

Long-Term Consequences and Strategic Reasoning

William Faulkner, University of Sussex

*“Thus what is of supreme importance in war
is to attack the enemy’s strategy.
Next best is to disrupt his alliances.
The next best is to attack his army.
The worst policy is to attack cities.”*

Sun Tzu. *The Art of War*. Translated by Samuel B. Griffith. Oxford:
Oxford University Press, 1963.

Premises:

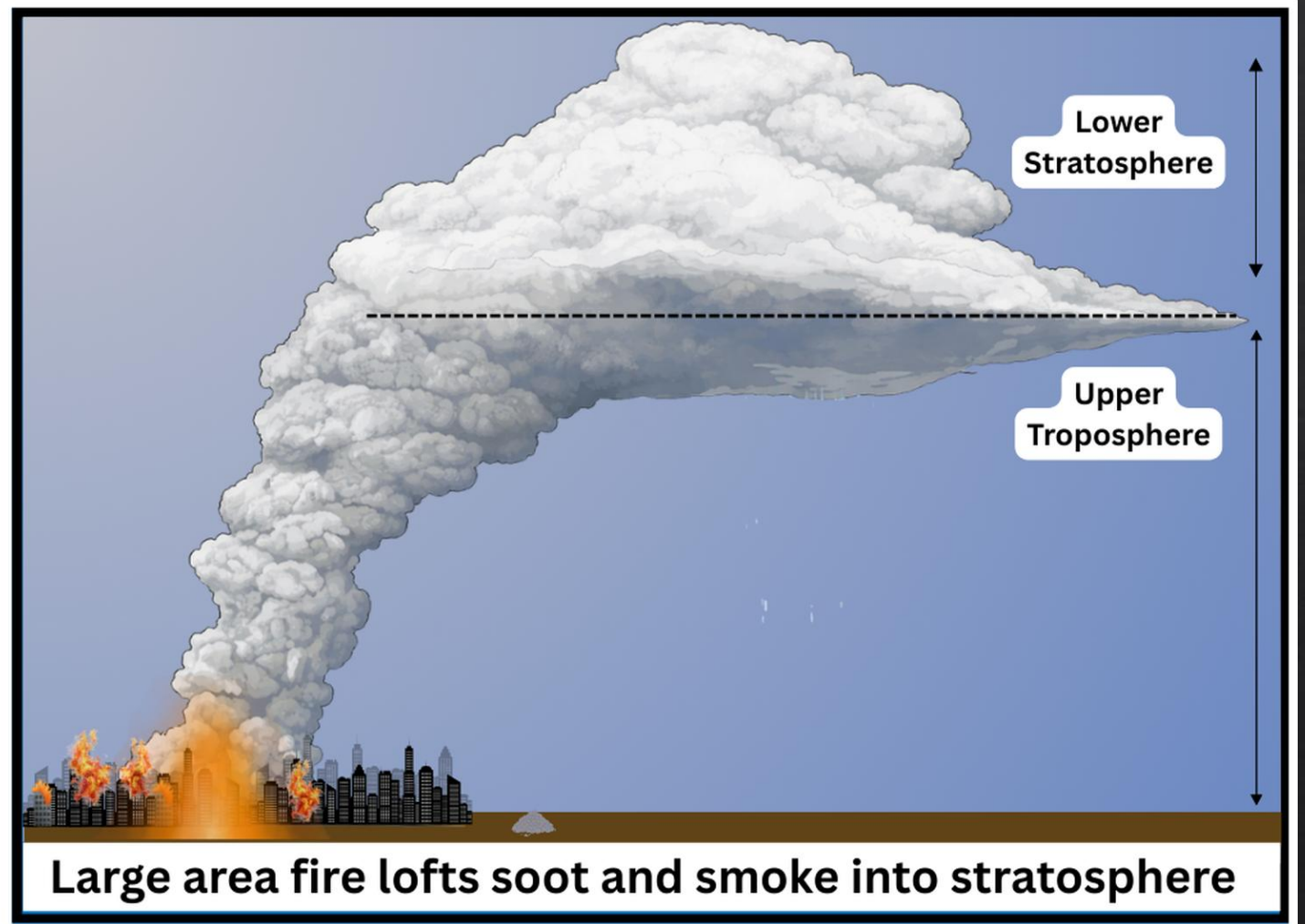
1. Consistent signal from science.
2. Current arsenals sufficient.
3. Sole launch authority common.
4. NW not part of decisionmaking.

“Although various debates transpired in academic journals, no definitive paper critical of the nuclear winter theory has yet been published.”

