



The Extortionist's Doctrine

Elaine Scarry, *Boston Review*

<https://bit.ly/40m1U3M>

Graphix by Jack Kelly, Physicians for Social Responsibility

GENERAL LEE BUTLER

FORMER COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE U.S. STRATEGIC COMMAND



"[DETERRENCE IS] PREMISED ON A LITANY OF UNWARRANTED ASSUMPTIONS, UNPROVABLE ASSERTIONS AND LOGICAL CONTRADICTIONS."



FLAW #1: DETERRENCE UNDERMINES OUR NATIONAL SECURITY WHILE CLAIMING TO PROTECT IT

FLAW #2: ASSUMING YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE OTHER SIDE'S ACTIONS



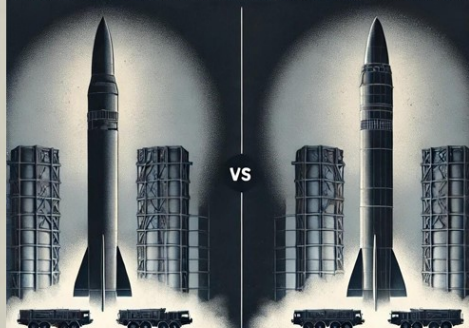
THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS SHOWED THAT YOU CANNOT ACCURATELY UNDERSTAND AN ENEMY THROUGH THE FOG OF WAR

FLAW #3: THE CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE ARE TOO HIGH



A BREAKDOWN OF DETERRENCE RISKS THE VERY FATE OF THE WORLD

FLAW #4: SECOND STRIKE CAPABILITIES LOOK THE EXACT SAME AS FIRST STRIKE



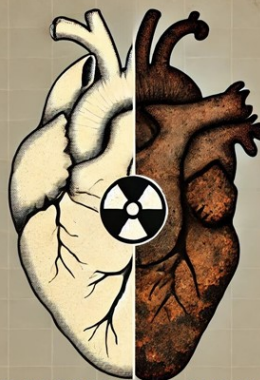
MORE MISSILES MAKES ENEMIES THINK A FIRST STRIKE IS IMMINENT, DANGEROUSLY DESTABILIZING THE NUCLEAR BALANCE

FLAW #5: DETERRENCE HAS NO LOGICAL LIMITS CAUSING AN "INSATIABLE ARMS RACE"



FLAW #6: IT IS MORALLY HEINOUS TO CONDEMN MILLIONS TO DEATH

OUR NATIONAL SECURITY CANNOT RELY ON THE KILLING OF INNOCENTS



FLAW #7: IT CORRODES OUR MORALITY BY TRIVIALIZING KILLING MILLIONS



FLAW #8: DETERRENCE PROMOTES GLOBAL NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION