to Radford (2019)...

1. Most immigrants (77%) are in the country legally, while almost a quarter are unauthorized.
2. Mexico is the [top origin country](#) of the U.S. immigrant population.
3. New immigrant arrivals have fallen, mainly due to a decrease in the number of unauthorized immigrants coming to the U.S.  
The drop in the unauthorized immigrant population can primarily be attributed to more Mexican immigrants [leaving the U.S. than coming in](#).
4. The Obama administration deported about 3 million immigrants, a significantly higher number than the Bush administration. In 2017, the Trump administration deported 295,000 immigrants, the lowest total since 2006.



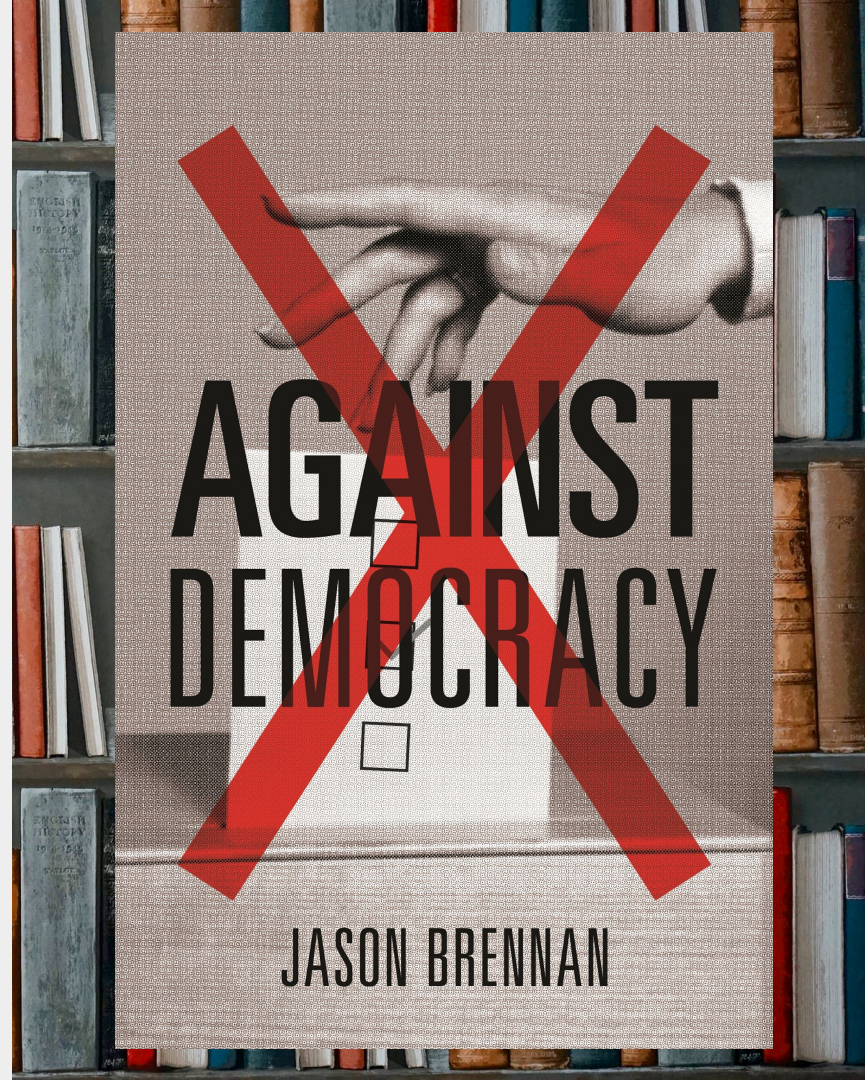
*Food for thought...*

**Question:**

**Could a majority of voters be systematically wrong on the issue of open borders?**

That's what Brennan (2016) thinks about voters on all important issues.

He argues that most voters are ignorant, irrational and misinformed about basic issues relating to the polity; some are **worse than misinformed** (since they are systematically misinformed due to belief in, for example, conspiracy theories).



A group of people are seated around a table in what appears to be a meeting or collaborative work environment. The image is taken from an overhead perspective, showing the backs and sides of several individuals. They are engaged in conversation, with some hands visible near papers and a white cup on the table. The lighting is warm and focused on the table area.

**“[T]he consensus among published economic work on immigration seems to be that the restriction introduced by mostly closed borders on labor mobility is the single most inefficient thing governments do...**

**[O]ther [voter] worries about immigration are equally wrong... Empirical studies tend to show that immigrants are less likely to commit crime than are natives, and other empirical studies demonstrate that immigration boosts most domestic workers’ wages while generally only hurting the wages of high school dropouts”**  
**(Brennan 2016: 192).**





