“Choose a Better Worldview to Build a Better World”

This ESSAY is based on **Part 2** (**December** 2018) TV Program.

The essay and TV program for Part 1 (November 2018) are on my blog, [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)

Glen’s Parallax Perspectives

Thurston Community Television

Cable TV subscribers in Thurston County WA can watch this 1-hour program  
on TCTV channel 22 three times a week during December 2018:

* Every Monday at 1:30 pm
* Every Wednesday at 5:00 pm
* Every Thursday at 9:00 pm.

If you are reading this essay on paper, you can activate the links to its information   
resources by clicking this essay’s title on the **“TV Programs”** part of my blog,   
[www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)

This essay raises and discusses some topics in different contexts throughout the essay.

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attacks on nature, attacks on democracy, attacks on independent free press, and so forth

8 We must replace the dominant worldview with one that respects truth, human rights, democracy and the environment..

9 Non-profit organizations ask us to send e-mails to people with the dominant worldview and tell them their decisions cause bad results. That’s naïve. Those bad results are deliberately   
intended. The bad results come from the dominant worldview that comes from:

-- their sense of entitlement;

-- their utter disregard for other people’s lives, rights, health, etc.; and

-- their utter disregard for truth, justice and the natural world.

10 The currently dominant worldview is deeply entrenched. It is based on lies and propaganda. Powerful people will do anything to hold onto their power.

11 The entire Trump regime is based on lies and cruelty.

12 WORLDVIEWS ARE CRUCIAL: Worldviews drive (and seem to justify!) behavior and public   
policy. Therefore, instead of focusing only on specific problems, we must ALSO debunk and   
replace the dominant worldview.

14 We can change worldviews if we help people think more creatively and strategically, and if we promote nonviolent grassroots organizing.

15 Instead of the dominant worldview let’s choose a better worldview with humane alternatives. This would be the OPPOSITE of the dominant one. November’s Part 1 TV program mentioned some specific problems. A better worldview would produce positive alternatives such as these:

16 Let’s replace the current worldview’s selfishness, greed, cruelty and oppression with a civilized worldview that respects every person’s inherent value, dignity and rights.

16 Let’s replace the dominant worldview’s excuses for greed with affirmations of the legitimate interests of individuals, society, and the environment.

16 Let’s replace the dominant worldview’s endorsement of competition that hurts weaker people. We need an egalitarian worldview that affirms and protects every person.

17 Let’s reject all polarization into “us” vs. “them.” Let’s affirm that ALL people are ONE human family. Affirm that we are ALL in this TOGETHER.

17 Let’s reject the cynical assumption that “might makes right.” Let’s support honest, profound   
ethics instead of this common excuse for dominating weaker people

17 Let’s replace the dominant worldview’s cruel, ineffective criminal justice system with new laws and policies that will actually reduce crime, protect society, help victims, rehabilitate offenders, and heal the brokenness that underlies violence and crime.

18 The dominant worldview wrongly assumes that violence solves problems. It has hurt the U.S. in many ways. Our foreign policy has become horribly cruel, wasteful and counterproductive. The opposite worldview would honestly seek worldwide fairness and peace instead of the   
current violence and endless, unwinnable wars.

20 The “arrogance of power” contaminates and supports the dominant worldview. Let’s replace it with an egalitarian worldview that seeks everyone’s well-being.

20 The dominant worldview wants government to serve big business but not the rest of us.   
Instead, we need a worldview that truly serves the broad public interest and honest democracy – “we the people, as our nation’s founders intended.”

21 Let’s create a humane, civilized worldview and effective government with laws, regulations, and services that help everyone and protect human rights and the environment.

21 Our worldview needs to support a fair system of taxes so society can work together to pay for what we need.

22 The dominant worldview imposes systemic, institutional violence.

22 A better worldview would support the broad public interest – and would want the public to own and manage many functions and services instead of letting private owners do that for their own selfish profits. Public ownership and management of many functions and services would increase quality and accountability.

23 The dominant worldview caused ordinary people’s incomes to stagnate or decline for decades. We need an alternative worldview that puts the well-being of ordinary people ahead of the 1%. This would reduce people’s economic anxieties and fears, so the Right Wing could not hijack our emotions and target immigrants, minorities, and other innocent victims of the dominant economic policies.

23 Some of the fears that people are feeling are phony – contrived by people who want to   
manipulate us. We need to distinguish between those and the real dangers we face, such as climate disruption, nuclear weapons, government surveillance, the loss of civil liberties, and the corruption of honest democracy.

24 Consider these additional insights about Americans’ fears, terrorism, and foreign policy.

24 Let’s understand and debunk “the myth of redemptive violence.”

25 Lying is pervasive and toxic. We need a worldview that sees the value and practicality of truth – and strongly protects truth.

26 Yes, we really can make bold improvements to the U.S.’s political, economic and social   
systems. We really can create a positive new worldview.

27 The public wants bold changes and a humane new worldview. Let’s organize nonviolent   
grassroots movements to accomplish what the public wants.

27 Besides protesting what we oppose, let's also organize to achieve the positive goals we want   
instead.

28 Promote TRUTH to counter the lies. Gandhi believed that truth is God.

29 Promote a humane worldview: Promote love, compassion, nonviolence, peace, human rights, etc. Vigorously oppose fear. Refuse to let people make you afraid of “the other.”

30 Let’s seek out and adopt positive ways of thinking and envisioning a better future for us all.

31 Religion is being abused and used to hurt people and democracy. Honest religion suffers as a result. Let’s expose hypocrisy and support better religion and spirituality.

32 Protect each religion’s validity from the few extremists who abuse it.

32 Authentic Christianity clearly refutes the Trump/Republican worldview.

33 Our worldview and actions affect the world around us. The cycle returns.

34 Example: The U.S. abuses other nations, so people flee there as refugees, but the U.S. refuses to admit responsibility and refuses to accept refugees.

35 Alternative media are crucial. Use and support alternative media.

35 **HOW TO ACHIEVE THE CHANGES WE NEED:** How can we help our society change from the destructive worldview to a positive worldview? In order to overcome the currently dominant worldview, we cannot “fight the oppressor using the oppressor’s weapons.” Instead, we must use   
nonviolent “asymmetrical warfare” by building nonviolent grassroots movements to make   
progress on the various issues and also to replace the dominant worldview with a positive,   
humane alternative.

36 An overview of changing society to a better worldview

37 Some relevant factors and dynamics

38 We need to use nonviolence

40 Grassroots organizing is how we will change our society’s worldview.

40 Trump and Trumpism

41 Specific issues and examples:

41 Practice our best values in our daily lives. Practice nonviolence and solidarity.

41 Let’s de-polarize our society. Let’s bring diverse people together at the grassroots and empower people to solve problems and meet our needs.

42 The concept of *ubuntu* affirms that we are all in this together

43 Instead of fearing “the other” or assuming “zero-sum” games with winners and losers, let’s recognize that we’re all in this together and use nonviolent conflict resolution to create “win-win” solutions.

43 The dominant worldview leads to systemic and institutional problems. Let’s create solutions to those   
problems as part of our alternative worldview.

44 Some progressives are further polarizing society. This information explains how we can stop that.

45 Insights for reaching out to other kinds of people and businesses about issues we care about

46 Let’s re-think all of the problems and create workable, humane solutions.

46 Replace the “national security” model with nonviolent TRUE Security.

49 How do we acquire and develop our worldviews?

51 More ways to help our society change from the currently dominant worldview to a worldview that will be humane, positive, and sustainable

53 Closing encouragement

53 Many good sources of information exist.

54 Alternative media and other general multi-issue sources of good information

54 Organizations promoting good government and other relevant issues

60 My blog [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) offers much information on many relevant topics.

This month’s TV program explores the dominant worldview and humane   
alternatives. PART 1 (November 2018) focuses on problems. December’s PART 2 proposes solutions for a better worldview and how to achieve it.

Each month’s episode of the TV series “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” explores issues from fresh perspectives. **The November and December 2018 programs deal with how we see the world, and therefore how we govern our society.** Specifically, I contrast the worldview that has been dominating the U.S. with a much more ethical and humane worldview that should be guiding public policy. **November’s PART 1** (still watchable through the “TV Programs” part of my blog) **focuses mostly on the problems, and now December’s PART 2 focuses on the solutions and proposes how we can accomplish them.**

People work on many specific issues regarding social justice, the environment, and so forth. Sometimes we succeed in stopping a bad proposal. But then the people in power propose another bad proposal, and we have to gear up and fight all over again.

**Let’s pay attention to the dynamics that keep throwing bad proposals at us. Let’s actually change what’s driving the cruelty and corruption we’ve been experiencing.**

**A “worldview” is the overall perspective from which a person – or a group of persons or a society as a whole – sees and interprets the world. A “worldview” reflects beliefs and assumptions about what is real and good – and therefore assumptions about what we should do.**

For many years – and especially recently – the U.S. has been dominated by a worldview that fosters greed, corruption, cruelty, oppression, war, and other bad things.

But most Americans want the opposite. We want our nation to be guided by a worldview that is humane, compassionate, peaceful, fair to everyone, and environmentally sustainable.

The November 2018 program focuses mostly on the **problems** in the nasty worldview that has been existing. Now the December 2018 program focuses more on **solutions** – the worldview that we want instead of the one that exists now.

**Much of this essay explains how we could help our society move into that better future.**

A person who believes the world is **inherently** cruel and unjust will EITHER behave cruelly and unjustly, OR they will feel powerless to eliminate cruelty and injustice.

But a person who believes that we can indeed solve problems can learn how to organize nonviolently from the grassroots to make the world a better place.

**The way you SEE the world will largely drive how you INTERACT with the world. Your understanding of reality will largely drive whether you act to reinforce a bad status quo or to create positive changes.**

Powerful people have tried to get Americans to see the world as hard, nasty, and competitive. They have tried to get us to fear people of different nationalities, races, religions, and sexual orientations. They want us to be afraid, so we will blindly obey the rich, powerful forces that promote those fears, and so we will waste our nation’s resources on weapons and endless wars.

This is **not** just about people being mean-spirited or angry. **A person’s worldview pre-dates any individual emotions.**  A person’s worldview – what a person assumes about reality – leads to their emotional stance toward human diversity, their likelihood to become either generous or greedy, and their attitude toward the environment.

**A worldview that assumes the world is harsh and unjust and full of fear causes people to think they are ENTITLED to grab more than their fair share. People use that worldview to JUSTIFY their own individual corruption and cruelty.**

Yes, the world has problems, but people with a sensible and humane worldview do **not** see the world’s problems as “just the way things are,” so we do not join into the corruption and cruelty. Instead we work to solve those problems.

Let’s promote a sensible and humane worldview throughout American society so more people will reject the corruption and cruelty and will help solve the problems.

I like what the World Social Forum affirms: “Another world is possible!” Yes, we can choose a better worldview and build a better world! We can imagine it and organize to bring it into being by living it. That’s what this TV program is about.

**This essay and the December 2018 TV program focus on how to see the world and how to solve the problems.**

For many years, public opinion polls have continually showed that **most Americans think our nation is “on the wrong track.”** This is because **the worldview that has dominated our nation for a number of decades is grounded in negative values and beliefs** that have been hurting people, our environment, and our souls.

**I believe that most Americans have better values.** Indeed, public opinion polls keep showing that most Americans want good quality health care for everybody, better wages for low-income workers, equal rights for LGBTQ people, a clean and sustainable environment, and other positive alternatives that are really the opposite of what the dominant worldview has been imposing upon our nation for several decades.

The current worldview that has been dominating the U.S. is full of problems. Here is a summary of the OPPOSITE worldview to solve the problems.

I briefly summarized some of the problems I mentioned in my November 2018 TV program – and fleshed out in the related essay on my blog: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-program-a-blistering-critique-of-u-s-politics-part-1-choose-a-better-worldview-to-build-a-better-world> For each of these problems I now propose solutions based on the opposite worldview. **Much of this Part 2 TV program and essay flesh out solutions to problems such as these:**

* The dominant worldview polarizes people into “us” vs. “them,” but instead we need solidarity and empathy. Instead of greed, fear and cruelty, we need to see all people as one human family so we can share and cooperate.
* The dominant worldview’s criminal justice system focuses on punishing and hurting people instead of helping people and protecting society. Let’s replace that worldview with one that recognizes “we’re all in this together,” so we can help people make better choices and – if somebody does hurt someone else – we restore the damage and heal society rather than reinforce and escalate the polarization and brokenness. Programs for “Harm Reduction” (regarding drug usage) and “Restorative Justice” (for many crimes) would make society safe and just.
* U.S. foreign policy – and our endless, unwinnable wars – are based on the dominant worldview that keeps choosing military violence. Instead, we need a worldview that affirms truth, fairness and peace.
* Instead of the dominant worldview, which badmouths “government,” ordinary people really do want an honest democracy with a government that protects and helps us through good laws, regulations and services. Let’s recognize that taxes are how society works together to pay for what we need, so let’s create a fair system of taxes.
* Let’s stop the dominant worldview’s mania for privatizing public resources. Instead, let’s support public ownership and public control, so we can improve quality and accountability to voters – and save money.
* For decades the dominant worldview’s economic policies have been causing ordinary people’s incomes to stagnate or decline. Instead, we need a worldview that will lead to better economic realities for ordinary people and an end to poverty.
* Let’s stop letting powerful people manipulate us with fears of other kinds of people. Instead, let’s focus on the problems that actually do hurt us, such as economic injustice, environmental abuse, the climate crisis, racism, and militarism.
* Let’s reject the mistaken assumption that violence solves problems. Let’s help people see that violence is the problem, not the solution. We must stop individual acts of violence and also the systemic, institutional violence.

The dominant worldview is more pervasive throughout U.S. society and politics than merely the political right wing. It really does pervade many aspects of American culture with assumptions that actually hurt our nation and the world around us.

Recently the dominant worldview has gotten even worse. We see more greed, corruption, sense of entitlement, and attempts to divide + conquer. We see more racism, sexism, blatant lies, attacks on nature, attacks on   
democracy, attacks on independent free press, and so forth.

In recent years – and especially since the Republican Party grabbed control of all three branches of the federal government (Congress, the Executive Branch and the Supreme Court) and many state and local governments – the dominant worldview has become much more extreme and much more cruel, corrupt, dishonest, and blatantly partisan. Corruption, racism, sexism, lies, and other problems have worsened significantly.

The November 2018 election gave Democrats a House majority, but the Senate (with an even bigger Republican majority since that election) has much more power, especially for approving Trump’s appointees. Even if the House restrains Trump somewhat, all of the other powers are heavily dominated by toxic politics.

For several decades the Republican Party has promoted harsh partisanship, so political conflict has become toxic. Overall, Congress’s Democrats have been very modest and have largely bought into “American exceptionalism” and the military-industrial complex and Dick Cheney’s endless wars, and subservience to Big Business. Electing Democrats will not be the real solution because we must change the dominant worldview that controls both of the big political parties, mainstream media, American cultural assumptions, and so forth. (See this essay’s latter part for the remedies that we really need.)

In recent years, deliberate lies have increased. Instead of caring about the broad public interest (what’s good for the nation as a whole), pervasive lies ruthlessly serve the Republican Party, their own political base, and their own selfish interests (and in Trump’s case, his narcissistic ego and his private businesses). All they care about is winning, no matter how much you have to lie and cheat, no matter how much you have to bully other people with bare-knuckled assaults, and no matter how much you break the law or violate the principles of honest democracy or violate the U.S. Constitution.

**Lies, propaganda, and much of the mass media are subverting honest democracy. Later in this essay I’ll cover this further, but here are a few highlights now:**

* A healthy democracy needs to seek the truth, promote civil dialogue, allow differences of opinion, and move toward solving problems. Instead, we have experienced an increase in deliberate lies, polarization, political anger and hatred.
* Governments have always lied to the public. But recently the lies have become much more blatant and cruel.
* Republicans have acted for their own narrowly partisan benefit instead of serving the broad public interest.
* A few billionaires and giant corporations have been buying up mainstream news media (newspapers, magazines, radio and TV stations, and so forth). Conservative and right-wing media have been manipulating the public and shaping public opinion and elections toward partisan Republican bias, at the expense of truth, and at the expense of what’s good for the country overall.
* Likewise, oil companies, manufacturers of guns and military weapons, and other big business interests have been perverting democracy by spreading propaganda and using their wealth to “buy” elections and corrupt politicians.

**Trump’s politics are based on lies, so he is hostile to a free press and honest journalism.** Trump has repeatedly denounced journalists and even called them “enemies” and supported violence against journalists. This is what dictators do! This is what fascists do! Instead, we need a humane worldview that supports truth and a free press.

**Republicans support unpopular policies, so the only ways they can win is by abusing democracy.** Public opinion polls keep showing that most Americans want to protect the environment and climate, support women’s choice and LGBTQ rights, and take progressive positions on many other issues for which Republicans are on the wrong side. Republicans know they can’t win elections honestly on the issues, so instead, they corrupt elections with big money, gerrymandering, and gimmicks to prevent many people of color and poor people and young people from voting.

**Increasingly in recent years, big money and secret money have been corrupting elections.** A series of Supreme Court decisions have increasingly widened the floodgates for big money and secrecy in funding election campaigns. These decisions have seriously corrupted elections. The public is losing confidence in electoral democracy.

**Republicans have been corrupting our judicial system** through extremely partisan manipulation, hostility to Constitutional responsibilities, and suppression of the truth.

The Republican-dominated U.S. Senate VIOLATED THE CONSTITUTION by refusing to consider Obama’s appointees for federal judge positions. Recently we saw the EXTREMELY PARTISAN way Trump and the Republican Senate IGNORED TRUTH and put Brett Kavanaugh on the U.S. Supreme Court.

* The U.S. Constitution requires the Senate to consider presidential nominations to federal courts. But the Republican-dominated Senate violated the Constitution. Republican Mitch McConnell used his power as Senate Majority Leader to refuse to consider many of Obama’s nominees. Twice as many federal judge positions were vacant at the end of Obama’s second term as there had been when Obama took office. But now Trump is nominating right-wing extremists for those vacancies, and McConnell and the Senate Republicans are ramming them through, and the Senate’s top Democrat Chuck Schumer, is helping McConnel by “fast-tracking” many of Trump’s extremist nominees. Many of these new federal judges are very young, so they will continue to inflict Trumpism upon our nation for many decades to come.
* Likewise, when Obama had nearly a full year left as president, he nominated an extremely well qualified nominee for a U.S. Supreme Court vacancy. But – in violation of the Constitution – the Senate Republicans refused to consider him. The Senate Democrats were too timid to publicly shame the Republicans, so the Democrats enabled Trump and the Republicans to get away with violating the Constitution.
* Instead of Obama’s nominee, the competent and fair-minded Merrick Garland, Trump nominated Brett Kavanaugh, an extreme right-winger on virtually every issue. Kavanaugh’s record shows he is an intensely partisan Republican who will further politicize the Supreme Court, besides pushing it far to the right on many issues.
* Throughout the entire Kavanaugh process, Trump, the Republican Senate majority and Kavanaugh all showed contempt for truth. They absolutely proved that **Trump and the Republicans insist on winning at all costs** – and they are **absolutely shameless about lying, cheating, denying and covering up the truth**, and destroying the public’s trust in the Supreme Court.
* The “Judicial and Constitutional” part of my blog, [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), has more information about this and related matters.

**In these and other ways, the dominant worldview has been destroying honest democracy and imposing abuses upon us.**

Research has proven that when people feel frightened, they tend to move to the political right. Fear is an enemy of human rights and freedom.

**When society’s big institutions fall apart, people tend to retreat into tribalism** (*e.g*., people of my own race or my own religion or my own political views).

**Trump and other opportunistic political forces have been corrupting and destroying our society’s big institutions, and they have been deceiving the public into rejecting rationality, exploiting fears, and so forth, in order to push Americans toward the right wing and further entrench the dominant worldview.** This is how they gained political power – and how they plan to hold on to power.

**Trump created fears of immigrants in order to exploit those fears for electoral gain:** Since Trump started campaigning in June 2015, he has relentlessly provoked fear about immigrants, in order to frighten people into opposing immigrants and supporting him as the protector of white Americans. He has taken horribly cruel actions to force those fears into public policy. In October 2018 he ordered many thousands of U.S. troops to deploy to our border with Mexico in order to prevent an “invasion” by a “caravan” of immigrants coming from Honduras and other nations.

Actually, refugees have been fleeing in groups for several years because extreme poverty and dangers to their lives made it impossible to live there, so they have migrated in groups to call attention to the horrible problems in Honduras and nearby nations.

The timing of Trump’s October troop order was perfect to ramp up voters’ fears before the November 6, 2018, election. When I wrote this part of the essay on Nov. 6, 2018, the caravan is still down in southern Mexico and would need a long time to arrive at the U.S. border. But some press reports have said they are not trying to reach the U.S., and the New York *Times* reported that Trump’s troop deployment will end on December 16, around the time when the caravan gets close to the U.S. [if it arrives at all]. Clearly, the troop deployment is **NOT** about the caravan. **It’s about the election.** This is the dominant worldview at work.

