

Doomsday Clock – five minutes to midnight

The time on the “Doomsday Clock” has been moved forward to reflect concerns that the world has entered the most perilous era since the height of the Cold War

11:53

1947: Early days of Cold War.



Doomsday Clock indicates likelihood of nuclear war

11:57

1949: Soviet Union (USSR)



tests its first atomic bomb, starting arms race

11:58

1953: U.S. and USSR test thermonuclear devices.



UK develops atomic bomb

11:53

1960: Increased superpower co-operation and greater public awareness



11:48

1963: U.S. and USSR sign Partial Test Ban Treaty



11:53

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



11:50

1969: Over 100 nations sign **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty**



11:48

1972: U.S. and USSR sign **Strategic Arms Limitation Talks** and **Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty**



11:51

1974: India acquires nuclear weapons. **SALT II** talks stall



11:53

1980: SALT II deadlock. Terrorism and nationalist wars spread



11:56

1981: Arms race escalates. Superpowers refuse to reject making pre-emptive strike



11:57

1984: Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative escalates arms race



11:54

1988: U.S. and USSR sign **Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty**



11:50

1990: Democracy spreads through eastern Europe. Cold War ends



11:43

1991: Signing of **START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty)** – unilateral arms cuts



11:46

1995: Fears over proliferation of nuclear weapons in former Soviet republics



11:51

1998: **India** and **Pakistan** test nuclear weapons. U.S. and Russian stockpiles remain



11:53

2002: U.S. rejects series of arms treaties. Terrorists seek to acquire nuclear weapons



11:55

2007: Threat of new nuclear age. Risks posed by climate change almost as severe

