

# Accidental nuclear war and what you can do about it

Max Tegmark, MIT



News: AI Biotech Nuclear Climate Partner Orgs

friends - \$1,000,000,000,000 goes a long way! To avoid investing in more nukes than you want, click [here](#).

All	Defense	Education and Science	Energy & Environment	Health	Humanitarian Aid	Infrastructure	Reduced Spending

NAME	IMAGE	PRICE	QUANTITY	
Give Everyone in the Military a \$10,000 Bonus		\$14,600,000,000	<input type="text" value="1"/>	
Help 9,000 Homeless Veterans Find a Permanent Home		\$62,000,000	<input type="text" value="1"/>	

\$235,998,000,000





Jules Laurents

## EXPERIMENT IN ANNIHILATION\*

**M**ARCH 1, 1954, the same day that shots were ringing on the floor of the House of Representatives, another "shot", unheralded but of sweeping significance, was fired in the Marshall Islands. On that day an American AEC task group detonated a hydrogen bomb of monstrous size. In its widest implications that bomb has not yet ceased to reverberate. A long chain of incidents, ranging from the curious to the tragic, has made it clear that "peacetime" nuclear explosions present a substantial threat to our well-being. Storm signals from earlier atomic tests such as fogged photographic film and radioactive rain have given way to the storm — which has already resulted in the radioactive poisoning of several hundred people. The March 1 explosion also blasted the lid of secrecy from the AEC's thermonuclear adventures, giving the public its first real look behind the "uranium curtain"; thus it is now known that the AEC touched off three prior hydrogen explosions, the third of which (November, 1952) gave more than five times as great an energy release as predicted by its creators.

### I. Chronicle of Events

The March 1 bomb was expected to explode with a force of four to six megatons (a megaton denotes the energy released by exploding one million tons of TNT) but developed instead about fourteen



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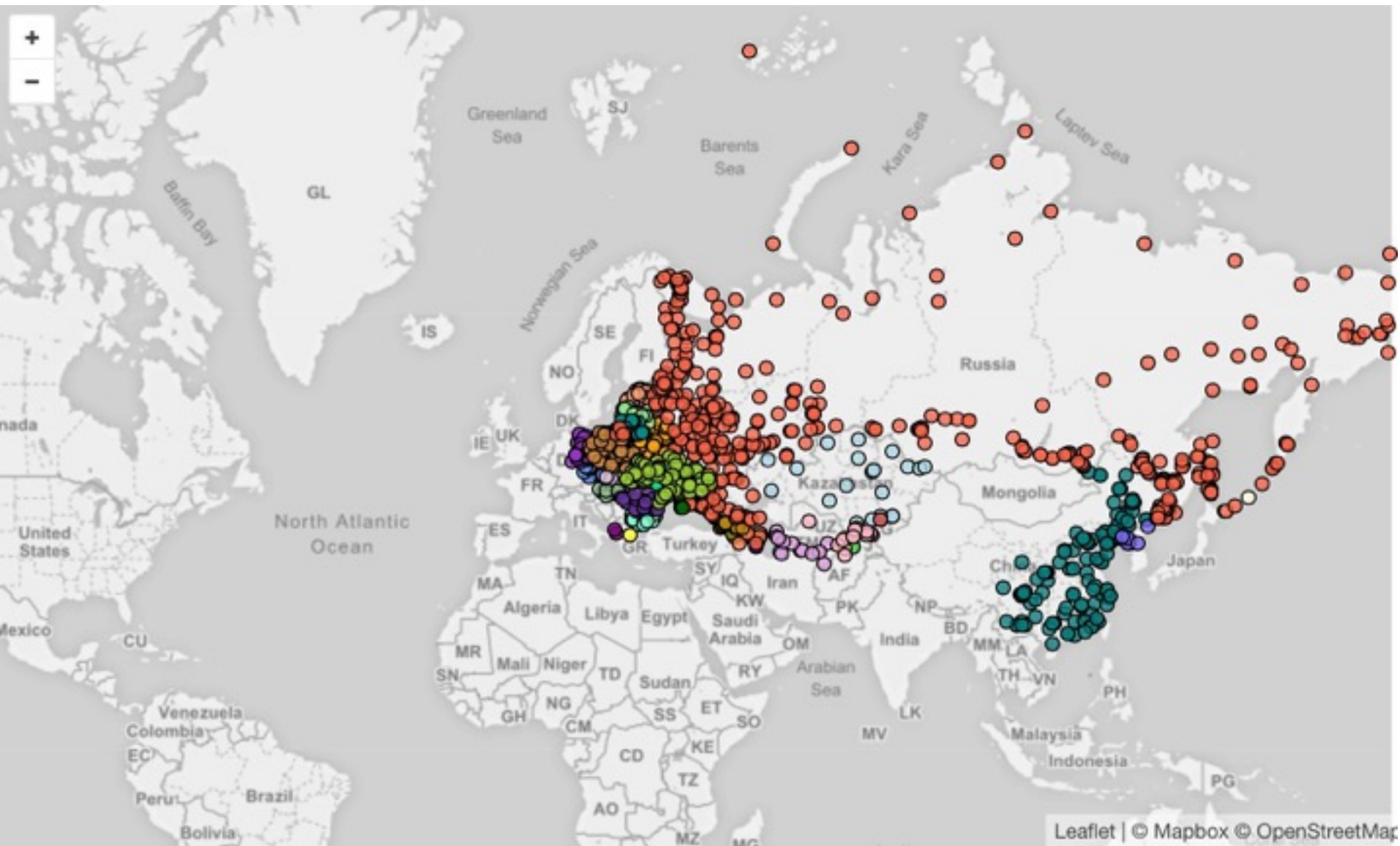