# Parenting Licenses: Important Concepts

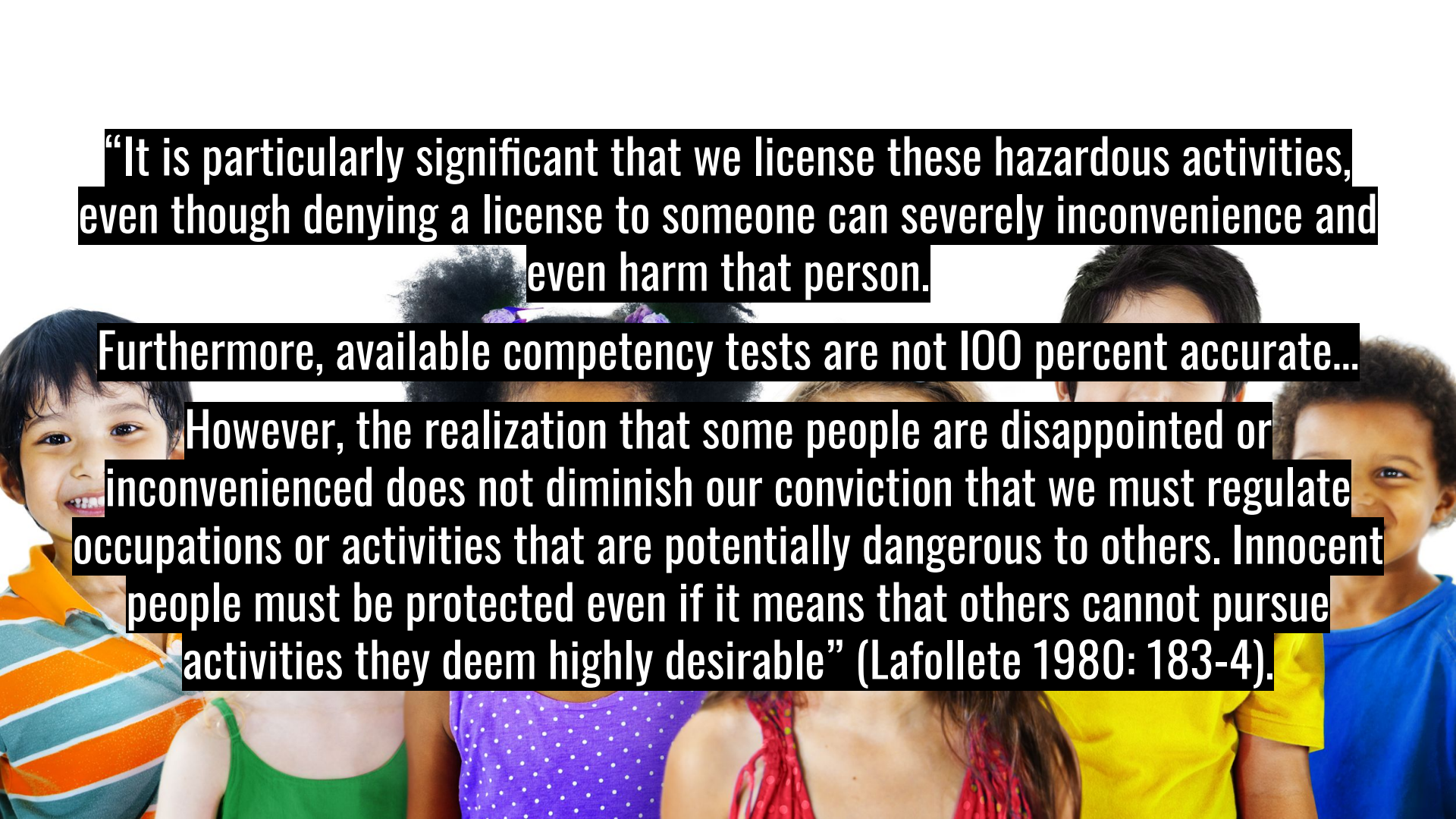


Lafollete ([1980](#)) argues that...

**We should regulate childrearing in the form of requiring licenses in order to legally raise a child.**

**Lafollete's  
Initial  
Assumption  
(p. 183)**

**Any activity that is potentially harmful to others and requires certain demonstrated competence for its safe performance is subject to regulation.**

A group of diverse children of various ethnicities and ages are smiling and looking towards the camera. They are wearing colorful clothing: a striped shirt, a green tank top, a purple polka-dot top, a red top, a yellow shirt, and a blue shirt. The text is overlaid on the image in white font on a black background.

**“It is particularly significant that we license these hazardous activities, even though denying a license to someone can severely inconvenience and even harm that person.**

**Furthermore, available competency tests are not 100 percent accurate...**

**However, the realization that some people are disappointed or inconvenienced does not diminish our conviction that we must regulate occupations or activities that are potentially dangerous to others. Innocent people must be protected even if it means that others cannot pursue activities they deem highly desirable” (Lafollete 1980: 183-4).**

**Lafollete's First  
Criterion for  
Regulation:  
Potential Harm**

Parenting is an activity  
potentially very harmful to  
children.

**Lafollete's  
Second Criterion  
for Regulation:  
Competency  
Requirement**

A parent must be competent if he or she is to avoid harming his children; even greater competence is required if he is to do the "job" well.

**Clearly...**

**Not everyone has this minimal competence.**


**Many people lack the knowledge needed to rear children adequately.**

**Many others lack the requisite energy, temperament, or stability.**





*Food for thought...*

A photograph of a public event, likely a pride parade or community gathering. In the foreground, a large rainbow flag is laid out on the grass. A man in a white suit jacket is walking across the flag. To the left, a man in a white t-shirt and khaki pants is kneeling and taking a photo with a professional camera. In the background, there are green trees and a building with a sign that says "Breeze".