The larger context is to ask why so many people from Central America are refugees. I address this in an article I posted to my blog: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/stop-hurting-other-nations-accept-all-refugees-caused-by-our-violence> This article points out the U.S.’s hypocrisy in causing military violence and other chaos in other nations but refusing to accept the refugees who must flee the violence and chaos the U.S. has caused in their home countries.

An article on page 82 of the Sept-Oct 2018 issue of *The New Internationalist* ([www.newint.org](http://www.newint.org)) provides fresh information and insights about migration. The author reported that “[a]round 68.5 million people were forced to flee their homes in 2017, most from a handful of war-torn countries where the West has become militarily involved. Instead of offering safe passage, Europe, the US and Australia have intensified border enforcement, forcing people into the hands of people traffickers and more perilous journeys.” She reports that in 2016 more than 5,000 people died in the Mediterranean Sea. She also reports on the cruel detentions of immigrants in Britain, Australia and the U.S. The main point of her one-page article is that open borders – free migration across nations – would have many benefits, including saving money, boosting economies, and improving cultural and social equality, in addition to saving many lives.

We must replace the dominant worldview with one that respects truth,   
human rights, democracy and the environment.

For thousands of years, smart people and ethical people have affirmed that we must respect Truth, and for hundreds of years, they have supported honest science.

But for decades, big business, the advertising industry, and many politicians have promoted lies and deceptions.

**Now the Trump regime has replaced truth and science with blatant lies and rigid ideologies, and they feel no shame about what they have done.** Trump’s White House is based on lies: <https://www.opednews.com/articles/Chris-Hayes-excoriates-Tru-by-Egberto-Willies-Partisan-Politics_Partisan-Prosecutions_Party-Politics-Democratic_Party-Politics-Republican-170311-158.html>

In December 2017 Ralph Nader posted an article calling for a meter to measure how many lies per minute Trump is telling: <https://mailchi.mp/nader/in-the-public-interest-needed-a-meter-for-trumps-lies-per-minute-lpm?e=96f0dfe416>

**Trump and the Republicans intend to destroy constitutional democracy in order to solidify their hold on power**, in order to serve Big Business, especially the corporations that hurt the environment and the climate in order to extract and consume natural resources, and in order to serve their political “base,” which wants to suppress women and racial minorities, and to establish right-wing Christianity as the national religion.

In 2018 Freedom House offered this dire assessment: “[D]emocratic institutions have suffered erosion, as reflected in partisan manipulation of the electoral process, bias and dysfunction in the criminal justice system, and growing disparities in wealth, economic opportunity, and political influence.” Their article at this link – <http://prospect.org/article/how-democracy-america-can-survive-donald-trump> – expressed concern about the future of our democracy and free society. During his campaign and first year in office, Trump’s core constituency cheered him on as he attacked fundamental elements of liberal democracy, including media freedom, judicial independence, and a pluralist civil society.

**Trump and the Republican Congress have abandoned Truth in order to achieve their political aims.** In December 2017 they cut taxes (and expanded loopholes) for the very richest people (including themselves) and for rich business corporations. They promised that ordinary people will benefit by several thousands of dollars per year, but they must have known that was a lie.

Republicans used to denounce the federal budget deficit when people wanted the budget to pay for good things, but Republicans kept refusing to fund the good things that the public wanted. Instead, the Republicans vastly increased the deficits through Reagan’s tax cuts, George W. Bush’s tax cuts, and Trump’s tax cuts. Trump’s tax cut ballooned the federal deficit (an increase of almost $1 TRILLION between 2017 and 2019). Their partisan rhetoric against deficits was really just an excuse to avoid funding programs that would help the public.

Now, after the humongous tax cuts from December 2017, the Republicans want to cut Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid to pay for their economic perversion. But actually, Social Security and Medicare are paid for with a separate tax. They add nothing to the national debt. The Social Security fund has a $2.5 TRILLION SURPLUS. Congress has been “borrowing” trillions from Social Security to pay for government spending, including the gigantic military budget.

So when Republicans say we need to cut Social Security in order to balance the federal budget, what they really mean is this: “We’ve taken trillions from Social Security to pay for unfunded wars, tax cuts for the rich, and corporate subsidies. We need to cut your benefits so we won’t have to pay it back.” They have no shame about lying to us.

Many politicians have lied to the public, but Trump and the Republicans are lying blatantly and do not even seem to care if they get caught. Trump does what Nazi German leaders did: Tell big lies over and over until people start to believe them. Now Trump tells big, blatant lies repeatedly, the news media (right-wing and mainstream alike) report what Trump has said, and now Trump’s lies have become what “the President said,” so they develop the aura of credibility because they are statements by the President.

Some prominent Republican politicians have been supporting white racist and white nationalist spokespeople and speaking their propaganda. The Republican Party has continued to support them, and sometimes they get elected and re-elected. This article provides plenty of information: <https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/republican-state-lawmakers-white-nationalists-rslc-si-lent_us_5bcd82e4e4b0a8f17eee0a1d?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=__Politics__102218&utm_content=__Politics__102218+Version+B+CID_b7124a96fef692c214e2a41dbaf12506&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=READ%20MORE&ncid=newsltushpmgnews__Politics__102218>

The Republican Party was already heading toward more racism, cruelty and corruption before Trump came along. Political commentator Will Durst said Trump did not ruin the Republican Party. “He lifted the rock they were hiding under.”

Trump, of course, has been practicing extreme corruption and violating the U.S. Constitution’s prohibition against “emoluments” (personally profiting from what he does as President) and appointing to powerful governmental positions extremely corrupt persons with serious conflicts of interest.

Jefferson Morley wrote <https://go.ind.media/webmail/546932/277694435/99ee60f6b8dcfa2a9e40877ef54d727886b13554f4d2a5fe336931615d1f86c3> about “Trump’s Dangerous Radicalization.” The article reports that two of the U.S.’s former spy chiefs have warned the public about “Trump’s Dangerous Radicalization.” In October 2018 James Clapper (former director of the National Security Agency) and Michael Hayden (former CIA director) said Trump is similar to ISIS in that both use social media to recruit and radicalize. On October 31 Clapper told an audience, “It’s not unlike what we experienced with ISIS where you have a group using social media to recruit and radicalize their supporters.” They said Trump is acting like a recruiter for a terrorist organization, and a few among his supporters are acting like terrorists.

Morley reports what former CIA director Michael Hayden told the same audience:

“At CIA when our people looked at radicalization, I asked, ‘Is it the ideology of al-Qaeda or ISIS that attracts them? Or are these unhappy young males, who don’t have a job, have disappointments, are unattached, and are looking to attach themselves to a larger cause?’

“In this country,” said Hayden, “what you get are individuals who are unhappy, violence-prone on their own, with a great sense of grievance, who now get legitimization and justification for their grievance by attaching it to something larger themselves. .... and here’s what’s new. They now have a set of grievances to which they can attach themselves that have been articulated by the president of the United States of America.”

Both men expressed alarm at Trump’s attacks on the press, the FBI, and his critics. They said Trump’s attacks are damaging the country’s democratic institutions, perhaps irretrievably. Hayden said we must stop Trump promptly, but both expressed pessimism about solving the problem soon.

**For all of these lies and other problems – and problems laid out in Part 1 (November 2018) and later in this essay, the American people are feeling a huge amount of stress and strong emotions nowadays.** Some of that is a natural reaction to horrible events, and some of this stress is deliberately imposed upon us in order to manipulate us for other people’s political ends. Many people feel shocked, angry, fearful, traumatized, and hopeless. **We need to explicitly recognize, name, and take actions to heal from those emotions so we can empower ourselves to solve the root problems.**

Non-profit organizations ask us to send e-mails to people with the dominant worldview and tell them their decisions cause bad results. That’s naïve. Those bad results are **deliberately intended**. The bad results come from **the dominant worldview** that comes from:  
 -- their sense of entitlement;  
 -- their utter disregard for other people’s lives, rights, health, etc.; and  
 -- their utter disregard for truth, justice and the natural world.

Non-profit organizations keep asking us to send e-mail messages to powerful people in government and business who hold the dominant worldview and who use their political and economic power to do bad things. Our e-mails tell them that their policies are causing bad results. These e-mails are naïve. Those powerful people **already know** that their greedy, corrupt and cruel policies cause bad results. Many of those powerful people **deliberately intend** to cause those bad results.

* Trump is a bully who enjoys being cruel to people. Telling him that he is hurting immigrants is not news to him. He **DELIBERATELY INTENDS** to hurt immigrants.
* Telling Republicans that their voter suppression tactics deprive people the right to vote is not news to them. They **DELIBERATELY INTEND** to prevent minorities, poor people and other Democratic-leaning persons from voting.
* Telling Trump’s agency heads that their policies are hurting the environment and our health is not news to them. They **DELIBERATELY INTEND** to hurt the environment, because hurting the environment and our health can increase their business profits.

These **DELIBERATE CRUELTIES** come from the **DOMINANT WORLDVIEW** and its sense of entitlement. The dominant worldview exudes an utter disregard for people’s rights, health, and lives – and utter disregard for truth, justice and the natural world.

**When we contact the oppressors with our e-mails and phone calls, we are NOT telling them things that they don’t already know. But we are telling them that we see and know exactly what they are doing!** The Quaker advice to “speak truth to power” has some usefulness, but we need to go beyond that.

**We need to significantly ramp up the wording of those e-mails – and take additional nonviolent actions that will be strong and strategically effective.**

For example, we can publicly expose their hypocrisy – especially through letters to newspaper editors in their districts and by communicating with various segments in their political base.

When we refute them, let’s **ground our argument in deeply held American values of truth and fairness and democracy**. Let’s lift up higher standards and **embarrass their hypocrisy** in front of the American public.

Do NOT assume that the dominant worldview is only a Republican problem. It is **bi-partisan**. Just like the Vietnam War, the U.S. Empire and our nation’s violent foreign policy and nuclear weapons are bi-partisan, so are **many of the persistent problems arising from the dominant worldview**. These problems persist even when a Democrat is President, and even when Democrats control Congress. **The dominant worldview is fundamentally bi-partisan.**

The atrocities the U.S. committed during Vietnam War were not aberrations in an otherwise noble cause. The atrocities were conscious, deliberate policy. Nor was the Vietnam War an aberration in an otherwise humane foreign policy. The war was always based on lies and stupidity and corruption. Indeed, the U.S.’s overall foreign policy is horribly militaristic and violence and is based on the dominant worldview’s sense of “American Exceptionalism” and the U.S.’s assumption that it is entitled to dominate the world.

Similarly, the horrors the Trump regime is committing are not mere mistakes. They are **deliberately** and **shamelessly** corrupt and cruel. The Trump regime **fully intends** to hurt people, to promote racism and sexism, to rip off the American people, and destroy the environment for the benefit of big business, and so forth. Those cruelties and corruptions are deliberate expressions of the dominant worldview that guides their behavior.

The currently dominant worldview is deeply entrenched. It is based on lies and propaganda. Powerful people will do anything to hold onto their power.

The currently dominant worldview is deeply cruel and corrupt. It commits crimes against people and crimes against nature. It violates international law. It is deeply entrenched, and its powerful people lie and cheat and steal elections and do everything they possibly can will do anything to hold onto their power.

Such totalitarian oppression is not unique to the U.S. Over the years, other nations have experienced this too. When the Soviet Union dominated Czechoslovakia, a Czech playwright named Vaclav Havel denounced the lies and repression. He was imprisoned, but after his nation became free, he was elected president. The biblical scholar Walter Wink quoted Havel in Wink’s great book ***Engaging the Powers***. Here is what Vaclav Havel wrote:

“Because the regime is captive to its own lies, it must falsify everything. It falsifies the past. It falsifies the present, and it falsifies the future. It falsifies statistics . . . . It pretends to respect human rights. It pretends to persecute no one. It pretends to fear nothing. It pretends to pretend nothing.”

This sounds familiar to Americans living in the age of Trumpism.

**The entire Trump regime is based on lies and cruelty.**

An earlier part of this essay mentioned the hard reality that the entire Trump regime is based on lies. See more below and at this link: <https://www.opednews.com/articles/Chris-Hayes-excoriates-Tru-by-Egberto-Willies-Partisan-Politics_Partisan-Prosecutions_Party-Politics-Democratic_Party-Politics-Republican-170311-158.html>

**We saw the Trump/Republican contempt for truth in their cynical steamrolling of Brett Kavanaugh onto the U.S. Supreme Court.** They refused to consider how Kavanaugh had previously lied to Congress while under oath. They believed his denial of sexually attacking women. (Actually he was so drunk that he had mentally blacked out, but they took his denial at face value.) They chose to ignore a truthful witness’s first-hand testimony. They refused to consider other witnesses’ offers to testify. They rigged the FBI “investigation” to exclude information negative to Kavanaugh. Their abuses of the truth – even while the whole world was watching this public spectacle – shows that they are absolutely shameless in their contempt for truth.

**Trump and the Republican Party deny the consensus of climate scientists.** They appoint climate deniers to positions of power that prevent competent efforts to protect Planet Earth from climate disruption. On August 18, 2017, the Natural Resources Defense Council ([www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org)) cited reports from the New York *Times* and other major news outlets that the Trump regime was planning to suppress one of **“the most comprehensive climate science reports” ever published. The NRDC said the report (part of the National Climate Assessment)** “was written and reviewed by scientists from 13 federal agencies” and “affirms that climate change is real, it’s caused by human activity, and it’s already hurting people across the U.S. The research directly contradicts Trump’s and EPA Administrator Pruitt’s ongoing efforts to diminish climate science and their false claims that climate change is a ‘hoax,’ and it threatens their pro-fossil fuel agenda.”

They replace Truth and honest science with rigid ideology and corruption to serve big business. They are doing that in many areas of government, not only the climate and environmental matters.

Trump's strategy is to tell many, many lies nonstop – and to publicize them in many different ways. This article provides much information: <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2017/08/trump-nonstop-lies/>

The highly respected non-profit organization Common Cause ([www.commoncause.org](http://www.commoncause.org)), which has been working since 1970 for honest government, published an investigative report about Trump’s pervasive lying. See information about this report, “The Art of the Lie” at <https://www.commoncause.org/resource/the-art-of-the-lie/>

Trump uses a strategy called “Gaslighting” to overwhelm us with his lies to such an extent that we will no longer trust ourselves but will yield to Trump’s version of reality. I wrote about “Gaslighting” and provided links to articles that explain it further. See this post on my blog: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/what-gaslighting-means-and-how-trump-uses-it-to-confuse-and-dominate-the-u-s>

The respected expert Robert Reich wrote an article on the power and effectiveness of promoting fear and hatred. Read it at <https://www.nationofchange.org/2018/10/31/hate-unbound/>

George Orwell’s ***1984*** featured a governmental agency that eliminated truthful information. We are seeing this in Trump’s Executive Branch, where his agencies are eliminating truthful climate-related information and other valid science reports from their websites, and where many agency employees are actually prohibited from using certain words that pertain to the realities that the Trump regime is actively suppressing. I encourage everybody to keep demanding and reporting the truth so we can make Orwell’s writing fiction again, instead of public policy!

Nixon lied a lot too, but Trump’s lying is far, far beyond anything Nixon did. Trump’s behavior goes far beyond a politician who is merely egocentric and self-serving. His behavior strongly points to extremely serious mental health disabilities.

I have read many articles by psychiatrists and psychologists who have been expressing alarm about Trump’s mental health. Many mental health experts have demanded an independent examination of Trump’s mental health. A documentary from Brave New Films ([www.bravenewfilms.org](http://www.bravenewfilms.org)) captures mental health experts’ grave concerns about Trump’s fitness for office. See information at <https://www.alternet.org/documentaries/mental-health-experts-demand-independent-examination-donald-trump?akid=16713.2186.9Q72Ha&rd=1&src=newsletter1088575&t=16>

A Holocaust survivor has issued a warning about Trump's America being similar to 1929/1930 Berlin. See <https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/holocaust-survivor-on-far-right-in-trumps-america-its-1929-or-1930-berlin_us_5acb8aa3e4b0337ad1ea5a71?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=__Politics__040918&utm_content=__Politics__040918+Version+A+CID_759b98dd5207c7a546431759bf50167f&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Holocaust%20Survivor%20On%20Trumps%20America%20Its%201929%20Or%201930%20Berlin&ncid=newsltushpmgnews__Politics__040918>

The American people are feeling a huge amount of stress and strong emotions nowadays. Some of that stress is **deliberately** imposed upon us in order to manipulate us for powerful people’s political ends. Also, some of that stress is a natural reaction to horrible events. Many people feel shocked, angry, fearful, traumatized, and hopeless. We need to explicitly recognize, name, and take actions to heal from those emotions so we can empower ourselves to solve the root problems instead of being trapped in victimhood.

Elsewhere I have written about how the Trump regime is deliberately imposing “shock and awe” upon us in order to suppress us and reduce our ability to resist his oppression, just as the George W. Bush & Dick Cheney regime used “shock and awe” to utterly dominate Iraq when they attacked it in 2003 so the Iraqi people would be too overwhelmed and intimidated to fight back. That did not work in Iraq in 2003, nor is it working in the USA nowadays.

Are the American people too beaten down, demoralized and distracted to fight back? When people are beaten down into powerlessness, they feel shame that further disempowers them and prevents them from fighting back. (Abusive husbands do this to maintain control over their wives.) This article -- <https://www.alternet.org/are-americans-broken-people-heres-why-weve-stopped-fighting-back-against-forces-oppression?src=newsletter1092898> -- explains the dynamics. One paragraph in this article says:

“U.S. citizens do not actively protest obvious injustices for the same reasons that people cannot leave their abusive spouses: They feel helpless to effect change. The more we don’t act, the weaker we get. And ultimately to deal with the painful humiliation over inaction in the face of an oppressor, we move to shut-down mode and use escape strategies such as depression, substance abuse, and other diversions, which further keep us from acting. This is the vicious cycle of all abuse syndromes.”

How can we counter that? After that article has further explained the evidence of the problems and the source of the problems, it asks and answers the question about whether anything can be done to turn this around. The article says that when people get caught up in humiliating abuse syndromes, more truths about their oppressive humiliations don't set them free.

Instead, “What sets them free is morale. What gives people morale? Encouragement. Small victories. Models of courageous behaviors. And anything that helps them break out of the vicious cycle of pain, shut down, immobilization, shame over immobilization, more pain, and more shut down.” The article explains that these remedies – not mental health professionals – are what we really need.

The American people need to find our way forward, achieve small victories, recognize and emulate courageous behaviors, and turn things around nonviolently from the grassroots up. Later in this essay I will discuss how to do that.

But first I want to revisit the concept of worldviews, because they are crucial in understanding our current crisis, and they are crucial in helping us devise solutions.

**WORLDVIEWS ARE CRUCIAL:** Worldviews drive (and seem to justify!) behavior and public policy. Therefore, instead of focusing only on specific problems, we must ALSO debunk and replace the dominant worldview.

If we look at how liberals and conservatives differ, we can understand the larger scale that this essay addresses. Liberals and conservatives have different “moral compasses” – different orientations or basic moral impulses that guide how we feel and think about political and social issues. See the ***Utne Reader***’s Sept-Oct 2009 article starting on page 41. ([www.utne.com](http://www.utne.com))

**Liberals tend to value:**

* Harm and care: It is wrong to hurt people. It’s good to relieve suffering.
* Fairness and reciprocity: Justice and fairness are good. People have certain rights that need to be upheld in social interactions.

**Conservatives tend to value:**

* In-group loyalty: People should be true to their group and be wary of threats from the outside. Allegiance, loyalty and patriotism are virtues. Betrayal is bad.
* Authority and respect: People should respect social hierarchy. Social order is necessary for human life.
* Purity and sanctity: The body and certain aspects of life are sacred. Cleanliness and health, as well as their derivatives of chastity and piety, are good. Pollution, contamination, and the associated character traits of lust and greed are bad.

**The worldviews I’m talking about go beyond being merely “liberal” or “conservative.” The worldviews are at a very much larger level** – far beyond specific issues – although the worldviews do strongly affect how people see specific issues.

Therefore, the problems are much bigger than the current abuses of Trump, the Republican Party, traditional conservatism, and the right wing. In order to really understand the problems – and solve them – we must really understand the concept of **worldview** and contrast the currently dominant worldview with the worldview that decent people need to cultivate and hold.

Then, in order to solve the problems, we need to take **strategically smart nonviolent actions** – especially at the **grassroots** – and **far beyond** electoral actions – in order to **envision** the new worldview and **organize grassroots movements** to bring it into being, so we can **replace** the worldview that has been hurting us and hurting Planet Earth for a long time.

Let me reinforce the concept of what a worldview is. **A worldview is the overall way in which we see and interpret reality. The way you see the world will largely drive how you interact with the world.**

* People who believe poor people or dark-skinned people or LBGTQ people have less human value than straight white people will treat those other kinds of people badly, because “that’s just the way things are.”
* People who believe the world is harsh and unjust will feel entitled to grab more than their fair share of the earth’s resources, because “that’s just the way things are.”

