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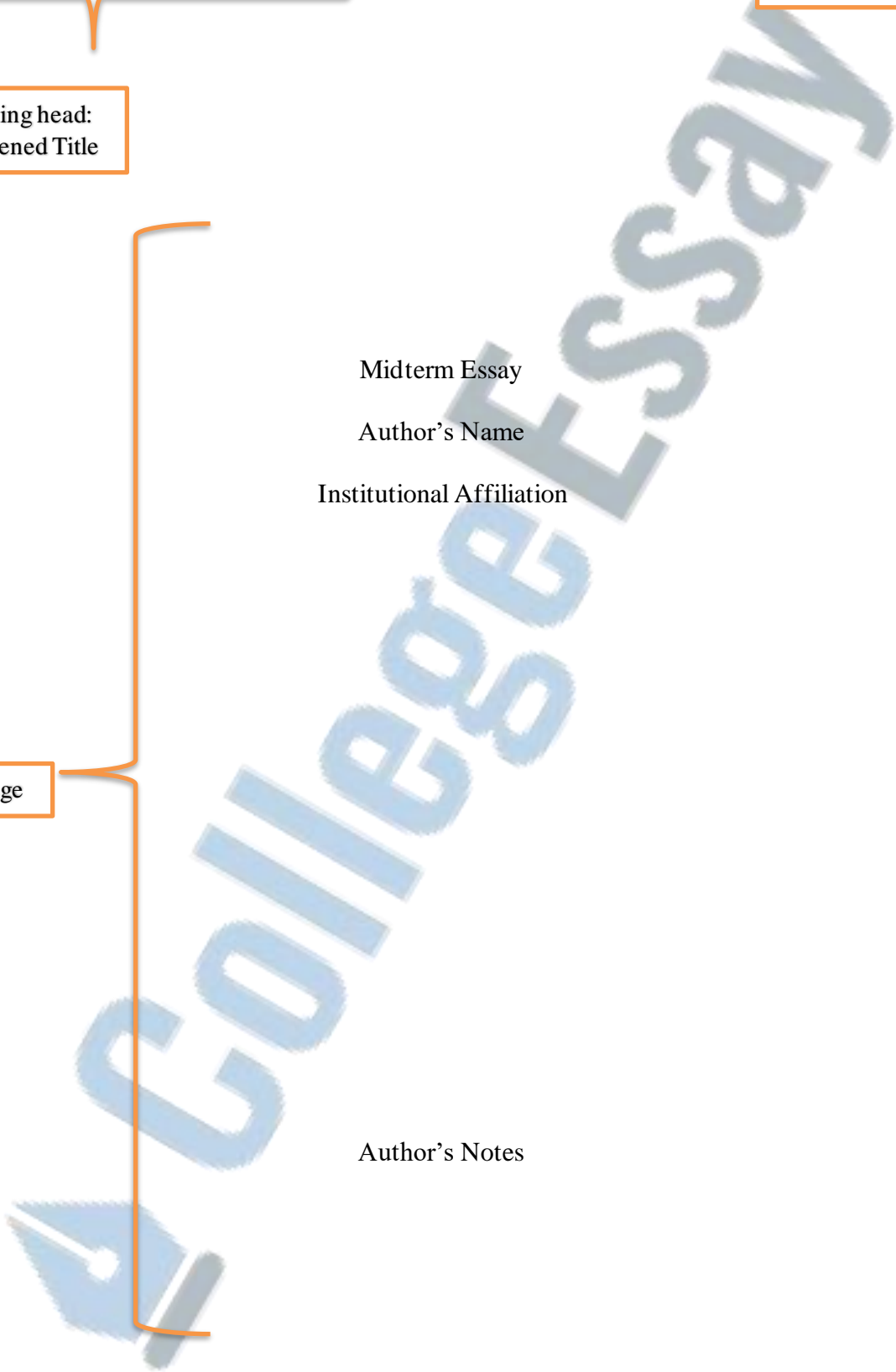
Midterm Essay

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### Midterm Essay

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) are a significant concern for nations and international organizations due to their destructive nature. These weapons can potentially cause significant harm to individuals, property, and the environment on a massive scale. WMD use can result in catastrophic consequences that can affect the targeted area, neighboring regions, and even the world. WM types include chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons.

