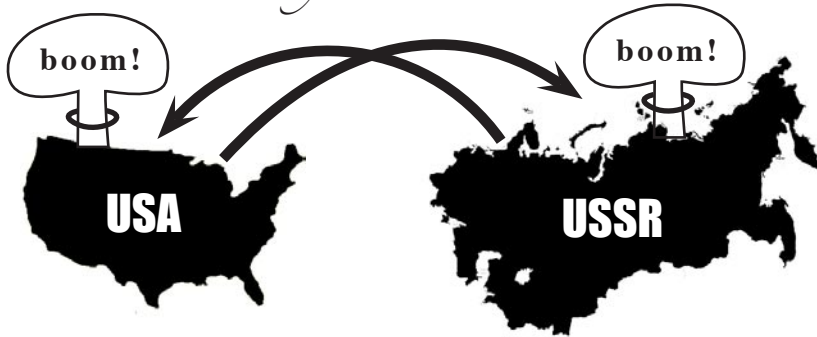


# Missile Defence: an illustrated primer

## 1. the old days



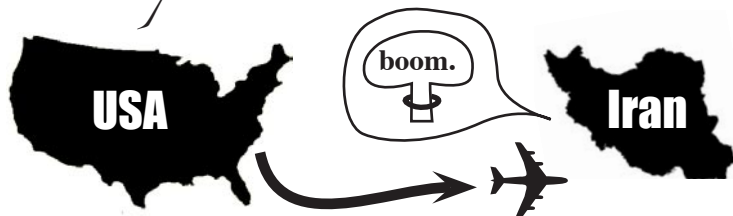
**Mutually assured destruction.** If one nuclear state attacks another, it guarantees its own destruction from a retaliatory strike.

## 2. the present day



Still mutually assured destruction. If any country launches a missile at the US it guarantees its own total and complete demise. Countries also have a very strong incentive not to allow anyone to launch missiles from their land. *Note: Iran is simply an example, as the US has threatened regime change there. Other countries the US has expressed interest in invading: Cuba, North Korea, Syria.*

## 3. the problem

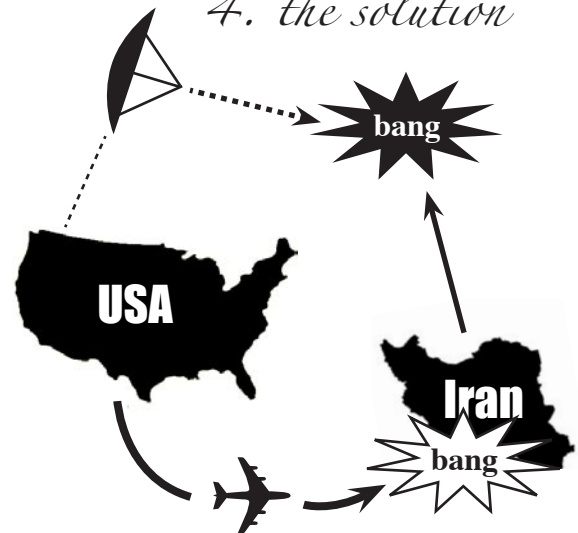


Now, the US might want to invade or bomb a country, but doesn't want to use nuclear weapons. Countries with nukes can convince it not to attack by threatening nuclear retaliation.

“Effective ballistic missile defenses will be the central element in the exercise of American power and the projection of U.S. military forces abroad. Without it, weak states operating small arsenals of crude ballistic missiles, armed with basic nuclear warheads or other weapons of mass destruction, will be in a strong position to deter the United States from using conventional force, no matter the technological or other advantages we may enjoy. Even if such enemies are merely able to threaten American allies rather than the United States homeland itself, America's ability to project power will be deeply compromised.”

—The Project for the New American Century, whose members include Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Richard Perle and Jeb Bush, in a report entitled “Rebuilding America's Defenses”.

## 4. the solution



With missile defence, the US can attack, and even the reasonably powerful countries don't have the means to strike back. The US can invade or bomb with impunity... unless new ways of delivering bombs can be developed. The race is on!