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## **ARMS RACE AND DISARMAMENT**

The term “arms race” generally refers to peacetime competitions between states for military superiority .Efforts to control or limit such competitions by mutual agreement are variously referred to as “arms control” or “arms limitation” or “disarmament”.

The most common explanation for the origins of arms races has to do with what political scientists calls the “ security dilemma’. According to this theory, one states takes steps to increase its security, such as strengthening its military which makes potential rivals feel less secure, causing them to take similar measures that in turn increase insecurity in the first states.

### **Arms Control and Disarmament**

One of the major efforts to preserve international peace and security in the twenty-first century has been to control or limit the number of weapons and the ways in which weapons can be used. Two different means to achieve this goal have been disarmament and arms control. Disarmament is the reduction of the number of weapons and troops maintained by a state. Arms control refers to treaties made between potential adversaries that reduce the likelihood and scope

of war, usually imposing limitations on military capability. Although disarmament always involves the reduction of military forces or weapons, arms control does not. In fact, arms control agreements sometimes allow for the increase of weapons by one or more parties to a treaty.

## **History**

Arms control developed both in theory and in practice during the Cold War, a period between the late 1940s and 1991 when the two military superpowers, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), dealt with one another from a position of mutual mistrust. Arms control was devised consciously during the postwar period as an alternative to disarmament, which for many had fallen into discredit as a means of reducing the likelihood of war. Germany had been forced to disarm following World War I but became belligerent again during the 1930s, resulting in World War II. Although Germany's weapons had been largely eliminated, the underlying causes of conflict had not. Germany's experience thus illustrated that no simple cause-and-effect relationship existed between the possession of weapons and a tendency to create war.

Throughout most of its early history, the United States retained only establishment. The Atlantic Ocean would shield North America from large European armies, and the militia was thought sufficient for initial protection from any Brinorth, Indian threats from the west, or Spanish threats from the south.

## **Disarmament**

Disarmament is the act of reducing, limiting, or abolishing weapons. Disarmament generally refers to a country's military or specific type of weaponry. Disarmament is often taken to mean total elimination of weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear arms. General and Complete Disarmament was defined by the United Nations General Assembly as the elimination of all WMD, coupled with the “balanced reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments, based on the principle of undiminished security of the parties with a view to promoting or enhancing stability at a lower military level, taking into account the need of all States to protect their security.

## FORMS OF DISARMAMENT

1. General Disarmament
2. Conventional Disarmament
3. Nuclear Disarmament
4. Qualitative Disarmament
5. Complete Disarmament
6. Quantitative Disarmament
7. Local Disarmament

## NECESSITY OF DISARMAMENT

The disarmament is needed for the world peace and security and this is also the main purpose of United Nations...so disarmament is needed not only to reduce the danger of war but to prevent the waste of human and resources and to strengthen the world peace and security.

1. For maintaining peace
2. Armament increase international tension
3. For economic development
4. Terror of nuclear weapons
5. Co-operation in world brotherism
6. International security
7. Interest of all nations

# 1. Disarmament under the League of Nations

A. Temporary mixed commission

B. Preparatory commission

C. Geneva conference-1932

The Geneva Conference (1932) was a global attempt at disarmament that took place between 1932 and 1934. The Conference is also referred to as the Disarmament Conference or formally as the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments.

The conference was a response to the militarisation of global powers after World War One and was aimed towards global disarmament. The Geneva Conference of 1932 was organised and campaigned for by the League of Nations with the main objectives of avoiding another war. Whilst the Conference is generally perceived as a failure, mainly because of the onset of World War Two five years later and the withdrawal of Germany, at the time the conference symbolised global cooperation to a combined goal of limiting arms.

The conference involved 31 nation states including the USSR, The United States, Germany (at the beginning although they later withdrew under Adolf Hitler's leadership) and Great Britain. The main achievements of the conference included defining aggressively offensive weapons, reasonably defensive weapons, abolishing submarines, aviation, and heavy-duty tanks and limiting land forces.

This conference is seen as the first of its kind in a long history, continuing to today for global disarmament and peace.

## Disarmament efforts outside the league

### 1. Washington conference-1921-22

Five power treaty-[Britain, America, France, Japan, and Italy]

Naval power decreases for ten yrs.

### 2. Geneva conference-1927

America, England, Japan participated

### 3. London naval treaty-1930 United Nations Disarmament Commission

### 4. London naval conference-1935-36

Superpowers participated in the conference, Japan attack on Manchuria

### 5. Anglo-German naval agreement-1935

Disarmament under the UNO

## History

The United Nations Disarmament Commission was first established on 11 January 1952 by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 502 (VI). This commission was put under the jurisdiction of the United Nations Security Council and its mandate included: preparing

proposals for a treaty for the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments, including the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction.[1]

However, this commission only met a few times, and was followed by a succession of other disarmament-focused bodies: the Ten-Nation Disarmament Committee (1960), the Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament (1962), the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (1969) and, finally, the Conference on Disarmament (1979), which still meets to this day.[2]

The second iteration of the commission was formed on 30 June 1978 by the General Assembly as a subsidiary organ of the Assembly.[3] This commissions includes all members states of the United Nations and meets yearly in New York for approximately three weeks.[4] It is a deliberative body, whose mandate is considering and making recommendations on various issues in the field of disarmament.[2] Due to the fact that disarmament is a substantial topic, the UNDC has traditionally focused on a limited number of agenda items at each session, typically three or four. In 1998, this tendency was made official by the General assembly, who through decision 52/492, limited the work of the UNDC to "two agenda items per year from the whole range of disarmament issues, including one on nuclear disarmament." Additionally, each topic is considered in the UNDC for a three-year period.[5] Each session, working groups are created, the number of which is dependent on the number of agenda items being discussed by the body.

# REFERENCES

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4. Wikipedia