



## **My Journey at the Nuclear Brink**

*William Perry*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# My Journey at the Nuclear Brink

*William Perry*

## **My Journey at the Nuclear Brink** William Perry

*My Journey at the Nuclear Brink* is a continuation of William J. Perry's efforts to keep the world safe from a nuclear catastrophe. It tells the story of his coming of age in the nuclear era, his role in trying to shape and contain it, and how his thinking has changed about the threat these weapons pose.

In a remarkable career, Perry has dealt firsthand with the changing nuclear threat. Decades of experience and special access to top-secret knowledge of strategic nuclear options have given Perry a unique, and chilling, vantage point from which to conclude that nuclear weapons endanger our security rather than securing it.

This book traces his thought process as he journeys from the Cuban Missile Crisis, to crafting a defense strategy in the Carter Administration to offset the Soviets' numeric superiority in conventional forces, to presiding over the dismantling of more than 8,000 nuclear weapons in the Clinton Administration, and to his creation in 2007, with George Shultz, Sam Nunn, and Henry Kissinger, of the Nuclear Security Project to articulate their vision of a world free from nuclear weapons and to lay out the urgent steps needed to reduce nuclear dangers.

## **My Journey at the Nuclear Brink Details**

Date : Published November 11th 2015 by Stanford Security Studies

ISBN : 9780804796811

Author : William Perry

Format : Hardcover 276 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, History, Politics, Biography, Science, Autobiography, Memoir

 [Download My Journey at the Nuclear Brink ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online My Journey at the Nuclear Brink ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online My Journey at the Nuclear Brink William Perry**

---

# **From Reader Review My Journey at the Nuclear Brink for online ebook**

## **Roger Herikstad says**

### **A sombering yet optimistic review of the nuclear danger facing the world**

William Perry, former US Secretary of Defence, has written a thoughtful and enlightening review of his life long quest to rid the world of nuclear weapons. Though presenting a somewhat frightening vision of the world still at the brink of nuclear disaster, Perry still manages to instil a sense of optimism that the world is not yet doomed. I heartily recommend this book to anyone with an interest in global security, but also to anyone seeking to understand the subtleties of international diplomacy.

---

## **Tommaso De says**

Interesting topic but the prose is very dry, and the first part of the book requires a very good understanding of how the American government and agencies work. I was hoping for something a bit more personal.

---

## **Campbell says**

A sobering, sometimes chilling, peek behind the curtain of international politics to see how global attempts to reduce the threat from nuclear weapons are carried out. It does read at times (many times, if I'm honest) like that part of a job application form where you have to explain to your potential employer how great you are, but despite this it's still a worthwhile read.

---

## **Kirsten Jarvi says**

### **Excellence in solution based international relations.**

This is an excellent read for anyone who would like to see international relations to return to mutual agreement on how to decrease and disarm nuclear weapons. William Perry has extensive knowledge and experience in international diplomacy. It is my hope millennial generation reads this book and many young people as well to build a mutual agreements, nuclear weapons serve no one. There is promise, nuclear energy provides an excellent energy source, in areas not prone to earthquakes. Those solutions we leave to the leaders who have expertise in this area, it is a way to utilize the fissure, as described in the book for stabilizing energy sources in a productive way in some areas of the world. This is wisdom, and we have expertise in the United States in how to do this, maybe this is one solution out of many already proposed. I do believe we will see mutual cooperation with strong international relations if the United States takes the lead here. We are a great country, that has the knowledge and the abilities to implement this knowledge.

---

## **HUiwen Zheng says**

### **Decent Book**

A lot of insights behind all the important moments and events related to nuclear weapons. Perry is absolutely the expert in this field.

---

## **Dan Zak says**

An insider's guide -- written in mostly layman's terms -- to nuclear weapons and diplomacy over the past 50 years. Perry was secretary of defense under Clinton, and he is now committed to the reduction and elimination of nukes. This book is part memoir, part warning, and written specifically for those of us who've come of age after the end of the Cold War. There are still nearly 15,000 nuclear warheads on the planet; Perry reminds us what that means.

---

## **Swen says**

In this selective memoir of his career in- and outside government, Perry describes his activities related to reducing the likelihood of nuclear weapons being used again. He explains why nuclear weapons pose an unprecedented threat to civilisation itself and outlines a practical strategy for dealing effectively and responsibly with this danger.

The book reads mostly like a bureaucratic report but, given the significance of its subject matter and the authoritative quality of Perry's treatment, it should be read by everyone concerned with humankind's future.

---

## **jens ulltveit-moe says**

### **policy mistakes awaken the nuclear monster**

A cold war warrior traces his voyage from coldwar armagedon to nuclear mutual halving of warheads, and the subsequent policy mistakes that have awakened the nuclear dangers.

An insight into an analytical and compassionate mind which it is a delight to find belonged to a US Secretary of Defence

---

## **Larry says**

I found this to be a very interesting look behind the scenes authored by a fascinating public servant. Of particular interest, is the role of personal relations, personal trust that influences some of the most complex and dangerous issues of our time. Often fascinating.

---

## Mal Warwick says

At times it seems as though about a dozen people run the federal government. They change jobs from one administration to the next, occasionally drop out to work in academia or industry for a time, but then pop up again when another President comes along. At their level — the cabinet and sub-cabinet positions — political party tends not to matter as much as the public might think. History is full of such examples. One of those people is William J. Perry.

