

The arms industry must be transformed into a different industry

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Lassina Zerbo wrote an article entitled “Backing up nuclear disarmament” published in Science (1). Dictatorship countries may be able to achieve nuclear disarmament. Dictatorship countries with the arms industry may not be able to disarm nuclear weapons. Countries with the arms industry known as the defense industry may not be able to disarm mass destruction weapons. Since there is an expiration date on the weapon, the defense industry would like to make business before the expiration date for industry survival. A big question is whether the arms industry can be transformed into a different industry by itself. The U.S. defense industry is struggling to reorganize itself for growth (2). The arms industry should pay attention to commercial applications instead of the defense application. A successful transformation example is Qualcomm. According to Wikipedia, Qualcomm is an American multinational semiconductor and telecommunications equipment company that designs and markets wireless telecommunications products and services. It derives most of its revenue from chipmaking and the bulk of its profit from patent licensing businesses (3). Qualcomm has been dominating the global market of mobile/smart phone wireless communications.

References:

1. Lassina Zerbo, “Backing up nuclear disarmament” , Science 11 May 2018: Vol. 360, Issue 6389, pp. 581
2. <https://hbr.org/1992/11/shrinking-fast-and-smart-in-the-defense-industry>
3. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qualcomm>