

*Ballistic Missile Defense &  
America's National Security*



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**Prepared by the Republican House Policy Committee  
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110<sup>th</sup> Congress**



## Overture



*And what did you hear, my blue-eyed son?  
And what did you see, my darling young one?*

*“I heard the sound of a thunder that roared out a warning,  
I heard the roar of a wave that could drown the whole world...”*

*“It’s a hard rain’s a-gonna fall...”*

**“A Hard Rain’s A-Gonna Fall”  
Bob Dylan**



## America's Challenge



Since the tragic day humanity first took up arms against itself, every offensive weapon has precipitated a defensive response. The response to the spear was the shield. The response to the sword was the suit of armor. The response to mortars and artillery was the armored battle tank – and on it continues in our time. Each succeeding advance in offensive weaponry brings a defensive response, wherein we hope to buy a little more time...

Nevertheless, the clock continues to run. Our world still confronts the prospect of sudden death beneath a rain of the most lethal offensive weapons in the human history: ballistic nuclear missiles capable of vaporizing an entire city of 100,000 souls in a blinding nanosecond, and killing half a million more in scant, agonizing weeks.

This remains the case today as it did less than two short decades ago, America and the free world faced an imperial Soviet Union armed with a massive stockpile of nuclear weapons. Compelled by this communist threat of world domination but lacking an effective mechanism to deter an aggressive Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal, our free world adopted a strategy of deterrence ominously named Mutually Assured Destruction.

The equation was gravely simple. Each nation entrusted their security in the other's sanity. The Soviet Union knew launching a nuclear attack upon the West that obliterated our cities and annihilated our men, women, and children would provoke a nearly simultaneous counterattack that would obliterate their cities and annihilate their men, women, and children. This "doomsday" scenario horrified both sides and, thus, achieved a grim deterrence that bought mankind a little more time...

Yet the sad irony is inescapable: although the Soviet Union is defeated and the Cold War won, the deathly math of Mutually Assured Destruction remains a central component of

humanity's strategy to prevent nuclear attack. This is most evident in how, 60 years into the nuclear age, liberal Democrats still debate whether the nations of the world should collaborate to develop a defensive response to these ghoulish technologies of cruelty.

But we are better served to understand how, in the dawn of this 21st century, two very important things have changed.

First, we now unequivocally know missile defense is technologically attainable. Since 2001, our Missile Defense Agency has chronicled 33 successful missile intercept tests using hit-to-kill technology, which was once ridiculed as fantasy and labeled by detractors as "Star Wars."

Second, we now face a new security paradigm premised on the asymmetric threat of Jihadist terrorism. Jihadists cut off their fellow human being's heads with hacksaws in front of television cameras while the victims scream for mercy; and these butchers are willing to kill themselves to kill others in as great a number as their diabolical minds can conceive and their bloody hands can achieve. Osama bin Laden himself said, "It is our religious duty to gain nuclear weapons."

Like the Soviet threat, Jihadist terrorism is an existential threat to humanity's peace and freedom. But, unlike the atheist Soviet Union, Jihadist terrorism worships death and exalts "martyrdom"; thus, this enemy cannot be deterred by a fear of Mutually Assured Destruction.

Compounding the danger, imperial Iran is the world's largest financier and enabler of terrorism. Guided by Islamist fanaticism and an intrinsic hatred for everything freedom embodies, Iran is determined to refashion the Middle East in its own radical image. Its tyrants blatantly deny the Holocaust and threaten to wipe our ally, Israel, "off the map." These despots brazenly boast about their willingness to commence a nuclear exchange with Israel to hasten an end-of-days scenario. Indeed, on Iranian television, Iranian "President" Ahmadinejad told America and ultimately, all the nations:

“And you, for your part, if you would like to have good relations with the Iranian nation in the future, recognize the Iranian nation's right. Recognize the Iranian nation's greatness. And bow down before the greatness of the Iranian nation and surrender. If you don't accept [to do this], the Iranian nation will later force you to surrender and bow down.”

Can we trust words alone to sway such a man from pushing a button that could launch nuclear missiles aimed at our families? Can we actually constructively engage and negotiate with a nuclear Iran, when their Jihadist ideology considers America evil and Armageddon good?

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) reports imperial Iran has tested modern variations of medium-range ballistic missiles capable of threatening our allies in the Persian Gulf, including Israel, and in Eastern Europe. Reports further estimate Iran could well have long-range missiles before 2015. While some recent reports have dangerously confused the issue in the public mind, there is no argument about one critical fact. Iran continues to relentlessly pursue a stubborn determination to enrich uranium, which is the critical component for nuclear warheads. Israeli intelligence predicts the rogue Iranian regime could have nuclear weapons capability in less than 3 years.

