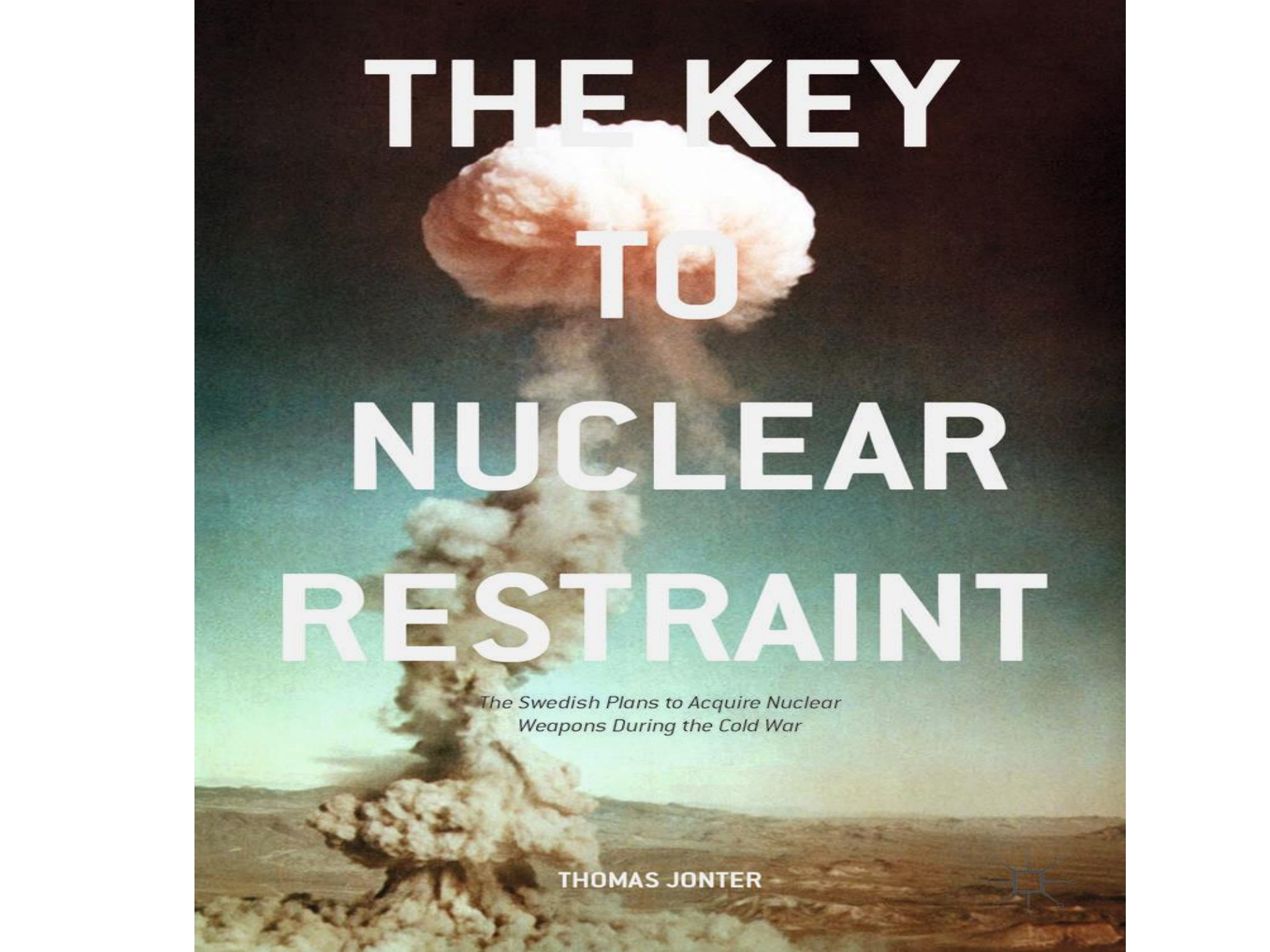


# Sweden and the Bomb: From Nuclear Acquisition to Nuclear Disarmament

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A large, billowing mushroom cloud from a nuclear explosion dominates the background. The cloud is white and grey at the base, transitioning to a bright orange and yellow at the top where the explosion occurred. The sky is a pale blue, and the ground at the bottom is a flat, brownish landscape.