**People use that cruel worldview to JUSTIFY their own individual greed and cruelty. They do not see themselves as biased or cruel or corrupt. They see themselves as just fitting into “the way things are.”**

**If you believe it’s a “dog-eat-dog” world out there, then it makes sense for you to be cruel to other people.**  If you believe foreigners are a danger to you, then it makes sense for you to build a wall to keep them out. If you believe poor people are lazy, then it makes sense to cut off their food and health care in order to stop “enabling” their laziness.

Indeed, just recently Trump defended Saudi Arabia’s murder of the CNN journalist Jamal Kashoggi by saying, “It's a mean and nasty world out there.” <https://truthout.org/articles/its-and-mean-a-nasty-world-out-there-says-trump-defending-khashoggi-murder/> Trump has been supporting the cruel and corrupt nation of Saudi Arabia because he has extensive business dealings with that nation. Trump’s worldview makes this perfectly understandable.

**Therefore, if we want our society to be humane and compassionate, we must change the worldview that has been causing our society to be cruel.**

Actually, majority public opinion **does oppose** the dominant worldview and sees the world much differently!

On issue after issue (*e.g*., protecting women’s rights, getting big money out of politics, stopping corruption, reducing gun violence, caring for the environment, treating all kinds of people fairly, protecting voting rights, and so forth), big majorities of Americans **oppose** the currently dominant worldview. But Trump, the Republicans, and many mainstream Democrats believe in the dominant worldview, so they fail to serve the broad public interest.

The public wants federal, state and local governments to perform useful functions.

The dominant worldview opposes that and tells us that government is inherently evil and incompetent. That is their self-serving excuse, but those politicians with the dominant worldview are themselves part of the problem. Instead of letting their neglect prevent positive changes, we must stand firm with our values and organize nonviolently at the grassroots to replace their worldview with ours, and to replace their laws and policies with the alternatives that we demand. Of course, this means replacing the overwhelming majority of elected officials. **The remedies go far beyond voting, because we must change our society’s consciousness!**

It's **not enough** to merely oppose Trump and Republicans. We need a **positive worldview**, a **positive vision**, **alternative public policies**, and **alternative strategies and plans** to accomplish them. I’ll discuss these remedies in the rest of this essay.

**The real remedies go far beyond elections and far beyond partisanship**. We must organize locally and nationally to build **nonviolent grassroots movements** on **specific issues** **AND ALSO** to advance our **macro-level, multi-issue progressive worldview**. This is what the new Poor People’s Campaign is trying to do nationwide and on a state-by-state basis. Search the internet for the Poor People’s Campaign and connect with that great multi-issue grassroots movement.

While the American people want to solve problems, Trump and the Republicans believe the government should **NOT** solve problems. They are deliberately destroying government’s ability to solve problems and create peace and justice. Many mainstream Democrats go along with that negligence because they too are funded by the same big businesses and they are part of the military-industrial-congressional complex.

As I mentioned a few pages earlier, non-profit organizations ask us to e-mail and phone elected officials and other holders of political and economic power to stop doing **specific** bad things and to instead take **specific** actions for better public policy. Those powerful people ignore us because their **values and worldviews** are totally opposite to those of most Americans.

**The powerful interests WANT and INTEND that we should feel powerless.**  Early in 2017 I wrote that Trump was imposing “shock and awe” upon the American people so we will feel overwhelmed and powerless to resist.

**The remedy for this dysfunctional politics is bold organizing in proactive nonviolent grassroots movements.**

The remedy includes building nonviolent grassroots movements to remove those persons from power **and** to change the systems that support and protect the dominant political, electoral and media powers.

I have written about that on my blog, and I want to write further. For example, my blog includes links to articles I’ve written about these three topics:

* Let’s challenge the underlying economic problem that currently dominates us: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/how-can-we-challenge-this-dominant-but-destructive-economic-assumption>
* I believe we really can turn things around:  <http://parallaxperspectives.org/widely-held-values-actually-oppose-trumpisms-cruelty-etc>
* In 2017 I wrote a very thorough analysis of how we got into the current Trumpian crisis and how we can use nonviolent grassroots organizing to get us out of the crisis and solve the underlying problems. More than a year ago I wrote this very thorough analysis of the problems, and I still find the analysis to be valid.  I keep urging people to read this to understand how we got into the current crisis and also to understand that nonviolent grassroots organizing can help us get out of it:  <http://parallaxperspectives.org/an-important-post-on-this-blog-still-reflects-my-best-thinkig>

**We can change worldviews if we help people think more creatively and strategically, and if we promote nonviolent grassroots organizing.**

We grow up in a political culture that shows us only a very limited range of choices. Most people choose from this very limited range, so our political culture remains stuck. We can make progress only if we create a much wider range of choices

-- and then **use our best values and our best thinking** to choose the wisest, most compassionate choices;

-- and also **encourage and empower other people** to explore wider possibilities too.

We care about many different issues. We can make better progress on all of the issues if we see the big picture that connects them – and change to a comprehensive worldview based on positive values, what’s best for the broad public interest, and what’s best for Planet Earth.

Therefore, we need a truly wise and good worldview based on truth, compassion, nonviolence and other values. Let’s support nonviolence (see this essay’s section on this a few pages below), compassion, truth, and other values that would be inherent in a truly wise and good worldview. Here are just four examples:

* **“Nonviolence” category on my blog:** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/nonviolence-also-see-peace-conflict-resolution-organizing-activism>
* **TV programs about nonviolence, including this one:** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/nonviolence-is-ethical-practical-powerful>
* **Protect Science from Corruption:** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/protecting-science-from-corruption-is-urgent-and-crucial> and my TV program, <http://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-base-public-policy-on-honest-science>
* **Use truth to fight Trump’s lies:** <http://www.alternet.org/news-amp-politics/speaking-truth-power-trumps-america?akid=15346.2186.B1FWzI&rd=1&src=newsletter1074289&t=7>

**Communicating to people about specific public policies won’t convince them if their basic world view or underlying values prevent them from hearing our message.**

**Likewise, in order to overcome the currently dominant worldview, we cannot fight the oppressor using the oppressor’s weapons. We must use nonviolent “asymmetrical warfare” by building nonviolent grassroots movements on the various issues and on the matter of the worldview itself.**

Don’t let people tell us that government is evil and incompetent. Don’t let that rhetoric interfere with our values. The public wants government to perform useful functions. To figure this out, we need to think clearly without oppressive distractions.

As I said near the beginning of this essay, **I’m not just talking about people being mean-spirited or angry. A person’s worldview pre-dates any of that. What a person assumes about reality – how a person sees the world – leads to their emotional stance toward persons of other races, and their attitude toward the environment, and their likelihood to become either generous or greedy.**

President Franklin D. Roosevelt affirmed democracy by saying, “Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a president and senators and congress[people] and government officials, but the voters of this country.”

Nelson Mandela said, “Poverty is not an accident. Like slavery and apartheid it is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings.”

**We can help people think more clearly about worldviews and about a variety of issues.** For example, let’s understand “The Thinking Error at the Root of Science Denial,” as explained in the interesting article at this link: <https://www.ecowatch.com/science-denial-evidence-policy-2567016487.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=005cfc543f-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-005cfc543f-85369701>

The article says, “there are three important issues on which there is scientific consensus but controversy among laypeople: climate change, biological evolution and childhood vaccination. On all three issues, prominent members of the Trump administration, including the president, have lined up against the conclusions of research.”

The insightful article cited above explains the psychological reasoning for such denial in the face of overwhelming consensus among scientists. The author, a psychotherapist, sees the distorted thinking has some similarities to the thinking of persons with serious mental illnesses. The author explains how the “deniers” misunderstand the scientific process. I recommend my blog post -- <http://parallaxperspectives.org/protecting-science-from-corruption-is-urgent-and-crucial> -- and the TV program I cited a few paragraphs above: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-base-public-policy-on-honest-science>.

Let’s think clearly and creatively about many aspects of worldviews. For example, are corporations “persons”? If so:

* + Why can’t we arrest them and put them in prison?
  + Why don’t they ever come home in body bags?

We must amend the Constitution to abolish “corporate personhood” and protect Constitutional rights for real, live human beings only.

Let’s “think outside the box” and propose creative, humane, alternatives to foreign policy and other issues. Let’s create alternatives that are not based on fear. When public opinion polling offers alternatives to the death penalty, many people to choose the alternatives instead of the death penalty status quo. We need to do that also regarding foreign policy, nuclear weapons, economics, etc., etc., etc.

A dominant but destructive assumption deals with economic justice and other values we care about. We need to challenge that assumption. See my blog post: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/how-can-we-challenge-this-dominant-but-destructive-economic-assumption>

**Cynicism and despair infect the U.S.’s entire political spectrum, from the Right Wing to the Left Wing.** Cynicism and despair also have caused much of our nation’s population to avoid politics altogether.

**Therefore, our remedies must include healing all parts of our nation from cynicism and despair.** We must devise different remedies for different segments of our population, based on their starting points (their worldviews).

I**nstead of the dominant worldview let’s choose a better worldview with humane alternatives.** This would be the **OPPOSITE** of the dominant one.

November’s Part 1 TV program mentioned some specific problems.   
A **better worldview** would produce **positive alternatives** such as these:

I discussed the currently dominant worldview’s problems in Part 1 of this TV program, and in the thorough essay about it. Both the TV program and its essay are posted to the “TV Programs” part of my blog, [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).

Now you’re reading the essay about Part 2, which proposes solutions and how to achieve them. This blog post also includes the link for watching Part 2 of the TV program.

For several pages now I will highlight some humane alternatives for a better worldview.

**Let’s replace the current worldview’s selfishness, greed, cruelty and   
oppression with a civilized worldview that respects every person’s inherent value, dignity and rights.**

**Many of our nation’s political, economic and social problems were caused by a shortage of empathy – a failure to recognize our common humanity.** We need to replace the current worldview’s selfishness, greed, cruelty and oppression with a civilized worldview that respects every person’s inherent value, dignity and rights. We need to help people who are suffering instead of blaming them.

We need a worldview that recognizes human rights for **every** person, including high quality health care, a decent place to live, enough nutritious food, and other basic rights. A humane worldview recognizes these priorities are worth paying taxes to accomplish. Empathy and a fair tax system would replace selfishness. More examples of a worldview affirming all people’s human rights:

* We need a worldview that respects women and their rights to make health-related decisions and their rights to safety from assault.
* We need a worldview that respects LGBTQ people’s self-identified realities and rights.
* We need a worldview that welcomes and helps immigrants and refugees who are fleeing extreme violence and death threats in other countries.

The currently dominant worldview sees enemies everywhere, so it urges people to carry guns and shoot at people. In contrast, a humane worldview would seek every person’s safety in civilized ways.

Likewise, a humane worldview would seek economic justice for every person instead of the dominant worldview’s bias in favor of rich people. Both of the big political parties have been supporting “neoliberal” economics that have been pulling wealth from ordinary people and focusing it in the economic elites. See this new article by Chris Hedges: <https://www.alternet.org/neoliberalisms-dark-path-fascism?src=newsletter1098185>

The currently dominant worldview allows powerful Americans to feel entitled to exploit other nations and their natural resources. Instead, we need a worldview that recognizes that other nations’ people – not their elites or the U.S.’s elites – have the right to determine what to do with their nations’ natural resources.

We need a worldview that realistically recognizes we all live on one Planet Earth, so we all must live together harmoniously and sustainably.

Martin Luther King, Jr., said this in his famous “Beyond Vietnam” speech in Riverside Church, New York City on April 4, 1967:

“We are called to speak for the weak, for the voiceless, for the victims of our nation, for those it calls ‘enemy,’ for no document from human hands can make these humans any less our brothers. I think of them, too, because it is clear to me that there will be no meaningful solution until some attempt is made to know them and hear their broken cries.”

**Let’s replace the dominant worldview’s excuses for greed with affirmations of the legitimate interests of individuals, society, and the environment.**

The dominant worldview gives permission for unlimited greed. Powerful people feel no shame about cheating other people and stealing from them and destroying the environment.

We need a worldview that rejects the doctrines of “corporate personhood” and excessive capitalism. We need a worldview grounded in the inherent worth and dignity and rights of human beings and the natural world.

**Let’s replace the dominant worldview’s endorsement of competition that hurts weaker people. We need an egalitarian worldview that affirms and protects every person.**

The dominant worldview assumes that competition is good. But competition has many inherent downsides, especially in a society with gross imbalances of power.

I highly recommend the book authored by Alfie Kohn, titled, ***No Contest: The Case Against Competition.***

**Let’s reject all polarization into “us” vs. “them.” Let’s affirm that ALL   
people are ONE human family. Affirm that we are ALL in this TOGETHER.**

We have been polarized into thinking in terms of “us” vs. “them.” Oppressors polarize us by race, religion, sexual orientation, and other factors. Oppressors use this “divide-and-conquer” strategy in order to keep the oppressed people from joining together into a large powerful majority to nonviolently fight the oppressive elites.

In the U.S. the Republican Party has been vigorously promoting polarization – including polarization over “culture wars” issues and over partisanship. For several years they have been deliberately preventing Congress from governing. When Obama was elected President, Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell explicitly said that his primary goal was to make Obama only a one-term President. McConnell did not have any goals for helping the U.S. solve problems or govern effectively, because his most important goal was partisan abuse.

A Canadian wrote an insightful and frightening article about the U.S.’s partisan polarization and a likely civil war to occur in the U.S. as a result of the harsh polarization: <https://thewalrus.ca/americas-next-civil-war/>

We need to recognize what they are doing, refuse to let anyone polarize us, and join together across the demographic variables in order to promote social and economic justice.

A humane worldview would affirm that we are ALL ONE human family and we are ALL in this TOGETHER.

Remember John Donne’s famous Meditation XVII:

“*No person is an island entire of itself;  
Every one is a piece of the continent, a part of the main . . .   
Every human death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind;  
and therefore, never send to know for whom the bell tolls;  
it tolls for thee.”*

**Let’s reject the cynical assumption that “might makes right.” Let’s support honest, profound ethics instead of this common excuse for dominating weaker people.**

The slogan that “might makes right” is a cynical assumption that is simply the “law of the jungle.” Militaries and other bullies use physical power, economic power, and weapons. They feel **entitled** to oppress, assault, rape, and kill people who lack those powers.

The dominant worldview is full of this. Big business’s lawyers enable those companies to abuse workers and consumers and the environment. The list goes on and on.

When Trump started his presidential campaign in 2015 his rhetoric emphasized and encouraged bullying, and we’ve seen a sharp increase in hate crimes and mass shootings.

We must reject the currently dominant worldview because it is inherently cruel, oppressive.

Instead, we must cultivate a humane worldview that is profoundly **egalitarian** and **nonviolent**.

**Let’s replace the dominant worldview’s cruel, ineffective criminal justice system with new laws and policies that will actually reduce crime, protect society, help victims, rehabilitate offenders, and heal the brokenness that underlies violence and crime.**

The worldview that currently dominates our criminal justice system is steeped in racism, cruelty and vindictiveness. It promotes violent policing, harsh prison sentences and the death penalty.

Research shows that those do not work. But the dominant worldview would rather bully and punish people than actually reduce crime. Research shows that humane methods – methods rooted in a humane worldview – really do reduce crime and solve underlying problems.

Let’s debunk and replace the heavy-handed methods because they fail to help victims, they cause prisoners to commit crimes again when they are released, and they fail to protect society.

Instead, let’s recognize that evidence-based research has proven that smart, humane strategies work better:

* “Restorative justice” and other smart strategies provide healing for victims and offenders alike, reduce crime, and save tax dollars.
* Investing in better services for at-risk children and families will prevent crime and save tax dollars.
* Let’s recognize dangerous drugs as a public health problem, instead of a criminal problem. “Harm Reduction” strategies work well in other countries.

Here are some resources that can help us move toward implementation:

* Restorative justice helps crime victims, including young ones. <https://youthtoday.org/2018/04/help-crime-victims-by-committing-to-restorative-justice/>
* Restorative justice works for perpetrators and victims. <https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/restorative-justice-works-for-perpetrators-and-victims/>
* Smarter strategies to fight street gun violence: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/08/opinion/fighting-street-gun-violence-as-if-it-were-a-contagion.html>
* Police chiefs want humane alternatives for immigrant families: <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2018/7/4/1776679/-Police-chiefs-push-for-humane-alternatives-for-migrant-parents-and-kids-not-family-jails?detail=emaildkre>

These kinds of reforms would flow naturally from a very different worldview. The alternative worldview would help our society become more civilized, safe and free.

For more information see the “Criminal Justice” category and the “Death Penalty” category on my blog, [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). Also, my blog’s February 2018 TV program explains how the death penalty does not deliver what it promises, but actually makes problems worse. Watch the TV program and/or read what I said at this link: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-death-penalty-does-not-work-it-makes-problems-worse-lets-abolish-it>

**The dominant worldview wrongly assumes that violence solves problems. It has hurt the U.S. in many ways. Our foreign policy has become horribly cruel, wasteful and counterproductive.**

**The opposite worldview would honestly seek worldwide fairness and peace instead of the current violence and endless, unwinnable wars.**

The premise of U.S. foreign policy is that the U.S. is GOOD and the nations we oppose are EVIL, so WE are justified in using violence but THEY are not allowed to defend themselves from our attacks.

When nations – or any political groups – are in conflict, EACH side sees it in absolute terms and does not understand the other side’s perception of reality. Each new act of violence only reinforces the other side’s fear and anger. Then it feels self-righteous in defending itself by retaliating. This perpetuates the cycle of violence. Each side justifies its own violence at the same time as it denounces the other side’s use of violence.

**War is the epitome of the currently dominant worldview. War is simply the wrong tool to resolve conflicts.** War is based on overwhelming violence. It is morally bankrupt, and it does not work! In Vietnam the U.S. won if you only consider the “body counts,” but the U.S. lost the war.

**In contrast, the procedures for actually resolving conflicts are based on a strong desire to solve problems through empathic listening, objective criteria and even-handed justice.**

Some people think that peace supporters are naive. But for thousands of years wars have only led to more wars. (World War I was promoted as “The War to End All Wars.”) So actually the people who really are naive and unrealistic are those who think that yet another war will solve the world’s problems.

See more information contrasting the current “national security” model with a humane, peace-oriented model for “TRUE Security” section near the end of this essay, and also at my blog’s categories for “Peace” and “Nonviolence,” and “International Affairs.” See [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)

A longstanding feature of the American worldview is our mistaken notion that the U.S. is “the beacon of liberty” – “the promised land” – and therefore that the U.S. is so righteous and pure that we are ENTITLED to dominate the world. This notion of “American exceptionalism” causes many Americans and our government to think that the U.S. is exempt from international law and other realities, such as the laws of science that would alert us to the climate crisis if only we would listen to science.

Here is an example of “American exceptionalism” related to foreign policy: Some years ago at our Wednesday noon-hour peace vigil, I was holding a sign asking, “Is war really necessary?” A man walked by without pausing to engage in conversation, but merely strode past and declared, “Yeah. Sometimes you’ve got to beat them up.” As an American, he was assuming the entitlement to beat up people in other nations. He would never have said this about himself or his nation: that sometimes he and his nation should be beaten up. No, he assumed that – as an American – he and his nation were entitled to be the “beater,” not the “beatee.”

**So violence becomes “normalized” in foreign policy and in policing.** How else does violence become “normalized”? Some men feel entitled to control and use violence against women. Some whites and straights feel entitled to create and use laws and regulations that use violence and oppression against racial or sexual minorities. Some states have passed “stand your ground” laws to give explicit for people to use gun violence. And so it goes.

**The American gun culture is part of the problem of “normalizing” violence.** In a 2007 study of 178 countries by the Geneva-based Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, the U.S. ranked number one in the number of guns per person (88.8 per 100), far ahead of all the other countries in the study. Yemen was a distant runner-up with 55 guns per 100 people, 40 percent less than the U.S. rate.

**Militarizing our culture can happen when massive amounts of fear are injected into it** – fear of Communists, fear of foreigners, fear of Muslims, fear of terrorists, fear of dark-skinned Americans, fear of homeless people, etc.

General Douglas MacArthur said this on May 15, 1951: “It is part of the general pattern of misguided policy that our country is now geared to an arms economy which was bred in an artificially induced psychosis of war hysteria and nurtured upon an incessant propaganda of fear.”

**War is terrorism with a bigger budget!** The dynamics are the same: Threaten and use massive violence in order to frighten and hurt other people so you can violently dominate them into submission.

The “War on Terror” does not reduce terror, but rather actually provokes more terror! People who are afraid for our national security need to question the dominant worldview’s assumptions and choose better alternatives. Later in this essay I’ll explain this further and urge a compassionate, peaceful and just foreign policy that would provide “TRUE Security.” See the parts of my blog, [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), that deal with various aspects of international affairs, nuclear weapons, terrorism, and so forth.

The older Bush’s 1990-1991 “Gulf War” utterly devastated Iraq. The U.S. targeted water treatment plants and sewage treatment plants, so Iraq could not provide clean, safe water for its people.

