

# Executive Summary

**In 2020, during the worst global pandemic in a century, nine nuclear-armed states spent \$72.6 billion on their nuclear weapons, more than \$137,000 per minute, an inflation adjusted increase of \$1.4 billion from last year.**

## WHY?

The exchange of money and influence, from countries to companies to lobbyists and think tanks, sustains and maintains a global arsenal of catastrophically destructive weapons. Each person and organisation in this cycle is complicit in threatening life as we know it and wasting resources desperately needed to address real threats to human health and safety.

The \$72.6 billion spent on nuclear weapons was split between governmental departments and private companies. Companies in France, the United Kingdom and the United States received \$27.7 billion from nuclear-weapon-related contracts in 2020, of which \$14.8 billion was new.

Those companies then funded think tanks that research and write about nuclear weapons policies. At least twelve major think tanks that research and write about nuclear weapons in India, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States received collectively between \$5 million and \$10 million from companies that produce nuclear weapons. The CEOs of companies that produce nuclear weapons sit on their advisory boards and are listed as “partners” on their websites.

And to make sure the enormous budgets are approved to pay for these contracts, those same companies hire lobbyists. In 2020, nuclear weapons producers spent \$117 million in lobbying on defence. For every \$1 spent lobbying, an average of \$236 in nuclear weapon contract money came back.

Nuclear-armed states spent an obscene amount of money on illegal weapons of mass destruction in 2020, while the majority of the world’s countries support a global nuclear weapons ban. But the story doesn’t stop there. Companies, lobbyists and think tanks are complicit and deserve to be held accountable for their role in building and shaping a world with more than 13,000 life-ending weapons. We need to call on them to cut it out.

## KEY FIGURES

### Country Spending On Nuclear Weapons In 2020

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  <b>The United States</b>  | <b>\$37.4 billion</b><br>⌚ \$70,881 / minute   |
|  <b>China</b>              | <b>\$10.1 billion</b><br>⌚ \$19,149 / minute   |
|  <b>Russia</b>             | <b>\$8 billion</b><br>⌚ \$15,222 / minute      |
|  <b>The United Kingdom</b> | <b>\$6.2 billion</b><br>⌚ \$11,769 / minute    |
|  <b>France</b>           | <b>\$5.7 billion</b><br>⌚ \$10,786 / minute    |
|  <b>India</b>            | <b>\$2.4 billion</b><br>⌚ \$4,567 / minute     |
|  <b>Israel</b>           | <b>\$1.1 billion</b><br>⌚ \$2,059 / minute     |
|  <b>Pakistan</b>         | <b>\$1 billion</b><br>⌚ \$1,968 / minute       |
|  <b>North Korea</b>      | <b>\$667 million</b><br>⌚ \$1,265 / minute     |
|  <b>2020 Total</b>       | <b>\$72.6 billion</b><br>⌚ \$137,666 / minute  |
| <b>2019 Total</b>   | <b>\$71.2 billion*</b><br>⌚ \$135,424 / minute |

\*Adjusted for inflation

**Company defence contract awards and defence lobby spending in 2020**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Aerojet Rocketdyne</b>                                    | Awarded: \$132 million<br>Spent lobbying: \$2.3 million  |
| <b>Airbus</b>  | Awarded: \$170 million<br>Spent lobbying: \$6.1 million  |
| <b>BAE Systems</b>   | Awarded: \$10.8 billion (\$72.5 million for nuclear weapons)<br>Spent lobbying: \$5.6 million  |
| <b>Bechtel</b>   | Awarded: \$2.9 billion<br>Spent lobbying: \$990,000  |
| <b>Boeing</b>  | Awarded: \$50 billion (\$105 million for nuclear weapons)<br>Spent lobbying: \$15.6 million    |
| <b>Constructions Industrielles de la Méditerranée (CNIM)</b> | Awarded: \$39.1 million<br>Spent lobbying: \$17,226  |
| <b>Charles Stark Draper Laboratory</b>                       | Awarded: \$443.5 million (\$342.3 million for nuclear weapons)<br>Spent lobbying: \$120,000    |
| <b>Fluor</b>   | Awarded: \$3.9 billion<br>Spent lobbying: \$5.1 million  |
| <b>General Dynamics</b>                                      | Awarded: \$39.4 billion (\$10.8 billion for nuclear weapons)<br>Spent lobbying: \$13.9 million |
| <b>Honeywell International</b>                               | Awarded: \$14 billion (\$41.6 million for nuclear weapons)<br>Spent lobbying: \$7.4 million    |
| <b>Huntington Ingalls Industries</b>                         | Awarded: \$7.4 billion (\$53 million for nuclear weapons);<br>Spent lobbying: \$5.2 million    |
| <b>Jacobs Engineering</b>                                    | Awarded: \$2.6 billion<br>Spent lobbying: \$900,000  |
| <b>L3 Harris Technologies</b>                                | Awarded: \$5.6 billion (\$60 million for nuclear weapons)<br>Spent lobbying: \$200,000         |
| <b>Leidos</b>  | Awarded: \$10.8 billion<br>Spent lobbying: \$2.4 million                                       |
| <b>Leonardo</b>  | Awarded: \$728.8 million<br>Spent lobbying: \$86,644   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Lockheed Martin</b>                   | Awarded: \$124.5 billion (\$2.1 billion for nuclear weapons)<br>Spent lobbying: \$15 million         |
| <b>Northrop Grumman</b>                  | Awarded: 29.1 billion (\$13.7 billion for nuclear weapons)<br>Spent lobbying: \$13.3 million         |
| <b>Raytheon Technologies Corporation</b> | Awarded: \$27.5 billion (\$450 million for nuclear weapons)<br>Spent lobbying: \$15.2 million        |
| <b>Safran</b>                            | Awarded: \$12.3 million<br>Spent lobbying: \$382,211   |
| <b>Serco</b>                             | Awarded: \$896 million<br>Spent lobbying: \$420,000  |
| <b>Textron</b>                           | Awarded: \$1.8 billion (\$3.2 million for nuclear weapons)<br>Spent lobbying: \$5.1 million          |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>Awarded: \$332 billion (\$27.7 billion for nuclear weapons)<br/>Spent lobbying: \$117 million</b> |

