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Sommario/riassunto	The stated reason for invading Iraq was its alleged clandestine pursuit of weapons of mass destruction in defiance of UN resolutions. Even though the allegation was proven false, the international community remains preoccupied with the threat of the proliferation and use of such terrible weapons. This has three interlinked components: non- proliferation, arms control and disarmament. Some countries, from within the shelter of the NPT, could either develop a fully-fledged weapons capability, covertly and illegally, or else acquire all the materials and expertise needed for a weapons programme an