

The Chart Page

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Weapons of Mass Destruction

Twenty-one countries which are declared, suspected, or aspiring owners of mass-destruction weapons possess ballistic missiles.

So states a recent report on the subject by the Congressional Research Service. Among these 21 are established powers such as the United States, Britain, France, Russia, and China, each of which has fielded nuclear arms for at least 35 years.

The others, however, can be found in a great arc of crisis ranging from North Africa through the Mideast and South Asia to Northeast Asia. Three—India, Pakistan, and Israel—are viewed as nuclear weapons states. North Korea probably has them, and Libya, Iran, and Iraq are said to be developing them.

Others have chemical weapon and missile development programs, and several are reportedly working on biological weapons.

Source: Congressional Research Service, "Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Weapons and Missiles: The Current Situation and Trends," Aug. 10, 2001.

Who Has What?

Nation	Nuclear Weapons	Biological Weapons	Chemical Weapons	Ballistic Missiles (Longest range)
Algeria	—	Research?	Suspected	SRBM
China	Known	Likely	Has Had	ICBM
Egypt	—	Known R&D	Likely	SRBM
Ethiopia	—	—	Likely	—
France	Known	Ended	Ended	SLBM
India	Known	—	Has Had	MRBM
Indonesia	—	—	Sought	—
Iran	Seeking	Likely	Has Had	MRBM
Iraq	Seeking	Known	Known	SRBM
Israel	Known	Likely R&D	Likely	MRBM
Kazakhstan	Ended	—	Suspected	SRBM
Libya	Seeking	Research	Likely	MRBM
Myanmar	—	—	Likely	—
North Korea	Likely	Likely	Known	IRBM
Pakistan	Known	—	Likely	MRBM
Russia	Known	Suspected	Known	ICBM
Saudi Arabia	—	—	Suspected	MRBM
South Africa	Ended	Ended	Suspected	Ended
South Korea	Ended	—	Suspected	SRBM
Sudan	—	—	Suspected	—
Syria	—	Seeking	Known	SRBM
Taiwan	Ended	Suspected	Likely	SRBM
Thailand	—	—	Suspected	—
UK	Known	Ended	Ended	SLBM
US	Known	Ended	Known	ICBM
Vietnam	—	—	Likely	SRBM
Yugoslavia	—	—	Known	Suspected

Key:	
SRBM	Short Range Ballistic Missile 620 miles
MRBM	Medium Range Ballistic Missile 621–1,860 miles
IRBM	Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile 1,861–3,410 miles
ICBM	Intercontinental Ballistic Missile More than 3,410 miles
SLBM	Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile Various