

A large, glowing mushroom cloud from a nuclear explosion dominates the upper half of the image. The cloud is bright orange and yellow at its base, where a thick column of smoke and fire rises from the ground. The top of the cloud is a dark, flat, greyish-brown disc that spreads across the sky. The background is a dark, overcast sky with some lighter clouds. The foreground shows a dark, flat landscape, possibly a field or a road, with some faint lines and structures visible.

The Transformation of American Nuclear Policy

Joseph Cirincione
President
Ploughshares Fund

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Oct. 2009

A New Moment

A New Moment

- **Threats Increasing**
- **Collapse of Bush Doctrine**
- **New Strategic Paradigm Developed**
- **Emergence of New Executive Leadership**

Nuclear Threats

Nuclear Threats

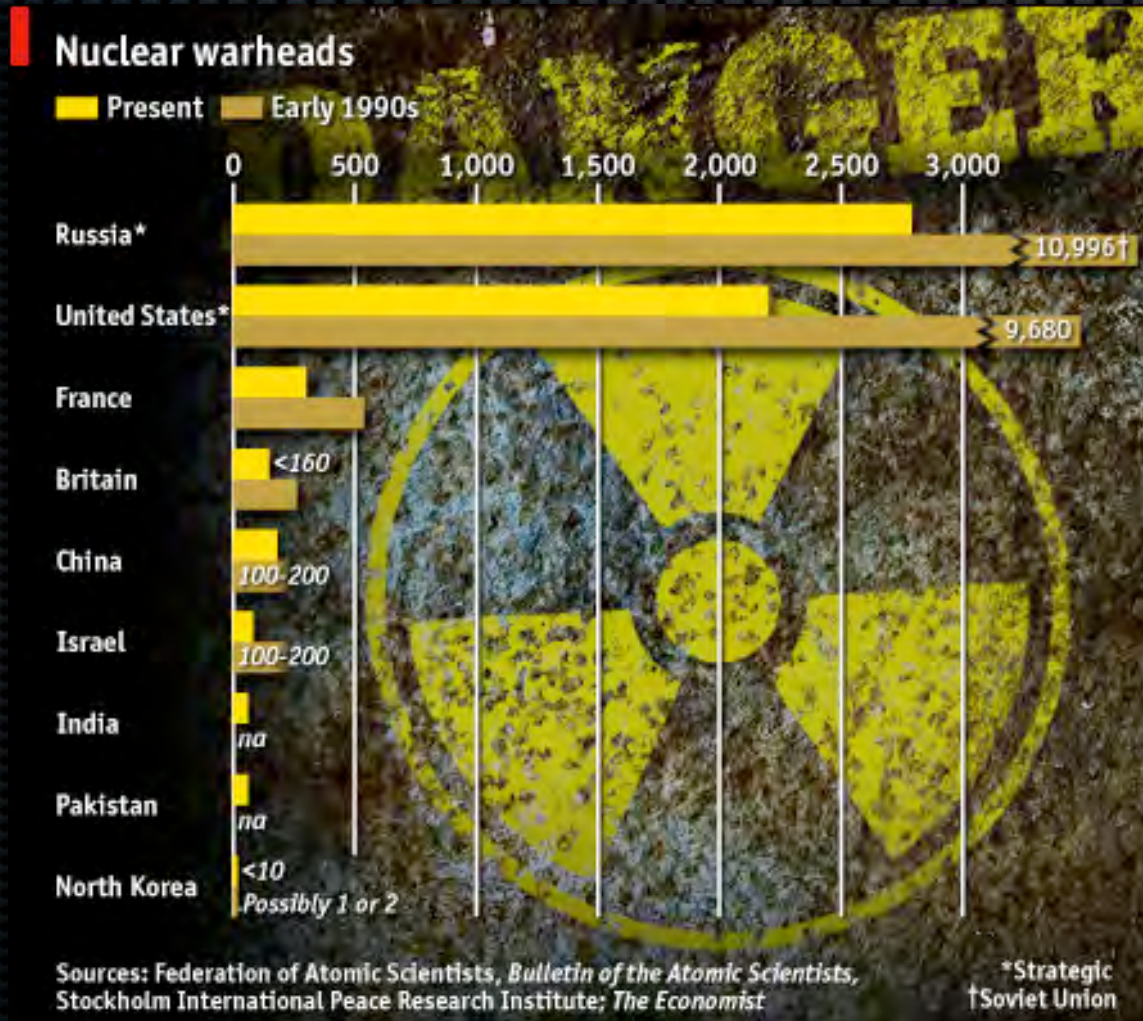
