

**Sovereignty in a World Free of Nuclear Weapons** by Douglas B. Shaw, Director of Security Programs, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Washington D.C., USA.

**Abstract:** This article argues that renunciation of nuclear weapons through formal nonproliferation and disarmament commitments increasingly represents an assertion of state sovereignty instead of a limitation. Nuclear weapons are more of a threat than an asset to the contemporary state. For the moment, states retain the capacity to significantly control the spread of nuclear weapons but this capacity has not been fully developed. An evolved understanding of sovereignty that more formally embraces binding nonproliferation and disarmament commitments may extend the viability of the state as a political means of providing security.