# THE KEY TO NUCLEAR RESTRAINT

*The Swedish Plans to Acquire Nuclear  
Weapons During the Cold War*

THOMAS JONTER



“Canada, Communist China, Sweden, Switzerland, France have all given various indications the past year that they are on the way to the development of such weapons. ... Sweden has doubled its budget in this field during the fiscal year... There is no evidence, moreover, that nuclear bombs developed by such nations as Sweden or Switzerland will not be sold on the world market, just as guided missile and reactor for peaceful uses are sold commercially today. There is no evidence that a smaller and less developed nation could not secretly convert a reactor it receives for peaceful uses to make plutonium for use in a bomb”



**Speech by John F. Kennedy in  
Portland, Ohio, August 1, 1959**

# Reasons for Initiating Nuclear Weapons Research

- The Swedish non-aligned policy
- Rich uranium resources in Sweden
- Technological and scientific know-how





# The Swedish Nuclear Weapons Research

- **The Swedish National Defence Research Agency (FOA)**
- Construction of the nuclear device and its effects
- Metallic Pu-research
- **AB Atomenergi (AE)**
- Production of U and procurement of heavy water
- Fuel element plant
- Reactors for Pu-production
- Reprocessing plant

# The nuclear weapons program

- Five major studies (1948, 1953, 1955, 1957, 1965)
- 1955 Sweden reached *latent capability* (some say 1957)
- 100 tactical nuclear weapons, missiles equipped on attack aircraft *A 32 Lansen (Lans)* and *A 35 Draken (Dragon)*
- Two heavy water reactors for Pu-production were built (Ågesta and Marviken)
- Uranium production at Ranstad

# Resistance against the nuclear weapons plans within the Social Democratic Party





# 1958 Protection Research

- The Swedish Parliament: No nuclear device oriented research allowed.
- No production of information directly aimed at envisaged nuclear weapons manufacture.
- No estimation of costs for manufacturing of Nuclear weapons.



- The Social Democratic Party Atomic committee, November 1958
- Both proponents and opponents
- December 1959: Postponement + protection research has to be extended
- Comprromise among social democratic party, liberal party and the Centrist party

# The reasons why Sweden abstained from acquiring nuclear weapons

The decision to make the country's nuclear weapons production project a part of the civilian nuclear energy program, led to technical complications and delays

This decision influenced the nuclear weapons plans negatively in three ways:

# Resistance against the nuclear weapons plans

1. It made possible the mobilization of political opposition.
  - Leading politicians (and even the military) changed their minds

# Nonproliferation norm

2. The disarmament talks between the US and USSR and the international nonproliferation efforts emerging from the mid-1950s influenced the decision-makers and strengthened the arguments against nuclear weapons (nonproliferation norm).

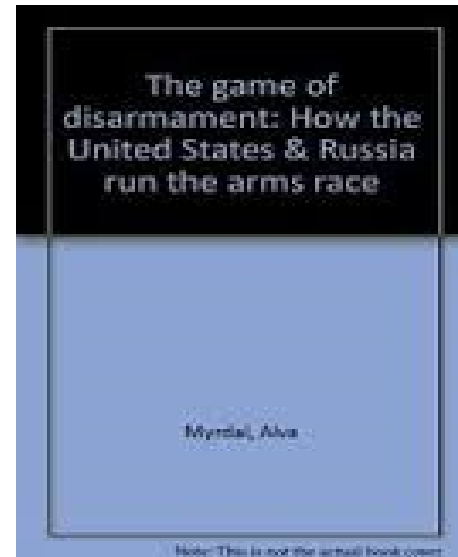


# US Policy toward the Swedish nuclear weapons program

3. Dependence on US nuclear technology and military assistance could be used by the American administration to steer the Swedes away from fulfilling its nuclear weapons plans.

# Nuclear reversal/the emergence of the Swedish disarmament policy

- 1962 Sweden member of the Eighteen Nations Disarmament Committee (Alva Myrdal)

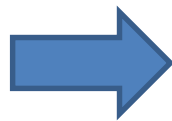


- The Undén Plan
- Partial Test Ban Treaty
- NPT (Article 6)

# Changed Swedish defense doctrine

The concept security and the role of nuclear weapons underwent a transformation from deterrence to détente.

Deterrence and  
Nuclear weapons



Disarmament and  
creations of inter-  
national legal  
framework

# Swedish disarmament policy

