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European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

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10.08.2023

## The "no news" in the United States



**Sources:** La Jornada - Image: Photo from Stanley Kubrick's film "Doctor Strangelove," a satire on U.S. governments' devotion to nuclear weapons.

*The United States continues to invest in nuclear weapons; a new congressional report estimates that Washington will spend some \$756 billion on its nuclear weapons over the next decade. And there are plans to use this arsenal.*

78 years ago on August 6, the U.S. government dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima and three days later a similar one on Nagasaki, killing a total of between 110,210 and <>, <> civilians. The U.S. leadership purposely selected two civilian targets and used a false justification – hastening the end of World War II – for what was the first attack with weapons of mass destruction in modern history, which made it nuclear. But this anniversary was not mainstream news (and sometimes **not** even recorded) on the portals of major U.S. media.

The **non-news** of the anniversary of one of the most horrendous singular acts in history could perhaps be understood if the implications of what happened could be relegated to a dusty archive of a single event in an increasingly distant past, but those two atomic explosions continue to rumble to this day. In fact, according to experts, humanity is in greater danger today than ever of suffering a catastrophic nuclear war. The hands of the so-called final day clock created in 1947 by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists – an organization founded by Albert Einstein and several scientists related to the creation of nuclear weapons who later became dissidents – were advanced this year to 90 seconds before midnight, the closest ever to that hour that represents the apocalypse. (thebulletin.org).

It is even stranger that the mainstream media is not highlighting the anniversary, since the film *Oppenheimer* that tells about the so-called father of the atomic bomb has just been released. It is worth noting that the other film that was released at the same time is news on this anniversary of Hiroshima to report that *Barbie* has managed to raise more than one billion dollars since its premiere.

For 78 years, everyone on this planet, including *Barbie*, has lived under threat of death from a small group of countries armed with nuclear bombs, and the potential consequences have only increased. According to a 2022 report by International Doctors for the Prevention of Nuclear War, a conflict between the nuclear powers of the United States and Russia could kill up to 5 billion human beings; that is, more or less the end of us.

Although nuclear arsenals have been reduced in recent years, there are still an estimated 12,500 nuclear bombs, with 89 percent of them in the hands of the United States and Russia, reports the Federation of American Scientists (fas.org). The United States continues to invest in its apocalyptic capability; a new congressional report estimates that Washington will spend some \$756 billion on its nuclear weapons over the next decade.

And in Washington there are plans to use this arsenal. Shortly before he died in June, Daniel Ellsberg — the Defense Department military analyst who leaked the Pentagon Papers, an act that helped hasten the end of the war in Vietnam — said in an interview with *Democracy Now* that military plans remain in place contemplating a war to destroy both Russia and China. "This is crazy... the belief that if we attack (with nuclear weapons) first it would be less worse than if we do it second" is just what could be detonated with the war in Ukraine "that is, that most life on Earth would be extinguished as part of the struggle for control of Crimea, Donbas or Taiwan. That's crazy."

It seems that Stanley Kubrick's *Doctor Strangelove* sadly remains a necessary film of our era. It is worth remembering that Ellsberg, who worked for a time as a nuclear war planner, declared in an interview with *Wired*, in 2018, that this great film of black humor, was a documentary in its essence.

That's not news here either, but it might be too late when it is.

Tom Lehrer. *Who's Next* <https://youtu.be/oRLON3ddZIw>.

*We will all go together* <https://youtu.be/frAEmhqdlFs>

Source: <https://www.jornada.com.mx/2023/08/07/opinion/025o1mun#texto>

Rebellion 09.08.2023