An Iranian terrorist regime in possession of nuclear warheads and the ballistic missiles capable of delivering them thousands of miles in every direction – including our forward-deployed-troops, our friends and allies in Europe, and ourselves – represents one of the gravest threats to peace and the perpetuation of freedom now facing our human family.

It is not the only one. Nuclear missile technology is too easily shared with state sponsors of terror; consequently, it may not be long until these weapons of mass destruction (WMD) reach terrorist hands. Such WMD is ideally suited for terrorist use. Therefore, missile defense is our last line of defense against an incoming missile; and our first line of defense against proliferation, because it devalues nuclear missiles as offensive military

assets and may, consequently, prevent the entire technology from falling into terrorists' possession.

Reason and our survival instinct dictate the free world take every opportunity to remove both the capacity and the incentive for imperial Iran or any other rogue nation to build or obtain nuclear weapons. If terrorist sponsor nations, like Iran, are permitted to develop nuclear weapons, our world will change and the hope of containing nuclear proliferation will be profoundly diminished. Therein rests the gravest and greatest danger of all: rogue regimes and terrorists the world over will have access to these monstrous weapons.

In addition to these earth-bound threats, communist China is aggressively developing advanced weapons to launch missiles against our space-based communications technologies. In January of 2006, communist China successfully launched an anti-satellite weapon that destroyed one of their satellites. The tyrannical regime's clear warning to our nation was this: our civilian and military satellite communications are vulnerable targets. Thus, our development of a missile defense system is necessary to guard both America's earth-bound and space-based assets and interests.

But can America implement a missile defense system?

Yes, America has the most technologically advanced and best trained military the world has ever witnessed. However, this only holds true if Americans remain committed to the truth our peace and security is only guaranteed by strength. Our citizenry must continue to demand their elected officials advance policies that provide Americans with the most effective defense against real and ever-present threats.

Amazingly, some elected officials disagree. For example, when President Bush ended the Cold War relic called the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, many Left-wing members of Congress questioned whether the freedom-loving nations of the world should develop a robust and layered defense to ballistic nuclear missiles. These leftist ideologues leaders still refuse to admit Ronald Reagan's "peace through strength" policy was morally correct, strategically sound, and victorious; and they persist in delaying and, in some

cases, completely preventing the implementation of current and future programs critical to the installation of a layered national missile defense.

Fortunately, the majority of Americans are far wiser and they support a missile defense system. In point of fact, the obviousness of our need for such a missile defense system leads many Americans to think we already have one, though we only currently possess a limited defense against this gathering threat. This is unacceptable.

As a free people, we must remember we will always be the first target of would-be world dictators and tyrannical regimes. We must reaffirm our peace and security is guaranteed by strength, not servility. And we must resolve to immediately complete our missile defense system. Doing so will fulfill the first purpose of the federal government to protect the lives and security of its innocent citizens; failing to do so, we will endanger and potentially render meaningless all others, if our country and all humanity finally run out of time....

## Republican Principles



Inspired by Divine Providence's self-evident truths, the people founded our free republic to protect their unalienable, God-given, and constitutionally recognized rights,



Thus, the first purpose of our federal government is to secure domestic peace and provide for the common defense. The failure of this responsibility renders all others meaningless.



Weakness is provocative. Our peace and security is guaranteed by strength, not appeasement.



## Republican Policies



It is a just, appropriate, and necessary use of tax resources to invest in developing, modernizing, and fielding a robust ballistic nuclear missile defense to defend Americans, who have established and consented to their government for the protection of their lives and liberties.



America must collaborate with her allies in the family of free nations, especially in NATO and our Pacific partners, to develop and implement this ballistic nuclear missile defense system.



Missile defense is both our last line of defense against an incoming missile launched by an organized nation state currently possessing the required nuclear technology; and our first line of defense against the proliferation of these armaments to rogue regimes and other nations presently lacking the required nuclear technology. Because effective missile defense devalues nuclear weapons and deters their use, this system removes nations' incentives – strategic and monetary - to buy and sell nuclear technologies. Thus, missile defense prevents imminent and potential WMD assaults upon our people.



So too, rogue regimes acquiring nuclear missile technology will likely pass it on to stateless terrorist groups; thus, preventing rogue regimes from gaining nuclear technology may also prevent its proliferation to terrorists who would attack us with nuclear yield “IEDs” or “dirty bombs”.



