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The Second Nuclear Age

The first nuclear age was structured around a rivalry between two superpowers seeking larger and more advanced arsenals than one another. Third World actors were marginal to the central game. Nuclear testing was essential to the tempo of the arms race, and the strategic behavior of the contestants was thought to be regulated by rational actor theories derived from economics. In the second nuclear age the core rivalry of two superpowers has given way to regional nuclear arms races and fears of nuclear attack on the center by rogue states or sub-national actors. Nuclear testing has given way to simulations, and many of the new nuclear actors are presumed to be pre- or post-rational. How do we navigate our way through this second nuclear age?