

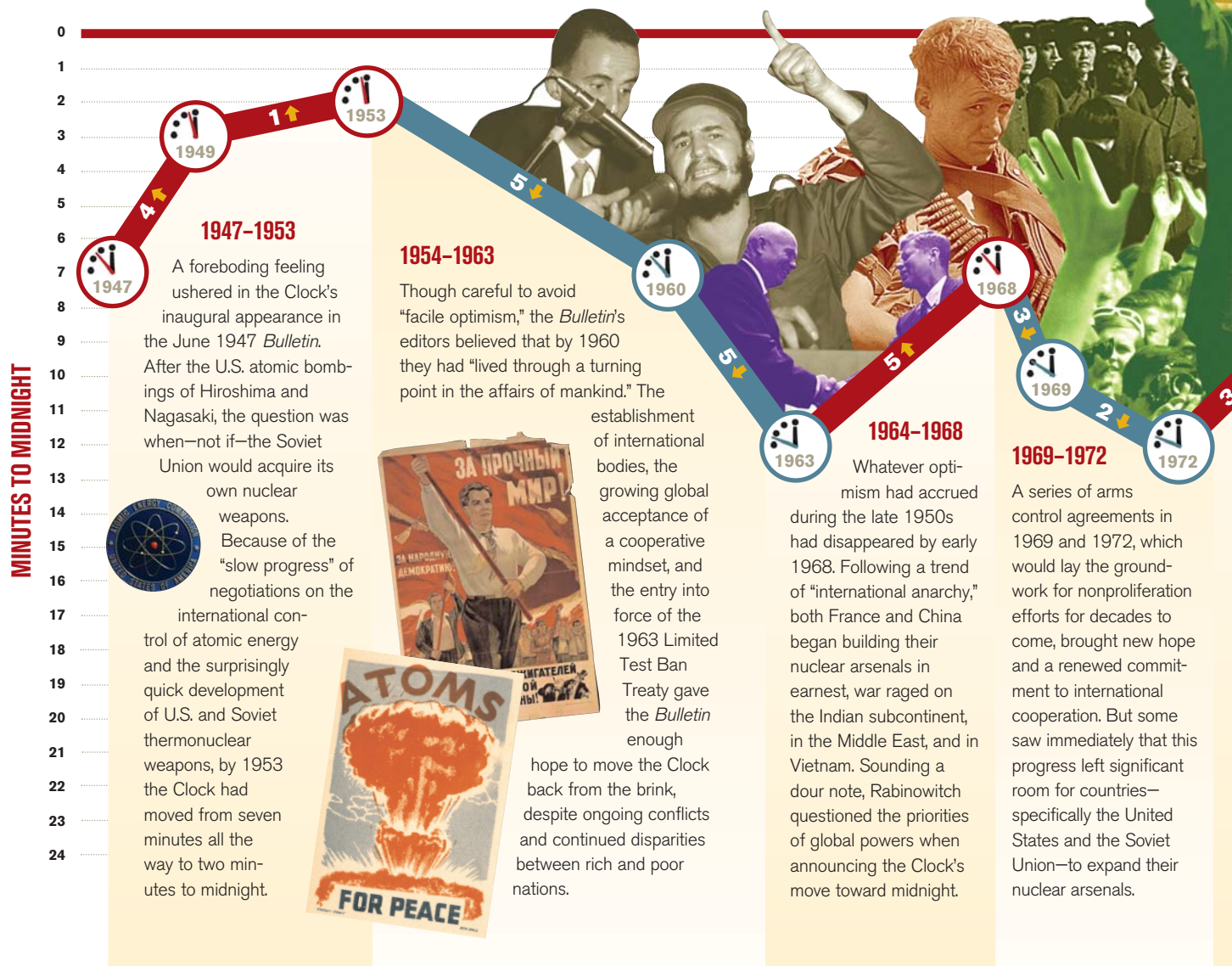
# Time flies

The Doomsday Clock—tracking the course of global security since 1947.

**T**HE EVER-CHANGING GLOBAL SECURITY outlook—whether it be the apprehension that followed the first thermonuclear tests or the optimism accompanying the fall of the Berlin Wall—has guided the movement of the Doomsday Clock. When the Clock was introduced in 1947, *Bulletin* co-founder Eugene Rabinowitch defined it as a “symbol of urgency” representing the “state of mind” of those aware of nuclear peril. Later

Clock changes often referred to “turning points,” “retreats,” “hopeful trends,” and “fateful junctures” to characterize not only events, but also the broad course of international security.

Nearly 60 years later, the Clock is still ticking, performing its task, in the words of Rabinowitch, “to reflect basic changes in the level of continuous danger in which mankind lives . . . and will continue living, until society adjusts its basic attitudes and institutions.” **Jonas Siegel**





### 1985-1991

Passage of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty sparked hopes that Soviet and U.S. leaders were moving in a positive direction, and the collapse of the Iron Curtain ensured a relatively peaceful end to the Cold War. The U.S. withdrawal of thousands of tactical nuclear weapons from Europe and the completion of a nuclear arms reduction treaty further reduced the specter of nuclear annihilation. The *Bulletin* proclaimed "a new era," exhorting citizens throughout the world to challenge "bankrupt paradigms of militarism." Yet enthusiasm was tempered by the challenge of securing and dismantling the thousands of nuclear weapons stored in former Soviet republics and of reducing further global nuclear stockpiles.

### 1992-2005

It didn't take long for post-Cold War euphoria to evaporate. Announcing the resetting of the Clock closer to midnight in 1995, then-

*Bulletin* editor Mike Moore lamented that "vision has been in particularly short supply." Despite unprecedented opportunities to disarm, no nuclear weapon state made significant moves in that direction. The risk of fissile material finding its way into the wrong hands, the abandonment of international arms control agreements, and the failure to effectively stem nuclear proliferation reflected a disturbing attitude of complacency, said the *Bulletin's* Board of Directors in 2002.



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