Missile defense must be pursued in tandem with a concerted international diplomatic effort to isolate and sanction nations engaged in the proliferation of nuclear technologies to both other states and stateless terrorists.



We United States must strengthen protections against foreign espionage against and the international sale of domestic “dual use” technologies. This will further reduce the possibility of nuclear proliferation within the bastions of tyranny seeking to destroy our lives and liberty.



Finally, Democrats incomprehensibly support weakening our military; surrendering in Iraq, rather than securing victory and preventing this nascent democracy from collapsing into a despotic state of terror; and defunding critical defense programs and initiatives for fear America will appear too robust, too aggressive, and unilateral. Their irresponsible policies further spur Republicans to secure our great American experiment, where sovereign citizens possess equal justice under the law, and the freedom to worship, speak, and collect the fruit of their labor. The preservation of these God-given rights is only possible if our Nation remains vibrant, strong, and secure. In consequence, Republicans know we must maintain a clear and unrelenting commitment to victory in regions of the world where we are in conflict; by sincerely supporting our men and women in uniform; by maintaining robust and strategically superior Armed Forces; and by implementing prudent policies that protect the liberty, sovereignty, security, prosperity, truths and self-determination of every American.

## Advancing American Excellence



America cannot afford to underestimate the profound implications of a ballistic nuclear missile threat. In spite of recent reports, America's intelligence community still estimates that the Iranian nuclear missile threat is 7 or 8 years away... Israeli intelligence predicts it in less than half that time. Disturbingly, such predictive time tables have often been wrong and the world has been surprised by how quickly our foes advanced.

Both North Korea and Iran have stunned the international community with the extent and rapidity of their development of missile capabilities. In 1998, the intelligence community stated North Korea was years away from developing long range missiles; but on August 31 of that same year, North Korea launched a Taepodong-1 missile that landed between Japan and Hawaii. If the test had been successful, the North Koreans would have demonstrated an ability to hurl a 200 kilo warhead onto the shores of the western United States.

In retrospect, the Cuban missile crisis demonstrates how quietly danger can approach. When we discovered the Soviet Union planned to put nuclear missiles on the imprisoned island of Cuba – a scant 90 miles off our shores – no one could deny the gravity of the threat. What Americans did not know then, however, was the threat was even graver than thought. We now know that there were numerous nuclear-capable missiles, (awaiting only the installation of the nuclear warhead itself), already positioned on Castro's communist Cuba before our blockade began. The lives and freedom of more than 50 million Americans were in immediate and mortal danger. Ultimately, thankfully, America averted a national cataclysm; and humanity was spared a third world war.

In our global era, it is now technologically possible to build defense systems capable of protecting America against nuclear missiles; thereby diminish these weapons' military and strategic value; and, ultimately, end these weapons' reason for existence.

Decades ago, President Ronald Reagan, the political father of modern missile defense, had a vision for a defensive system which would, in effect, hit a bullet with a bullet in the sky to protect the innocent people in cities below and bring stability and security to the nations and peoples of the world. We now standing in the dawn of the day his vision will be realized.

So, America and her allies must proceed with the implementation of a missile defense system to protect our own children and all of the children of the world from falling under the shadow of nuclear Jihad. As we do, let us offer the remaining totalitarian regimes in the world a choice between competition or cooperation: let them either start a race against us to develop their own missile defense systems, or constructively collaborate with us to develop the most effective missile defense systems possible to protect the innocent citizens of the world. Either choice will have the effect of turning the cold war deterrent policy of Mutually Assured Destruction into a policy of Mutually Assured Survival for our children and our children's children.

For our generation, if there comes a day we must apologize to the our people and our progeny for building an expensive missile defense system that went unused, let us gratefully stand before them and humbly apologize. But may God spare us the day our children are made to endure the unspeakable horror of a nuclear blast, be it from Jihadists or anyone, and we as leaders must apologize to the scarred, the grieving, and the stunned for failing to protect them with an effective global missile defense system that was wholly within our power to develop.

It is a truth understood by Ronald Reagan who, well before he bore the burden of defending the Free World from evil, said something that still applies to all of us who continue the struggle to preserve and promote human freedom:

“You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. We can preserve this, the last best hope of mankind on earth for children. Or we can sentence them to take that first step into a thousand years of darkness. If we do fail, at least let our children and our children's children say of us that we justified our brief moment here. We did all that could be done.”

May history judge our Global Generation as one that sagely united to protect and champion American and human freedom; and provided the innocent of our time and of future generations yet unborn lifetimes to walk in the sunlight of freedom.



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