



# CHEMICAL WEAPONS PROLIFERATION

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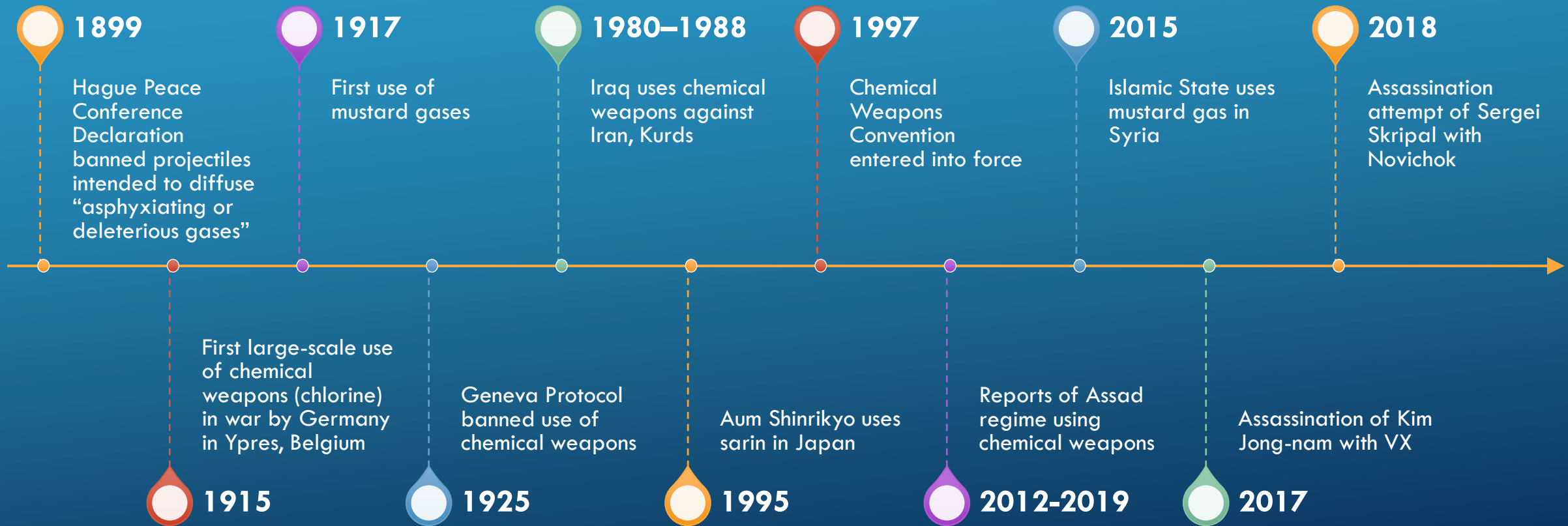
SEPT. 24, 2021

# CHEMICAL WEAPONS:

Toxic chemicals and their precursors designed to cause death, incapacitation, or harm; classified as weapons of mass destruction

- Nerve agents
  - Block enzymes in the nervous system, leads to hyper-stimulation
  - Highly toxic, rapid effects
  - Examples: sarin, VX, novichok
- Blister agents
  - Burn & blisters skin, eyes, respiratory system
  - Examples: sulfur mustard, nitrogen mustard
- Choking agents
  - Effects the respiratory track causing fluid secretion
  - Examples: Chlorine, phosgene
- Blood agents
  - Inhibit ability of blood to carry oxygen
  - Examples: hydrogen cyanide
- Riot control agents
  - Irritates eyes, lungs and skin
  - Permitted in domestic policing
  - Examples: tear gas, pepper spray

# NOTABLE CW EVENTS:





# CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

- Bans the use of chemical weapons in war
- Bans the acquisition, possession & development of chemical weapons
- Requires declaration of existing stockpiles and production facilities
- Requires and establishes verification protocols for destruction
- Establishes the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
  - Investigate alleged use
  - Conduct inspections for CWC compliance
- Entered into force 1997
- 193 state parties
  - North Korea is non-party, known CW stocks

# CWC SUCCESSES

Country	Declared Stockpile	Declared Agents	Status
Albania	16 metric tons	Mustard	Destroyed by 2007
India	1,044 metric tons	Sulfur Mustard	Destroyed 2009
Iraq	Unknown	Unknown	Destroyed 2018
Libya	24.7 metric tons (26.3)	Sulfur Mustard	Destroyed 2013
Russia	40,000 metric tons	Variety	Destroyed 2017
South Korea	605 metric tons	Unknown	Destroyed 2008
Syria	1,308 metric tons*	Sulfur Mustard	Declared stock destroyed
United States	27,771 metric tons	Variety	Projected 2023


# RELATED REGIMES

## AUSTRALIA GROUP

- Voluntary export control regime with 42 members
- Prevent CW and BW proliferation by limiting supply of certain agents
- Success is difficult to assess

## UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540

- Requires states to refrain from providing any support for WMD development to non-state actors
- Requires states to adopt and enforce laws to prevent proliferation



# IS THE NORM AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS ERODING?

- Lack of accountability
  - Syria, Russia, North Korea
- Blocked action against Syria at the UN Security Council
- Diminishing severity of response by the international community
- Lack of precedent for challenge inspections by the OPCW

# FURTHER PROLIFERATION?

State proliferation depends on reinforcement or further weakening of the norm

- No evidence to date of new state interest in chemical weapons
- Bolster OPCW attribution and inspections mechanism
- Accountability for perpetrators

Non-state actor interest may increase

- Pandemic example of disruption
- Ease of acquisition of materials and knowledge
- Scalability
- Territory access denial versus precise targeting
- Uniquely terrorizing