After the war supposedly ended in 1991, the U.S. continued its punishing economic sanctions against Iraq, so they could not buy the equipment they needed to repair those plants. Raw sewage flowed in city streets, and microbes in drinking water also caused an epidemic of illnesses. The U.S. was deliberately causing water-borne diseases (“biological weapons”) that – along with other deliberate abuses such as prohibiting Iraq from buying medicines or even replacing windows and sheets in hospitals – caused more than half a million innocent Iraqi children to die in the next several years.

When Democratic President Bill Clinton was elected in November 1992 he vigorously continued that brutal war against Iraq’s innocent civilians by continuing and enforcing the economic sanctions. A journalist publicly asked Clinton’s Secretary of State Madeleine Albright whether killing half a million Iraqi children was worth it, and she said yes.

This is the dominant worldview at work. Democrats hurt innocent people, just like Republicans do. Even Democrats who say nice-sounding rhetoric such as Barack Obama have been guilty of horrible war crimes because they buy into the dominant worldview.

Why do we have this kind of foreign policy? When the U.S. was founded, President Washington and Congress and the public opposed getting into wars, because they saw how Europe suffered from its many wars. But over the years, the U.S. developed its own sense of imperialist “entitlement.”

The world is interconnected in many ways, so “isolationism” is not practical. But we do need to interact with other nations based on **fairness and diplomacy** instead of oppression and war.

**The nationalistic worldview started long ago and has persisted through both of the big political parties.**

Nearly two centuries ago – in 1823 – President James Monroe issued a national policy (the Monroe Doctrine), which threatened Europe to stop colonizing the Americas, because that was an area the U.S. wanted to control. This was an imperialistic sense of “entitlement” and “arrogance of power” as described earlier in this essay.

But the U.S. imperialism expanded across the Pacific Ocean when the U.S. fought a ten-week war with Spain (the Spanish-American War) and the U.S. stole Spain’s colonies (the Philippines, Cuba, etc.).

After World War II the U.S. emerged as the world’s most dominant military and economic power. Those two features of the dominant worldview – military and economic power – are summarized in a statement made in 1948 by George Kennan, head of the US State Department’s Policy Planning Staff. He said:

“We have about 60 per cent of the world’s wealth but only 6.3 per cent of its population. In this situation we cannot fail to be the object of envy and resentment. Our real task in the coming period is to devise a pattern of relationships which will permit us to maintain this position of disparity. ... The day is not far off when we are going to have to deal in straight power concepts.”

This expresses the U.S.’s dominant worldview.

Although the official propaganda says the U.S. wants peace and democracy, actually the U.S. government has overthrown democracies in Iran, Guatemala, Chile, Venezuela, and elsewhere, because those countries had democratic governments that wanted their own people to benefit from their own oil, minerals, and natural resources.

The U.S. has installed extremely brutal dictators who would serve U.S. political, military and economic interests, and the U.S. has armed them with extremely deadly weapons and allowed the dictators to slaughter their own people over many years. The U.S. has prevented the United Nations from stopping the abuses that the U.S. was enabling.

If we were to ask the public whether they want peace, nearly everyone would say yes. But **violence and war have become so “normalized” that many people think war is the way to achieve peace.**  (In fact, another passerby at a very recent peace vigil told us exactly that.) This mistaken that war is the way to achieve peace is part of “the myth of redemptive violence,” which I’ll discuss later in this essay.

In our daily lives, we have better sense than to choose violent ways of solving problems. If your neighbor’s dog is barking, you do not shoot your neighbor’s dog. If you disagree with your spouse or partner, you do not assault him or her. During my decades-long career of working in a Washington State agency that interacted with other state agencies, we sometimes disagreed with another agency about how to solve a problem, but none of my co-workers ever said, “Let’s get a bunch of guns and go over to their headquarters office and start shooting people until they surrender and start agreeing with us.”

In ancient times the writers of Greek tragedies referred to this as *hubris*, the kind of arrogance that led to tragic outcomes. The U.S. keeps acting on the *hubris* of “American exceptionalism,” and we will increasingly reap the tragic consequences.

**The “arrogance of power” contaminates and supports the dominant worldview. Let’s replace it with an egalitarian worldview that seeks   
everyone’s well-being.**

During the Vietnam War, U.S. Senator William Fulbright denounced what he called “the arrogance of power.” The specific context was the Vietnam War, which he strongly opposed.

“The arrogance of power” and the similar notion of “American exceptionalism” are major factors in U.S. foreign policy and economic policy throughout the world.

“The arrogance of power” also extends beyond the international scene into domestic level contexts in which powerful people assume they are entitled to abuse people with less power.

This sense of “privilege” and “entitlement” causes some men to abuse women, as we saw in 2018 when the Senate confirmed Brett Kavanaugh to become a U.S. Supreme Court Justice even though he had a history of sexually assaulting women.

We see the arrogance of power over and over again throughout workplaces, the criminal justice system, and elsewhere.

We keep seeing “white privilege” and “heterosexual privilege” and other forms of power abusing people without privilege. The oppressors and abusers simply feel entitled to dominate and abuse.

“The arrogance of power” has increasingly become part of the dominant worldview in the USA.

Just imagine how pleasant and satisfying it would be to live in a society without such arrogance and abuse. We need a truly egalitarian society that respects the inherent human dignity of every person.

**The dominant worldview wants government to serve big business but not the rest of us. Instead, we need a worldview that truly serves the broad public interest and honest democracy – “we the people,” as our nation’s founders intended.**

In recent decades the radical right wing grew and made our political climate much angrier in the ways described above – and also by turning our government into the enemy of the people. That is the opposite of democracy. **Our nation’s founders understood that “we the people” create governments to serve our needs. But the dominant worldview opposes that value.**

Grover Norquist, who works with a conservative anti-tax organization in Washington DC was famously quoted as saying, “My goal is to cut government in half in 25 years, to get it down to the size where we can drown it in the bathtub.”

**The radical right really wants to destroy most of government – the parts that help people – but they support the parts of government that punish and use violence (more violent policing, more prisons, and more violence in foreign policy).**

In Washington State, Tim Eyman’s anti-tax initiatives have been part of this. They have prevented the Legislature from adequately funding public schools, city bus service, and other vital governmental functions.

This anti-government mania has increased with Republican control of the U.S. Congress – and it increased again with Trump in the White House. They have slashed funding for useful services.

Trump has appointed – and the Republican Senate has confirmed – utterly unqualified and incompetent persons to run many federal agencies. Trump has appointed many people who are extremely corrupt and are trying to destroy the agencies for which they are responsible. Many of those are extremely corrupt business people who were hired to run the agencies that are responsible for protecting the public from their businesses’ worst abuses (damage to public health, destruction of the environment, ripping off consumers, etc.). Some of them are deliberately working – with approval by Trump and the Republican-dominated congress – to destroy their agencies or at least prohibit them from fulfilling their missions.

They have tried many times to take away health care from tens of millions of Americans, even though their cruelty would cause tens of thousands of Americans to die every year.

It’s pure negativity. Pure corruption. Pure cruelty.

Trump is not “making America great.” He is making America poor, polluted, and sick.

Instead, we need the opposite worldview that affirms a positive vision for government that “we the people” create and guide to serve the broad public interest, to protect our health and environment, and accomplish other good things.

**Let’s create a humane, civilized worldview and effective government with laws, regulations, and services that help everyone and protect human rights and the environment.**

If the government were to disappear or be seriously diminished, this would not give us more liberty. Rather, it would reduce our quality of life and our protection from corporate abuses. Big business and other thugs would be unconstrained and would hurt us even more.

Right-wingers and Republicans rail against governmental regulations as if those were bad. Actually, regulations protect us from dangerous foods, dangerous workplaces, dangerous harm to the environment, and so forth. When you hear a politician rail against “regulations,” substitute the word “protections” and tell the politician and the audience why we need them.

**Republicans cause cancer! And they don’t care!**

Trump and the Republican-dominated Congress want to weaken or abolish many laws and regulations that have been protecting public health and the environment.  This would cause more pollution and disease.

Trump campaigned to “make America great,” but actually a polluted nation is not “great.”  A polluted nation is dirty, and it makes people sick.

If we want our nation to be “great,” we must demand that governments at all levels – federal, state and local – take strong actions to protect and sustain a clean and healthy environment and the climate that serves everyone on earth.

After the Great Depression in the 1930s, the federal government started to regulate banks. President Bill Clinton (a Democrat) and Congress de-regulated the banks and allowed them to gamble in very risky ways. This led to the economic crash that started in 2007. Since then, Congress has passed only very trivial reforms, and now the Republican-dominated government – and many of Congress’s Democrats – are de-regulating banks even further, so people are predicting another economic crash within a few years.

After de-regulating the banks caused the economy to crash, we need to vigorously RE-regulate the banks and break up the biggest ones.

Likewise, corporate mergers have reduced competition, violated the competitive promise of the “free market,” and allowed giant corporations to abuse consumers without adequate competition. We need to vigorously enforce anti-trust laws and break up many big business corporations.

**Our worldview needs to support a fair system of taxes so society can work together to pay for what we need.**

Some people just rant and rave against taxes. Actually, taxes are how a society works together to pay for what the society needs. Oliver Wendell Homes once said, “I like to pay taxes. With them I buy civilization.”

Anti-tax zealots have slashed funding for necessary public spending, starting with California’s Proposition 13 in 1978 and continuing in many places, including Tim Eyman’s initiatives in Washington State.

Cutting taxes is one of the right wing’s favorite ways to prevent the government from being able to fund services for the broad public interest, while also letting rich people take an even larger share of our nation’s wealth.

Also, many tax cuts are designed to be regressive in cutting the taxes of rich people and big businesses more than they cut taxes of poor and working class people. These tax cuts widen the economic gap between the rich and everyone else, besides depriving poor and working class people the public services we need.

In December 2017 the Trump/Republican tax cuts gave enormous amounts of money to the very, very richest people and the biggest business corporations. They ballooned the federal deficit. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office reported that the Republicans’ tax cut “will add $1.8 trillion to the deficit over the coming decade.” See <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/ct-analysis-tax-cut-deficit-20180409-story.html>

Do you remember when Republicans used to rail against “deficit spending”? What hypocrites! Now they are the biggest booster of deficits – but only if the deficit is caused by slashing the government’s revenue from rich people and big business, and by wasting additional billions of dollars on endless wars and wasteful military weapons and subsidies for big business.

Their tax cuts are widening the gap between the 1% and the 99%.

We need a worldview that is ethical and seeks economic justice – fairness for everybody – and makes rich people pay the most for the political and economic systems that made them rich.

**The dominant worldview imposes systemic, institutional violence.**

The worldview that currently dominates the U.S. is violent in obvious ways – and also in subtle, systemic ways.

We know that our nation has been fighting wars continuously since 1941. Some people have said that “war is a theft from the poor.”

Beyond the actual wars, much of the violence that Americans experience occurs **within** our nation; it is **embedded** in our national culture and the various systems and institutions that run modern America.

Indeed, our economic worldview inflicts violence upon a very large portion of the population in the form of poverty, pollution, hunger, inadequate housing, abuse of workers, and so forth. Also, sexism, racism, homophobia, and other denials of human rights also are inherently violent.

**A better worldview would support the broad public interest – and would want the public to own and manage many functions and services instead of letting private owners do that for their own selfish profits.**

**Public ownership and management of many functions and services would increase quality and accountability.**

Real democracy requires accountability to the public. This should include public ownership of resources that serve the broad public interest. Instead, the dominant worldview – and the policies of many conservatives and neoliberals – have promoted private ownership of resources that should be owned by the public.

Functions that serve the public (schools, prisons, utilities, transportation systems, etc.) should be owned and operated by the public, with accountability to the voters.

Some city governments own their own utilities for water, electricity, and so forth. These publicly owned utilities provide better service at lower cost than the utilities that are owned by capitalist business corporations. Money stays in the local community. Voters elect the city council members, school boards, and so forth.

Public schools are a great American tradition, but anti-government zealots (including many billionaires and Republicans) are promoting privately owned “charter” schools that divert tax dollars away from public schools but are free to exclude children of the “wrong” religions, children who are not heterosexual, children with disabilities, children who have been speaking a non-English language, and so forth.

Some states have “privatized” their prisons, and the federal government privatized more of their prisons (especially prisons for immigrants). The private corporations skimp on poorer quality food, health care and security, in order to cut costs and increase profits, even though those spending cuts cause poor health and dangerous conditions.

The dominant worldview seeks to centralize power in private (capitalist) hands rather than serve democracy and the broad public interest. Instead, we need public ownership and accountability to voters.

Many people belong to credit unions, which are banks organized as cooperatives and owned by their members. There is no valid reason why governments could not own the big banks, or why the U.S. Postal Service could not start up its “postal banking” services that it used to operate.

**The dominant worldview caused ordinary people’s incomes to stagnate or decline for decades. We need an alternative worldview that puts the   
well-being of ordinary people ahead of the 1%.**

**This would reduce people’s economic anxieties and fears, so the Right Wing could not hijack our emotions and target immigrants, minorities and other innocent victims of the dominant economic policies.**

In the U.S., wages peaked in about 1976, and ever since then, wages have been stagnant or declining, compared to inflation. Our undemocratic economy has left many people chronically unemployed or under-employed. Corporations are squeezing people’s health benefits, looting their pension plans, polluting our air and water, and doing other bad things to us. People sense that many things are crumbling, and they have many valid reasons for feeling abused – especially when our governments protect the giant corporations instead of protecting us.

Unfortunately, at times like these when many people are gripped by anxiety and fear, right-wing demagogues come along to distract our fear and anger by re-directing it upon scapegoats who actually are victims too, instead of focusing these feelings upon the people who caused the problems. The feelings of loss, anger, fear, and resentment have been manipulated by right-wing demagogues to flow into the dominant worldview that hurts vulnerable people and protects big business from criticism.

Trump – always a lying huckster and charlatan – exploited those feelings and mobilized voters to hate Mexicans, immigrants, other minorities, governmental regulations, and other targets. He fooled many people.

People who feel economically at risk are vulnerable to being abused by dishonest people who want to blame immigrants, minorities, women, and other targets for their economic hardship that was really caused by the 1%.

Let’s replace the current worldview with one that is committed to a fair standard of living for every person and committed to sharply reducing the gap between rich people and everyone else.

Some of the anger and fear that have been increasing recently resulted from economic problems, but clever opportunists have deflected the anger and fear from the real sources and re-directed them to innocent victims and generalized free-floating negativity.

Increasingly in recent years the right wing has bought major “news” media, including TV and radio stations, newspapers, and so forth. Fox News has always been just a cynical front for the Republican Party that promotes extremely partisan propaganda instead of reporting truth. Giant corporations owned by right-wing extremists have been saturating much of the nation with their propaganda, so people there never hear the truth. Instead, they are manipulated into supporting the dominant worldview and Republicans, even though the right wing’s public policies actually hurt those people.

**Some of the fears that people are feeling are phony – contrived by people who want to manipulate us.**

**We need to distinguish between those and the real dangers we face, such as climate disruption, nuclear weapons, government surveillance, the loss of civil liberties, and the corruption of honest democracy.**

The sections above discuss some fears that have been contrived and manipulated. The people promoting the dominant worldview try to manipulate us by contriving fears.

But some legitimate fears do exist. **The public really is justified in fearing climate disruption, nuclear weapons, government surveillance, the loss of civil liberties, the corruption of honest democracy, and so forth.**

Current and anticipated laws and policies are pushing most Americans downward, threatening our retirement plans, reducing our access to health care, worsening our quality of life, degrading our food supply, ruining our environment, restricting the media, corrupting our political processes, and so forth.

We need to recognize that our society is saturated with a huge amount of free-floating fears and anxieties that have come from those legitimate sources. We need to recognize the true sources and stop blaming innocent victims.

Instead of believing fear-mongering propaganda claiming that immigrants are criminals, we need to understand that immigrants commit crimes at a much LOWER rate than people born in the U.S. Almost all of the terrorist attacks and mass murders here have been committed by white people born in the U.S. – and many of them have expressed racism and other kinds of hatred.

If we can free people from the phony fears, we can help the public focus on the actual problems that we need to solve.

**Consider these additional insights about Americans’ fears, terrorism, and foreign policy.**

The American people are afraid of terrorists. But they also have deep, troubling fears about the crumbling economy, the loss of civil liberties, the deteriorating environment, and the future our kids and grandkids will inherit.

The dominant worldview keeps deliberately escalating the first kind of fears, but it unwittingly escalates the second set of fears by making those problems worse while refusing to take responsibility for solving them.

The so-called “war on terrorism” fails to address the underlying causes of terrorism. Instead, the Bush-Cheney regime and subsequent administrations have exploited the September 11, 2001, attacks to frighten the American people into supporting more militarism, giving up our constitutional rights, and letting the government claim dictatorial powers – all in the guise of “protecting” us. Militaristic and repressive reactions only turn more people into enemies and escalate the cycle of violence. I discussed this earlier in this essay.

**But ironically, while the dominant worldview promotes militarism and oppressing our population as solutions to the things that frighten people, this militarism and oppression are actually among the root causes of people’s real fears in the first place!**

**This is not a partisan rant about a particular administration, because the dominant worldview controls both of the big political parties.**

Rather, this is a hard look at changes that have been accumulating over a few decades, including the Bill Clinton years. Democrat Clinton, after all, maintained the brutal and deadly Iraq economic sanctions, illegally called large parts of Iraq “no fly zones” and bombed them repeatedly, bombed several other countries illegally, dismantled the welfare safety net, vastly expanded the death penalty and reduced defendants’ appeal rights, promoted horribly undemocratic “free trade” agreements, etc.

Such trends were well underway before the George W. Bush regime accelerated the pace of these abuses and carried them out more brazenly than ever before.

Democrat Barack Obama largely continued the Bush/Cheney foreign policy, greatly increased the drone attacks, escalated U.S. militarism into additional countries, especially with new military outposts in Africa, and yielded to his Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and overthrew Libya’s government, with disastrous results.

Trump, of course, is escalating the dominant worldview’s foreign policy recklessly.

The point here is that **the dominant worldview’s foreign policy is bi-partisan. We must change our nation’s foreign policy and dominant worldview, not just replace Republicans with Democrats!**

A “blue wave” in the U.S. House of Representatives is far less than what we need, because the Democratic leaders keep supporting wars, and the institutional Democratic Party supports candidates who support big business and the military-industrial complex, but it opposed 2018’s most progressive candidates.

The real remedy is for ordinary people to organize from the grassroots up to change the dominant worldview.

**Let’s understand and debunk “the myth of redemptive violence.”**

Many movies (Westerns, crime movies, spy movies, etc.) end with a big shoot-out or explosion or other violence at the end. This violence resolves the problems just before the movie ends. This is **“the myth of redemptive violence.”**

Mainstream public opinion believes in “the myth of redemptive violence.” Our foreign policy is based on that myth. The US government – on a bipartisan basis – believes that the US military can threaten violence and actually use violence – and believes that this will bring peace.

But in reality you CAN’T “fight fire with fire.” You must fight fire with WATER. Let’s fight violence with **NON**violence.

We need a worldview that recognizes that violence is WRONG and violence does NOT work. We need a worldview that recognizes and affirms NONVIOLENT ways of solving problems.

Some people think violence does solve problems. This results in overkill -- including killing innocent bystanders. (Likewise, the death penalty has been proven NOT to deter murder, but proven to kill innocent people.)

At the local family or neighborhood or community level, people know that violence does not work. But many people believe “the myth of redemptive violence” and allow violence to occur at the national and international levels. They don’t see the connections for the national and international levels. Let’s practice globally what we want to see locally. If we want a nonviolent world, we must devise and support a nonviolent foreign policy.

**Lying is pervasive and toxic. We need a worldview that sees the value and practicality of truth – and strongly protects truth.**

Everybody knows that politicians, businesses, and many other aspects of our society are **lying** to us. Not just once in a while, but routinely and oppressively.

This got much worse with Trump. Earlier in this essay I discussed Trump’s lies in particular. Now let’s look at lying overall.

Let’s hold **every** sector of our society – politicians, businesses, and everybody else – to a high standard that only truth is acceptable. No more lies! No more deceptions!

People who don’t trust the government have good reason to distrust the government. The Johnson and Nixon Administrations lied to us about Vietnam, the Bush Administration lied to us about Iraq and Afghanistan. The government has lied to us about many things over the years.

Businesses, banks, and other major institutions have lied to us and abused us too: Wall Street, mainstream news media, companies that hurt the environment, etc. So it’s reasonable to distrust the government and other big institutions when they have betrayed us so many times.

Decades ago everybody saw the same media, so we had a common foundation of factual information. Even if much of the media presented propaganda, at least we all got the same propaganda. But now different political factions read only their own media, so people who are politically different from each other disagree about basic reality – what is true and what is fake. Trump exploits that by exclaiming “fake news!” whenever a journalist reports the truth instead of yielding to Trump’s lies. Tens of millions of Americans believe Trump and right-wing media instead of truth.

The currently dominant worldview is basically a lie, so we must create for our society a new worldview based on truth.