**“Once these features of our adoption policies are clearly identified, it becomes quite apparent that there are striking parallels between the general licensing program I have advocated and our present adoption system.**

**Both programs have the same aim—protecting children. Both have the same drawbacks and are subject to the same abuses.**

**The only obvious dissimilarity is that the adoption requirements are more rigorous than those proposed for the general licensing program” (Lafollete 1980: 194; emphasis added).**





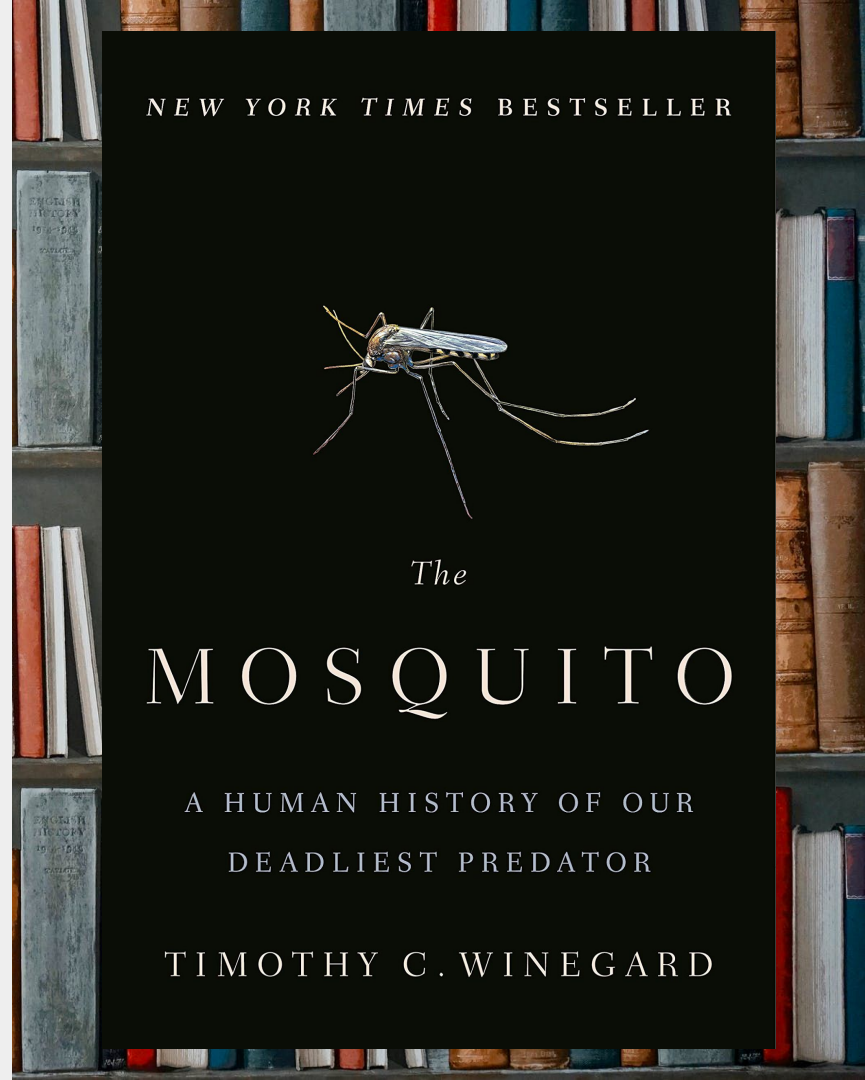


# Biohacking: Important Concepts

Chapter 19 of Winegard (2019) begins with a description of modern mosquito-borne viral outbreaks, for example West Nile Virus and Zika. Winegard then moves on to the consideration of **annihilation**.

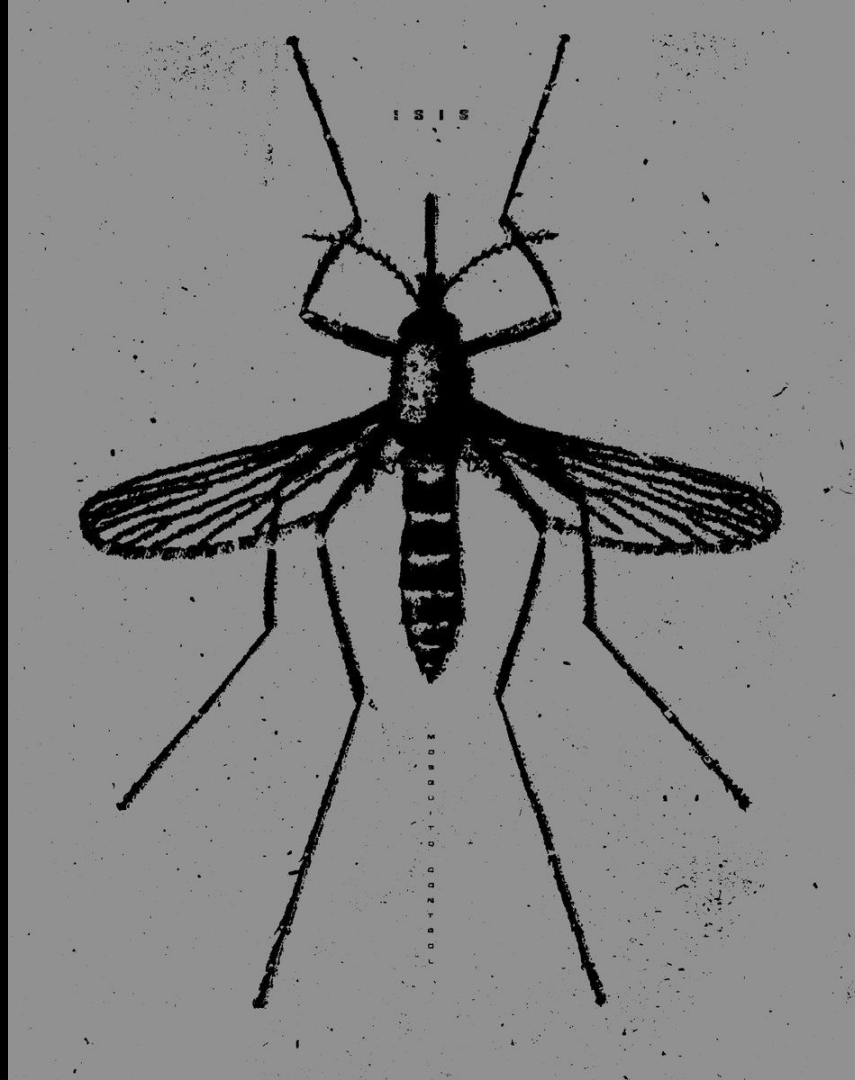
Perhaps, using gene-editing technology, we can engineer mosquitoes so as to not be vectors for disease.