**Think tank reported income from nuclear weapon producers**

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| <b>Atlantic Council</b>                               | \$835,000 - \$1,724,998   |
| <b>Brookings Institution</b>                          | \$275,000 - \$549,998     |
| <b>Carnegie Endowment for International Peace</b>     | \$50,000 - 199,998        |
| <b>Center for New American Security</b>               | \$1,085,000 - \$1,874,991 |
| <b>Center for Strategic and International Studies</b> | \$1,530,000 - \$2,794,997 |
| <b>Fondation pour la recherche stratégique (FRS)</b>  | amount not specified      |
| <b>French Institute of International Relations</b>    | amount not specified      |
| <b>Hudson Institute</b>                               | \$170,000 - \$350,000     |
| <b>International Institute of Strategic Studies</b>   | \$800,640 - \$1,146,744   |
| <b>Observer Research Foundation</b>                   | \$71,539                  |
| <b>Royal United Services Institute</b>                | \$610,210 - \$1,445,581   |
| <b>Stimson Center</b>                                 | \$50,500                  |

|              |                         |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$5 - 10 million</b> |
|--------------|-------------------------|

# Introduction

For most people, 2020 was not a normal year. In the worst pandemic this century, life was substantially altered by isolation and quarantines, economic and mental depression and, for far too many, the loss of loved ones to COVID-19. But for the countries, companies and think tanks funding, building, and writing about nuclear weapons it was business as usual. While hospital beds filled up with patients, doctors and nurses worked over hours and basic medical supplies ran scarce, nine countries found they had more than \$72 billion on hand for their weapons of mass destruction, \$1.4 billion more than last year.

Meanwhile, in 2020, the first treaty banning nuclear weapons, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) reached 50 states parties, triggering its entry into force in early 2021.<sup>1</sup> While these nine countries continued to waste billions on weapons of mass destruction, the rest of the world was busy making them illegal.

The leaders of these nine countries are not the only ones to blame for throwing away \$72.6 billion during a global pandemic. More than twenty countries producing nuclear weapons profited from the nuclear weapons business in 2020 through existing or new contracts. \$27.7 billion went to eleven companies for new or modified nuclear-weapons-related contracts.