### Six decades combating the nuclear menace

Now 88 years of age, Perry is best known as the former Deputy Secretary and then Secretary of Defense under Bill Clinton, but his career in government — and in a variety of private-sector positions elsewhere in the military-industrial complex — began in the 1950s. In *My Journey at the Nuclear Brink*, Perry ably recounts his efforts over six decades to combat the menace of nuclear weapons from his positions in government, private industry, academia, and, now, the nonprofit sector. His account is brisk, readable, and ultimately terrifying.

### The enduring nuclear threat

Perry makes his case at the outset: “Nuclear weapons no longer provide for our security — they now endanger it.” Because of the failure of the U.S. and Soviet governments to reach agreement on eliminating nuclear weapons entirely, a step that was within their reach three decades ago, and the proliferation of nuclear technology to at least seven other nations, the human race is if anything more at risk from nuclear bombs than we were at the height of the Cold War, with the sole exception of the Cuban Missile Crisis. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel, and North Korea collectively possess a total of more than 16,000 nuclear weapons. A single missile, with ten nuclear warheads, could obliterate all the major capital cities of Europe — or the ten biggest cities in the United States.

Perry foresees three principal threats: the increasingly bellicose stance of Russia under Vladimir Putin, the ever-present possibility of a nuclear war between India and Pakistan, and the possibility that terrorists might steal or purchase a weapon and detonate it in a large American city.

### A chilling history of nuclear confrontation

Perry’s memoir brings to light several little-known events and circumstances that might have led to a full-blown nuclear conflagration between the U.S. and the USSR. “Although the Cuban Missile Crisis [in October 1962] ended without war,” he writes, “I believed then, and still believe, that the world avoided a nuclear holocaust as much by good luck as by good management. . . For example, we now know that the Soviet ships approaching our blockade of Cuba had submarine escorts, and that the Soviet submarines were armed with nuclear torpedoes . . . [T]he commanders had been given the authority to fire [those] torpedoes without authorization from Moscow. Only years after the crisis did we learn that one of the Soviet commanders had seriously considered firing one . . . at an American destroyer that was trying to force him to surface. He was dissuaded from doing so only by the other officers on the submarine.” This is scary stuff. Very scary. At the time I was terrified. Yet I didn’t understand just how close we came to Armageddon.

Perry makes clear that politics rather than military necessity has dictated the massive expansion of our nuclear forces in the past and prevents its further reduction today. “I can testify,” he writes, “that during the Cold War, no US president was willing to accept nuclear forces smaller than those of the Soviet Union” even though both nations had armed enough missiles to reduce the planet to ashes many times over. It was this imbalance that powered the nuclear arms race rather than the need for deterrence. In fact, the Triad — our nuclear forces on land, in the air, and under the sea — is unnecessary. “I am convinced that we could have confidence in our deterrence if we had only submarine-based missiles.”

A front seat at the brink

In his memoir, Perry recounts the various ways in which he personally has been involved in holding back the nuclear threat. In the 1950s and 60s, as a research scientist, he helped to develop the reconnaissance technology that revealed the true extent of the Soviet Union’s nuclear forces (undermining the fantasy of the “nuclear gap” that politicians — including John F. Kennedy — used to frighten the American people). In the 1970s, as a senior Defense Department official, he helped engineer the development of the U.S. deterrent that (in theory) prevented a Soviet attack. Then, in the 1990s, in collaboration with Senators Sam Nunn and Richard Lugar, he implemented the U.S. program to remove nuclear weapons and nuclear materials from Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus. Now, in the 21st century, he is working through the nonprofit sector with other former federal heavyweights (George Schultz, Henry Kissinger, and Sam Nunn) to campaign for nuclear nonproliferation and for reforms in the nuclear alert system that he believes to be antiquated and dangerous.

---

## **Jon says**

I came across a review of this book a couple of months ago and was interested enough to find a couple to read.

I am very glad that I did.

Former Secretary of Defense Perry succinctly tells about his professional life where he sought ways to reduce the risks of nuclear weapons. He tells some harrowing accounts of where the world only narrowly avoided nuclear holocaust by what some might term luck and others might term divine intervention. Either way, we are still here.

I found Mr. Perry's writing to be clear and easy to read - not really what I was expecting from a scientist, academic, and government professional - and very compelling. I highly recommend this book to anyone with an interest in military, 20th century history and beyond, nuclear deterrence, and the international cooperation/foreign affairs.

---

## **zu Serrahn says**

William Perry does a good job of walking one through the highlights of a long and impressive career in and out of government. He has an important story to tell about the arc of the nuclear era from the Cold War to what is necessary today to contain nuclear threats.

In terms of the writing, I would call his prose more workmanlike than inspired, but it gets the job done. Some of his humor may not appeal to people less steeped in government and defense matters than me, I suppose.

---

### **Madeleine Herkes says**

Essential reading

---

### **Judy Weihe says**

#### **Sobering**

As a former missile launch officer little has changed in the last 50 years. In the late 60s, I sat at a launch capsule and thought a nuclear exchange would occur in my lifetime, either on purpose or mistake. It is painful to read Perry' book to see how little progress has been made. I wrote the first articles on the morale delimmna of launching nuclear missiles that would kill millions. Not much has changed. A tough read for someone like me who has tried to put these concerns behind me. Like Perry, a new generation must take up the cause, but I am not hopeful.

Yes Weihe

---

### **Leigh Matthews says**

Terrifying, timely, educational... and, did I mention, terrifying!?

---