Alternatively, we can engineer mosquitoes out of existence.



**On the one hand, one might argue, we are rapidly approaching a population size that is past the ecological carrying capacity of our planet.**

**To obliterate the greatest killer of the human species could throw off the delicate balance of our global ecosystem.**



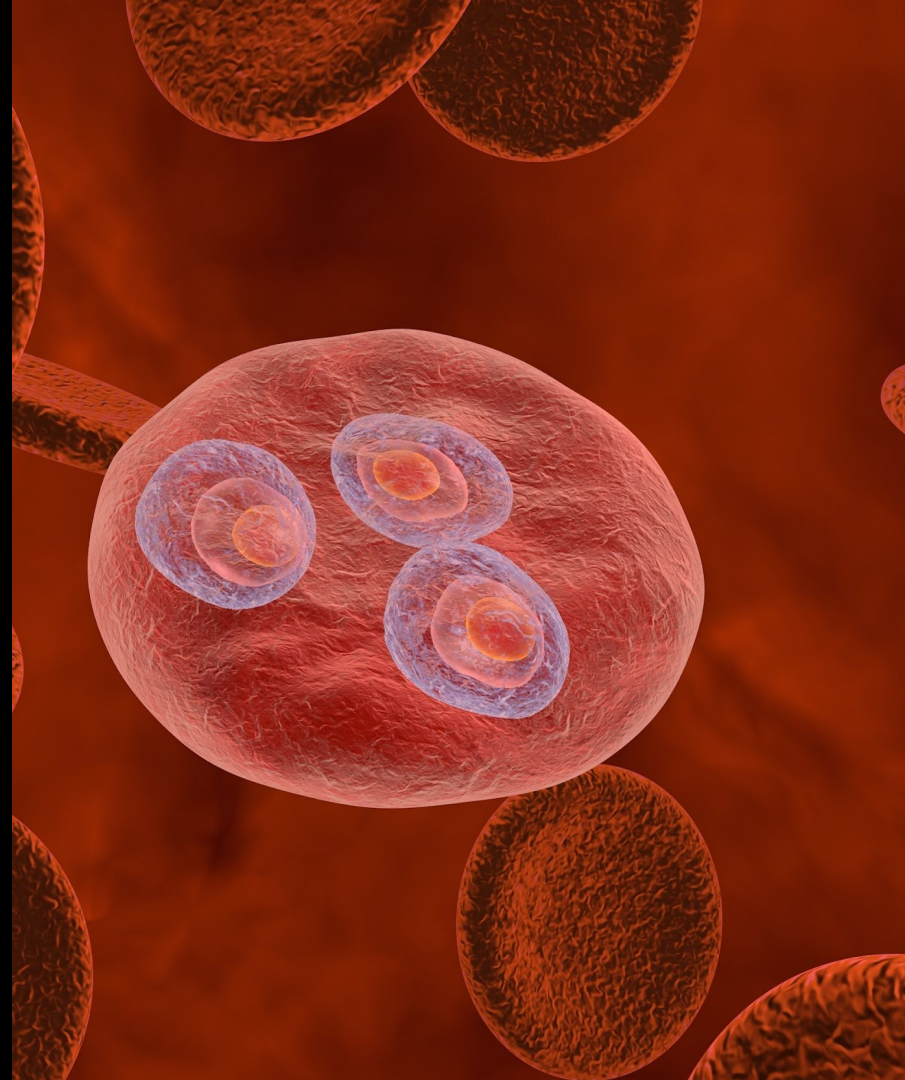


**We must remember that we are a part of a global system that we are already impacting in potentially catastrophic ways.**

**Can we really be so sure that eliminating this population dampener is a good idea?**

**On the other hand, if we care about justice and fairness, we must obliterate this massive killer as soon as is feasibly possible.**

**This is because diseases like malaria disproportionately affect some continents (e.g., Africa) and not others (e.g., North America).**



An abstract digital graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a dark blue background with several bright green triangles of varying sizes and orientations. A series of thin, light blue lines and dots form a pattern that resembles a stylized '31' or a similar digital character. The overall aesthetic is futuristic and data-oriented.

**In fact, the economic cost of malaria and other diseases might be part of why Africa consists mostly of developing countries.**

