

# Freeing the nuclear genie

Between 20 to 30 countries could develop atomic weapons if the proliferation of nuclear technology is not stopped. The head of the UN's nuclear watchdog warns that North Korea's and Iran's nuclear ambitions could spark a new arms race among Asian and Middle Eastern states

**Mohamed ElBaradei:**  
Director General of  
International Atomic  
Energy Agency

States with nuclear  
weapons (year acquired) ■  
Suspected of wanting nuclear  
weapons or programmes ■  
States capable of producing  
weapons-grade uranium or plutonium ■



**Formally  
declared nuclear  
weapons states**  
(26,854 warheads)

<b>1</b>	U.S.	(1945)	10,104
<b>2</b>	Russia	(1949)	16,000
<b>3</b>	Britain	(1953)	200
<b>4</b>	France	(1964)	350
<b>5</b>	China	(1964)	200



**Other known  
nuclear weapons  
states** (150-190  
warheads)

<b>6</b>	Israel	(mid-1960s)	60-80
<b>7</b>	India	(1974)	50-60
<b>8</b>	Pakistan	(1998)	40-50
<b>9</b>	North Korea:	President	

**Kim Jong-il**

orders nuclear  
bomb test in  
October 2006.

Estimated  
plutonium  
production  
for 10-15  
weapons  
per year



**10 Iran:**  
Believed to be 3-10 years  
from nuclear weapon

**11 Iraq: Saddam  
Hussein's** atomic weapons  
programme ends  
with 1991  
**Gulf War**

**12 Saudi Arabia:**  
Opens nuclear  
research centre at  
**Al-Suleiyelin**  
military complex  
in 1975

**13, 14 Egypt,  
Turkey:** Likely to  
start weapons  
programmes if  
Middle-East  
neighbours go  
nuclear

**15 South Korea:** Believed  
to have abandoned nuclear  
weapons programme after  
signing Non-Proliferation  
Treaty (NPT) in 1975

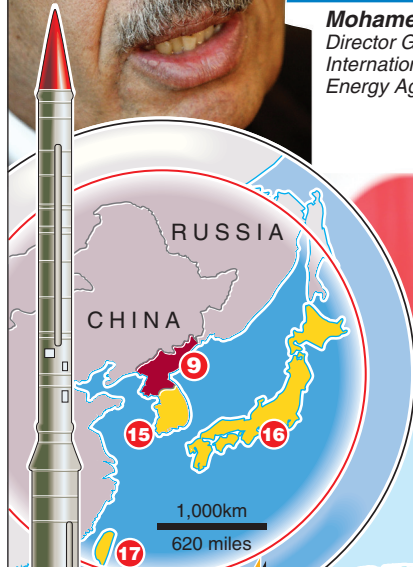
**16 Japan:** Says it has no  
plans to develop atomic  
weapons but Prime Minister  
**Shinzo Abe** (left) wants to  
revise anti-war constitution  
that bans such weapons

**17 Taiwan:** Ends covert  
nuclear weapons research  
programme in 1988 as  
result of pressure from U.S.  
President **Ronald Reagan**

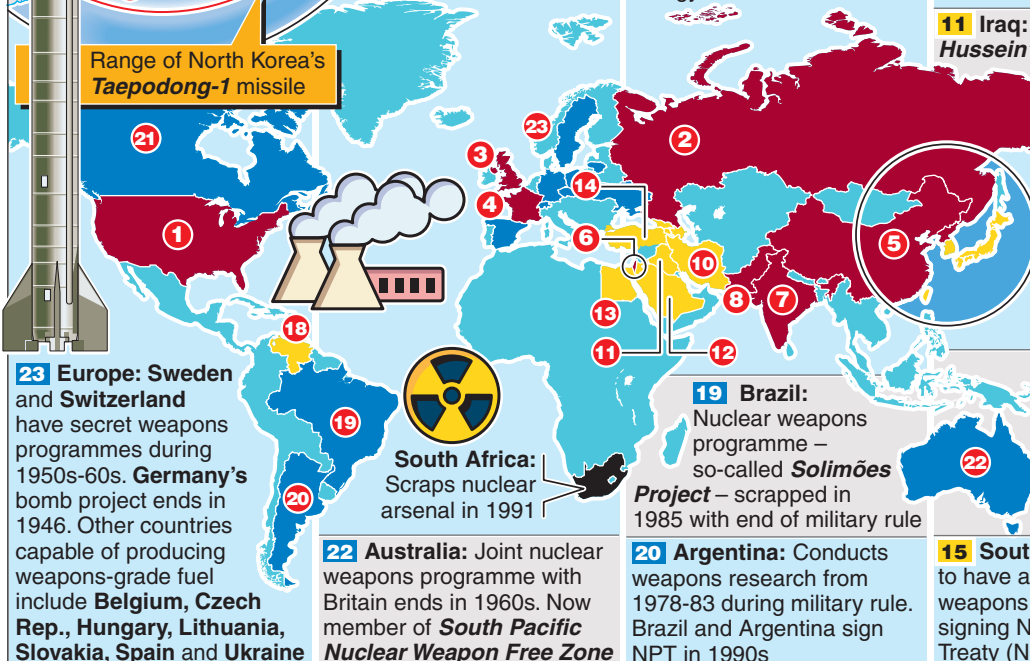
**18 Venezuela:** Proposing  
to start research into  
"peaceful" use of nuclear  
energy



**21 Canada:** Non-  
nuclear-weapon  
state, but permits  
nuclear-armed  
American bombers  
and submarines to  
use Canadian  
facilities



Range of North Korea's  
**Taepodong-1** missile



**23 Europe:** Sweden  
and Switzerland  
have secret weapons  
programmes during  
1950s-60s. **Germany's**  
bomb project ends in  
1946. Other countries  
capable of producing  
weapons-grade fuel  
include **Belgium, Czech  
Rep., Hungary, Lithuania,  
Slovakia, Spain and Ukraine**

**South Africa:**  
Scraps nuclear  
arsenal in 1991

**22 Australia:** Joint nuclear  
weapons programme with  
Britain ends in 1960s. Now  
member of **South Pacific  
Nuclear Weapon Free Zone**

**19 Brazil:**  
Nuclear weapons  
programme –  
so-called **Solimões**  
**Project** – scrapped in  
1985 with end of military rule

**20 Argentina:** Conducts  
weapons research from  
1978-83 during military rule.  
Brazil and Argentina sign  
NPT in 1990s