

**Arjun and I affirm: “Resolved: The United States should increase its use of nuclear energy for commercial energy production.”**

**Our Sole Contention is Developing the Right Way**

*The World Nuclear Association* writes, thirty developing nations are aiming to implement nuclear energy for electricity production. Historically, countries have looked to the US for nuclear energy exports, as *DiChristopher of CNBC 19* recounts, the United States owned 90 percent of the nuclear export market during the 70-80s nuclear boom. *Wheeling from PS Magazine 19* explains, during the US’s era of nuclear energy growth, US companies exported reactor designs and parts across the globe. Unfortunately, because current nuclear power plants are reaching their shelf life, *Hulac 20* finds, US nuclear production will diminish 75 percent in the next decade. *Kee of Nuclear Economics 19* finds, the lack of new nuclear power projects domestically has harmed the credibility of the US export market, making companies unable to compete. *Thoburn of Reuters* warrants, foreign buyers often want to see how reactor models are running in a company’s domestic industry before they choose to purchase them. Without any increase in production, *Holgate of the Washington Quarterly 18* writes, the US’s share of the nuclear export market will be reduced to zero. As such, developing nations are looking elsewhere as *DiChristopher* writes, countries like Russia are aggressively pursuing deals with developing nations to develop their nuclear power industries. **However, affirming will solve, as *Gorden of the Atlantic Council 20* writes, increased domestic nuclear energy production will create a robust nuclear export market for developing nations, as it will show developing nations that US domestic industry is once again functioning.**

**As the US ramps up its nuclear exports, developing countries will prefer the US over Russia for two reasons.**

**The first is building diplomatic ties,**

*Gorden* writes, many countries wish to build diplomatic ties with the United States to become geopolitical players on the world stage, given the US's role as the powerful country in the world. *Conca of Forbes 17* writes, nuclear exports facilitate lasting relationships between countries, as the contracts for nuclear plants last decades. In fact, *Gorden* explains, for these developing nations, any short-term benefit of financing from Russia is outweighed by the deep trade relationships that can be formed with the US. **Thus, *Gorden* concludes, developing nations will purchase US nuclear exports over Russia given its diplomatic might.**

**The second is lessened state control,**

*Holgate* explains, when Russia offers contracts to developing nations, it builds, owns, and operates the nuclear plants to ensure its influence over countries. Because of this overwhelming control, *The Economist 18* explains, countries are afraid that Russia will exploit the plant to force diplomatic concessions to serve Russia's best interest. Fortunately, the US does not exploit these countries for influence as *Wingard of ShareAmerica 20* finds, US exports to developing nations often provides financing and materials, allowing these countries to build their power industries with domestic industries. Therefore, *Gorden* contextualizes, developing nations would opt for nuclear partnerships with the United States.

**The impact is ensuring sustainable energy for developing nations.**

*Holgate* finds, as the Russian regime suffers from economic woes from international sanctions and low oil prices, nuclear reactors cannot be built in timely fashion due to cost overruns. For example, *Burke of the Guardian 19* finds, despite the fact that Russia has been contracted to provide nuclear exports in two developing nations, no nuclear plants have actually been built. *Holgate* concludes, Russia either

terminates nuclear energy projects or costs nations a fortune as they wait for projects to be completed.

**Fortunately, Osborne of the Houston Chronicle 18** writes, if the US increases nuclear production, developing nations will see quicker and cheaper projects than Russia as US reactors are much smaller and more energy-efficient. **Past precedent proves, as Holgate** finds, South Korea and Japan were able to quickly become self-sufficient in nuclear energy through US nuclear exports. Increasing US exports to these developing countries ensures the dream of nuclear energy becomes a reality, as **Maitra of the EIR** contextualizes, implementing nuclear energy over other energy alternatives in developing nations will lift 1.2 billion people out of poverty, as it provides sustainable energy that lights the way to economic prosperity.

**Thus, we affirm.**