## The United States, Russia, and Nuclear Peace: A Long and Winding Road

The United States and Russia have a long and complicated history, marked by both cooperation and conflict. In recent years, tensions between the two countries have increased, largely due to Russia's annexation of Crimea and its involvement in the conflict in eastern Ukraine. This has led to concerns about the future of nuclear peace, as both countries possess large nuclear arsenals.



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by Stephen J. Cimbala

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The Cold War was a period of intense rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union, which lasted from the end of World War II until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. During the Cold War, the two superpowers engaged in a number of arms races, including a nuclear arms race. By the end of the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union had accumulated a combined total of over 60,000 nuclear weapons.

In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev became the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Gorbachev was a reformer who sought to improve relations with the United States. He met with President Ronald Reagan several times to discuss arms control and other issues. In 1987, the two leaders signed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, which eliminated all intermediate-range nuclear missiles from Europe.

The INF Treaty was a major breakthrough in arms control, but it did not end the nuclear arms race. The United States and the Soviet Union continued to develop and test new nuclear weapons. In 1991, the Soviet Union collapsed, and the United States emerged as the world's sole superpower. However, the nuclear arms race continued, as the United States and Russia continued to develop and test new nuclear weapons.

In 2010, the United States and Russia signed the New START Treaty, which reduced the number of deployed strategic nuclear weapons to 1,550 for each country. The New START Treaty is set to expire in 2021, and there is currently no agreement on a replacement treaty.

The future of nuclear peace is uncertain. The United States and Russia continue to possess large nuclear arsenals, and tensions between the two countries are high. There is a risk that a nuclear war could be started by accident or miscalculation. It is essential that the United States and Russia work together to reduce the risk of nuclear war and to build a more secure future for all.

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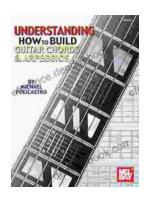
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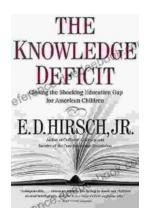


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