The issue of the Use and Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Nuclear Weapons remain among the most destructive arms ever created, posing grave threats to global security and safety. While nuclear weapons have only been used in warfare twice – at Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 – their proliferation has expanded greatly since then, raising some concerns. These weapons have the potential for immense loss of human life, environmental damage and long-term radiological impact. The question of how to limit, reduce or eliminate nuclear weapons remains one of the most contentious issues in international security and diplomacy. The following countries who have nuclear weapons are the United States, Russia, UK, France, China, Pakistan, India and DPRK.

Nuclear-armed states often justify their nuclear weapons as deterrents, aimed at preventing other countries from attacking when tensions run high. However, this doctrine creates security dilemmas, where a nations build up prompts others to follow suit, risking an arms race and miscalculation.

Moreover, it is important to remember that as nuclear weapons are becoming more sophisticated the risk of accident also increases. Whether it be because of miscommunication, an accident or anything else, we can see how devastating the consequences of nuclear weapons actually are.

We can also see how conflicts such as the war between Russia and Ukraine have shown the risks of nuclear blackmail, highlighting the delicacies of international security. From a humanitarian point of view the consequences could be devastating as the use of nuclear weapons would result in mass casualties and long - term radiation effects. However, environmentally they could impact agricultural productivity and cause famines among other things. The threat posed by nuclear weapons is massive and could lead to catastrophic consequences if situations are not dealt with peacefully and with tact.

Points to consider

* Are the potential environmental, societal and economic consequences of nuclear weapons worth the risk?
* What is the value of having access to nuclear weapons? Is it big enough to justify their creation?
* What measures can be taken to ensure compliance with existing treaties?
* How can we adapt to the challenges posed by emerging technologies?
* What political influence could they have and how can it be combated?

Links/sources

* <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/disarmament>
* <https://disarmament.unoda.org/wmd/nuclear/>