A healthy democracy needs to seek the truth, promote civil dialogue, allow differences of opinion, and move toward solving problems. Instead, we have experienced an increase in deliberate lies, polarization, political anger and hatred, and extreme partisanship (really only on the part of Republicans). Mainstream media have declined sharply, and right-wing media and “social media” have escalated without accountability or fact-checking.

Over the years a few billionaires and giant corporations have been buying up mainstream news media (newspapers, radio and TV stations, and so forth). Many of these are extremely right-wing. Very few communities now have competing newspapers and fewer than before have competing broadcasters. Jobs for honest, professional journalists have been declining sharply. A preponderance of conservative and right-wing media have been manipulating the public and shaping public opinion and voting. Right-wing talk radio has fomented controversy instead of a thoughtful conversation.

To some extent, these right-wing media have become an echo chamber. Someone on Fox News will tell a lie, Trump will repeat it, and now the mainstream news media report it as something the President has stated, so now the lie sounds like an authoritative statement of fact.

A classic propaganda technique is to tell a lie so often that people will believe it to be true. People tell lies and repeat them endlessly on the radio and now especially on the internet and social media. These lies reach – and mislead – tens of millions of people. When their lies are disproven, the sources do not issue a correction, but simply continue to promote the same lies. They deceive tens of millions of people and thereby weaken democracy. Trump has been doing this extensively, and even though he has been “fact-checked” by mainstream media, he denounces those truthful journalists as “fake news” and “enemies,” and tens of millions of Americans believe Trump.

Some right-wingers actually threaten violence against people they disagree with. They want to disrupt and shut down legitimate conversation. Therefore, people of good will – people who believe in democracy and truth – need to strategize and organize to change the political climate. It is not enough to merely vote Democratic.

Oil companies have known for decades that their emissions were damaging public health and the climate, but they spent huge amounts of money on propaganda denying that. They also spent huge amounts of money on election campaigns and lobbyists so they could suppress the truth and hurt all of us so they could profit.

The danger is that when a society’s big institutions fall apart, people tend to retreat into tribalism (*e.g*., my own family or local community, or people of my own race or my own religion or my own political views). Trump has exploited this tendency for people in his own political base. He wants to destroy society in order to personally dominate the public so they will obey him because of their fears. This is what fascist dictators do.

Several recent articles have explained the drift toward fascism (rejecting rationality, exploiting fears, exploiting working class whites’ fears of demographic shifts, etc.).

Some parts of my blog discuss these problems. Visit [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) and see several topic categories, including those for “Media” and for “Conservatism and Right Wing.”

**Yes, we really can make bold improvements to the U.S.’s political, economic and social systems. We really can create a positive new worldview.**

**Here is a list** (in no particular order) of many different kinds of changes we can make in the U.S. **Making positive changes will create synergistic feedback loops toward creating a positive new worldview, which – in turn – will make further positive changes possible.** Let’s get started!

* Close ALL of the U.S.'s 800 military bases in 80 countries. <http://fpif.org/us-military-bases-80-countries-must-close/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2-1-18>
* In 2015 Tom Engelhardt posted to [www.domdispatch.org](http://www.domdispatch.org) his article titled “10 Things America Must Do to Stop Ruining the World.” It addresses some of the worldview issues I’ve mentioned in the essay you are reading now. Here is a link to his article: <https://www.alternet.org/world/10-things-america-must-do-stop-ruining-world>
* State and local governments can pass progressive taxes to reduce poverty and inequality. Nowadays the federal government is very corrupt and dysfunctional, and it is deliberately making many problems worse, so now it’s even more important for state and local governments to take leadership in passing progressive reforms.
* Income inequality is a serious problem. This article proposes remedies that state and local governments can adopt. Let’s urge our state and local governments to take progressive actions to reduce poverty and inequality. I hope you will appreciate this smart, informative article as much as I do: <http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/43800-how-to-reduce-poverty-and-inequality-through-state-government-taxes>
* Let’s act upon the wisdom that Nelson Mandela stated: “Poverty is not an accident. Like slavery and apartheid it is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings.”
* A dominant but destructive assumption deals with economic justice and other values we care about. We need to challenge that assumption. See my blog post: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/how-can-we-challenge-this-dominant-but-destructive-economic-assumption>
* The world could save $20 TRILLION by getting serious about climate change. The article at this link -- <http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-global-warming-costs-20180523-story.html?link_id=0&can_id=1d662460c0abb8939c5044c82927552b&source=email-memorial-day-edition&email_referrer=email_359600&email_subject=memorial-day-edition> -- begins with this statement: “Fighting global warming is starting to sound like a lucrative investment. A new study out of Stanford University finds that keeping global warming a half-degree beneath the Paris climate agreement’s 2 degree Celsius target could potentially save more than $20 trillion globally. The findings, described in the journal ***Nature*** [<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-018-0071-9>], go beyond the environmental and health benefits to highlight the economic rewards for reducing global warming.” The article says we could save even more if we would stop before the more ambitious Paris Agreement target of 1.5 degrees Celsius. This article also says that the cost of bold climate action is far, far less than the cost of not taking bold action.  Therefore, investing in bold actions to protect the climate would be a very smart investment financially, let alone the human and environmental reasons for protecting the climate.
* Let’s understand “The Thinking Error at the Root of Science Denial.” This interesting article at this link – <https://www.ecowatch.com/science-denial-evidence-policy-2567016487.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=005cfc543f-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-005cfc543f-85369701> – says, “there are three important issues on which there is scientific consensus but controversy among laypeople: climate change, biological evolution and childhood vaccination. On all three issues, prominent members of the Trump administration, including the president, have lined up against the conclusions of research.” The insightful article explains the psychological reasoning for such denial in the face of overwhelming consensus among scientists. The author, a psychotherapist, sees the distorted thinking has some similarities to the thinking of persons with serious mental illnesses. The author explains how the “deniers” misunderstand the scientific process.
* Post Offices could provide banking. A Senate bill is proposing that. Read Brian Wakamo’s article “The Post Office as an Alternative to Shady Private Banks” at <https://inequality.org/great-divide/post-office-alternative-to-shady-banks/?source=Newsletter> The Senate bill would fill a void in many rural and low-income communities by reintroducing low-cost lending at neighborhood post offices. We need to use this kind of creative thinking – actually, reviving a highly successful program from years ago – to rebuild the government as a servant of the people. This could be another building block toward a positive new worldview that we could build upon.

**The public wants bold changes and a humane new worldview. Let’s organize nonviolent grassroots movements to accomplish what the public wants.**

On every issue (*e.g*., clean air, or fairness to all kinds of people), you can ask people if they support it, and they would say YES. **Overwhelmingly, the public wants** to get Big Money out of politics and stop corruption and conflicts of interest, but for many years Congress and Presidents have failed to take strong actions. **Overwhelmingly, the public wants** stronger laws to reduce gun violence, but for many years Congress and Presidents have failed to take strong actions. **Overwhelmingly, the public wants** stronger protections for the environment, better food safety, and many other improvements. The list goes on and on. So how can we start moving from this public support to strong political action?

See this essay’s later sections urging us to **organize nonviolent grassroots movements to accomplish what the public wants**.

For years our federal government has failed to serve the broad public interest. Our federal government and many state governments have been openly hostile to these and other positive goals. Indeed, now the President and Congress are vigorously working to make problems worse: more pollution, more discrimination, more attacks on worker safety, more attacks on voting rights, serious cuts in people’s health care, outright denial of science, and so forth.

While we e-mail and phone them about specific public policy matters, Trump and the Republicans and many Democrats ignore us because their **values and worldviews** are the opposite of those of most Americans. While the American people want to solve problems, Trump and the Republicans believe the government should **NOT** solve problems. They are deliberately destroying government’s ability to solve problems.

The World Social Forum asserts, **“Another world is possible!”**  Yes, we can choose a better worldview and build a better world! We can imagine it and organize to bring it into being by living it.

Decades ago the pacifist feminist Barbara Deming talked about **“the two hands of nonviolence.”** The left arm and hand are stretched out with the hand held up in a stopping gesture, saying “No. I will nonviolently prevent you from doing this violence, this injustice.” At the same time the right arm and hand are stretched out with the right hand performing a welcoming gesture to bring the other person in, saying “Let’s come together and work together for what we want instead.”

**This is what we need to do when we replace the current dominant worldview with a positive alternative that is the opposite of the worldview that has been hurting people and the environment.**

**Besides protesting what we oppose, let’s also organize for the positive goals we want instead.**

We need to keep protesting against the cruelty, corruption, injustice and violence that continually assault us.  But if we spend most of our time and efforts fighting the bad stuff, the oppressors will continue to have the upper hand because they can keep throwing bad stuff at us and we will always be on the defensive.

**We need to spend most of our time and efforts taking the initiative to organize for the positive goals that we want instead.**  We need to be proactive, envision the future we want instead of the current mess, and organize to achieve the positive goals.

Thousands of years ago, it was written:  “Where there is no vision, the people perish.”  (Proverbs 29:18)

This is true today too.  If we preoccupy ourselves with merely fighting the bad stuff, we bog down and perish for lack of a positive vision – a positive agenda of goals we want instead.

A basic human need is for our lives to be meaningful. Being always on the defensive is not nearly as meaningful as organizing for positive alternatives. Working for humane, peaceful, just, sustainable goals can give meaning to our lives and help us through these current hard times. It can also turn history around and accomplish positive goals for a better society and a better world.

**So even while we protest against what we oppose, let’s invest much more of our time and energy working to build the society and world that we want instead.**

See my blog, [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), and see the postings about “Nonviolence” and “Organizing & Activism” and “Our Current Political Crisis.”

In the spring of 2017 – just a few months into the Trump regime – I wrote an article titled, “Instead of the Cruelty and Corruption Being Dumped upon Our Nation, What Better Values and Policies Do We Want the U.S. to Affirm? Let’s Actively Work to Restore Truth, Compassion, Fairness and Democracy!” Read it at this link: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/we-can-empower-ourselves-to-replace-the-current-cruelty-and-corruption-with-truth-compassion-fairness-and-democracy>

Promote TRUTH to counter the lies. Gandhi believed that truth is God.

The dominant worldview insists on winning at all costs, so it routinely cheats and lies. Instead, we need a different worldview that is based on honesty and truth.

Mohandas K. Gandhi – warmly called the “Mahatma,” the great soul – defined God as Truth and Truth as God. Gandhi titled his autobiography, ***The Story of My Experiments with Truth***.

How different would our society be if our worldview were grounded in Truth!

Our role is to help ourselves and every other person grow in understanding of the truth – and to live our lives grounded in the pursuit of truth.

Gandhi believed that each person has a part of the truth. This should help us practice humility and patience. We need to respect the other’s humanity – and build honest relationships over time – and help the other person and ourselves discover deeper truth.

In the early 1900s Gandhi developed these concepts and coined the term “satyagraha” to express his strategy for nonviolent social change. He formed this word by putting together two words in his language. ***Satya*** is “truth” or “reality” or “that which is.” ***Graha*** is “firmness” or “grabbing and holding onto.” So ***satyagraha*** is firmly holding onto profound truth – and following it wherever it may lead. (Hence Gandhi’s autobiography focusing on his “experiments with Truth.”)

Some people have translated ***satyagraha*** as “Truth Force” or “Soul Force.” So the very power of reality – the very power of truth – ***satya*** – is at the root of nonviolence.

Wouldn’t that be a great basis for a worldview to replace the dominant one?

Gandhi once wrote: “When I despair, I remember that all through history the ways of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants, and murderers, and for a time they can seem invincible, but in the end they always fall. Think of it – always.”

George Orwell wrote, “In a time of deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act.”

This article explains how to use truth to fight Trump’s lies: <http://www.alternet.org/news-amp-politics/speaking-truth-power-trumps-america?akid=15346.2186.B1FWzI&rd=1&src=newsletter1074289&t=7>

A new movement urges ordinary people and political candidates to take the Pro-Truth Pledge: <https://www.protruthpledge.org/> The **Pro-Truth Pledge** says **behavioral science can help us all become more truthful. The article at this link --** <https://theconversation.com/war-on-fake-news-could-be-won-with-the-help-of-behavioral-science-96093> **-- says behavioral science can turn the tide against fake news.**

**PROMOTE A HUMANE WORLDVIEW:** Promote LOVE, COMPASSION, NONVIOLENCE, PEACE, HUMAN RIGHTS, etc. Vigorously oppose fear. Refuse to let people make you afraid of “the other.”

When I talk about the dominant worldview being cruel and oppressive, I’m not just talking about someone being mean-spirited or angry. **A person’s worldview pre-dates any of that.** What a person **assumes** about **reality** – **how a person sees the world** – leads to their emotional stance toward persons of other races, and their attitude toward the environment, and their likelihood to become either generous or greedy.

We need a worldview that will help us **see the world with eyes of truth and love and compassion** so we can use positive, human values when we interact with the world.

People who are extremely beaten down do not rise up and fight back if they feel powerless. But if they feel some hope that they might improve their condition, they can rise up.

Small improvements can inspire people to make more progress. This has been called “the revolution of rising expectations.” Hope does not necessarily mean a probability that things actually will improve, but it does mean that improvement is possible. Rebecca Solnit has written powerful articles and books affirming the power of hope and the need to incorporate hope into our lives and our activities.

Abusive people in power try to overwhelm us with “shock and awe” in order to make us feel powerless. They tell us that their worldview will dominate us. Decades ago England’s right-wing Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said, “There is no such thing as society.” She and other conservatives try to break us apart into small powerless individuals who can be oppressed by big business and other power blocs. This worldview allows them to blame individuals who are suffering poverty instead of recognizing systemic injustices and bringing people together in solidarity and mutual support to stop the systemic injustices. This divisive worldview also leads to “privatization” instead of public ownership of resources.

Robert Reich wrote a good article on the power and effectiveness of promoting fear and hatred: <https://www.nationofchange.org/2018/10/31/hate-unbound/> **We need to absolutely reject fear and hatred and eliminate them from our lives.**

**Cynicism and despair infect the U.S.’s ENTIRE political spectrum, from the Right Wing to the Left Wing.** Cynicism and despair also have caused much of our nation’s population to avoid politics altogether.

Therefore, our remedies must include **healing** all parts of our nation from cynicism and despair. In order to devise effective strategies for healing different kinds of people, we must devise different remedies for different segments of our population, based on their different starting points.

Therefore, our efforts to stop Trumpism must include strategies for **healing Trump’s true-believers** from their perverse worldview.

Our world is in a serious mess.  We are suffering from a number of big serious problems. It is easy to feel powerless and despair. But if we let the oppressors get us down, we’ll be even worse off. The good news is that we can indeed escape that trap. We can empower ourselves and move ahead.

**Let’s replace cynicism and despair with empowerment and hope!** I encourage people to read something I wrote about this more than a year ago, and it is still valid. You can read it on my blog. Here is the link: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/we-can-replace-cynicism-and-despair-with-empowerment-and-hope>

I also highly recommend the article I wrote, titled, “We Can Empower Ourselves to Replace the Current Cruelty and Corruption with Truth, Compassion, Fairness and Democracy.” Read it at this blog link: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/we-can-empower-ourselves-to-replace-the-current-cruelty-and-corruption-with-truth-compassion-fairness-and-democracy>

**Let’s ground our worldview in moral values.** Not the narrow, mean-spirited agenda that the right-wing “values voters” do: anti-choice, and anti-gay. I mean solidly grounded values that are truly moral, such as supporting love, compassion, and all people’s human rights. Let’s ground our worldview in truly moral values so we can devise public policies that will reflect those moral values throughout our politics and society and economics.

**We care about many different issues. We can make better progress on all of the issues if we see the big picture that connects them. An attractive alternative worldview can pull us together and help us make progress.** The November and December 2018 TV programs do that, and so do the blog essays that provide more insights and links to more information than I could squeeze into those two one-hour TV programs.

So, for example, in order to make progress toward abolishing nuclear weapons, let’s change our society’s worldview so we will understand that nuclear weapons **actually hurt** our “national security,” and that possessing nuclear weapons **actually is terrorism**. John K. Stoner, a pacifist Mennonite biblical scholar, wrote, “A country which has dangled the sword of nuclear holocaust over the world for (more than) half a century and claims that someone else invented terrorism is a country out of touch with reality.”

Likewise, hate crimes will continue until we stop the hateful worldview (racism, sexism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, etc.) that allows and promotes them. Hate crimes increased significantly when Trump started running for president because he kept saying angry, hateful things about the groups who had already been targeted, so now Trump is giving angry people permission to follow through and actually commit hate crimes.

In order to stop hate crimes, our society must absolutely stop the hateful worldview that promotes them, including the hateful rhetoric and policies of Trump and others. We must figure out how to eliminate such anger and hatred from our society’s worldview. This includes shunning and nonviolently removing some powerful people and also healing some people’s psychiatric problems. Victims and perpetrators both need therapeutic healing.

Trump has repeatedly encouraged bigotry and violence. He has openly encouraged violent assaults at his rallies, refused to condemn racist violence, and encouraged hatred of journalists while celebrating a Congress member's assault on a journalist and failing to hold Saudi Arabia’s leader responsible for murdering an Iranian CNN journalist. Trump has demonized Muslims and immigrants and other groups with a long string of falsehoods while backing harsh policies against them.

When Trump announced plans to visit Pittsburgh following an October 2018 mass shooting at a synagogue, Jewish leaders there published an open letter to Trump informing him that he will not be welcome in Pittsburgh until he fully denounces white supremacy, stops targeting and endangering all minority groups, and ceases his assault on immigrants and refugees. Trump refused to do that, so when he visited Pittsburgh anyway, huge crowds of protesters kept him away from the site and forced him to change his route.

When we reach out to people whose politics are different from ours, we probably won’t make much progress if we talk only about specific public policies, because their entrenched worldview might prevent them from hearing our message. Instead, let’s communicate with them about values and worldviews. Let’s show how their deeper, better values should cause them to support what we’re asking. Eventually their worldviews might change.

**Let’s figure out how to help people heal from seeing reality in ways that are warped, cruel, greedy, and destructive. Let’s figure out how to help people see reality in more positive ways – ways that are humane, loving, harmonious, life-affirming and sustainable.**

**Let’s seek out and adopt some positive ways of thinking and envisioning a better future for us all.**

Martin Luther King was really very radical. See this article: <https://thinkprogress.org/wendi-thomas-martin-luther-king-4c52ca743b01/>

For better politics, etc., we must think better. <https://www.opednews.com/articles/What-s-the-Problem-With-th-by-Tom-Christensen-Adults_Faith-And-Politics_Health-Psychology-Mental-Health_International-Politics-180102-642.html>

Recently a friend sent me a helpful short article on “Doing Ethics” by Kirk O. Hanson in the current ***Matter of Spirit*** magazine from Seattle’s Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center ([www.ipjc.org](http://www.ipjc.org)). Hanson’s article suggests seeing our ethical framework in five categories:

* a **utilitarian standard** of common sense;
* a **rights approach** on the principle that each of us has certain rights that we expect to have honored for ourselves and others;
* a **justice approach** establishing the expectation of fairness and equality;
* the **common good approach** that uses the lens of whether our ethical decisions serve to enhance or diminish the welfare of all; and, finally,
* the **virtues approach** of “doing the right thing” out of a sense of integrity, compassion, generosity, and honesty, for example.

Let’s examine problems from a totally fresh perspective. Instead of blaming and repelling the homeless and alienated young people downtown, let’s recognize them as “canaries in the mine” who are alerting us to systemic problems that our society must pay attention to and actually solve. People keep complaining about homeless people and alienated young people downtown. Why don’t responsible entitles (local governments, news media, pollsters, etc.) ask WHY so many people are homeless and alienated? In what ways do our society and our economy fail to meet the needs of so many people? Let’s identify the underlying problems, rather than merely blame the symptoms. Homeless and alienated people are “canaries in the mine.” Their presence indicates a toxic economy and toxic society. Let’s identify and solve the underlying problems, rather than merely blame these visible canaries!

We need to look with fresh eyes at topics both old and new. Here are just a few TV programs I’ve produced and hosted that do exactly that:

* **Compassion interview: “Igniting a Grassroots Compassion Movement”** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-igniting-a-grassroots-compassion-movement>
* **Public sector interview: “Support an Effective Public Sector”** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-support-an-effective-public-sector>
* **Science interview: “Base Public Policy on Honest Science”** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-base-public-policy-on-honest-science>
* **Democracy interview: “Strengthen Democracy with a Community Rights Ordinance (CRO):** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-strengthen-democracy-with-a-community-rights-ordinance-cro>

President Franklin D. Roosevelt affirmed democracy in this way: “Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a president and senators and congress[people] and government officials, but the voters of this country.”

Let’s think creatively about how to get along with other nations instead of assuming the default reactions of military threats and violence. Many of the problems that militarism causes in our foreign policy also occur because U.S. domestic policy is so militaristic. Notice how police act like “occupying armies” in many of our communities, how police recklessly assault and shoot people, how “lock-them-up-and-throw-away-the-key” methods of oppressive punishment fail to solve the underlying problems. Likewise, the death penalty is the ultimate kind of governmental violence against our own people.

We need bold, humane alternatives to militarism both in foreign policy and in our domestic society. Nonviolent alternatives will be more humane and also be more effective.

