

Why Nuclear Weapons Still Exist Economic Structure Behind Peace



Soka Senior High School



Research Background

Nuclear Disarmament

- The number of **operational nuclear weapons** is **increasing**.
- **73 countries have joined TPNW** adopted in 2017.
- **Japan** has neither signed nor ratified the treaty.

SDGs

- The **\$101.1 billion** required to achieve the SDGs is about half of the world's annual military spending.

Research Methods

1. Literature review
2. Interview with Ms. Susi Snyder, Program Coordinator at ICAN

Research Questions

1. What factors prevent nuclear disarmament?
2. How could the funds saved through nuclear disarmament be utilized?

Findings

Explanation of the Chart

- ① Total global spending on nuclear weapons in 2022: \$82.9 billion
- ② Flowing to private companies that produce nuclear weapons: \$15.9 billion
- ③ Spent on **lobbyists** who promote the necessity of nuclear weapons: \$113 million
- ④ **Think tanks** (research institutes) influencing policies and public opinion: \$21–36 million

→ **As a result, the belief that “more public funds should be spent on nuclear weapons” spreads.**

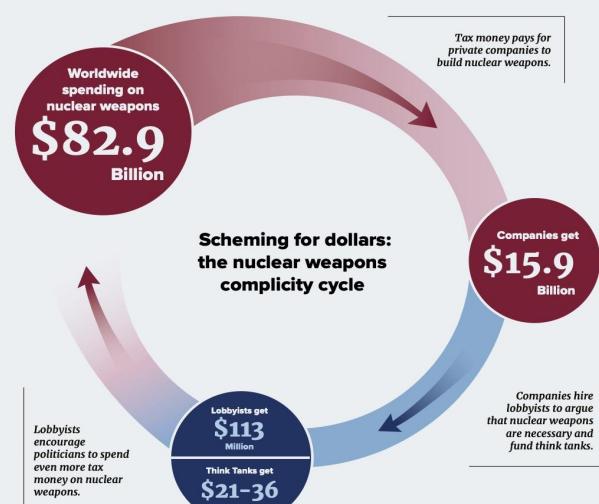
Opportunity cost

- A single day of spending on nuclear weapons could fund efforts to halt the decline of bees and butterflies for 17.12 years.
- The \$8 billion spent on nuclear weapons in 2022 could have planted 20 billion trees across Africa.

Future Prospects

It is estimated that around **\$1 trillion** (approximately 150 trillion yen) will be spent on nuclear weapons worldwide over the next decade.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS SPENDING CYCLE | 2022



This report unveils the dirty secret of the nuclear weapons industry: the billions wasted on illegal weapons of mass destruction to maintain an industry dedicated to the deadly theory of nuclear deterrence.

Figure. Flow of Money Related to Nuclear Weapons
(Source: ICAN)

Conclusion and Future Prospects

- ① Governments invest not only in nuclear weapons but also in lobbyists and think tanks, shaping public opinion to justify further funding. This cycle hinders disarmament.
- ② even small cuts in nuclear spending could help address social issues.

List of References

- <https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=142368> • https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/bd/files/NuclearWH_2025_JPN.pdf

- Wasted: 2022 global nuclear weapons spending • Opportunity costs | Move the Nuclear Weapons Money