Chronicle of Events

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Justin Bieber



Vasili Arkhipov

1) Which one of these people is more famous?



Justin Bieber



Vasili Arkhipov

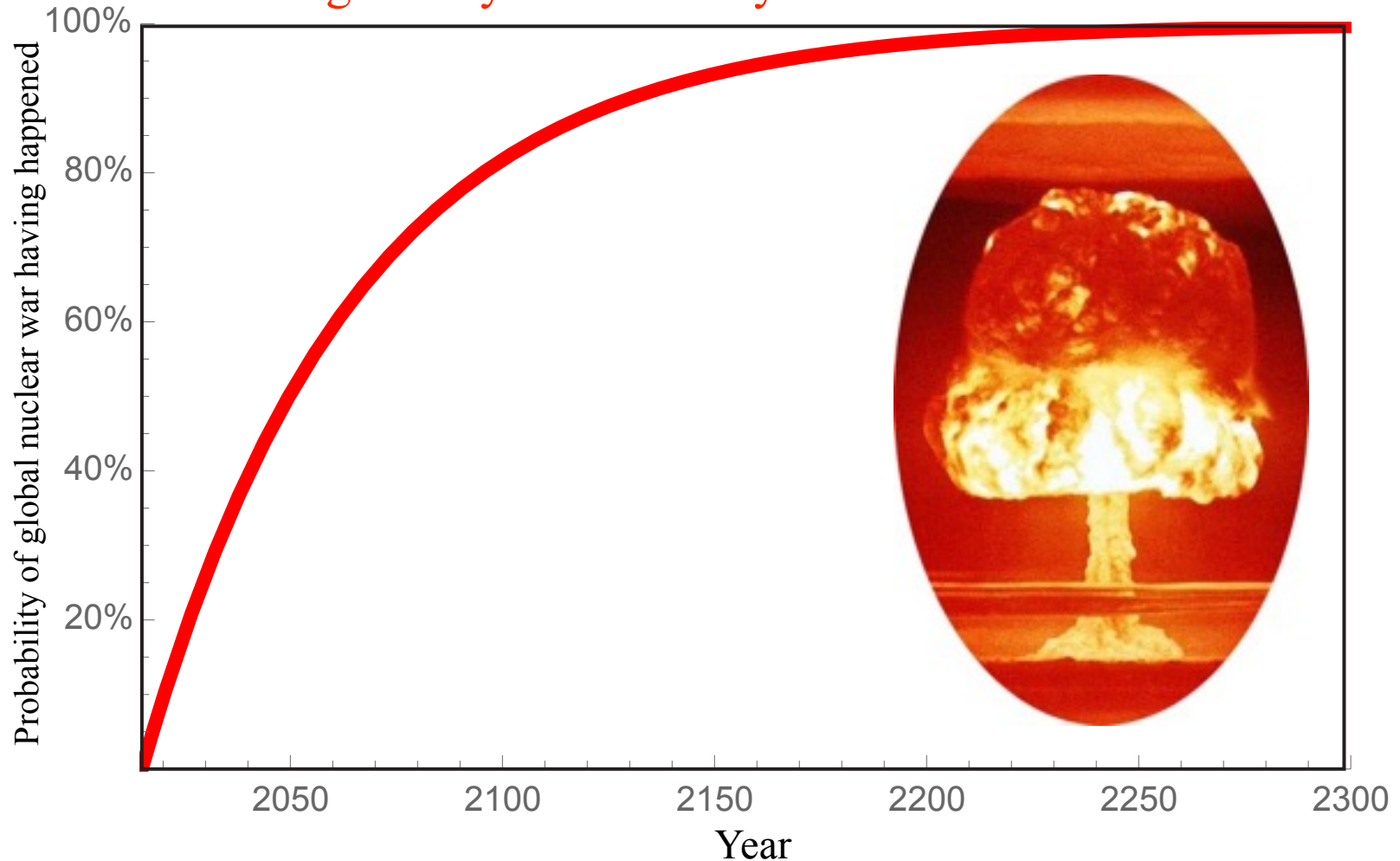
1) Which one of these people is more famous?