**As such, considerations of the equality of all peoples behoove us to eradicate this disease and its carrier.**

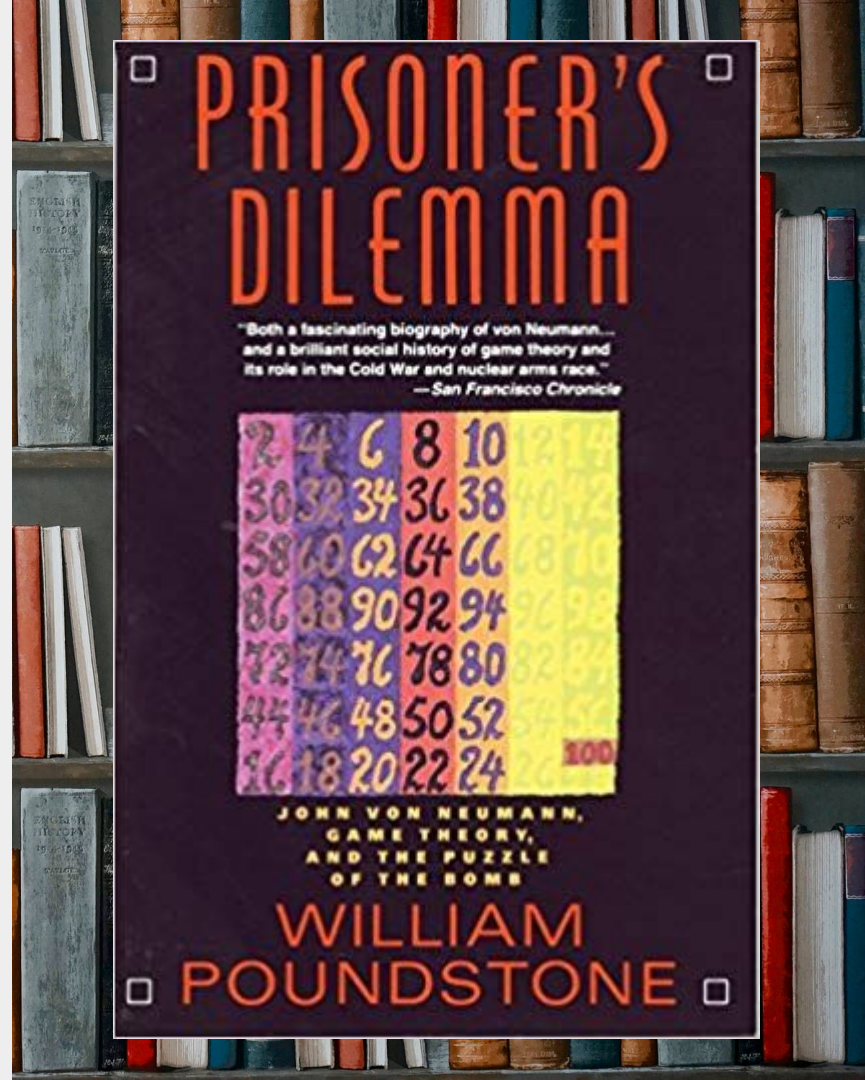






# **Nuclear Weapons: Important Concepts**

William Poundstone's (1992) *Prisoner's Dilemma* is an all-in-one introduction to game theory, a biography of John Von Neumann, and an overview of the nuclear dilemma during the Cold War.



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# Storytime!





**Berlin surrenders to Marshall Zuhov (USSR), May 2nd 1945**



**Japanese Premier Suzuki announces Japan  
will “fight to the last”, June 9th 1945**



**The Trinity Test (U.S.), July 16th 1945**



**Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 6th and 9th 1945**

"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times.

LATE CITY EDITION

Sunny with low humidity today.  
Partly cloudy, warmer tomorrow.  
Temperature yesterday—Max., 77; Min., 66  
Barometric today, 30.0 A. M.; Sunset, 6:52 P. M.

Copyright, 1945, by The New York Times Company.

VOL. XCIV .No. 31,974.

Entered as Second-Class Matter,  
Postoffice, New York, N. Y.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1945.

THREE CENTS NEW YORK CITY

# SOVIET DECLARES WAR ON JAPAN; ATTACKS MANCHURIA, TOKYO SAYS; ATOM BOMB LOOSED ON NAGASAKI

### TRUMAN TO REPORT TO PEOPLE TONIGHT ON BIG 3 AND WAR

### Half-Hour Speech by Radio to Cover a Wide Range of Prob- lems Facing the World

### HE SIGNS PEACE CHARTER

### And Thus Makes This Country the First to Complete All Ratification Requirements

By The Associated Press.  
WASHINGTON, Aug. 8—Presi-

### Foreigners Asked To Stay at Home

Special to The New York Times.  
WASHINGTON, Aug. 8—Dis-  
couragement of unessential travel  
by foreigners to the United  
States was ordered by the Gov-  
ernment today through the State  
Department.

"The Department of State has  
always traditionally done every-  
thing in its power to promote the  
travel of citizens of other  
countries of the Western Hemis-  
phere to the United States," said  
the announcement. "However,  
the United States Government is  
now engaged in a gigantic mili-  
tary operation in deploying forces  
and supplies from the European  
theatre to the Pacific area. This  
tremendous task places an un-  
precedented burden on the trans-  
portation system."

The citizens of other countries  
should realize the situation, the

### 2D BIG AERIAL BLOW

### Japanese Port Is Target For in Devastating New Midday Assault

### RESULT CALLED GOOD

### Foe Asserts Toll Is 'Un- —Assails 'Atrocity'

By W. H. LAWRENCE  
Special to The New York Times.  
CITIZENSHIP, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 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3769, 3770, 3771, 3772, 3773, 3774, 3775, 3776, 3777, 3778, 3779, 378





**Japan surrenders, August 14th 1945**



**McArthur accepts Japanese surrender, September 2nd 1945**



**USSR's first successful nuclear detonation, August 29th 1949**



**Chinese Communist Revolution, October 1st 1949**



*Food for thought...*

# Reasons for dropping the nuclear bombs

# The Utilitarian Calculus

What some may call the “official reason” is that dropping the atomic bombs would spare the U.S. a land invasion that would be very costly in terms of the lives of military personnel.