Chemical weapons are designed to release toxic chemicals that can cause harm to individuals exposed to them (Hatfill, 2019). These chemicals can be dispersed as gases, liquids, or solids and can cause damage to the skin, lungs, and other organs. Examples of chemical weapons include nerve agents like sarin and VX gas. In addition, biological weapons involve bacteria, viruses, or other microorganisms that can cause disease in humans, animals, or plants (Flora, 2020). These weapons can be spread through the air, water, or food sources and can cause significant illness and death. Examples of biological weapons include anthrax and smallpox. Moreover, Radiological weapons involve the use of radiation to cause harm to individuals exposed to them. These weapons can be radioactive isotopes, which can be dispersed as a powder or vapor. Exposure to these materials can result in radiation sickness, which can be fatal.

WMD use is a severe concern for nations, international organizations, and activists worldwide. The destructive nature of these weapons can cause significant harm to people, property, and the environment on a massive scale. WMD use can result in catastrophic consequences that can affect the targeted area, neighboring regions, and even the world. It is essential for nations and international organizations to work together to prevent the use of these weapons and to ensure that they are never used again.

### **Sanctions Against Foreign Persons**

Sanctions against Foreign Persons, as presented in Executive Order EO 12938, are restrictions the United States government imposes on foreign persons aiming to limit their activities within the country. These sanctions are meant to restrict certain transactions with those deemed undesirable by the United States government's executive branch. These sanctions include blocking access to property owned by these persons within and outside the United States. Sanctions can be a powerful tool for the US government to drive desired behavior from foreign entities. These sanctions can operate at multiple levels, from targeted action against individuals or organizations to broad-reaching operations across entire governments. Both unilateral and multilateral approaches are in play when it comes to implementing sanctions; the United States often chooses unilateral action to maximize its ability to impact the internal affairs of other nations, while diplomacy is often best addressed through cooperative institutions such as the United Nations. Sanctions remain a preferred choice for responding quickly and decisively within international relations.

Sanctions are utilized to address various issues, including serious human rights violations, financing terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or other activities that can potentially threaten the safety and security of America's foreign policy interests (Drezner, 2021). The effectiveness of these sanctions depends on the severity of the restrictions and the extent to which other countries comply with them. In some cases, sanctions can have unintended consequences. They can harm innocent civilians, disrupt trade and commerce, and undermine diplomatic relations. The effectiveness of sanctions also depends on the targeted individuals, companies, or government's ability to find alternative funding sources or support (McDowell, 2021). To address these issues, the US government has developed a range of tools to implement targeted sanctions. These tools include sanctions waivers, licensing exceptions, and carve-outs

for humanitarian or other legitimate activities. The US government works closely with other countries and international organizations to coordinate and implement sanctions effectively.

### **Counter-Proliferation, Non-Proliferation, and Consequence Management**

Counter-proliferation refers to efforts to prevent the acquisition, development, or use of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) through measures such as intelligence gathering, diplomacy, and military action. Moreover, Non-proliferation, on the other hand, focuses on preventing the spread of WMDs through diplomatic efforts, such as negotiations with international organizations like the United Nations (UN) and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Furthermore, Consequence management refers to the actions taken to mitigate the effects of a WMD attack, including providing medical assistance and gathering evidence to prosecute those responsibly.

One of the most significant concerns in counter-proliferation is the potential for non-state actors, such as terrorist organizations, to acquire and use WMDs. The use of WMDs by these groups could have devastating consequences, both in terms of human casualties and the potential for broader conflict. As such, preventing the acquisition of WMDs by non-state actors is a critical priority for nations and international organizations.

Non-proliferation prevents WMD from spreading through diplomatic efforts, such as negotiations with international organizations like the United Nations (UN) and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The NPT is an international treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament. One critical approach to preventing the acquisition of WMDs by non-state actors is strengthening international agreements and protocols. The United Nations Security Council has unanimously adopted several resolutions to stop the spread of dangerous weapons. Most notably, Resolution 1540 requires all countries to ensure non-state

actors cannot obtain WMDs (Shirazy, 2019). The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) monitors compliance with these agreements and ensures nuclear materials are not diverted for illicit purposes.

Another critical aspect of preventing the acquisition of WMDs by non-state actors is intelligence gathering and analysis. This involves monitoring the activities of individuals and groups seeking to acquire WMDs and tracking the movement of materials that could be used in their production. Intelligence gathering is a complex and often covert process that involves close cooperation between government agencies and international partners.

