

(1) Understand WHY the U.S. Has Nuclear Weapons.

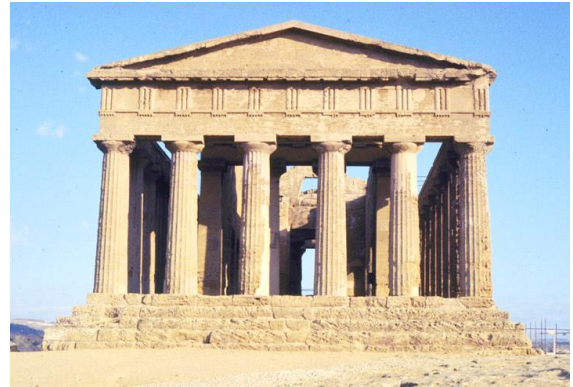
(2) Use Those Insights to Strategize How to Abolish Them.

Nuclear weapons are NOT a rational way to make us safe. Nuclear weapons persist after 70+ years because of **FACTORS OTHER THAN RATIONALITY**. In order to abolish nuclear weapons, we must understand at a deeper level WHY the U.S. insists upon having them and continually making them worse.

Nuclear weapons are rooted in some deep-seated aspects underlying U.S. foreign policy. The rationale for our foreign policy and other factors compel the U.S. to make nuclear weapons a cornerstone of “national security.” In order to abolish nuclear weapons, we need to dig into the underlying mind-sets and the political, economic and other underpinnings in which our foreign policy and our nuclear weapons are entrenched. What keeps this recklessly dangerous juggernaut running?

If we want peace, we must figure out the actual reasons WHY our nuclear weapons and our militaristic foreign policy exist. Once we understand the underlying reasons, we can devise ways to weaken and replace those assumptions and systems. The analysis below will help us do that.

Imagine the U.S.’s foreign policy as the big horizontal top part of an ancient Greek temple. Our nuclear weapons and foreign policy are propped up by a number of pillars, like the photo to the right and the diagram below:



Nuclear Weapons and Militaristic Foreign Policy

Desire for U.S. empire and global dominance	American Exceptionalism	The assumption that might makes right	The military-industrial complex's economic and political power	Mainstream news media's compliance	What else?				
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How to dismantle the U.S.’s militaristic foreign policy and abolish nuclear weapons:

- (1) Identify the pillars that actually do support and prop up the U.S.’s militaristic foreign policy and the nuclear weapons that enforce it. Besides the five pillars I’ve labeled above, what additional pillars can we identify that are truly significant? Write them in the blank spaces above.
- (2) Deal with **each specific** pillar separately, one at a time. For **each** pillar, let’s analyze, strategize, and organize how to effectively weaken or remove that particular pillar.
- (3) When our organizing efforts have actually weakened or removed enough pillars, the overall militaristic foreign policy will collapse, and nuclear weapons will be abolished.
- (4) In doing this work we will reach out to wider and wider concentric circles of **strategic allies** (those who agree with our goals) and **tactical allies** (those who share a common interest in weakening or removing that particular pillar).
- (5) Simultaneously start **building fair, just, effective alternatives** to replace the pillars, so we can create and prop up a new peaceful foreign policy that will better serve the American people, other people, and Planet Earth itself.