

# ***Perpetual Peace* in the Nuclear Age: Kant, the Liberal Peace and the Possibility of Disarmament**

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## **Abstract**

This paper considers the relevance of the Kantian legacy in international relations theory for the imperative of relieving the threats of nuclear weapons. The first section of the paper delves into that legacy, describing how Kant's assessment of global relations synthesizes distinct strands of liberal theory and summarizing selected implications for contemporary attention to the proliferation of liberal-democratic principles and the apparent peace sustained among liberal-democratic states. The second section examines the recurrent and new challenges posed in the second, post-Cold War nuclear age and poses hypotheses concerning the relevance of Kantian thinking to the paradigmatic debates now enveloping global nuclear nonproliferation, arms control and disarmament efforts.

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