

There have been lots and lots of heavy metal songs about nuclear war and I'm about to discuss many of them! I could think of 16, but A.I. only gave me 15, just now! Ha! I'm one better than A.I.! I'm wondering why I didn't mention song 'Nuclear War/Radiation Sickness' by Sodom and 'Nuclear War' by Nuclear Warfare in the following writing, they sound like a stupid ones to miss. I haven't ever heard of them to be fair, though. Now let's go!

Skeletons of Society by Slayer

I'm wondering if skeletons are part of society, technically speaking. Ex members of society, makes sense. Skeletons working in hospitals and providing various services? Not so much... I think the lyrics here are actually pretty good for a band featuring guitar solos some punk musicians would frown upon, though. A lesser band would simply scream 'Everything is goooone! :S' which to be fair, would be a valid lyric.

Dawn Patrol by Megadeth

It's fitting Megadeth wrote a song about nuclear war as MegaDEATH means a million deaths and that's a term used for such a war. Fitting, but I'd prefer to sing about mega times! (Going to Staines).

Rust in peace... Polaris (Megadeth at it again)

Wow, Megadeth really do worry about nuclear war, don't they? You know the cover art of 'Peace Sells... But Who's buying?' It's the aftermath of a nuclear war. Maybe they should sing about relationships, instead? Actually the band have done so, but the lyrics in that song at very least discuss the THREAT of death and it was based on a true story as well. Maybe the singer should try and be a nicer person or alternatively go out with people who aren't mental.

Rapid Fire by Judas Priest

The first song I ever heard about nuclear war. Ah, nostalgia. Like Slayer, the lyrics are pretty creative here, I think. Not that creative though, as when I first heard it I had no idea what it was about. I mean what pounds the world like a battering ram and forges the furnace of the final grand slam? A cool robot, maybe? Ok, ok, nukes work, too.

540,000 Degrees Fahrenheit by Fear Factory

Wow, that's hot, too hot if anything. However, sauna champions would likely perceive the temperature to be a mere challenge. Not that it matters, as at least once such championship has been banned. It's a step in the right direction, an even better idea would be a few more beds in the Swedish version of Broadmoor. Also, I could list the bands that deal with the topic of machines taking over mankind, but 99% of the songs would be by Fear Factory.

Fight Fire With Fire by Metallica

Don't worry, the song title is a description, not a suggestion. If it was a suggestion? Well, that would make the thrash metal movement infinitely more worrying than the first punk movement. Oh no? You don't like the queen? Things are getting worse far beyond exponentially.

Blackened (Metallica at it again).

A good song, but what does 'whipping dance of the dead' mean? I guess the band were trying extra hard to be creative as I think all their songs on previous album 'Ride the Lightning' are about death. Where do you go from there? Whipping dances of death.

Whoops I did it Again by Abba

No that was a joke, it's not about nuclear war. Obviously anyone who says 'oops I did it again' after pressing a button to launch nukes more than once is seriously sick in the head. Again, well beyond being rude to the queen.

3 Minute Warning by Liquid Tension Experiment

There are no lyrics in this song, but the flipping dark tone does indeed sound like a warning someone would get after a nuclear strike. Actually the music sounds kinda horrible, which I think is good. We must NOT glamorise nuclear war, especially to punk rockers trying to outdo everyone, which does happen.

The Stand by Yngwie Malmsteen

Fortunately this song doesn't glamorise nuclear war as the lyrics are too silly. As in 'try to understaaaand the sta-a-a-a-and!' I've actually requested to review his upcoming album for Metal Rules and if I review it, I probably won't mention the likely questionable lyrics. I may give the brief comment 'It's just Yngwie being Yngwie' though.

Hiroshima Mon Amour (Yng at it again, albeit with a different band, that being Alcatrazz).

Alcatrazz not glamorising nuclear war, despite the band singing of how nukes shame the sun. And you can't shame the sun, it isn't conscious. In the band's defence though, I can see how the sun would be arrogant if it COULD think, considering how powerful it is. Yeah, why not shame the sun and take it down a peg? Just because you burn trillions and trillions of tons a second, doesn't mean humans can't make a damn good fire, as well.

Electric Funeral by Black Sabbath

A song about nuclear war dating all the way back to 1970? It makes all those people who say 'back in the day' with fond memories seem a little silly. To me 'back in the day' takes me all the way back when I was 15 and in a mental home. But at least I didn't think I was going to be nuked, right? Actually, I did. Well, that's the kind of thing I'd think, it's not called 'optimistic schizophrenia' is it?

Killer of Giants (Ozzy at it again, this time with his solo project).

Yep, nukes can kill giants. Then again, slingshots can too and have done so since biblical times, so it's not TOO much of an achievement.

When the Wild Wind Blows by Iron Maiden

This song is different to the others in that it's actually about the THREAT of nuclear war. Even so, two people ended up dying, anyway.

Brighter than a Thousand Suns (Iron Maiden at it again).

Technically I'm brighter than a thousand suns as suns have zero IQ! I'm actually infinitely more intelligent than the sun, making my advice very deep. So, remember to ask for cream to be added to your milkshakes, people! It makes all the difference.

2 Minutes to Midnight (Iron Maiden again!!!!)

Ooh, Iron Maiden have (at least) three things to say about nuclear war? That's infinitely more than Abba! As I have a tendency to take lyrics literally, I used to think the song was about some kind of battle at the time 'two minutes to midnight' rather than it referring to the doomsday clock. 'The hands that threaten doom'? How do clocks kill people? Well, I thought it referred to the hands of people. The lyric 'the golden goose is on the loose and never out of season' on the other hand, baffles me to this day.

Well, 56 years of songs warning about nuclear war and it still hasn't happened, what does that tell you? However, there was one secret service incident where everyone there thought a nuclear test scenario was real and that everyone was about to die. Whoever was responsible for the mistake surely was unpopular for a very long time. So, the next time you get accused of being rude, maybe don't worry too much. Why didn't I rank the songs from worst to best? I wanted to, but I also wanted to show how ridiculous Iron Maiden were towards the end as a surprise. One song is enough, no? Maybe the world needs to be warned of the threat as much as possible? It's just you'd expect the secret services to already know about that (but maybe not). And that's it, bye!