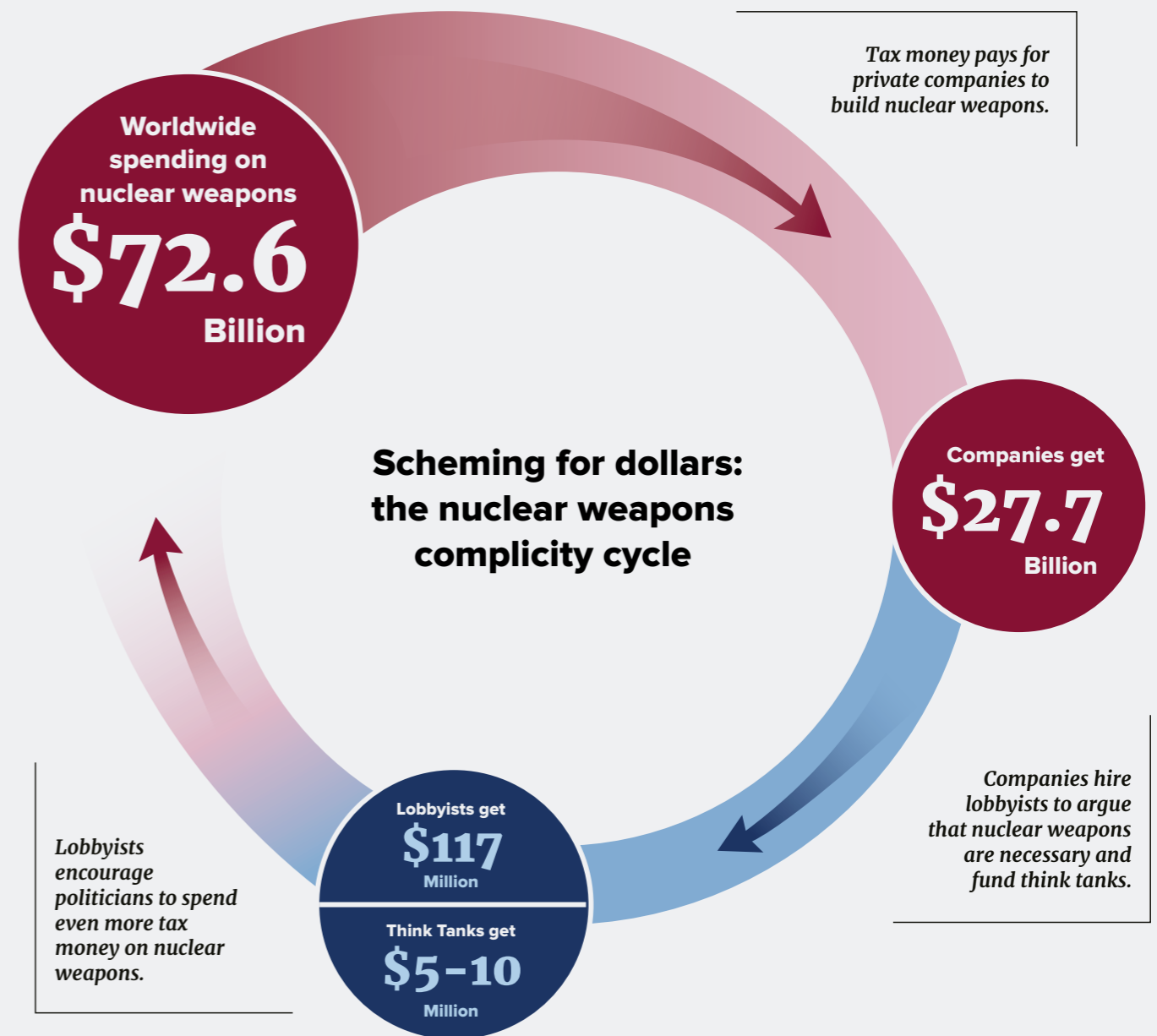
Instead of taking an all-hands approach to helping millions of COVID-19 patients survive or donating profits to medical charities, these companies spent their money to persuade policy makers to sustain the nuclear weapons industry, and to line their own pockets for years to come.

First, they gave upwards of \$10 million, collectively, in one year to most major think tanks writing about nuclear weapons, some of whom then published reports recommending building new nuclear weapon systems. For example, the Atlantic Council, which received upwards of \$1.7 million in 2019, published an issue brief which recommended the United States proceed to develop new “low-yield” nuclear capabilities to deter Russia.<sup>2</sup>

And more directly, the companies producing nuclear weapons spent over \$100 million lobbying policy makers to authorize massive defence spending, including for nuclear weapons. For every \$1 spent lobbying, an average of \$236 in nuclear-weapon-contract money came back. They even lobbied to authorize funding for defence in COVID-19 relief bills: much of Boeing’s defence lobbying was bundled with lobbying around the CARES act (the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) in the United States.

The cycle of spending from the United States to Northrop Grumman is just one example. In 2020, the United States spent \$37.4 billion on nuclear weapons. Of that, the United States gave \$13.7 billion in contracts to Northrop Grumman to build a completely new nuclear weapon system. Northrop Grumman then spent \$13.3 million lobbying U.S. policy makers to spend more money on defence, including nuclear weapons. It also spent upwards of \$2 million funding nine major think tanks that research and write about nuclear weapons. These policy research reports against nuclear disarmament or in support of weapons systems coupled with lobbying visits could very well persuade policy makers to authorize more U.S. spending on nuclear weapons for the next year resulting in more contracts for Northrop Grumman and so on. Until the cycle is known, it will never be broken. Until it is broken, the threat posed by the very existence of nuclear weapons remains.

## NUCLEAR WEAPONS SPENDING CYCLE | 2020



**This report unveils the dirty secret of the nuclear weapons industry: the billions wasted on illegal weapons of mass destruction during a global pandemic and the vested interests that keep coming back for more.**