Religion is being abused and used to hurt people and democracy.   
Honest religion suffers as a result. Let’s expose hypocrisy and support   
better religion and spirituality.

I discussed this in two parts of PART 1 (November 2018), in sections beginning on page 38 and page 40. The section below builds on those ideas.

Religion is a way for people to understand the world around us and our place in the world. Religion provides ethics for daily living. All of the world’s great religions – and many non-religious people – promote positive worldviews, human rights, compassion, and care for the environment. So also do other spiritual and non-spiritual philosophies, including humanism, earth-based religions, and various New Age approaches.

But some people with the dominant worldview abuse religion, just like they abuse democracy and manipulate our emotions. Within various religions some people have let nationalism, sexism, and political power corrupt and displace their authentic faiths.

In the U.S. this has happened especially among a large portion of our population who are conservative Christians.

**In the 1970s and 1980s the Republican Party and the Religious Right effectively merged in order to gain power. The Republican Party wanted a large political constituency of voters, and the Religious Right wanted a political vehicle for imposing their beliefs and biases upon the nation.**  Their merger has very seriously hurt the ethics of both parties. 81% of white evangelical Christians voted for Trump.

**Actually, the Religious Right does the OPPOSITE of what Jesus taught and practiced!**

* Taking away millions of people’s health care, even though that would cause tens of thousands of people to die every year proves that Republicans are **NOT** “pro-life.”
* Jesus healed the sick, but Republicans take away people’s health care.
* Jesus fed hungry people, but Republicans cut funding for programs to cure poverty.
* Jesus welcomed strangers and immigrants, but Republicans oppress immigrants.
* Jesus broke down his society’s barriers of discrimination against the kinds of people who had low status, but Republicans discriminate against many kinds of people.
* Jesus repeatedly criticized greedy rich people, but Republicans are utterly subservient to greedy rich people and hurt the rest of us in order to give even more to the rich.

Jesus denounced the religious hypocrites of his day, and he would denounce the religious hypocrites of our day too.

The worldview that currently dominates our nation is cruel and oppressive. We must replace it with a worldview that will be humane and liberating. In order to do that, we will have to “convert” people who are “true believers” in the currently dominant worldview – and also liberate the people who have gone along with it but are unthinkingly trapped in it rather than deliberately trying to hurt people.

We need to devise strategies for “converting” the “true believers” who deliberately want to hurt people and different strategies for “converting” the larger number of people who have unthinkingly gone along with the dominant worldview because they were told to do that.

We need to practice compassion, communicate to people about values and worldviews, and use strategies and information that are biblically and theologically sound. We could show people how their religious values should cause them to support the alternative worldview. For example, in the end of Matthew 25 Jesus commands people to take care of the poor and sick (not cut off their welfare benefits and health care). Jesus said that the people who fail to take care of people in need will go to hell.

Fortunately, some evangelical pastors are exposing the Religious Right’s abuses and are calling upon politicians to support authentic Christian values, not the politicized right-wing perversions. (See the next section below.)

**Protect each religion’s validity from the few extremists who abuse it.**

Within every religion, some people practice it well, and other people abuse it. Within the U.S., conservative Christianity is very prominent, and it has perverted the Republican Party, just like the Republican Party has perverted conservative Christianity. Both collaborate to promote and enforce the dominant worldview, as I explained in the section above. That section, this section, and the section below all point out that the dominant worldview is **NOT** inherent in authentic Christianity, but that it has perverted Christianity just like it has perverted American politics.

Fortunately, a number of Christians – including some theologically conservative Christians – point out that the worldview of Trump and the Republicans actually violates Christianity’s actual teachings.

We should not let the right wing’s abuse of Christianity cause people to blame the entire religion, just like we should not let a small number of extreme Islamic terrorists cause people to blame all of Islam, nor the abuses of the current Israeli government from causing people to blame all of Judaism, nor the cruelty and corruption of Narendra Modi, India’s hyper-Hindu Prime Minister cause us to blame all of Hinduism.

Within any religion, the vast majority of believers who are good have better sense – and better theology – than the minority of cruel extremists that abuse their respective faiths. In each case, the authentic faith’s own best teachings refute the extremists who are abusing their faith.

**Authentic Christianity clearly refutes the Trump/Republican worldview.**

**The Republican Party violates biblical teachings:**

* Republicans’ economic policies (called “supply-side” and “trickle-down”) are exemplified in December 2017 by their cruel tax “reform” and by many other decisions they have made. Instead, we need national economic policies that are the opposite of what the Republicans promote. The Old Testament prophets and Jesus himself often denounced the greedy rich people who oppressed the poor and refused to help poor people. Their December 2017 tax cuts for rich people and big business are a recent notorious example, but this greed and cruelty have dominated Republican policies as long as Republicans and the Religious Right have operated together, since the 1980s when Reagan was president. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament emphasize economic justice and care for the poor, and both sharply criticize the greedy rich. The Republicans claim to be Christian, but they keep doing the **opposite** of what Jesus and the Early Church taught and practiced. We need to reverse the dominant worldview’s economics.
* The Trump/Republican immigration policies – and his anti-LGBTQ policies – are deliberately cruel. He kidnaps children and imprisons them hundreds of miles away from their families, who are imprisoned elsewhere. Trump’s policies blatantly violate the essence of Exodus 22:21. (“Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt.”)
* Also, Trump’s new nationalism, this new fascism, with its “blood and soil” metaphysic, stands in opposition to the sublime universalism of Galatians 3:28. This New Testament verse says, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” If Saint Paul were writing this now, he would very likely add, “there is neither gay nor straight, neither native-born nor immigrant.” The Christian faith is intended to be universal. Anybody who wants to divide people from each other is violating a basic worldview of Christianity. Jesus vigorously denounced religious hypocrites!
* The 81% of white evangelicals who voted for Trump and support his profoundly inhumane, greedy, wrathful ideology seem to have forgotten Matthew 4:10. That part of Matthew’s Gospel says Satan took Christ up “an exceeding high mountain” and showed him “all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them.” Satan told Christ, “All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.” But Christ recognized the scam of such *hubris* and strongly told Satan to go away, saying, “Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” Jesus rejected Satan’s temptation of worldly power, but the dominant worldview’s extremists (Trump and the current Republicans in lockstep with him) have been lying, cheating, and corrupting democracy in order to achieve worldly power for themselves in order to impose greed, corruption, cruelty, violence and hatred upon the U.S. and the rest of the world. Why don’t conservative Christians (who say they believe the Bible) oppose Trump and the Republicans? Let’s challenge them to choose Jesus over Trump.
* The list really goes on and on.

**Republicans are NOT “pro-life.” They keep trying to take away people’s health care:**

Republicans’ Trumpcare legislation proves they are NOT “pro-life.” The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office determined that it would take away 22 million people’s health care. Republicans’ Trumpcare would provide worse coverage and raise costs. Poor people – including fetuses, pregnant women, children, and older adults – will definitely die as a result. Hardest hit will be poor people in states where Republican governors and legislatures have already cut Medicaid after Obama’s Affordable Care Act went into effect.

The facts are clear. Nonpartisan governmental research concluded that repealing Obama’s Affordable Care Act would cause tens of thousands of people to die unnecessarily every year. Republicans know that their legislation will cause many, many deaths. But they don’t care because a major purpose is to spend less on saving lives in order to cut taxes for the very richest people. So don’t let anybody tell you Republicans are “pro-life.” They are not! They are willing to kill fetuses and people of all ages in order to serve the richest, greediest people.

**A long-time pastor vigorously denounces right-wing "Christians" who support Trump, cruelty, racism, etc.** See this article: <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2018/7/23/1782830/--Blue-Christian-pastor-condemns-cowardly-dangerous-sinful-silence-in-church-demands-resistance?detail=emaildkre>

**An evangelical pastor has blasted conservative religious leaders for “trading their moral core” in order to support Trump’s Republican Party.** He said that is “antithetical to what Jesus preached.” See this article: <https://www.alternet.org/evangelical-pastor-blasts-religious-leaders-trading-their-moral-core-support-trumps-gop-antithetical?src=newsletter1097260>

**Some Religious Right people have replaced Jesus with Trump.** In the autumn of 2018 a billboard in St. Louis, Missouri, showed a photo of Trump and the biblical quotation that for 2,000 years has pertained to Jesus: “The Word became flesh.” The billboard also says, “Make the Gospel great again.” The theology in John’s Gospel boldly refers to Jesus as “The Word” – the embodiment of God’s core purpose. Now some right-wing Christians want Trump to replace Jesus as our savior. This, of course, is blatant blasphemy.

Our worldview and actions affect the world around us. The cycle returns.

Regardless of how we see the world – whatever our worldview is – **our worldview causes us to act in ways consistent with how we see the world, so our worldview and our actions produce feedback loops.**

When we study the environment, we learn that everything is connected. This pertains also to worldviews. Some religious traditions refer to ***karma*** – whatever we do comes back to us. Our worldview produces actions that affect the world around us – and the cycle returns to affect us.

So, for example, the U.S. has been inflicting military violence upon other nations, and about half a century ago the Pentagon and CIA recognized that people elsewhere would retaliate against us because of what the U.S. has done. They call it “blowback,” which includes terrorism. That’s bad karma.

Powerful American business leaders inflict their worldviews – greed, exploitation, and so forth – upon people in other nations and upon the earth’s environment. That cruelty comes back to hurt us in the form of terrorism, the climate crisis, and refugees fleeing the dictatorships and environmental devastation. These American business leaders’ bad karma hurts other people and blows back to hurt the U.S. itself.

**We need to choose a better worldview for ourselves and for our nation. Then our better worldview will produce better consequences and better feedback loops.**

Someone told me, “We all do better when we **ALL** do better.”

Martin Luther King knew that “violence multiples violence ... in a descending spiral of destruction.” He said that instead, “We must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.”

Nonviolence works because the means we use must be consistent with the ends we seek. Everything we do sows the seeds of the world that will grow. War sows the seeds of future violence. **To build a world that is peaceful and just, we must use methods that are peaceful and just.**

Much of what I’ve said here has criticized Trump and the Republicans, because their worldview is so blatantly harmful. But powerful mainstream Democrats have not been much better. They support the U.S.’s militaristic foreign policy and big business’s power over the U.S. They refuse to address the underlying problems of economic injustice. The most progressive Democrats who were elected to Congress on November 6, 2018, were NOT supported by the Democratic Party’s top leaders.

A public opinion poll released in July 2018 shows Americans are concerned about authoritarianism in the U.S. <https://www.issueone.org/new-bipartisan-poll-confirms-urgency-to-fix-our-democracy/?link_id=4&can_id=1d662460c0abb8939c5044c82927552b&source=email-the-luxurious-lifestyles-of-some-members-of-congress-paid-for-by-donors&email_referrer=email_387722&email_subject=the-luxurious-lifestyles-of-some-members-of-congress-paid-for-by-donors>

Earlier in this essay I wrote that we grow up in a political culture that shows us only a **very limited** range of choices. Most people choose from this **very limited** range, so our political culture remains stuck. We can make progress only if we **create a much wider range** of choices. Then we must use our best values and our best thinking to make bold choices. And we must encourage and empower other people to explore wider possibilities and make bold choices.

How do we want to shape our world? With fists and guns? Or with hearts and brains and tender fingertips and an artist’s loving touch?

Some people say “the ends justify the means,” but actually the means we use determine the ends that actually occur. Even if we think we have a noble goal, if we use unjust or untruthful means to get there, we will end up with bad results. We need to promote profound democracy and human rights by using profound nonviolence. (*See later parts of this essay for much more information about nonviolence and grassroots organizing.*)

**Example: The U.S. abuses other nations, so people flee there as refugees, but the U.S. refuses to admit responsibility and refuses to accept refugees.**

Parents teach children to clean up their messes. We must teach our government the same lesson.

The U.S. keeps attacking other nations, making it impossible for victims to live there, but the U.S. refuses to accept those refugees. Survivors in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, Yemen and many other nations cannot live safely in their home countries. The U.S. has a moral obligation to invite our wars’ refugees to settle here.

The U.S. arms dictators and other abusive governments that abuse and kill their people. But the U.S. government refuses to take responsibility for the violence we cause.

After many years of oppression, Honduras created a democracy and elected a progressive president who was making improvements that helped the general public. But in 2009 Honduras’s business elite and military staged a coup and overthrew Honduras’s democracy in violation of international law. President Obama and his Secretary of State Hillary Clinton supported the illegal coup.

For nearly a decade now, Honduras’s military and police have been murdering journalists, environmentalists, labor organizers, human rights defenders and other people – all with the blessing of the U.S. government – first Obama and now Trump.

Survivors are fleeing Honduras as refugees. Trump’s U.S. is violating international law by denying people’s right to seek asylum and refugee status here. Trump’s racist propaganda denies the reality and victimizes them again.

We need a federal law prohibiting the U.S. from hurting people in other nations and absolutely requiring that we welcome our victims as refugees.

Alternative media are crucial. Use and support alternative media.

Many Americans are poorly informed. Much of what they know is simply not true, because it has been promoted by powerful interests with their own agendas.

Right-wing extremists own much of the U.S.’s mass media. A few billionaires and giant corporations have been buying up mainstream news media (newspapers, radio and TV stations, and so forth). A preponderance of conservative and right-wing media have been manipulating the public and shaping public opinion and voting toward politically conservative and right-wing bias, at the expense of truth.

An excellent non-profit organization provides solid information about conservative and Establishment-oriented biases in mainstream media that some people mistakenly think are “centrist” or “liberal.” I encourage you to see information provided by Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR), [www.fair.org](http://www.fair.org)

Ralph Nader says mainstream media (including NPR) reinforce status quo and exclude progressives. See his article at this link: <https://www.commondreams.org/views/2018/02/27/experts-people-shut-out-mass-media?utm_term=Experts%20for%20the%20People%5Cu2014Shut%20Out%20by%20the%20Mass%20Media&utm_campaign=News%20%2526%20Views%20%7C%20%22Don%5Cu2019t%20Agonize%2C%20Organize%21%22&utm_content=email&utm_source=Act-On+Software&utm_medium=email&cm_mmc=Act-On%20Software-_-email-_-News%20%2526%20Views%20%7C%20%22Don%5Cu2019t%20Agonize%2C%20Organize%21%22-_-Experts%20for%20the%20People%5Cu2014Shut%20Out%20by%20the%20Mass%20Media>

Research shows the U.S. at the bottom of literacy and numerical skills, compared to other modern rich countries. Other nations fund education better, so their people do better critical thinking, while the U.S. seriously underfunds education and produces people who are easily fooled. Fox News, other right-wing media, and social media trolls and bots routinely manipulate and polarize Americans. <https://www.alternet.org/culture/trolls-and-hackers-find-it-easy-americans-because-we-are-nation-ignoramuses?akid=16793.2186.56aS5X&rd=1&src=newsletter1089456&t=6>

The internet makes it easy for people to pick up and circulate stuff that is not true. Evidence is coming to light that people used the internet to manipulate the American people leading up to the 2016 presidential election. Just recently two different persons have told me some outlandishly false statements but insisted that those statements were true because they could provide web links for them.

For interesting insights into "fake news" and how to stop the problem, read this article: <http://prospect.org/article/can-we-stop-fake-news?midqs=1QcB0KR_0fiupTjCwZGYUw>

Abraham Lincoln said, “Do not believe everything you see on the internet. I know that Lincoln actually said that because I saw his quotation on the internet. In fact, I had posted it there.

A lot of independent alternative media exist and provide truth and valid insights. See a good list at the end of this essay.

**HOW TO ACHIEVE THE CHANGES WE NEED:**

How can we help our society change from the destructive worldview to a positive worldview?

In order to overcome the currently dominant worldview, we cannot “fight the oppressor using the oppressor’s weapons.”

Instead, we must use **nonviolent** “asymmetrical warfare” by **building   
nonviolent grassroots movements** to make progress on the various   
issues and also to replace the dominant worldview with a positive, humane alternative.

Changing the dominant worldview is a huge task. Like any complex project, it has several parts that we can work on in different ways and fit them together. **The next several pages of this essay discuss these parts:**

* **An overview of changing society to a better worldview**
* **Some relevant factors and dynamics**
* **We need to use nonviolence**
* **Grassroots organizing is how we will change our society’s worldview.**
* **Trump and Trumpism**
* **Specific issues and examples**

**An overview of changing society to a better worldview**

Besides protesting against what we do NOT want, let's also create positive solutions. I wrote about this above in this essay and also in an article on my blog: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/besides-protesting-what-we-oppose-lets-also-organize-to-achieve-positive-goals>

Nonviolence uses both of our hands:

* One hand holds a STOP sign and says, “We will not allow this violence and injustice to continue.”
* The other hand shows a WELCOMING sign and says, “Let’s work together to create better alternatives.”

We need to use both hands of nonviolence. Organize nonviolent movements to (1) stop the bad stuff and also to (2) organize good alternatives. (*I’ll discuss how to do this later in this essay*.)

In this context I repeat what I wrote a few pages earlier. For very many issue goals (clean air, or fairness to all kinds of people), you can ask people if they support it, and most people will say YES.

* Overwhelmingly, the public wants to get Big Money out of politics and stop corruption and conflicts of interest, but for many years Congress and Presidents have failed to take strong actions.
* Overwhelmingly, the public wants stronger laws to reduce gun violence, but for many years Congress and Presidents have failed to take strong actions.
* Overwhelmingly, the public wants stronger protections for the environment, better food safety, and many other improvements, but for many years Congress and Presidents have failed to take strong actions.
* The list goes on and on.

For many years our federal government and many state and local governments have been failing to serve the broad public interest. What’s worse is that many of our governments are openly hostile to these and other positive goals.

Indeed, Trump and Congress have been vigorously working to make problems worse: more pollution, more discrimination, more attacks on worker safety, more attacks on voting rights, serious cuts in people’s health care, outright denial of science, and so forth. The new 2019 House Democratic majority is not enough to stop Trump and the heavily Republican Senate from doing many bad things that violate our best values.

While we e-mail and phone them about **specific** public policy matters, Trump and the Republicans ignore us because their **values and worldviews** are totally opposite to those of most Americans.

While the American people want to solve problems, Trump and the Republicans believe the government should **NOT** solve problems. They are deliberately destroying government’s ability to solve problems!

**We care about many different issues. We can make better progress on all of the issues if we see the big picture that connects them. We need to work on the underlying values and worldviews.**

We must publicly **ex**pose and vigorously **op**pose the dominant worldview – and we must **promote a very different worldview that is ethical and humane**.

Beyond that, we need positive vision and alternative plans. See an article that Robert Reich wrote: <https://www.truthdig.com/articles/robert-reich-democrats-cant-fall-for-trumps-trap/>

“The People’s Charter to Create a Nonviolent World” is a substantive critique of the worldview that has been dominating the world in recent decades. “The People’s Charter” is quite comprehensive in listing dozens of international problems that result from the currently dominant worldview. Then it identifies eight aims of a nonviolent strategy to mobilize ordinary people in solving the problems. I am one of many people from 105 countries who have signed “The People’s Charter to Create a Nonviolent World.”

You can read it at this link -- <https://thepeoplesnonviolencecharter.wordpress.com/charter/> and see much more information at: <https://thepeoplesnonviolencecharter.wordpress.com/>

The organizers of The People’s Charter invite people to read an article titled, “Gandhi’s Despair and the Struggle for Truth and Love” at this link: <https://www.transcend.org/tms/2018/10/gandhis-despair-and-the-struggle-for-truth-and-love/> This article affirms the power and effectiveness of ordinary people with positive values to make significant changes in various places throughout the world. They are great examples of the positive alternative worldview that affirms human rights and our potential to improve our communities and the world.

Martin Luther King was really very radical. See this article: <https://thinkprogress.org/wendi-thomas-martin-luther-king-4c52ca743b01/>

Stephen Zunes wrote this great article about Martin Luther King's radicalism for peace and economics as well as civil rights: <http://progressive.org/dispatches/remembering-martin-luther-king-the-radical-for-peace/?utm_source=THE+PROGRESSIVE+UPDATED+LIST&utm_campaign=2488425ead-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_04_07&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_194f0c7083-2488425ead-186743565&mc_cid=2488425ead&mc_eid=115f1a04f6>

Besides a better worldview, we also need the vision and strategies for replacing the dominant worldview with better values and policies. I recommend reading an article I wrote in the spring of 2017 – just a few months into Trump’s regime – when many people were already feeling overwhelmed and defeated. I proposed a strong positive response from us. I titled my article, “Instead of the Cruelty and Corruption Being Dumped upon Our Nation, What Better Values and Policies Do We Want the U.S. to Affirm? Let’s Actively Work to Restore Truth, Compassion, Fairness and Democracy!” Here is the link so you can read it on my blog: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/we-can-empower-ourselves-to-replace-the-current-cruelty-and-corruption-with-truth-compassion-fairness-and-democracy>

**Some relevant factors and dynamics**

Some principles of nonviolent grassroots organizing are timeless. Our current situation is somewhat different from previous settings, so we also need to be alert to the context of our current crisis of fascist Trumpism and one-party rule and other aspects of the abusive worldview currently dominating the U.S.