CREATING  
MILITARY  
POWER



**The Sources Of Military Effectiveness**

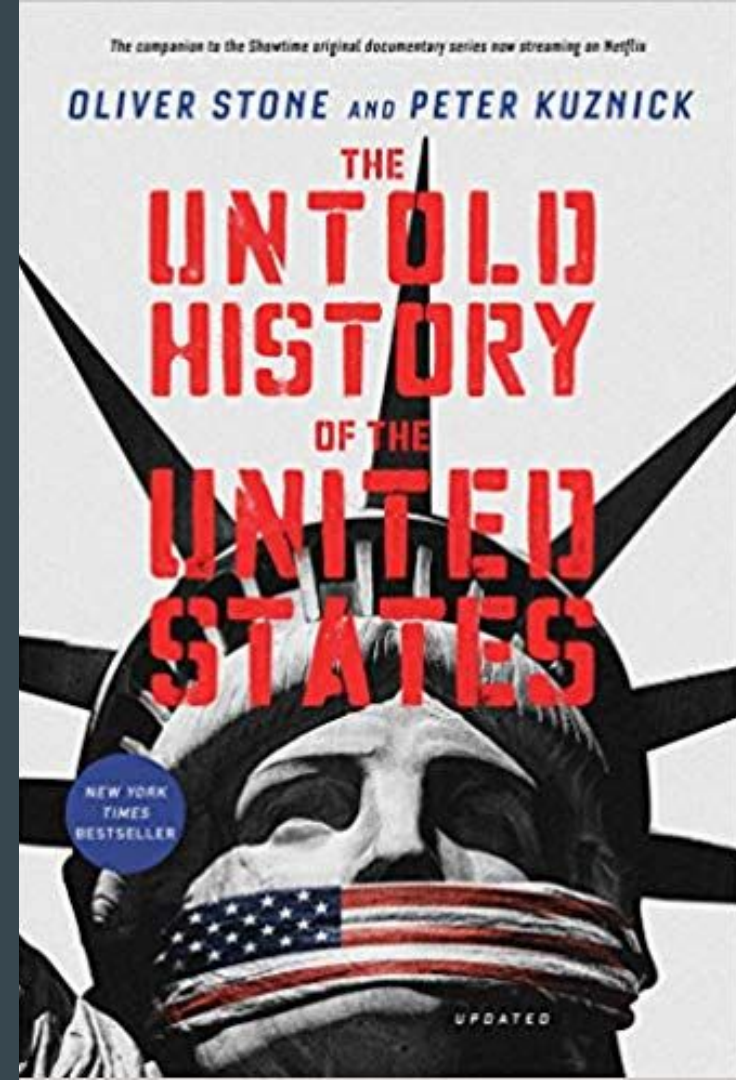
Edited by

Risa A. Brooks and

Elizabeth A. Stanley

# Intimidating the Soviets

Stone and Kuznick controversially argue that the principal reason for the atomic bombings was to intimidate the Soviet Union, the biggest threat to American hegemony after the fall of Germany and Japan.

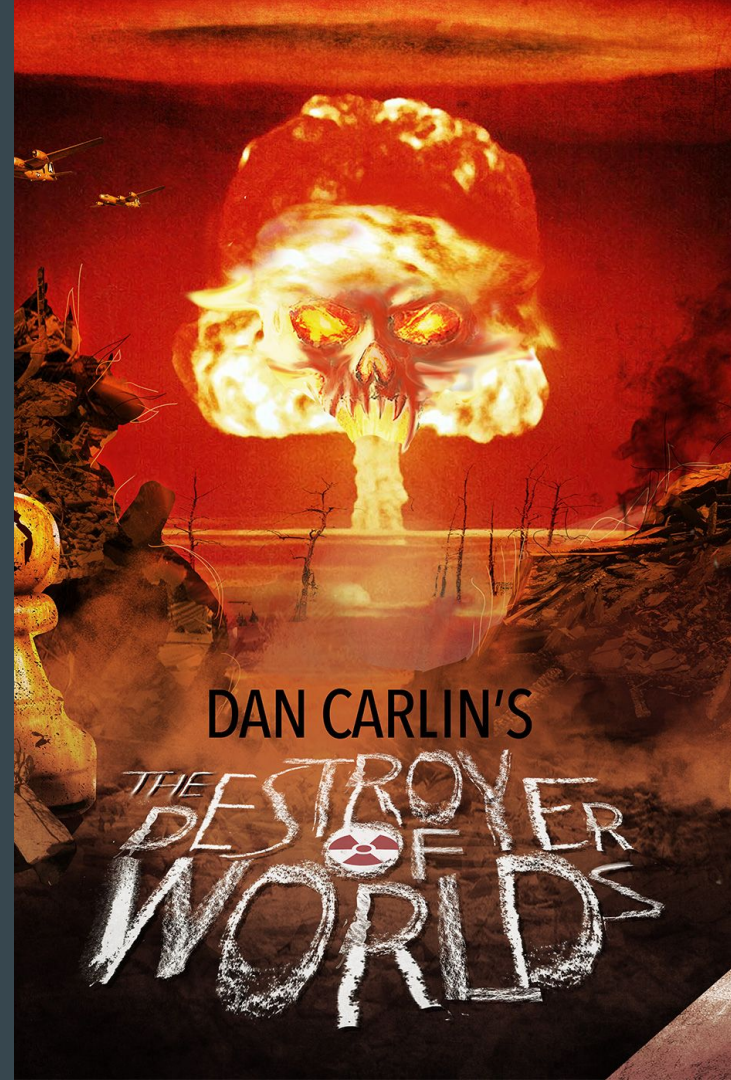




# The Drawbacks of Democracy

Dan Carlin reminds us that, although it is still the best political system, democracy has several drawbacks.

One drawback is that heads of state are often practically limited in their foreign policy, that is if they want to continue their political career.





