

Managing U.S. nuclear operations in the 21st century

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Résumé ou extrait : Arms control agreements and the end of the Cold War have made the prospect of nuclear war a distant fear for the general public. But the United States and its principal rivals—China and Russia—still maintain sizable arsenals of nuclear weapons, along with the systems for managing them and using them if that terrible day ever comes. Managing U.S. Nuclear Operations in the 21st Century focuses on how theories and policies are put into practice in managing nuclear forces in the United States. It addresses such questions as: What have been the guiding priorities of U.S. nuclear strategy since the end of the Cold War ? What nuclear attack options would the president have during a war? How are these war plans developed and reviewed by civilian and military leaders ? How would presidential orders be conveyed to the uniformed men and women who are entrusted with U.S. nuclear weapons systems ? And are these communications systems and supporting capabilities vulnerable to disruption or attack ? The answers to such questions depend on the process by which national strategy for nuclear deterrence,

developed by civilian leaders, is converted into nuclear war plans and the entire range of procedures for implementing those plans if necessary.

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