Finally, consequence management is a critical component of any counter-proliferation strategy. If a non-state actor acquires and uses a WMD, quick and effective action is necessary to limit the damage and prevent further harm (Koblentz, 2020). This may involve deploying medical resources to treat those affected by the attack and collecting evidence to identify those responsible for its production or use.

### **Comparing Al Mauroni's Perspectives on Countering WMD Threats**

Al Mauroni's two works, "A Counter-WMD Strategy for the Future" (2010) and "Envisioning a New Strategy to Counter Great Power Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction" (2022), provide keen insight into our ever-evolving strategies against weapons of mass destruction (WMD). While both pieces clearly emphasize the importance of strengthening current countermeasures and developing new strategies, they also provide a more nuanced understanding of the challenges posed by WMD.

Mauroni (2010) highlighted the need to develop new policy frameworks that facilitate cooperation between state and non-state actors to prevent WMD use. In addition, he emphasizes that better intelligence-gathering capabilities are needed to identify potential threat actors in

different parts of the world. He also stresses that military deterrence must be used alongside diplomatic measures to counter WMD threats successfully.

Mauroni's (2022) article focuses on the changing international landscape and how this affects WMD countermeasures. He argues that great power competition has created an environment where states are more likely to use WMD to achieve geo-strategic goals. As a result, he suggests that states should focus on building relationships with adversaries to gain greater understanding and control over WMD activities. He also explains that new strategies, such as diplomatic engagement and economic sanctions, must be employed alongside traditional military deterrence methods to counter these threats effectively.

Comparing these two pieces, it is clear that while Mauroni's overall message remains unchanged – namely advocating for more robust efforts towards countering WMD threats – his perspective has shifted in response to changing geopolitical dynamics observed over the last decade. Specifically, Mauroni now focuses more explicitly on engaging with countries who possess or might have access to WMD technology, stressing the importance of diplomacy rather than relying solely on military force for deterrence. Furthermore, he emphasizes how important countries must collaborate to share intelligence and devise effective strategies against this menace.

### **Threat From WMDs**

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) are a growing risk to the safety and security of America due to their capacity for creating massive destruction and taking countless lives. The most concerning threat from WMDs originates from nation-states, including North Korea, Iran, and Russia - all three possessing nuclear weapons or working to connect them with ballistic missile technologies.



North Korea has continued to menace the United States and its allies with its nuclear arsenal, making it clear they are willing to use these devastating weapons. In recent years, the country has made significant progress in its nuclear weapons program, testing several long-range missiles and claiming to have developed a hydrogen bomb. North Korea's rapid advancement of nuclear capabilities and ballistic missiles is a grave danger to the United States and countries worldwide (Kwon, 2022). Furthermore, Iran represents a risk to the United States due to its nuclear program. Even though they insist it is merely for peaceful purposes, Iran has disregarded their international duties established by the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as uranium enrichment heights that could be used for military weapons have been accomplished.

Additionally, Iran has a history of supporting terrorist organizations, which could potentially acquire WMDs. Furthermore, Russia poses a particular peril to the United States with its substantial nuclear reserves and progressively hostile actions in global affairs (Fink & Oliker, 2020). Russia's annexation of Crimea, intervention in Syria, and interference in foreign elections have heightened tensions between the two countries. Given the aging infrastructure of Russia's nuclear arsenal, there is also a risk of nuclear accidents or incidents.

Non-state actors, such as terrorist organizations, threaten the United States with their potential WMD access. While it is difficult for these groups to acquire WMDs, the consequences of a successful attack using such weapons could be catastrophic. Therefore, the threat of WMDs to the United States is significant, with state actors posing the greatest risk. To address this threat, the United States works with international partners to prevent WMD proliferation, strengthen non-proliferation agreements, and develop strategies to respond to potential attacks.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, WMDs pose an existential hazard to the United States and global security. The probability of these weapons landing in unscrupulous hands is highly concerning. It must be addressed with effective counter-proliferation strategies that prevent WMD spread while preparing for potential attacks. This requires close collaboration between nations and international organizations and the development of practical intelligence-gathering and consequence-management protocols. By taking these steps, we can ensure that WMDs are never used against us or our allies.



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