**“If it became known that the United States had a knock out weapon it did not use, the families of any Americans killed after the development of the bomb would be furious.**

*“Persuasive . . . elegantly argued.”*

**The public, the press, and Congress would turn on the president and his advisors. There would’ve been a cry to impeach President Truman and court martial General Groves.**

**The administration would be convicted of spending billions of dollars and draining massive amounts of brainpower and manpower from other war projects, and all for nothing” (Wills 2011).**

# Game Theory

**Game Theory** is the science of devising mathematical models of strategic interactions between rational agents who are solely interested in their own self-interest.

The field originated with an emphasis on zero-sum games.

# Zero-Sum Games

Zero-sum games are situations in which the gain or loss of one participant is exactly balanced with the gain or loss of another participant or participants.



# Prisoner's Dilemma

A puzzle with the structure of a **prisoner's dilemma** is one in which two individuals would fare best if they cooperate, but the situation is such that it is “more rational” to defect.

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RED, MS  
PD COUNTY

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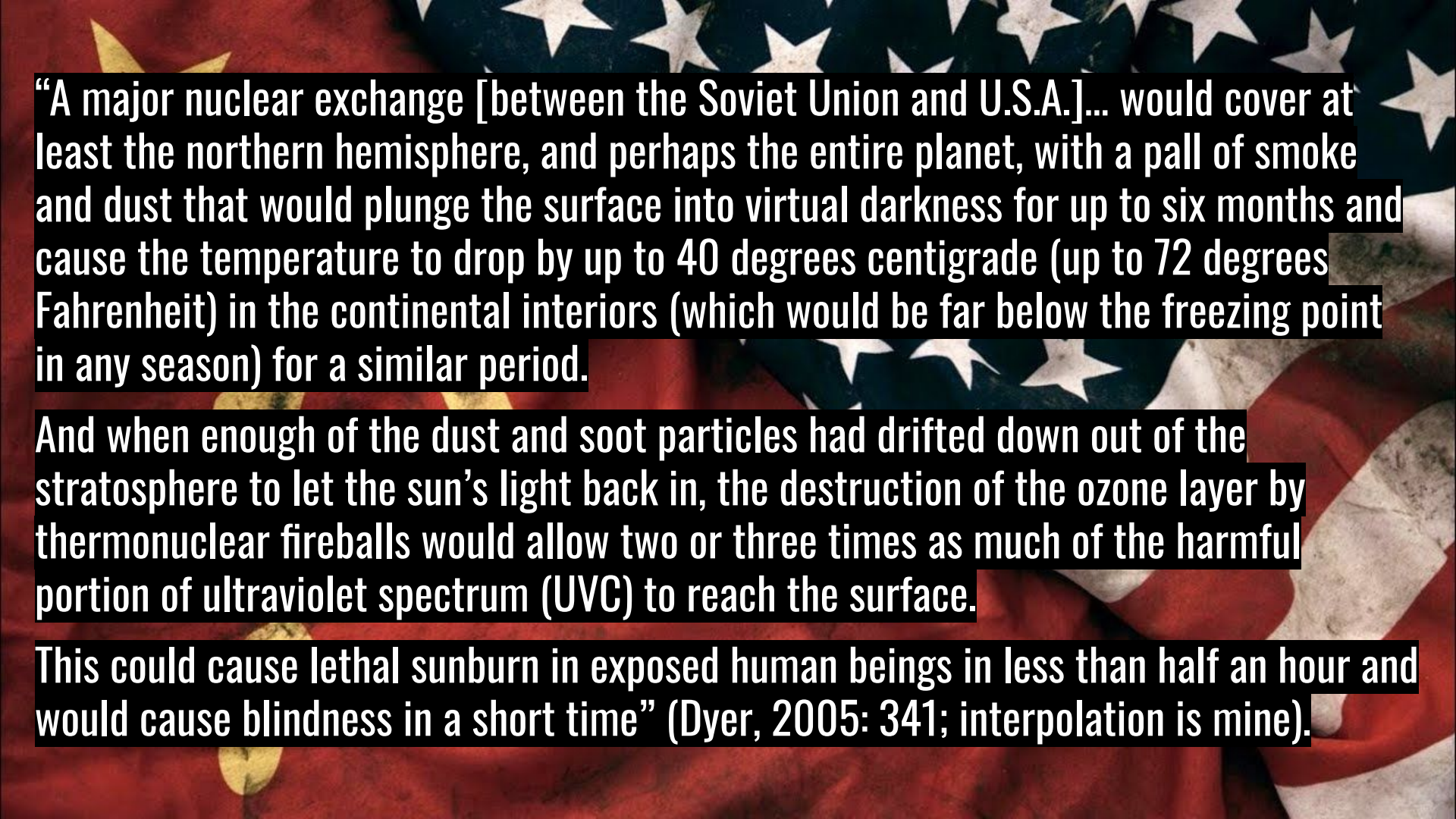
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PD COUNTY

	<b>B stays silent (cooperates)</b>	<b>B betrays A (defects)</b>
<b>A stays silent (cooperates)</b>	<b>Both serve 1 year</b>	<b>A serves 3 years, B goes free</b>
<b>A betrays B (defects)</b>	<b>B serves 3 years, A goes free</b>	<b>Both serve 2 years</b>



