

The United States and the undermining of the non-proliferation regime by Stephen Zunes, Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Program, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, California, USA. **Abstract:** This paper argues that through all seven U.S. administrations since 1968, the United States has failed to consistently support the goals of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Not only has the U.S. government, along with the other original nuclear powers, refused to live up to their responsibilities to take serious steps at disarmament, but successive U.S. administrations have shielded allied governments in the Middle East and South Asia in their development of nuclear weapons while defending the use of unilateral military intervention against potentially adversarial governments. The policy of rejecting law-based universalistic approaches to nonproliferation and to instead pursue a policy of nuclear apartheid has provided an incentive for countries like Iran to pursue a nuclear program with potential military applications and threatens international efforts to enforce the nonproliferation regime.