Ichimasa Sukeyuki, “Reassessing the ‘Nuclear Winter’ Theory: Current Research on the Climate Effects of Nuclear War and Its Implications for Security and Nuclear Deterrence.”
Security & Strategy 3 (2023)

Nuclear Winter Primer

Nuclear Winter Primer (1)

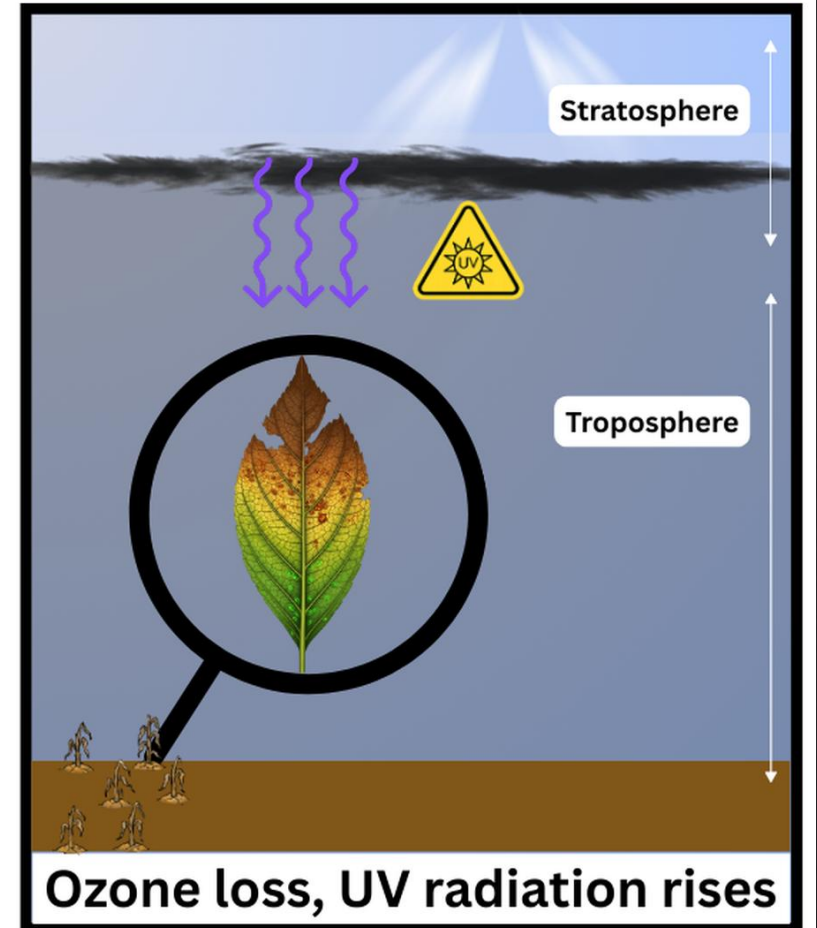


Nuclear Winter Primer (2)



High-altitude soot spreads around the globe, blocking sunlight from reaching the surface

Nuclear Winter Primer (3)



Nuclear Winter & Nuclear Strategy

Position Portfolio:

1. Inaction.
2. Expanded stakeholders.
3. Classic “prisoner’s dilemma.”
4. Self-Assured Destruction (SAD) / Suicide.

“Many hawkish and dovish strategic analysts strove (sometimes in bizarre fashion) to utilize nuclear winter as an argument for their previously held policy preferences.”

Rueter, Theodore, and Thomas Kalil. “Nuclear Strategy and Nuclear Winter.” *World Politics* 43, no. 4 (1991)

Nuclear Winter & Nuclear Strategy

Position Portfolio:

1. Inaction.
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4. Self-Assured Destruction (SAD) / Suicide.

- Risk management
- All NWS have unilateral ability to reduce risk
- Everyone has the responsibility

Nuclear Winter & Nuclear Strategy

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“...nuclear winter is ignored by both sides, which reflects current reality...”

Scouras, James, Lauren Ice, & Megan Proper. *Nuclear Winter, Nuclear Strategy, Nuclear Risk*.
The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, 2023.

- Prudence
- All NWS have unilateral ability to reduce risk
- Everyone has the responsibility

- Already public info
- Lead by example
- Align with other policy goals
- Asynch. changes

Nuclear Winter & Nuclear Strategy

Self-Assured
Destruction (SAD) /
Suicide:

Damocles' Ceiling



More to Explore... Explore More!



More research
needed!

“In April 2021, the U.S. Congress mandated that the [National Academies of Science] conduct a study and assessment of the climate effects of nuclear war...Attention will be fixed on what conclusions the NAS will present in light of the recent debates.”

Emphasis added.

Ichimasa Sukeyuki, “Reassessing the ‘Nuclear Winter’ Theory: Current Research on the Climate Effects of Nuclear War and Its Implications for Security and Nuclear Deterrence.” *Security & Strategy* 3 (2023)