

INF Treaty

The Intermediate-Range
Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF)

What is it?

1987 treaty between the **United States** and **Russia**

Signed by U.S. President Reagan and **Soviet Premier Gorbachev**, beginning an era of bilateral arms-control cooperation

Prohibits production, possession, and testing of ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles (GLCMs) with a range of **500 to 5,500 kilometers** and their launchers

Why is it important?

Eliminated an entire class of nuclear-capable weapons

Approximately **2,700 missiles removed** from both arsenals by 1991

Robust verification regime set the gold standard for U.S.-Russia arms-control agreements:

- **Data exchange and on-site inspections**
- **Special Verification Commission (SVC)** to resolve compliance concerns

What should I know?

Mutual accusations of treaty violations:

- U.S. argues Russian 9M729 GLCM exceeds the prohibited 500 km range
- Russia argues the U.S. MK-41 missile launchers violate the INF Treaty

The **United States** initiated **6-month withdrawal process** on February 2, 2019; treaty terminates on August 2, 2019

Both countries announced plans to **develop new** intermediate-range missiles—potentially **reigniting an arms race**