2) Which one of these people should we thank for us all being alive here tonight, because he singlehandedly stopped a Soviet nuclear attack during the Cuban missile crisis?



# Lesson: Relying on luck is a poor long-term strategy

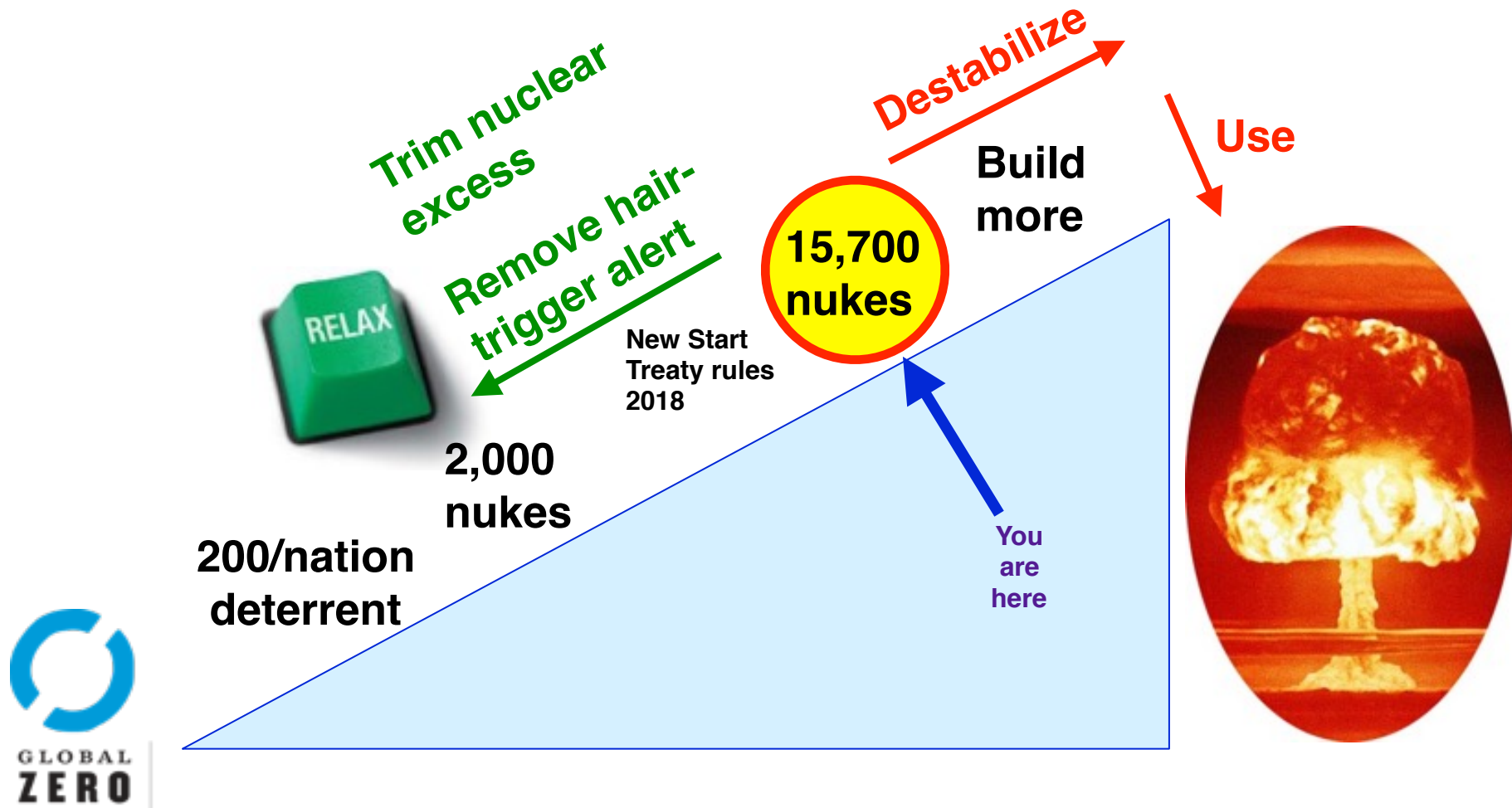
Assuming merely 2% chance/year:



**WHAT'S OUR  
GOAL?**



# WHAT SHOULD THE END GOAL BE?



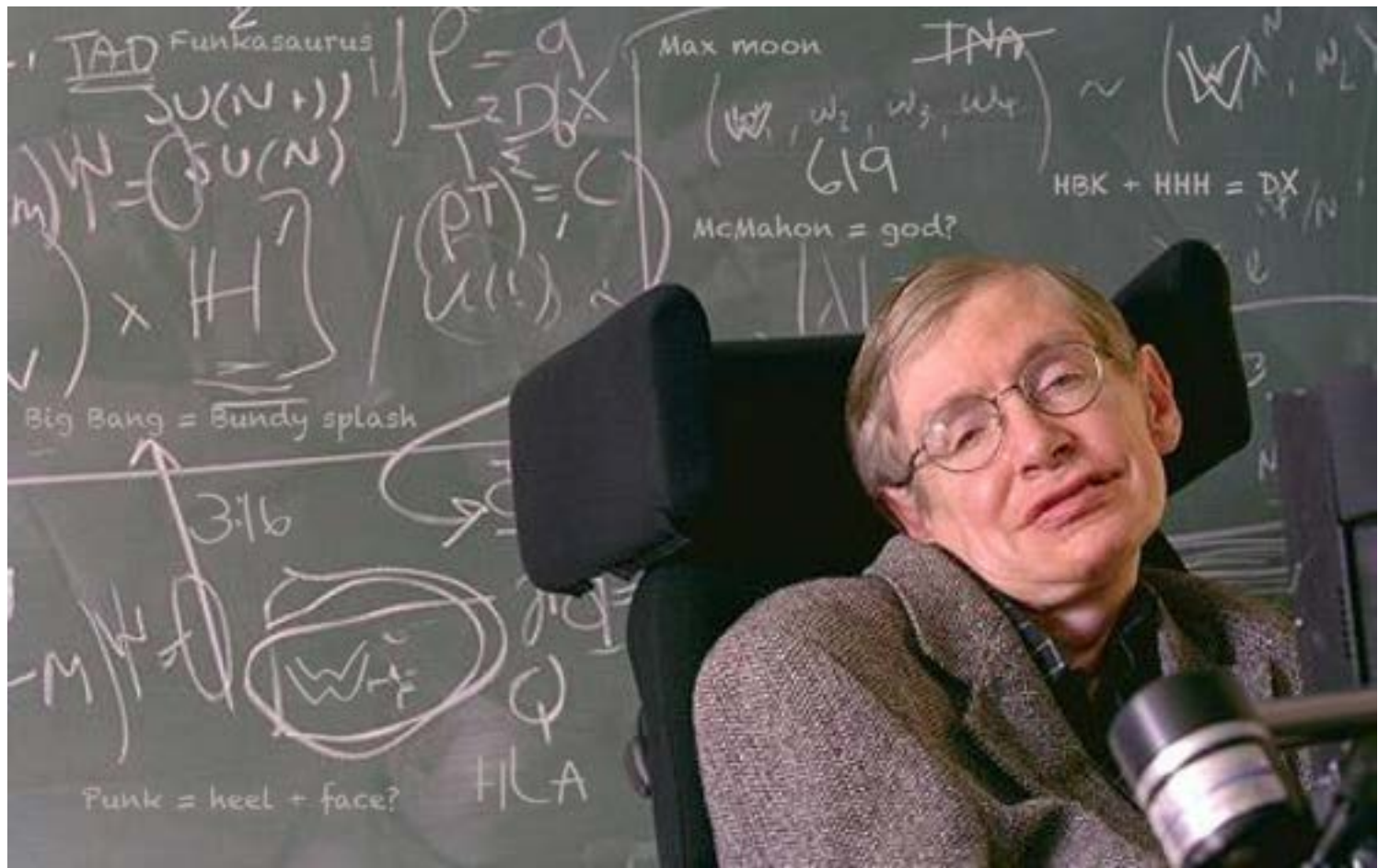
**Infighting about end goals is best avoided among all who agree that the first step should be down rather than up!**

**What can  
*you* do?**



# **You have power every time you**

- **vote**
- **share (#MITnukes)**
- **shop**
- **invest**



***“If you want to slow the nuclear arms race, then put your money where your mouth is and don’t bank on the bomb!”***