Use these eight lessons of history to help us deal with today’s Right Wing: <https://truthout.org/articles/eight-lessons-from-history-to-help-make-sense-of-the-far-right/>

George Lakoff, the expert on “framing” and “re-framing” offered these 10 rules for how to resist Trump effectively: <https://www.alternet.org/activism/10-points-democracy-activists-trumps-second-year-office-begins?akid=16638.2186.FwUqd7&rd=1&src=newsletter1087793&t=22>

Certainly the government and the media need to investigate Trump’s many crimes and abuses, but a savvy expert wrote about a pitfalls that can backfire on us. Chip Gibbons, Policy and Legislative Counsel, at Defending Rights & Dissent ([www.rightsanddissent.org](http://www.rightsanddissent.org)), a great non-profit organization, wrote, “While it’s necessary to oppose these policies (and we do so every day at Defending Rights & Dissent) some in the anti-Trump “resistance" have begun to embrace the security state, especially the FBI.” It is a mistake for the Left to warm up to the FBI in this new era just because Trump is negative to the FBI. His article in the Washington Post included this:

“Much has been said about Comey’s role in electing Trump, particularly in his announcement that the FBI had reopened the Hillary Clinton email investigation. But what’s never asked is what role the FBI played in creating fertile ground for a Trump-like figure in the first place. By treating American Muslims as a fifth column, African American protests against racism as a threat to police and dissent as a potential precursor to terrorism, the FBI contributes to a political atmosphere that a demagogue such as Trump can take advantage of. Before warming up to the FBI, the left should remember the threat that the bureau has posed to our democracy.”

Gibbons wrote that we need to “oppose Trump’s assaults on civil liberties, but we can do that without praising one of the greatest violators of civil liberties in US history.” His full article is worth reading: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-left-is-warming-up-to-the-fbi-thats-a-mistake/2018/10/22/cfab5e0a-d5a7-11e8-9559-712cbf726d1c_story.html?eId=2f66cacf-c626-405d-b4b9-90e2bb730ad6&eType=EmailBlastContent&noredirect=on&utm_term=.dfa7ea5bb038>

The Civil Rights Movement had the Supreme Court as a friend. Not anymore, so we need new strategies for fighting injustice. Some federal courts have stopped some of Trump’s abuses, but some other courts have allowed his abuses to proceed. See this article:  
<https://celdf.org/2018/10/blog-with-justice-kavanaugh-forget-everything-you-were-taught-about-how-to-resist-injustice/>

For better politics, etc., we must do better thinking: <https://www.opednews.com/articles/What-s-the-Problem-With-th-by-Tom-Christensen-Adults_Faith-And-Politics_Health-Psychology-Mental-Health_International-Politics-180102-642.html>

The progressive movement must think long-term: <https://www.alternet.org/activism/why-progressive-movement-should-think-longer-term?akid=16607.2186.2K53aS&rd=1&src=newsletter1087378&t=8>

Use better framing and words to communicate issues: <http://www.sightline.org/2018/02/13/better-words-for-work/>

This website offers interesting and practical insights: <http://www.revolutionarylove.net/>

In an earlier part of this essay I discussed the problem that people feel beaten down, demoralized and distracted, and the sad fact that this process feeds on itself in a downward spiral. I said that we can reverse the process by increasing people’s morale with encouragement and small victories that inspire further empowerment. I said, “beyond mental health counselors, what we really need are grassroots organizers.” I provided a link to this article: <https://www.alternet.org/are-americans-broken-people-heres-why-weve-stopped-fighting-back-against-forces-oppression?src=newsletter1092898>

I mention this again now because it is relevant to the topic of this current part of the essay. Likewise, I’ll repeat something I mentioned earlier: **Besides protesting what we oppose, let's also organize to achieve positive goals.**  I emphasize this as a crucial part of replacing the currently dominant worldview with its opposite, a positive, humane worldview that will (1) serve as an umbrella over the goals we seek and also (2) provide a foundation supporting our positive values and activities. Those earlier paragraphs are relevant again here as we examine factors and dynamics to help us move ahead.

So even while we protest against what we oppose, let’s **invest much more of our time and energy** working to **build** the society and world that we **want** instead.

**Let’s replace cynicism and despair with empowerment and hope.** I encourage people to read something I wrote about this more than a year ago, and it is still valid. You can read it at this link: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/we-can-replace-cynicism-and-despair-with-empowerment-and-hope>

I also highly recommend the article I wrote, titled, “We Can Empower Ourselves to Replace the Current Cruelty and Corruption with Truth, Compassion, Fairness and Democracy.” Read it at this blog link: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/we-can-empower-ourselves-to-replace-the-current-cruelty-and-corruption-with-truth-compassion-fairness-and-democracy>

See other materials on the “Organizing” part of my blog, [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)

**We need to use nonviolence.**

**A crucially important part of a positive alternative worldview is nonviolence.** Understanding and practicing nonviolence is a crucial part of the solutions to the problems this essay has been discussing. A truly civilized society needs a worldview grounded in nonviolence.

**Nonviolence must be both our goal and our methodology. Our goal is a nonviolent society, and we must use smart nonviolent methods to achieve it.**

One of nonviolence’s strengths is that it rewrites the script of what a conflict is about and the script of how to fight it. Nonviolence relies on creativity and other strengths instead of crude violence.

In order to overcome the currently dominant worldview, we cannot fight the oppressor using the oppressor’s weapons.” We the underdogs must use **alternative** methods – **nonviolent** methods – and **grassroots organizing**. We the underdogs must use nonviolent “asymmetrical warfare” by **building nonviolent grassroots movements** to solve our society’s various problems and to promote our alternative worldview overall.

I have written extensively about the power and effectiveness of how to use nonviolence in principled and strategic ways to accomplish the changes we need. The “Nonviolence” and “Organizing” parts of my blog list many articles and resources. It’s at [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)

**Listed below are ten values and aspects of nonviolent are powerful and offer positive directions.** A Franciscan sister and priest summarized the spirituality of nonviolence into these ten principles. This ***Decalogue for a Spirituality of Nonviolence*** was written by Rosemary Lynch, OSF, and Alain Richard, OFM. It was published in the book ***From Violence to Wholeness***, published by Pace E Bene, [www.paceebene.org](http://www.paceebene.org)

1. To learn to recognize and respect “the sacred” (“that of God,” as the Quakers say) in every person, including in ourselves, and in every piece of Creation. The acts of the nonviolent person help to free this Divine in the opponent from obscurity or captivity.

2. To accept oneself deeply, “who I am” with all my gifts and richness, with all my limitations, errors, failings and weaknesses, and to realize that I am accepted by God. To live in the truth of ourselves, without excessive pride, with fewer delusions and false expectations.

3. To recognize that what I resent, and perhaps even detest, in another, comes from my difficulty in admitting that this same reality lives also in me. To recognize and renounce my own violence, which becomes evident when I begin to monitor my words, gestures, reactions.

4. To renounce dualism, the “we-they” mentality (Manichaeism). This divides us into “good people / bad people” and allows us to demonize the adversary. It is the root of authoritarian and exclusivist behavior. It generates racism and makes possible conflicts and wars.

5. To face fear and to deal with it not mainly with courage but with love.

6. To understand and accept that the New Creation, the building up of the Beloved Community is always carried forward with others. It is never a “solo act.” This requires patience and the ability to pardon.

7. To see ourselves as a part of the whole creation to which we foster a relationship of love, not of mastery, remembering that the destruction of our planet is a profoundly spiritual problem, not simply a scientific or technological one. We are one.

8. To be ready to suffer, perhaps even with joy, if we believe this will help liberate the Divine in others. This includes the acceptance of our place and moment in history with its trauma, with its ambiguities.

9. To be capable of celebration, of joy, when the presence of God has been accepted, and when it has not been to help discover and recognize this fact.

10. To slow down, to be patient, planting the seeds of love and forgiveness in our own hearts and in the hearts of those around us. Slowly we will grow in love, compassion and the capacity to forgive.

**Nonviolent Communication is a useful tool.** A smart, practical model, “Nonviolent Communication,” is sometimes called “Compassionate Communication.” It was developed by Marshall Rosenberg. A web search reveals much information and many resources. I especially appreciate the Center for Nonviolent Communication, [www.cnvc.org](http://www.cnvc.org).

Marshall Rosenberg’s method of Nonviolent Communication (NVC) is a good way to understand and deal constructively with the feelings of the people in any controversy. This model uses four steps that I have found very useful when dealing with conflicts:

(1) State objectively what you have observed, without any judgment.

(2) Say how you feel about the observation. (Take responsibility for your own feelings. Don’t say the other person made me feel this way.)

(3) Express your need that is currently not being met.

(4) Make a reasonable request (not a demand) for something the other person could do to help meet your reasonable need.

In the Nonviolent Communication (NVC) model we listen with compassion to where the person is really coming from – what feelings and unmet needs might be causing the statements or behaviors that upset us. Of all the largest land animals, giraffes have the largest hearts, so Marshall Rosenberg asks us to listen with “giraffe ears” when people are reacting out of their pain, fear, anxiety, and other emotions and needs.

We need to do this in order to heal the political divisiveness and the underlying problems that people in our families, workplaces, local communities, nationwide society and world are experiencing. Calling each other names fails to solve the problems. But using NVC’s four-step model and other principles of nonviolence can help to solve them.

Actually, people on each side of an issue have needs and fall short of understanding the other person. Typically, people do not try to really understand each other, but rather simply divide people arbitrarily into friends, enemies, and strangers.

A truly humane worldview would value compassion, truth and harmony, so we would listen attentively and respectfully so we can try to find common ground.

People on different sides of an issue often talk past each other, so our messages don’t even connect with the other side. For example, a pro-choice bumper sticker says, “Against abortion? Then don’t have one.” This assumes that the abortion issue is only about choice, so it won’t connect with people who think it’s about life. If the issue were slavery, slavery opponents would not be convinced by a bumper sticker that says, “Against slavery? Then don’t own one.” People who oppose slavery think it is wrong for anyone to own a slave, and people who oppose abortion think it is wrong for anyone to abort fetuses. Instead of talking past each other, it would be better for both sides to find common ground, such as preventing unwanted pregnancies.

**Nonviolently resisting the current oppression – the current worldview and its policies – could take either of two strategic paths.** In 2014 Mark Engler and Paul Engler wrote a smart, insightful article that’s posted at <https://wagingnonviolence.org/feature/fight-system-change/> Their article’s title is **“Should We Fight the System or Be the Change?”** Their article asks whether to “push for transformation within existing institutions” or whether we should “model in our own lives a different set of political relationships that might someday form the basis of a new society.” I highly recommend this wise article, which says social movements in the past 50 years have incorporated some of both strategies. I also recommend the wealth of information, insights, and encouragement at [www.wagingnonviolence.org](http://www.wagingnonviolence.org) The Englers’ book ***This Is an Uprising*** summarizes and affirms a number of nonviolent grassroots organizing movements from the 1930s onward. Newer movements learned from those that went before and added new methodologies. I recommend that book very highly!

Robert Reich: "The Moral Movement Against Violence" article provides useful insights. Read the article at: <https://www.commondreams.org/views/2018/02/27/moral-movement-against-violence?utm_term=The%20Moral%20Movement%20Against%20Violence&utm_campaign=News%20%2526%20Views%20%7C%20%22Don%5Cu2019t%20Agonize%2C%20Organize%21%22&utm_content=email&utm_source=Act-On+Software&utm_medium=email&cm_mmc=Act-On%20Software-_-email-_-News%20%2526%20Views%20%7C%20%22Don%5Cu2019t%20Agonize%2C%20Organize%21%22-_-The%20Moral%20Movement%20Against%20Violence>

**Grassroots organizing is how we will change our society’s worldview.**

The dominant worldview tries to run everything from the top down. That’s part of the problem. Our solution must be the opposite: organize from the grassroots up!

I have voted in EVERY election since 1969, and I strongly support voting. But voting is not sufficient to solve the huge macro-level problems nor to replace the dominant worldview. The changes we need to make go far beyond what we can accomplish by voting, because our nation’s problems are very deeply entrenched. No “blue wave” could go deeply enough to overturn the deeply entrenched worldview that dominates our society. We need to replace the assumptions and mind-set and dysfunctions that are much deeper than voting alone can remedy.

Also, voting occurs at rare occasions, but we can organize at the grassroots continuously!

We need a political Left that embodies this essay’s truly progressive, radical, nonviolent and grassroots principles. The Democratic Party is NOT that. The Green Party is much better, because its “ten key values” explicitly include nonviolence. This article expresses the need for a better Left than exists in current mainstream politics: <https://www.truthdig.com/articles/needed-now-a-real-and-radical-left/>

**I encourage people to take my series of 6 workshops on “Nonviolent Grassroots Organizing.”** That series of 6 workshops is not only inspiring but also very practical, with a lot of insights for strategizing and organizing from the grassroots to solve big problems. I’ll offer the workshop series again in 2019 and beyond, both in Olympia and elsewhere. Contact me at [glenanderson@integra.net](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net) or (360) 491-9093 to find out about the next opportunities.

**Let’s promote and ask people to sign the Declaration for Common Understanding and Civil Dialogue** (<http://org.salsalabs.com/o/696/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=23275>), which says:

* “I support and commit to engaging with my fellow citizens regarding the challenging issues facing our nation and the globe in a manner that reflects the highest aspirations of the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.
* “I will support and promote cooperation and civil dialogue at the local, state, and federal levels, and be open and appropriate in my public and private dialogue.
* “I will treat people of opposing views with respect and I will, at all times and to the best of my ability, listen deeply to differing opinions, and speak honestly, directly and with integrity.”

**Trump and Trumpism**

The American political climate has become seriously dysfunctional and toxic. Are our democracy and constitutional government terminally ill, or can we help them become healthy? This article explains how American democracy can survive Trump: <http://prospect.org/article/how-democracy-america-can-survive-donald-trump>

Early in the article is this excerpt:

In 2018, Freedom House offered a more dire assessment: “[D]emocratic institutions have suffered erosion, as reflected in partisan manipulation of the electoral process, bias and dysfunction in the criminal justice system, and growing disparities in wealth, economic opportunity, and political influence.”

Declining participation and confidence in government are not new, but the populist forces that propelled the election of Donald Trump signaled a new level of public disillusionment with democratic politics and institutions. During his campaign and first year in office, Trump’s core constituency cheered him on as he attacked fundamental elements of liberal democracy, including media freedom, judicial independence, and a pluralist civil society.

A few paragraphs later is this excerpt:

Experts are divided on whether the illness reflects an ongoing struggle between liberal democracy and anti-democratic forces, or, more darkly, a long-term trend toward democratic deconsolidation. In my own research, I have reviewed the attacks on elements and institutions of democracy during the first year of the Trump administration, and assessed the evidence of resilience in the media, the judiciary and law enforcement, democratic norms and principles, the electoral process, civil society, state and local government, the federal civil service, and Congress.

The Trump attacks are unprecedented, the outcome uncertain, and the stakes high. An effective resistance agenda should start with an understanding of Trump’s assault on democratic institutions during his first year, and how those institutions have performed in response.

Trump has taken the dominant worldview and radically escalated its problems (racism, sexism, greed, corruption, media bias, electoral abuses, hostility to honest democracy, and so forth), as explained in PART 1 of this essay and the November 2018 TV program, both available through the “TV Programs” part of my blog, [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).

This is the context in which we need to organize a bold, humane alternative to the dominant worldview, which is now worse than ever. Now – in this latter part of this essay (PART 2) – let’s consider how to organize some remedies.

This article offers some interesting, practical ways to interact with conservatives: <https://www.motherjones.com/media/2018/04/a-liberal-who-worked-at-fox-news-has-some-pretty-good-advice-about-how-to-put-up-with-conservatives/>

This article explains how to talk **effectively** with Trump's supporters: <https://www.alternet.org/theres-science-successfully-talking-trump-supporters-heres-how?src=newsletter1095308>

This article talks about how to use truth to fight Trump’s lies: <http://www.alternet.org/news-amp-politics/speaking-truth-power-trumps-america?akid=15346.2186.B1FWzI&rd=1&src=newsletter1074289&t=7>

Our real solutions must go beyond combativeness and start actually solving the problems. **Instead of simply defeating other people, we must help them heal.** The article at this link discusses healing Trump’s supporters and helping them move on to better values: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/better-than-defeating-trumps-supporters-lets-heal-them-and-convert-them-to-better-values-and-lets-heal-ourselves-too>

**Always remember that the dominant worldview that is hurting us in so many ways preceded Trump. He is a symptom of long-standing problems that people before him had already caused.** The dominant worldview was ripe for Trump to come along and exploit for his own greed and narcissism. **We need to stop Trumpism, and also replace that oppressive worldview altogether.**

**Some specific issues and examples**

**Practice our best values in our daily lives. Practice nonviolence and solidarity.**

We can do things in our daily lives to lift up our best values and nonviolently challenge the dominant worldview and its oppressions. Simple acts of nonviolent resistance actually work!

Recently a young Swedish woman on an airplane nonviolently prevented an Afghan person from being deported. She was on an airplane that had not yet left the terminal, and she noticed that someone from Afghanistan was on the same plane in order to be deported to Afghanistan. An airplane is not allowed to leave the terminal until everyone is seated, so she stood up, called everyone’s attention to the problem, and invited other people to stand up too, in order to prevent his deportation. She videotaped this example of nonviolent resistance actually working. <https://www.transcend.org/tms/2018/07/swedish-woman-shows-quiet-power-of-civil-disobedience-as-she-blocks-a-deportation/>

Another example on public transportation occurred when a passenger on a Greyhound bus used what she had learned in “Know Your Rights” training to protect immigrant rights. See this information about successfully taking responsible nonviolent action and stopping an abuse by federal immigration authorities:. <https://www.aclu.org/blog/immigrants-rights/ice-and-border-patrol-abuses/one-woman-who-knew-her-rights-forced-border>

People at local levels are organizing solidarity with immigrants, Muslims, LGBTQ people, homeless people, and other folks who are targeted or victimized by the dominant worldview. Local organizing of nonviolent resistance inspires other people, so bit by bit – from the grassroots up – we can raise consciousness and inspire other people to question and nonviolently resist the dominant worldview.

**Let’s de-polarize our society. Let’s bring diverse people together locally and empower them to solve problems and meet our needs.**

The big problems (climate, nuclear weapons, economic injustice, fear, depression, etc.) affect everybody, so we can reach out to many people and **de-**polarize our society by bringing diverse kinds of people together and empowering everyone to collaborate in solving society’s problems and meeting our needs.

If we are strategically savvy we can see how **various constituencies** share **common concerns**, so we can bring them together to increase our organizing power.

Likewise, if we are strategically savvy we can see how **various issues** are **interrelated**, so we can collaborate to increase our organizing power.

People are figuring out strategically smart outreach strategies to explain the climate crisis to various kinds of people.

People organizing against a giant oil pipeline in the Midwest realized that Native Americans and white ranchers both oppose the pipeline, so they created what they called “the Cowboys and Indians Alliance.”

Much has been written about how liberals and conservatives see the world differently. Some articles say that our brains might be wired differently or that we differ for some other absolute, inherent reasons. That assumption keeps us separate and makes it harder to find common ground and solve problems.

Marshall Rosenberg and Abraham Maslow talked about how people’s needs affect what they do. I’m interested in how people’s values – what they think is right and important – also affect what people do. So when I use Rosenberg’s Nonviolent Communication process (explained a few pages earlier), I sometimes substitute the word “values” in place of “needs.” Let’s identify the needs and values underlying our different positions on issues and our different worldviews.

I believe that – even though we may differ on specific issues (*e.g*., continuing or stopping our current wars), it is likely that we actually have similar values and ultimate goals (*e.g.*, we want what’s best for the U.S. and for the people of the countries where our government is making wars, and we care about the individuals who are in the military, and so forth).

Sometimes we have different values or different goals, and that’s OK. Let’s just be clear about the ways in which we disagree. For example, one person wants to provide financially for his or her family while another person would accept living with fewer material possessions in order to preserve an environmental ecosystem. If we identify our different values and goals – without passing judgment on each other – we can “agree to disagree.”

Let’s raise people’s consciousness so people will challenge and replace the dominant worldview.

**The concept of *ubuntu* affirms that we are all in this together.**

There is an African concept that exactly expresses a great principle that rebuts the dominant worldview and promotes a more humane worldview and hence a more humane society. The concept of ***ubuntu*** is widespread throughout the southern part of Africa. The word ***ubuntu*** actually is written into South Africa’s constitution.

This concept affirms that we are not just isolated individuals, but rather **my humanity is bound up with your humanity**. Our humanity requires our **appreciation of our inter-connectedness**, our responsibility for helping other people, and our generosity. Other languages in southern Africa translate the concept into their own languages. Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, and other respected leaders have spoken warmly of this concept.

