

The subject of this paper is an analysis of the current state of Mutual Assured Destruction in the relationship between the United States and Russian Federation. Although the concept was conceived during the Cold War its relevance is, in the author's opinion, determined by the magnitude and technological attributes of nuclear weapons possessed by the actors involved, as opposed to the political climate in the world. The author argues that regardless to the significant reductions in either side's nuclear arsenal MAD is still valid and will remain so in the foreseeable future. After briefly outlining the historical events that lead to the establishment of MAD, a chapter presenting evidence that the concept is still relevant even today is included. The theoretical framework is provided by MAD's characteristic that is built on 3 premises: the robustness of nuclear arsenal, the vulnerability to a retaliatory strike, and the ability to retaliate after absorbing a first strike. The analysis is conducted as a qualitative research. Regarding the former two premises, journal articles and data published in the context of the disarmament treaties serve as sources of information. The analysis of the latter premise constitutes the key part of this paper and the main sources of information are models simulating various kinds of nuclear attacks between the two superpowers. The information gained from analysing the premises will serve as evidence for either corroborating or refuting author's hypothesis.