- Nuclear Terrorism



Nuclear Threats

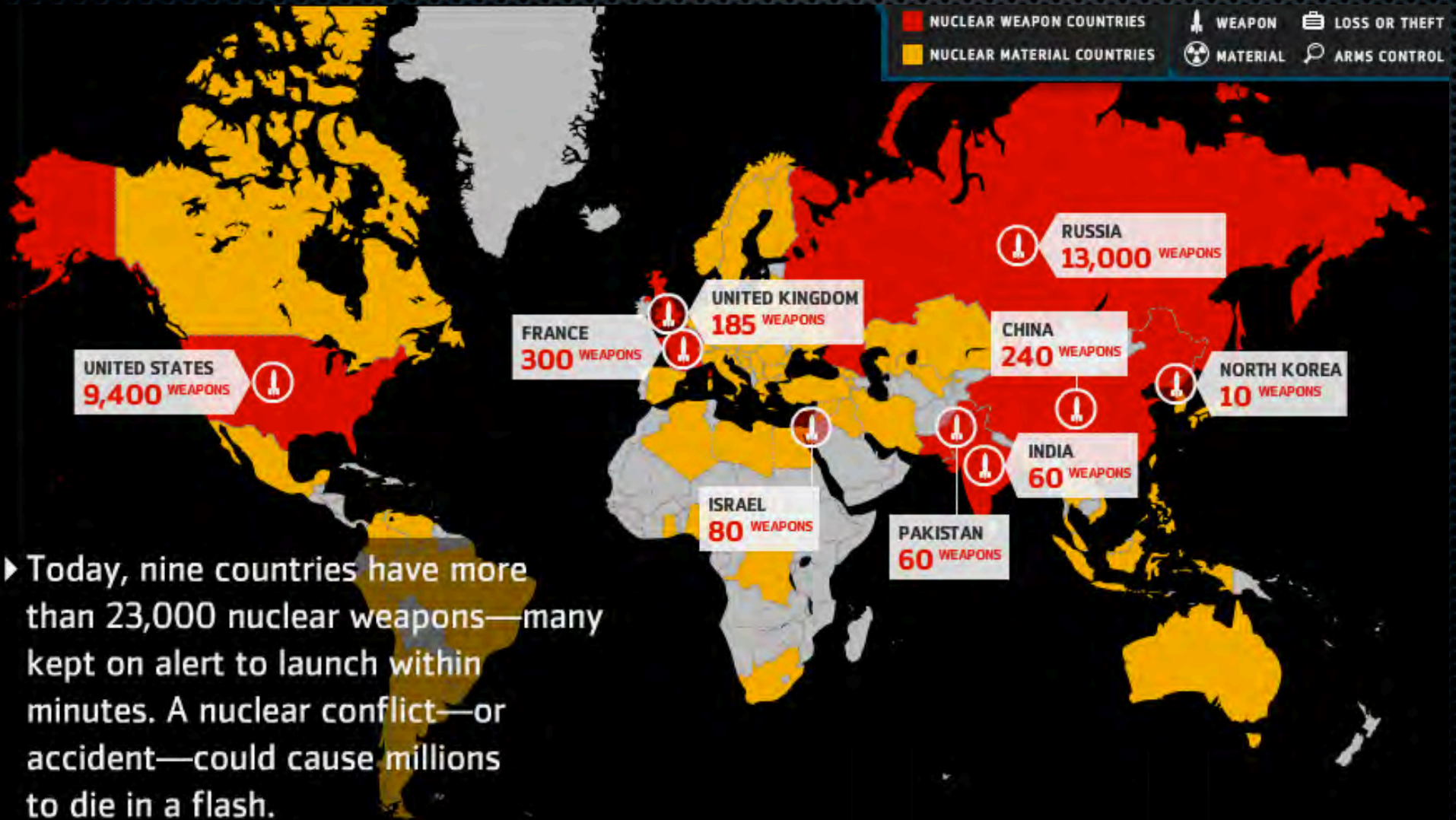
Nuclear Threats

- Existing Nuclear Weapons

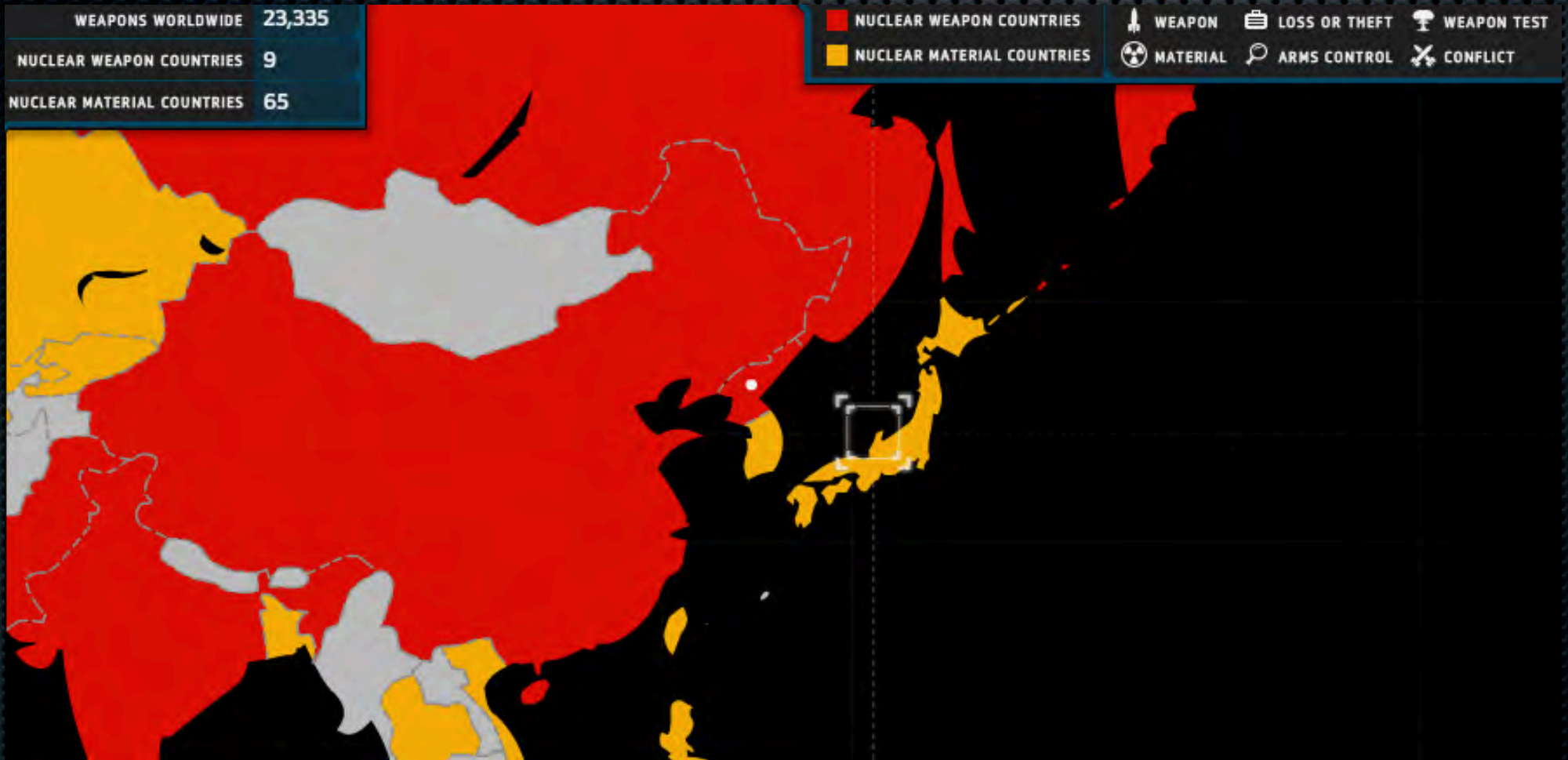


Nuclear Threats

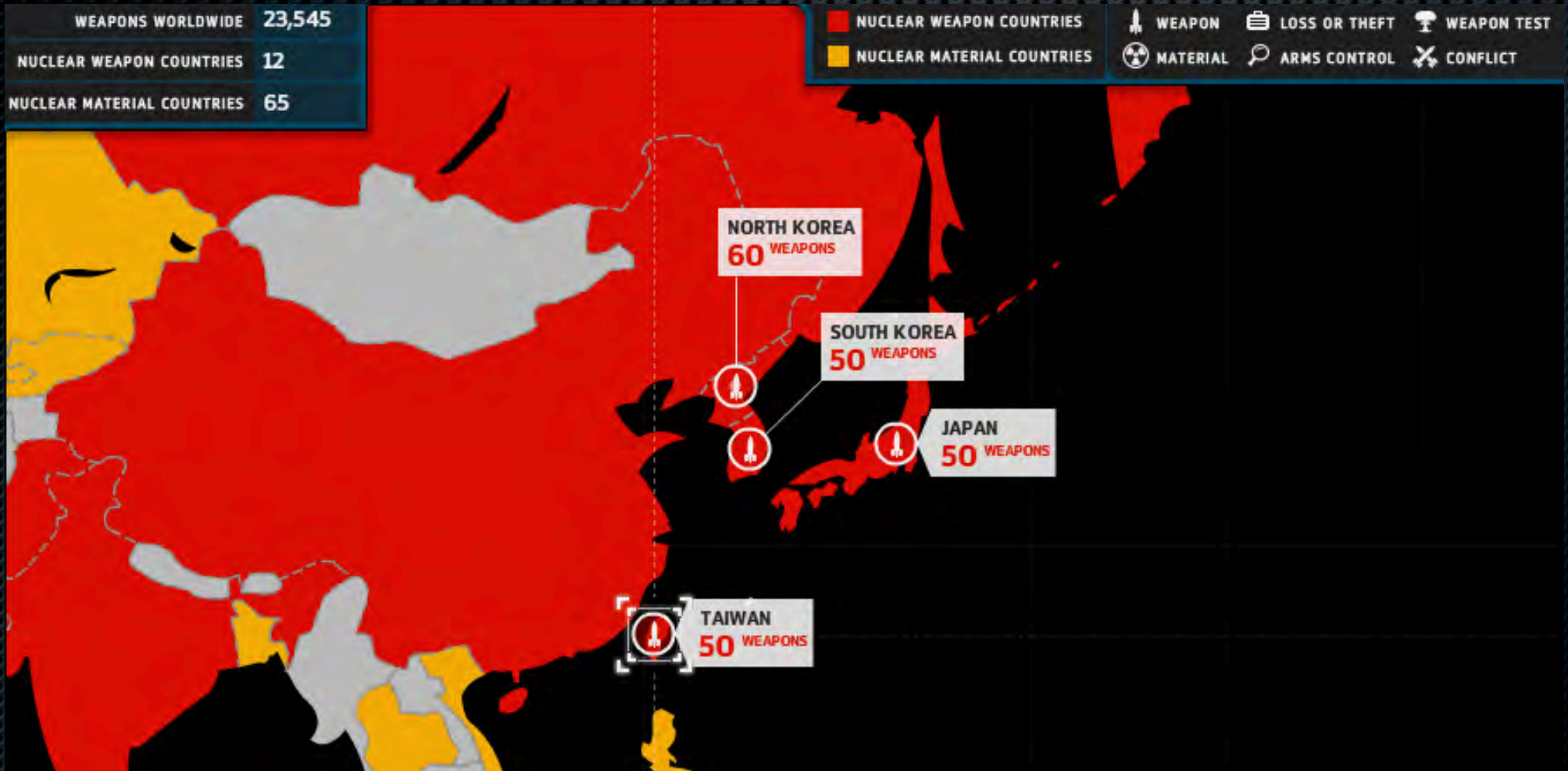
Global Nuclear Arsenals



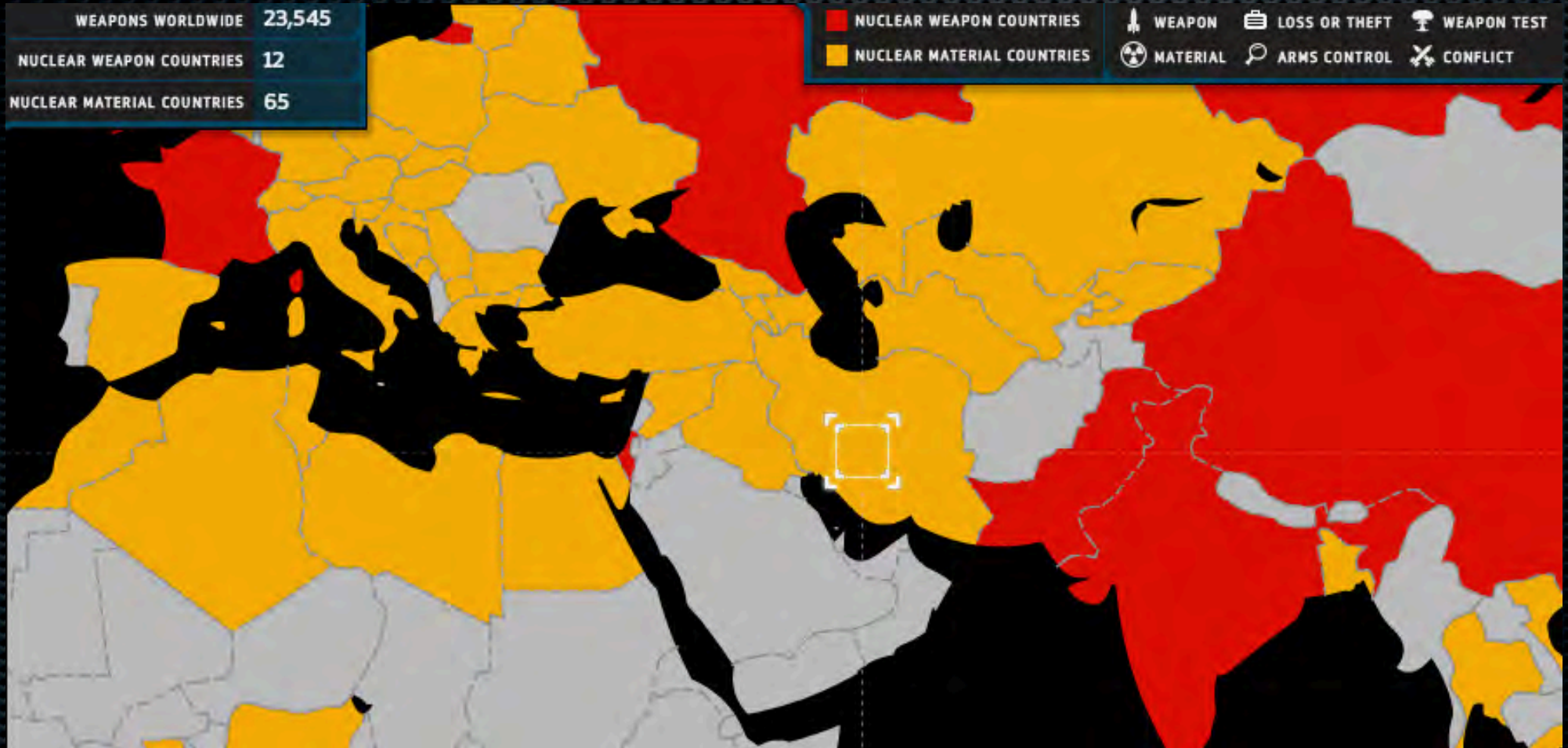
