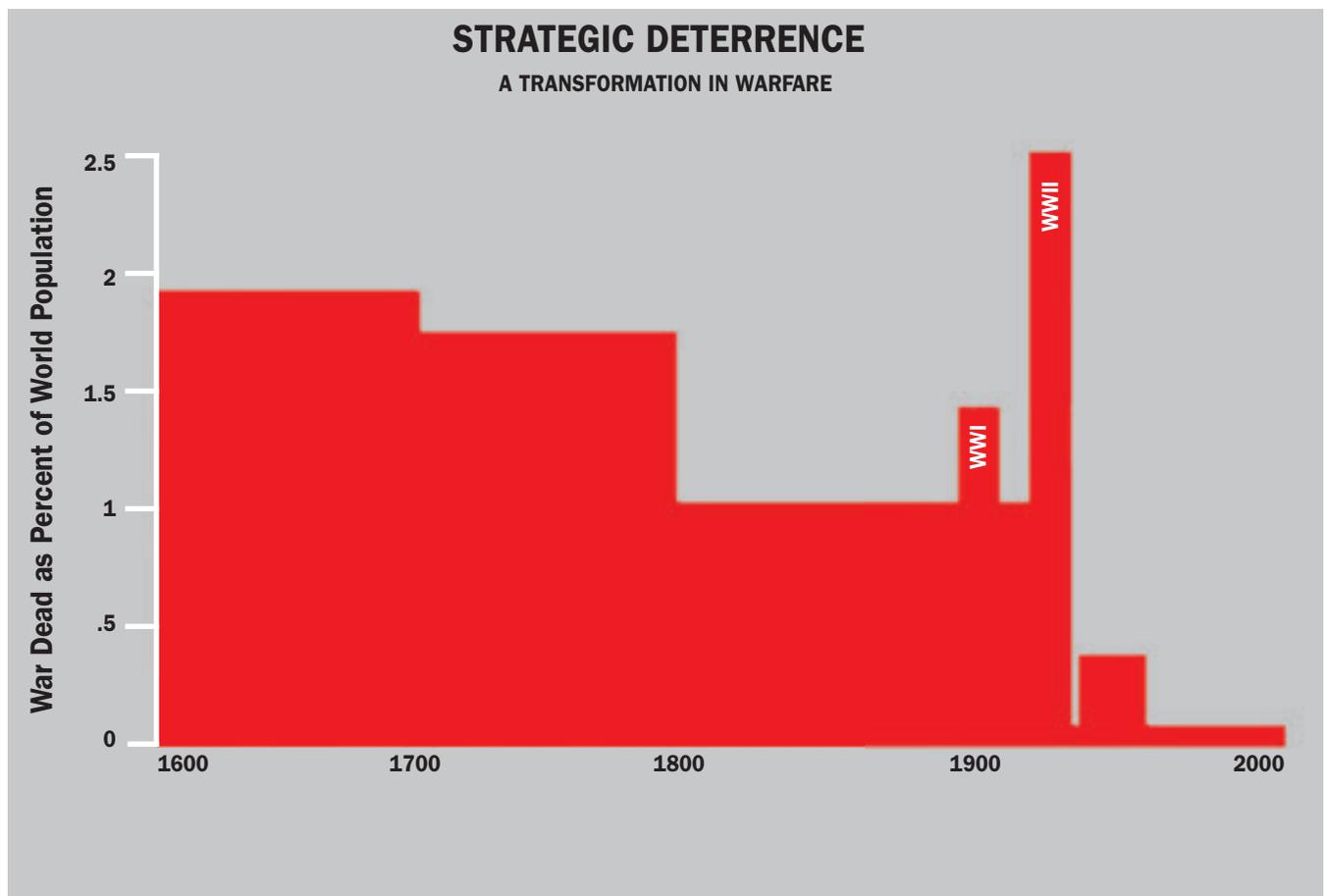


Is “Zero” Really a Great Idea?

President Obama in 2009 pledged to seek “a world without nuclear weapons.” However, if “nuclear zero” actually could be achieved, would that be such a good thing? Deterrence, after all, tends to tamp appetites for major war. Some warn that ridding the world of nukes would make

the world safe—again—for conventional war. As seen here, the world before the advent of nuclear weapons was awash in the blood of conventional conflict. In the seven-decade nuclear era, however, there have been no wars between major powers.

Worldwide Trend in Wartime Fatalities



Source: "Strategic Deterrence in the 21st Century," by Adm. Richard W. Mies, US Navy (Ret.), in *Undersea Warfare*, spring 2012 issue, Washington, D.C.