

## Bertrand Russell's Malthusian Wedge

The genesis of the double-sided nuclear strategy promoted by Albert Wohlstetter—bombs for us and limits on nuclear technology for the rest of the world—lies with Lord Bertrand Russell and his acolyte and popularizer, H.G. Wells. Russell and Wells promoted a curb on nuclear technologies because they feared that the efficient production of electricity by nuclear energy would allow unlimited population growth.

Russell's aim was to stop the American System of perpetual progress, and replace it with Malthusianism. He particularly desired to cull the brown and black populations of the world, and famine, wars, and disease were the methods he and Wells favored. Today, between the environmental movement and the Cheney/Bush preemptive war faction, the world is well along in carrying out the British oligarchy's Malthusian plan.

From the beginning of the post-war U.S. nuclear program, there was a fight to wrest control of civilian nuclear energy from the military.<sup>1</sup> The civilians won, and the first civilian U.S. nuclear plants were built by private industry and run by public utilities. But, the Russellites continued to organize internationally, through the Pugwash group and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and in the United States, for curbs on nuclear technology development. They succeeded in promoting their Malthusian views via the issue of proliferation, the danger that nuclear knowledge

---

1. Nuclear engineer Theodore Rockwell describes this fight in an article in the Summer 2004 *21st Century Science & Technology*, "The Two-Edged Atomic Sword: Getting the Atom Away from the Army." The article is adapted from Rockwell's book *Creating the New World: Stories and Images from the Dawn of the Atomic Age*.

might get into the hands of "bad people" who would misuse it to make bombs or threaten terrorism.

Wielding this Russellite wedge, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was introduced in 1968, and passed into law in 1970. In addition to the five publicly acknowledged nuclear weapons states, 182 other nations have signed on. A system of safeguards and inspections by the IAEA was put in place to monitor compliance with the no-nuclear-weapons policy.

The NPT, as the treaty is known, could not have gotten nations to sign on if it did not acknowledge and foster the positive uses of nuclear energy as the "inalienable right" of member-states. And so, the treaty "promotes co-operation in the field of peaceful nuclear technology and equal access to this technology for all States parties. . . ." States have the right to "research, production, and use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes without discrimination."

The NPT, however, has been applied with discrimination by the United States, which used political pressure selectively to stop the growth and development of civilian nuclear energy. Brazil and Argentina were victims of this pressure in the 1970s.<sup>2</sup> Israel's non-publicly acknowledged nuclear weapons program has not come under U.S. pressure.

Along with the NPT came the robust bureaucracy of the proliferation "industry," with legions of anti-nuclear and anti-pronuclear "experts," whose press releases and talking heads proliferate in the media. Instead of directly stating the Malthusian aim of killing off "excess" population, they work to "kill" the energy technology which has the highest energy flux density, and hence power, to efficiently produce enough electricity to light the world.

---

2. Marsha Freeman discusses the U.S. role in the sabotage of the Brazilian and Argentine nuclear programs under the guise of non-proliferation, in "Ibero-America Needs a Space Agency!" *21st Century Science & Technology*, Spring 2002. For a comprehensive review of the situation, see "How Nuclear Energy's Promise Was Nearly Destroyed," *EIR*, Jan. 14, 2005; also available at [www.larouche.com/other/2005/3/202\\_nuclear\\_promise.html](http://www.larouche.com/other/2005/3/202_nuclear_promise.html).