Cascade of Proliferation



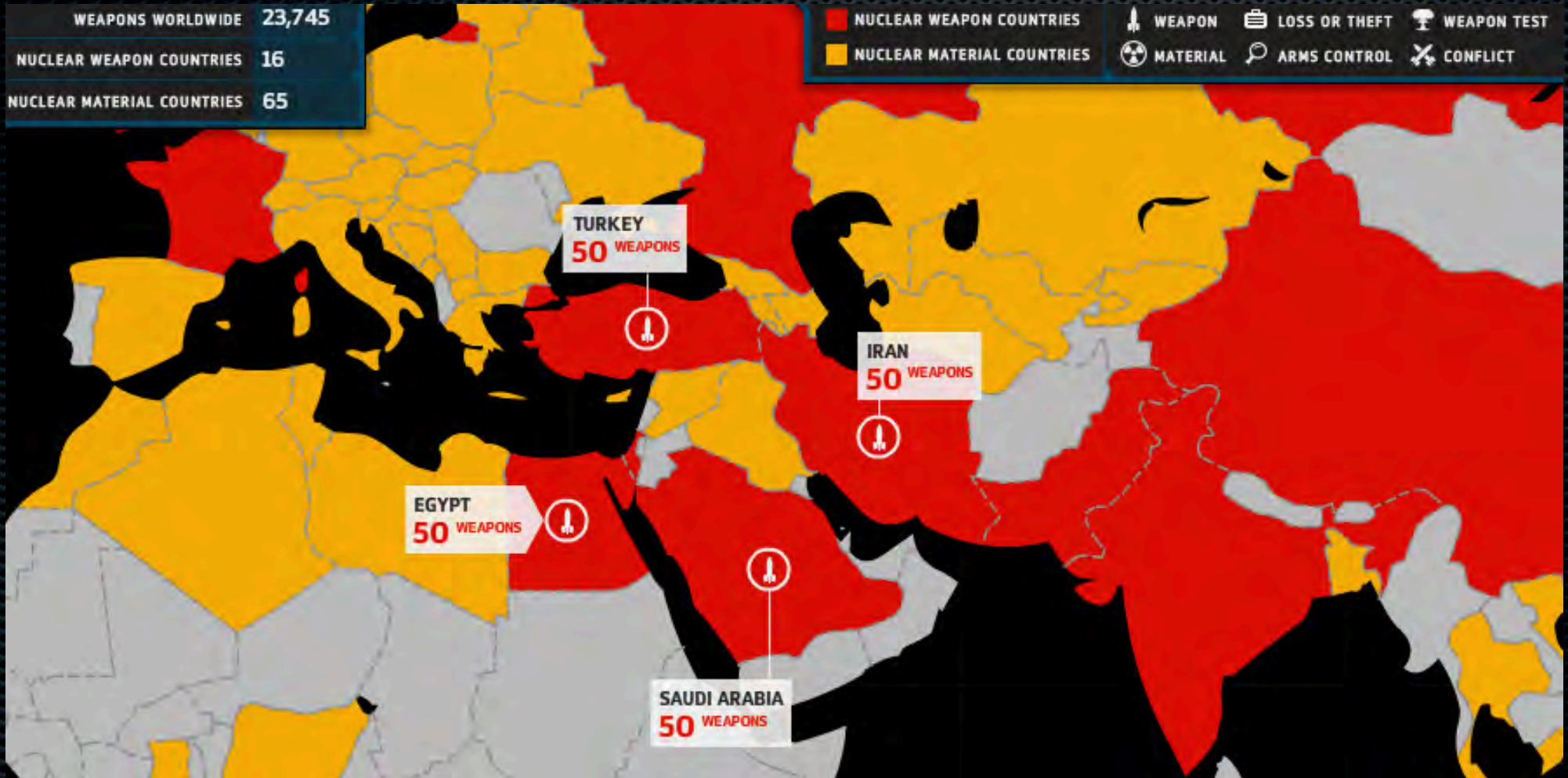
Cascade of Proliferation



Cascade of Proliferation



Cascade of Proliferation



Nuclear Threats

Nuclear Threats

- **Regime Collapse**

Strategic Collapse

Strategic Collapse

- ✦ **Strategy defined threat as nexus of rogue states, terrorism and WMD**
- ✦ **Solution was forced regime change**
- ✦ **Iraq was the first implementation of this radical theory, but was never intended to be the last**
- ✦ **Strategy backfired: threats grew worse**
- ✦ **Failure now widely recognized (though not by all)**

