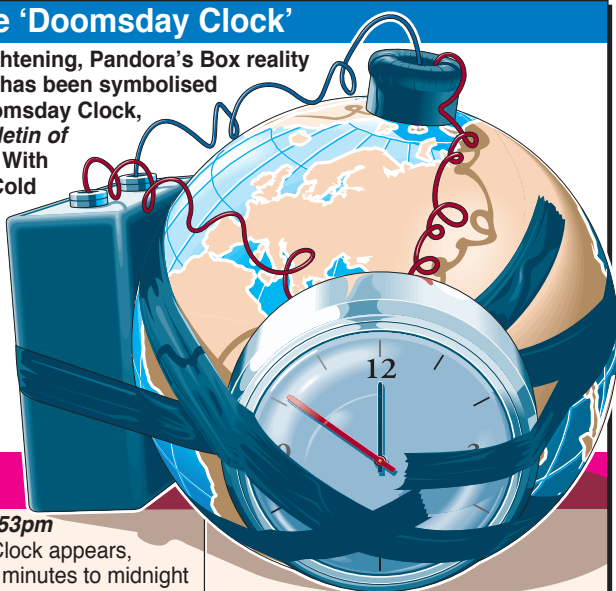


Resetting the 'Doomsday Clock'

Since 1947 the frightening, Pandora's Box reality of the nuclear age has been symbolised by the famous Doomsday Clock, created by the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*. With the ending of the Cold War, is the world any safer?



1995



The changing threat



1947: 11.53pm

Doomsday Clock appears, set at seven minutes to midnight



1949: USSR explodes its first atomic bomb. The arms race starts. World only three minutes from 'nuclear midnight'

11.57



1953: UK develops A-bomb. World's first hydrogen bomb tested by U.S., followed nine months later by USSR

11.58



1960: International scientific co-operation and UN efforts. Fear of major war forces caution on superpowers

11.53



1963: Crisis in Cuba prompts U.S. and Soviet Union to sign Partial Test Ban Treaty

11.48



1968: France and China join nuclear club. Wars in Vietnam, Middle East, Indian sub-continent

11.53



1969: Over 100 nations sign Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Israel, India, Pakistan S. Africa are notable exceptions

11.50



1972: U.S. and USSR sign Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I) and Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty

11.48



1974: SALT II reaches impasse and arms build-up continues. India acquires nuclear weapons

11.51



1980: SALT II unsuccessful. Terrorism and nationalist wars spread. Rift between rich and poor widens

11.53



1981: World tension escalates. Neither superpower rejects making pre-emptive strike

11.56



1984: Reagan condemns 'Evil Empire'. Strategic Defence Initiative (Star Wars) accelerates arms race

11.57



1988: U.S. and USSR under Mikhail Gorbachev sign Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty

11.54



1990: Encouraged by Soviet 'perestroika', democracy in eastern Europe spreads. Cold War ends.

11.50



1991: Signing of START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty). Unilateral superpower arms cuts

11.43