

THE DOOMSDAY CLOCK

At this precise moment we are the closest to apocalypse since the 1950s, according to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' symbolic Doomsday Clock.

The organisation engages science and security experts as well as policy makers on nuclear weapons and disarmament, climate change and the risks posed by emerging technologies, to predict how close we are to doomsday.

The clock has been adjusted six times throughout the 21st century. This graphic reveals the reasons behind why the world is slowly creeping towards midnight, the hypothetical armageddon...

2002

23:53

7 minutes to midnight



The number of unsecured and unaccounted for nuclear materials throughout the world rises. The US expresses a desire to design new weapons and rejects a series of arm control treaties. The nation also announces withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

2007

23:55

5 minutes to midnight



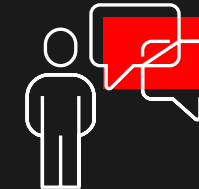
The brink of a second nuclear age begins, with the US and Russia remaining ready to stage a nuclear attack at any time. North Korea conducts a nuclear test while Iran announces plans to acquire the bomb.

On top of this, climate change increases flooding and droughts as polar ice melts and causes loss of life.

2010

23:54

6 minutes to midnight



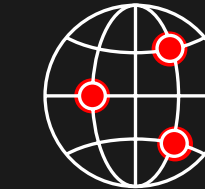
The US and Russia are in talks to reduce their nuclear arsenals with more negotiations already planned.

The dangers of climate change are continuing to grow. But progress is being made, with some industrialised nations agreeing to take responsibility for their carbon emissions.

2012

23:55

5 minutes to midnight



Political processes towards both nuclear disarmament and climate disruptions from global warming prove inadequate.

The potential for nuclear weapons use in regional conflicts in the Middle East, Northeast Asia and South Asia have become alarming.

The pace of technological solutions to address climate change may not be able to meet the scale of the issue.

2015

23:57

3 minutes to midnight



Attempts to curb climate change are progressing but remain insufficient.

The US and Russia embark on massive programmes to modernise their nuclear triads, undermining existing weapons treaties.

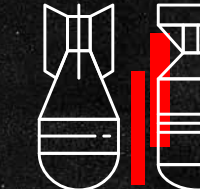
The Science and Security Boards warns:

“The probability of global catastrophe is very high, and the actions needed to reduce the risks of disaster must be taken very soon”

2017

23:58

2.5 minutes to midnight



Global nuclear tensions continue to rise as North Korea conducts two more nuclear tests.

The US presidential election is marked by reckless rhetoric about nuclear weapons, climate change denials and confusion about cyber security.