New Paradigm: The Center Shifts

New Paradigm: The Center Shifts



“Unless urgent new actions are taken, the U.S. soon will be compelled to enter a new nuclear era that will be more precarious, psychologically disorienting, and economically even more costly than was Cold War deterrence...

Will new nuclear nations and the world be as fortunate in the next 50 years as we were during the Cold War?”

Joined by Multiple Efforts

Joined by Multiple Efforts

- **More Statesmen**

- **UK**

- **Germany**

- **Italy**

- **France**



- **EU Plan Presented by Sarkozy**


- **UK Plans from Brown and Millaband**

- **UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon**

A New Moment



A New Moment

- Threats Increasing
 - Collapse of Bush Doctrine
 - New Strategic Paradigm Developed
 - Emergence of New Executive Leadership
 - Budget Pressure
 - Crucial 12 month window
- 

A Watershed Moment

A Watershed Moment

The New York Times

March 25, 2009

EDITORIAL

Watershed Moment on Nuclear Arms

Two decades after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Russia and the United States together still have more than 20,000 nuclear weapons. It is time to focus on the 21st-century threats: states like Iran building nuclear weapons and terrorists plotting to acquire their own. Until this country convincingly redraws its own nuclear strategy and reduces its arsenal, it will not have the credibility and political weight to confront those threats.

Obama, Medvedev Agree



Obama, Medvedev Agree



“As leaders of the two largest nuclear weapons states...we agreed to work together to fulfill our obligations....

committed our two countries to achieving a nuclear free world... a new emphasis on arms control and conflict resolution measures...

We agreed to pursue new and verifiable reductions in our strategic offensive arsenals in a step-by-step process...”

Obama, Medvedev Agree

Obama, Medvedev Agree



- **Cooperate on Missile Defense**
- **Strengthen NPT Regime**
- **Ratify Test Ban**
- **Verifiable Material Ban**
- **Secure All Material**
- **Strengthen IAEA**
- **Cooperate on Iran and DPRK**

The Prague Transformation

The Prague Transformation



The Obama Policy

The Obama Policy

- **REDUCE:** Make concrete steps towards a world without nuclear weapons
- **PREVENT:** Stop new states from getting the bomb
- **SECURE:** Block nuclear terrorism by securing and eliminating bomb material



Implementation of Obama Plan

Implementation of Obama Plan

- A Top Priority
- Quality Staff
- VP's leadership
- Posture Review
- Talks with Russia
- Allied Consultations
- Security Council





Is He the One?

This is not a one-man job.

Key Obstacles

Key Obstacles

- ✦ **Competing Priorities**
- ✦ **Nuclear Hawks**
- ✦ **Internal Divisions**
- ✦ **Cynicism**



Organizing Strategy



Organizing Strategy

- ✦ **Hit the Window**
- ✦ **Unify Efforts**
- ✦ **Expert Analysis**
- ✦ **Mobilize Core**
- ✦ **Build political support**



Key Policy Objectives



Key Policy Objectives

- ✦ Reduce role (NPR)
- ✦ Ratify New START
- ✦ Global Summit
- ✦ Next Treaty to ≤ 1000
- ✦ NPT Review Conf.
- ✦ Ratify Test Ban
- ✦ Contain Iran & DPRK
- ✦ Reduce conflicts



The Prague Transformation

The Prague Transformation



“I know that a call to arms can stir the souls of men and women more than a call to lay them down. But that is why the voices for peace and progress must be raised together.”

ploughshares.org