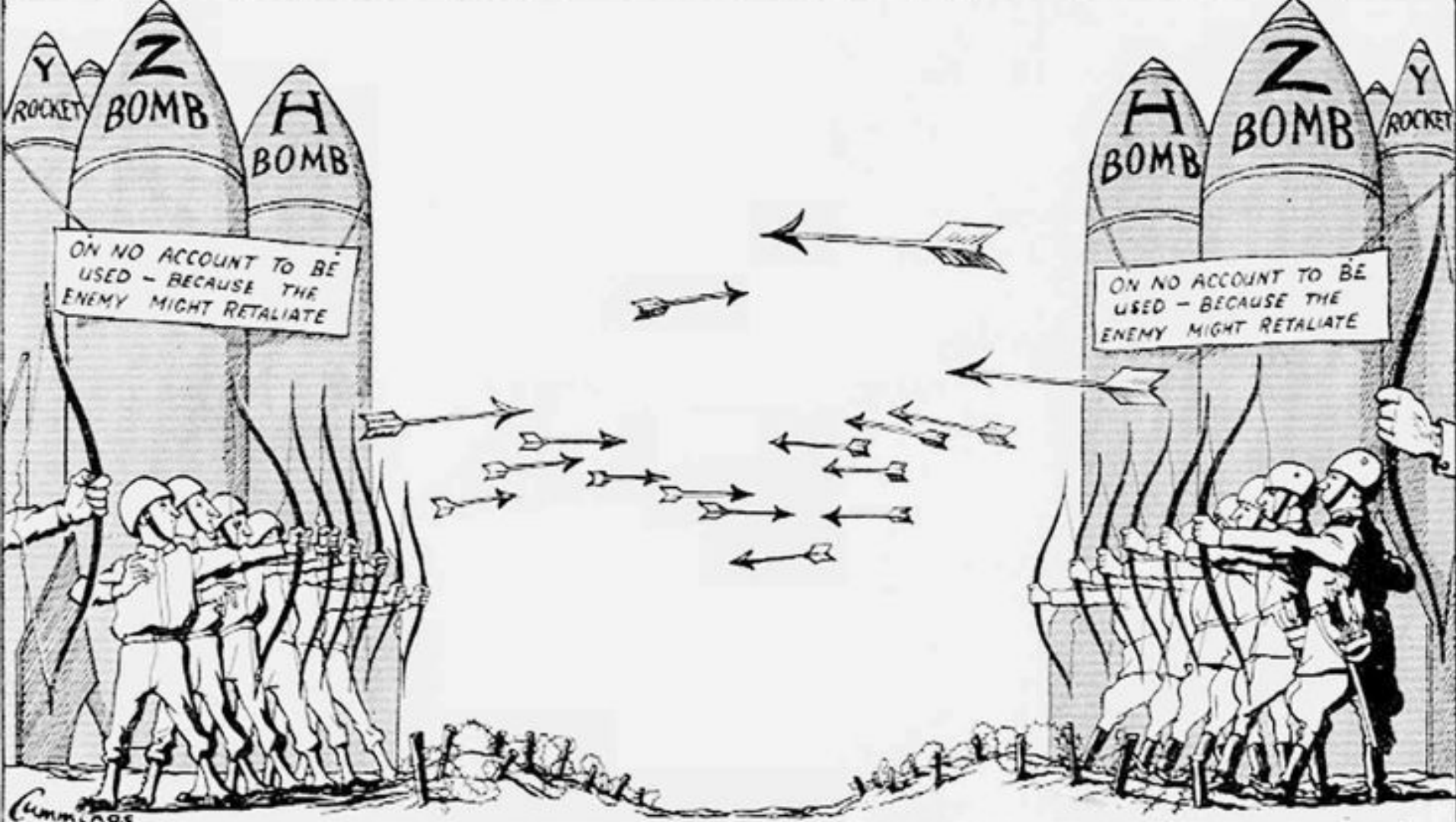
The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in shades of red, white, and blue.

**“A major nuclear exchange [between the Soviet Union and U.S.A.]... would cover at least the northern hemisphere, and perhaps the entire planet, with a pall of smoke and dust that would plunge the surface into virtual darkness for up to six months and cause the temperature to drop by up to 40 degrees centigrade (up to 72 degrees Fahrenheit) in the continental interiors (which would be far below the freezing point in any season) for a similar period.**

**And when enough of the dust and soot particles had drifted down out of the stratosphere to let the sun’s light back in, the destruction of the ozone layer by thermonuclear fireballs would allow two or three times as much of the harmful portion of ultraviolet spectrum (UVC) to reach the surface.**

**This could cause lethal sunburn in exposed human beings in less than half an hour and would cause blindness in a short time” (Dyer, 2005: 341; interpolation is mine).**

	<b>USSR</b> disarms (cooperates)	<b>USSR</b> betrays <b>USA</b> (defects)
<b>USA</b> disarms (cooperates)	<b>Both</b> suffer financial and political setbacks	<b>USA</b> risks annihilation
<b>USA</b> betrays <b>USSR</b> (defects)	<b>USSR</b> risks annihilation	<b>Both</b> risk annihilation

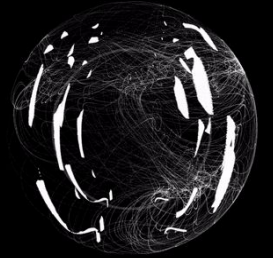
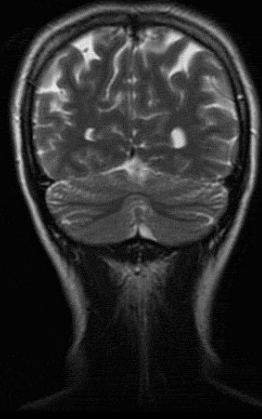


ON NO ACCOUNT TO BE  
USED - BECAUSE THE  
ENEMY MIGHT RETALIATE

ON NO ACCOUNT TO BE  
USED - BECAUSE THE  
ENEMY MIGHT RETALIATE

**Question:**

**Is reason conducive to cooperation?**



**Taking stock...**

**These are all primarily consequence-driven analyses, with some Kantian or Contractarian objections as in the case of biohacking.**

Round

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