

## Transcript

### Nuclear Weapons (Trailer)

#### Dr Luc-André Brunet:

Hello, and welcome to this preview of the free OpenLearn course:

#### **Banning the Bomb: A Global History of Activism against Nuclear Weapons**

My name is Luc Brunet, and I'm the co-author of the course. I'm an historian at the Open University and Principal Investigator of a major AHRC-funded research project on global histories of anti-nuclear activism. Nuclear weapons have been used in war twice, in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, as well as more than 2,000 times in nuclear tests.

The scale of destruction brought about by these weapons, and the rapid increase in both the number and the power of nuclear weapons in the following years, have prompted deep fears about their potential future use.

In this free, online course you'll learn about the global anti-nuclear movement that has worked for decades to prevent the use of nuclear weapons, with the ultimate aim of abolishing them altogether.

You will see how opposition to nuclear weapons has been an important cause on every continent. Beginning in 1945, this course will equip you with knowledge of the nature of anti-nuclear activism until the present day. This course offers you around six hours of study at an introductory level. First, you'll learn about the destructive capabilities of nuclear weapons and why people have mobilised against them.

You'll then explore what forms of activism citizens have engaged in to oppose nuclear arms, and how activists have cooperated across national borders to work for a world free of these weapons. Next, you'll learn about how different governments have responded to this activism, and you'll assess the impact of anti-nuclear activism and see what changes have been brought about by citizens mobilising against nuclear weapons.

And finally, you'll encounter the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, one of the most important and most successful anti-nuclear campaigns in the world today.

This course has been produced as part of an AHRC-funded research project on 'Global histories of anti-nuclear activism', with nine partner institutions in seven countries across five continents. This course was produced collaboratively by the Open University and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), the NGO that won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.

The material includes newly recorded video and audio interviews, archival texts and images, and interactive maps. You'll hear not only from academics, but also from activists, policymakers, and from individuals who have survived nuclear bombings and nuclear tests.

You'll explore examples not only from the UK and Europe, but also Japan, Polynesia, South Africa, Algeria, Brazil, and elsewhere.

Through the interactive study activities, you'll develop your knowledge and understanding of the issues, and reflect on your own views regarding nuclear weapons.

Whether you're already knowledgeable about these issues or are looking to learn more, we believe you'll find this free, online course interesting and informative. You can find out more by visiting the OpenLearn website [here](#).



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We hope to see you soon on **Banning the Bomb: A Global History of Activism against Nuclear Weapons**