I have already mentioned the power and practicality of using trained mediators to help people nonviolently resolve their disputes. This – like ***ubuntu*** – creates “win-win” solutions. So also does “restorative justice,” which I had mentioned much earlier in this essay. Restorative justice is a refreshing and effective nonviolent alternative to our violent mainstream “criminal justice” system. Restorative justice heals the victims, the offenders, and the community. This process and mediating disputes help people in conflict to humanize each other in a safe place with ground rules, through facilitators who are skilled in helping people understand their own needs and values – and other people’s needs and values.

We need more of this at the inter-group and international level. This is totally different from Trump’s “America First” doctrine, which is a way to bully other nations for the benefit of certain powerful people in the U.S. (No, Trump’s “America First” slogan does **not** seek the well-being of all Americans, just the powerful ones that he cares about.) He believes in military violence instead of diplomacy, so he has gutted the U.S. State Department’s staff of professional diplomats, while he has vastly expanded the U.S.’s already humongous military and border guards, and he is vastly increasing the U.S.’s nuclear weapons so he can violently bully – and perhaps destroy – the rest of the world. But because of Trump’s severe mental disabilities, he does not recognize that when he hurts the rest of the world he also hurts the U.S. Using nuclear weapons would destroy them and us alike.

Creative people can devise grassroots activities that will bring people together and empower them to understand each other and collaborate in meeting our needs. As a result, we do better collectively than individually.

If our nation were to practice ***ubuntu***, we would run our government and our economic system differently. We would tax rich people and share the wealth. We would use taxes to make sure everyone has good health care, good education, good drinking water and air and environment.

The U.S. has a horribly wide gap between very rich people and everybody else, and many people in severe poverty. Poverty is not an accident. Rather, it is the direct result of many public policies intended to help rich people at the expense of the poor. Research has shown that nations with wide economic gaps have worse conditions for health and well-being. In contrast, nations with less disparity of health have better health for the entire population, and the people are happier.

Understanding and practicing ***ubuntu*** would transform our worldview and create a much happier, fairer, and more cohesive society without the polarization that is tearing us apart now.

**Instead of fearing “the other” or assuming “zero-sum” games with winners and losers, let’s recognize that we’re all in this together and use nonviolent conflict resolution to create “win-win” solutions.**

How can we develop and practice the qualities that we, our society, and a healthy society need? How can we develop the willingness and the skills to converse with openness, compassion and understanding – especially with people whose have values, beliefs, opinions differ from our own?

Any method of increasing understanding of “the other” and compassion for “the other” is good. Many methods exist. All are teachable. All are learnable. All have a lot in common.

Some people have developed skills in mediating conflicts. The heart of what mediators do is to help people in conflict to humanize each other in a safe place with ground rules, through facilitators who are skilled in helping people understand their own needs and values – and other people’s needs and values. Some local communities have non-profit organizations that train people in mediation skills for helping other people resolve their conflicts. Locally, the Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County (360-956-1155 [www.mediatethurston.org](http://www.mediatethurston.org)) is a great example of this.

Overall, at settings large and small, any process that shares values and needs is valuable for the community and globally.

We can help to heal political polarization by talking with people on the “other” side of a political issue. Try talking about anything EXCEPT the political difference! Talk about your gardens, your kids and grandkids, the weather, or anything that will help you get to know other kinds of people as fellow human beings instead of opponents.

Our society should discover that using harsh speech does not work. We should ALL stop using harsh speech against or about other people.

The Dalai Lama said his religion is kindness. Someone else said, “Kindness is different from niceness. It requires a sense of what’s going on with the other person.”

How can we affirm democratic values – free speech, uncensored media, etc. – without abusing the public with lies, vocal hatred, and big-money domination? How can we rebut the false and misleading statements without calling the other person nasty names?

The Town Hall Meeting process – everybody can come and speak – is democracy. But when people shout other people down, that interferes with the process. Many of the shouters have been coached to interrupt and shout and be obnoxious. How can we deal with this in public forums?

The processes people and groups and government use for grappling with issues are linked to some of the concerns this essay has been discussing. Whose voices are heard? Whose voices are stifled or ignored? Who has enough money to get their message out?

Elsewhere I have written that practicing profound nonviolence rewrites the script of what the conflict is about. Another way of rewriting the script – and helping people see fresh insights – is to use humor.

**The dominant worldview leads to systemic and institutional problems. Let’s create solutions to those problems as part of our alternative worldview.**

Earlier in this essay I mentioned a number of systems and institutions that cause problems because they reflect the dominant worldview. Let’s change many of our society’s systems and institutions. Here are just a few additional examples:

* When Obama was promoting his Affordable Care Act and when Republicans were bashing it after it passed, the mainstream media, politicians and others have refused to discuss the best solution: universal single-payer health care. This shortcoming is rooted in how we finance electoral campaigns, who owns mainstream media, and other problems that interfere with effective democracy. These are rooted in worldviews, and also in capitalism and other systemic problems.
* Instead of letting the negative problems bog us down, let’s focus on positive solutions. Let’s create a positive worldview and effective strategies for public conversations that will help the public solve the problems. A healthy democracy requires that we cultivate the relevant skills and change our systems in order to empower individuals in the body politic. These skills strengthen relationships across groups. If a person is felt compassion for, then s/he does not stay a stereotype but becomes a human being.
* For a fair society and economy, we need what has been called “A New Social Contract.” See this: <https://truthout.org/audio/a-new-social-contract-re-envisions-an-inclusive-democracy/>
* Recently Philadelphia’s voters elected a progressive District Attorney who is revolutionizing prosecution policies in excellent ways: <https://theintercept.com/2018/03/20/larry-krasner-philadelphia-da/?utm_source=The+Intercept+Newsletter&utm_campaign=d09fa8795a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_03_24&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e00a5122d3-d09fa8795a-132037737>
* Decades ago the U.S.’s nationwide network of local post offices offered “postal savings” accounts – a publicly owned system of banking for ordinary people (poor and working class) to deposit savings in a non-profit system. Now a U.S. Senator is proposing reviving the concept and urging Congress to authorize the USPS to create a “postal banking” system. See <https://slate.com/business/2018/04/kirsten-gillibrands-ambitious-postal-banking-bill.html>
* This great short (3-minute) video tells a strong story of labor solidarity to protect the U.S. Postal Service from privatization: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rdhn8vYsWRA&feature=youtu.be&link_id=0&can_id=1d662460c0abb8939c5044c82927552b&source=email-flight-attendants-launch-no-postal-privatization-video&email_referrer=email_446864___subject_570348&email_subject=watch-the-flight-attendants-video> For more info see [www.agrandalliance.org](http://www.agrandalliance.org)
* Housing is too expensive for a huge portion of our population. Poor people are especially vulnerable. See this article about poor people organizing for decent housing in the U.S.: <https://www.thenation.com/article/the-way-home/>
* The Global Campaign on Military Spending works to cut military spending and fund human needs. Several years ago the Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation created and briefly worked on a “Bring Our Billion$ Home” campaign to cut military spending and fund human needs. Other people started a larger worldwide effort. See <http://demilitarize.org/>

**Some progressives are further polarizing society. This information explains how we can stop that.**

Politically progressive people care deeply about racial and gender justice, various forms of oppression, and so forth. But some progressives work on their concerns in ways that make problems worse. Valerie Tarico’s article at this link -- [**https://www.alternet.org/activism/progressive-infighting**](https://www.alternet.org/activism/progressive-infighting) -- offers many very fresh insights that can help us move forward.  I urge people to read the entire article.  I’m summarizing a few key points below (and adding some additional comments of my own).  The entire article fleshes these out and adds more insights, so I do highly recommend reading the article at the link in this paragraph.

The article’s title – “Here’s Why Some Progressives Are Tearing Each Other Apart” – is bold, accurate, and highly relevant to the organizing crises many of us have been experiencing in the past few years.

The article says people tell “stories” that express how we understand the world and our places in it.  The author (Valerie Tarico) identifies three dominant stories:

* The oldest one (the **“Ancestral Story”**) still exists.  It affirms traditional social hierarchies.  It supports the currently dominant worldview. Liberal and progressive people have been seeking to replace the “Ancestral Story” with two other stories.
* The **“Social Liberal Story”** is egalitarian and affirms all people as equal.  It is grounded in the Enlightenment and seeks progress by expanding human rights for all people.  The author summarizes it like this:  “We’re all in it together.  There’s no such thing as a self-made man.  I actually am my sister’s keeper.  Everybody needs a hand up sometimes.”  It sees a positive role for government in protecting people’s rights, regulating businesses, etc.  Although the right wing denounces government as an authoritative oppressor, the “Social Liberal Story” calls upon government to be an honest referee that makes sure all people (rich or poor) abides by the same rules and seek fairness throughout society.  Government and other institutions often fall short, so we need to organize and mobilize to make sure our society lives up to our best values and provides fairness for all people.  The “Social Liberal Story” promotes more attention to making sure every person – and every kind of person – is treated fairly with full and equal rights.
* Recently a third story, which the article’s author (Valerie Tarico) calls the **“Structural Oppression Story”** has emerged and become a rallying point for many progressives.  This approach recognizes the oppression that has been built into our society, economy, systems, etc., in such long-standing and structural ways that this imposes hierarchy that oppresses certain kinds of people.  This is not just a reaction against the oldest (“Ancestral Story”) but also a reaction against the modern “Social Liberal Story.”

The author (Valerie Tarico) says, “activism organized around the Oppression Story is raw and exasperated.  It gives voice to people who are done making nice, done waiting politely to be invited to the table, and by others who are horrified at their own history.”

**The tensions among people in progressive movements are between the second and the third of these stories.  I agree with the author (Valerie Tarico) that the conflict between the second and third stories are tearing us apart.**

**I believe we need both stories:**

* I appreciate that Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and many very progressive reformers and revolutionaries have been well grounded in the second story.  They affirmed universal values and organize and mobilize people to nonviolently make our societies live up to these best values.
* I also believe there is value in the third story.  We need to hear the voices and experiences of people who have been oppressed and are still oppressed.  We must respect their demands to be included in reforming and/or revolutionizing society in various ways to make society better for all of us.

**I believe we actually need both of these stories.**  Some liberals find it hard to hear people telling the third story.  Also, **I am increasingly concerned that some people who are feeling much pain and identify totally with the third story are denying the value of the second story.  Instead of recognizing that all people are one human family, some people demonize all whites or all males or all Christians or all heterosexuals based on their demographic variable.  This reinforces and feeds into the “white resentment” and other kinds of polarization that Trump and the hate-filled right-wing groups are exploiting.** This is not the basis for a truly inclusive and just society.  Instead of true justice, some people want to simply invert the traditional hierarchy.  Instead of helping all people heal and grow, blaming only makes people feel defensive and resist the changes that would allow them to heal and grow.

Since the very early 1970s I have grounded myself in profound nonviolence.  One of the core beliefs (affirmed by Gandhi, King, and other people of color, Dorothy Day and Kathy Kelly and other women, and various other people of many faiths, genders, abilities and other demographical variables) is that **all people are one human family and all people have inherent human worth and dignity.  No exceptions!**

Every person deserves to be valued as inherently worthy as human regardless of race, religion, gender, or any other demographic variable.  This means every person has a right to speak.  No person can shut down another person – certainly not because of some political or demographic variable. This means white people should not prevent black people from speaking, nor black people prevent white people from speaking.

Likewise, no person should be “put down” or attacked because that person is one individual in a demographic group that includes a few persons who have done bad things.  None of those stereotypes are valid. We recognize this when someone attacks a Jew with the stereotype that Jews are greedy or power-hungry, or – as Trump has done – label Mexicans as rapists and murderers.  But likewise nobody should attack a male just because other males have done bad things or attack a white person just because other whites have done bad things.  Such attacks are common nowadays as part of the Anti-Oppression work that some people in the Structural Oppression Story do.  **Stereotypes and bigotry – whether coming from the political right or the political left – are hurting our society.  They do not provide the healing and the profound changes that our society really needs.  They feed into the Trumpist worldview of polarization and dehumanization.**

I urge people all across the political spectrum to read the article at this link: [**https://www.alternet.org/activism/progressive-infighting**](https://www.alternet.org/activism/progressive-infighting). I urge people to affirm both the second and third stories in Valerie Tarico’s article, and to avoid extremes. Valery Tarico offers other articles at [**www.valerietarico.com**](http://www.valerietarico.com)

**Insights for reaching out to other kinds of people and businesses about issues we care about:**

Here is some practical information about pressuring big corporations about guns or other problems: <https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/woke-companies-gun-control_us_5a9dc03ae4b0479c025628f1?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=__Politics__031218&utm_content=__Politics__031218+Version+B+CID_3843c4c6e6ec57544d9086ba421b0917&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Heres%20the%20truth%20about%20corporations%20getting%20woke%20on%20guns&ncid=newsltushpmgnews__Politics__031218>

Here are some fresh ways to talk with conservative Christians about climate change: <https://www.ecowatch.com/katharine-hayhoe-climate-change-2550366098.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=1b0a4dd68d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-1b0a4dd68d-85369701>

Most Americans want more sensible and sustainable energy, and most want to solve the climate crisis. The public is far ahead of most politicians and people who speak on TV. Big fossil fuel companies are spending money to “buy” elections and to propagandize the public and politicians. Their propaganda seeks to mislead, cast doubt, distract and polarize. The Sightline Institute ([www.sightline.org](http://www.sightline.org)) and a group called Breakthrough Strategies & Solutions have been devising a smart way to convey the climate message that actually moves people. It frames the climate crisis and energy issues on our terms, not the industry’s. It focuses on a three-part message anchored in shared values, responsibility, accountability and empowerment. Page 12 of the Fall 2018 issue of the *Earth Letter* published by Earth Ministry ([www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org)) says the strategically smart narrative balances these three:

* **The Threat:**  Pointing to strange and severe weather and our responsibility to protect our kids makes an emotional connection and grounds the issue in personal experience, underscoring the urgency of the climate challenge;
* **The Villain:**  Holding oil and coal companies accountable for rigging the system against clean energy counters apathy and guilt by explaining why progress has stalled and showing that overcoming the roadblocks the fossil fuel industry has created is a way forward; and
* **The Solutions:**  Demonstrating the benefits of shifting off dirty fuels to clean energy, especially in our neighborhoods, cities, and states, helps transcend partisanship and shows that local, practical solutions are available, affordable, effective – and empowering.

**Let’s re-think all of the problems and create workable, humane solutions.**

The dominant worldview constricts and restrains our thinking. Let’s creatively and explicitly envision and articulate an alternative worldview that reflects our best values and the world we want to see.

We would be better able to solve problems nonviolently if we were to free ourselves from the culture of militarism and bullying. Let’s slash the Pentagon’s budget and use the savings to do things that help people and promote a nonviolent society and a nonviolent world. Instead of wasting our tax dollars on causing worldwide violence, let’s slash the Pentagon’s budget and spend the savings to nonviolently solve the underlying problems that lead to violence. These include overpopulation, ethnic conflicts, environmental and damage that interferes with growing food sustainably, and many other problems.

If we would free American culture from a military mindset, we could see and lift up nonviolent alternatives such as those mentioned earlier in this essay. We could convert our economy from a war economy to a peace economy, and we could convert from the dominant worldview to a peaceful and humane and sustainable worldview.

Commonly, people treat different kinds of folks – different races, different religions, different political orientations, etc., -- as “the other.” Stereotypes polarize us into “us” vs. “them. But if another person is felt compassion for, then s/he does not stay a stereotype but becomes a human being.

Instead of shouting at each other and calling each other bad names, let’s listen and understand with other people and connect at the level of our hearts and values, so we can work together to actually solve the problems. Instead of trying to shape our world with fists, lest use tender fingertips and an artist’s loving touch. A healthy democracy requires that we cultivate these skills – all of us – and use them to empower individuals in the body politic. These skills strengthen relationships across groups and build a society that is more coherent, more peaceful, and more humane.

The end of this essay includes great lists of non-profit organizations and other sources of information that provide many solutions.

Replace the “national security” model with nonviolent TRUE Security.

The currently dominant worldview and politicians are obsessed with “national security.” That concept immediately assumes a reliance on military violence.

Instead, we need an alternative worldview that focuses on “**TRUE security**” – the ways to achieve a more **profound** and **realisti**c kind of security.

* People in Flint, Michigan, and other places are **in**secure because the dominant worldview knowingly polluted their water, not because of anything Afghanistan or Iran or North Korea has done.
* People who are homeless or who are dying for lack of health care are **in**secure because the dominant worldview repeatedly says their lives do not matter. More nuclear weapons will not restore their health.

**We must BOLDLY CHALLENGE nationalism as a false idol. We must challenge the simplistic thinking about “national security.” We must pay attention to what really would make our nation and our residents truly secure.** We need fresh thinking and a fresh model to rescue our nation and our world from its current misery and deadliness. This fresh model would help us achieve an **alternative worldview** with more profound democracy, a nonviolent society, and “the common good.”

The 1980s mantra to “look out for #1” and Trump’s “America First” doctrine are selfish and actually counter-productive. Wise people know everything is interconnected. Whatever we do will cycle back to us. If we act wisely and humanely, we will end up better off. But if we act with greed and cruelty, our behavior will end up hurting us.

MANY politicians keep telling us to be afraid of other races and other religions. NEARLY ALL politicians tell us to be afraid of other nations. The gigantic military-industrial complex is built upon fear of other nations in order to seek economic and political power over them and over the American taxpayers. We must debunk the dominant myths and recognize that **all people are one human family**, and **we all share one earth**. NOBODY can be secure until EVERYBODY is secure. **We need a new way to think about “TRUE Security.”**

If the U.S. did not grab more than its share of the world’s natural resources, and if the U.S. did not threaten and use violence against other nations, we could get along with other people, and we could solve global problems through diplomacy and mediation and nonviolent strategies.

**The real dangers are nationalism, militarism, racism, an unjust economic system, violations of human rights, and damage to the environment.** Those dangers **cannot** be solved by military methods. **We need to understand where Americans’ feelings of insecurity REALLY come from. Then we can re-define TRUE security and promote positive alternatives.**

We can take the moral and political high ground, and win the public over to our side with **a better worldview**! The peace movement, human rights movement, environmental movement, climate movement, and other multi-issue progressive movements can support each other and work together toward common goals.

People want security, but we can’t gain TRUE security through wars and sacrificing our civil liberties. TRUE security must be based on peace, social and economic justice, a sustainable environment, a vibrant democracy, civil liberties for everyone, and many other progressive values.

The current U.S. mania for more and more violent weapons and more killing in more and more nations does three bad things:

1. It turns world opinion against the U.S.
2. It takes money away from what would really make us more secure: ending poverty, ending homelessness, protecting the environment, developing “green” energy, etc.
3. It distracts and misleads the public into thinking that violence solves problems, when the real solutions are nonviolent.

We would be **more** secure with **less** military! We’d be more secure if we were to pursue “the common good” at a global scale – and adopt a **nonviolent** foreign policy.

Let’s contrast our nation’s current way to achieve “national security” with a humane alternative that would **really** achieve “**TRUE** security.”

This **TRUE SECURITY** table contrasts the **typical American way to achieve national security** with this **better way to achieve TRUE security**. *(I’m also posting this table to my blog as a stand-alone one-page link.)*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Typical American Way to Achieve National Security** | **Better Way to Achieve**  **TRUE Security** |
|  |  |  |
| **Vision:** | U.S. dominates all other countries. | U.S. cooperates fairly with all other countries. |
| **Axis of Evil:** | George W. Bush accused Iraq, Iran, North Korea, which actually were **not** an “axis” working together. | Martin Luther King identified 3 evils: Racism,  Militarism, and Poverty/Materialism. |
| **Goals:** | National security against other  nations | Global security and equitable relationships among all nations |
|  | Political, military, economic, cultural dominance | Self-determination  Economic well-being for all  Respect for other cultures & religions |
| **Methods:** | Military action, arms sales, covert  operations, selective diplomacy | Nonviolent direct action at international level (e.g., nonviolent peace force) |
|  | Unilateral action, coalitions that the US controls and others must endorse | Multilateral resolution of conflicts. Support the UN, international treaties, and international law. |
|  | Development initiatives linked to “good” governments  Economic practices that support US  interests | Marshall Plan to eradicate global poverty  Unconditional commitment to the poor |
|  | Volunteerism and acts of charity to help the poor without changing structural inequities | Short-term: Generous actions with no selfish motives  Long-term: Structural changes for justice |
|  | Minimum wage | Living wage. Guaranteed minimum income |
|  | Conflict management focused on  violence as individual pathology | Nonviolent resistance to systemic violence.  Interpersonal conflict resolution skills |
| **Motivation:** | Hatred | Love, compassion |
|  | Fear | Faith |
|  | Power | Justice |
|  | Self-centered (Greek word *porneia*:  people as objects) | Other-centered for the other’s sake (Greek word *agape αγαπη*) |
| **Result:** | Global chaos | Global community |

TRUE security cannot be won by weapons. It’s rooted in social and economic justice, civil liberties, a vibrant democracy, a healthy environment, and humane values.

The practice of nonviolence says we must use methods consistent with the goals we seek. TRUE Security is consistent with that insight. TRUE Security must be part of the alternative, civilized worldview I want for our society.

**We could also consider various kinds of “security” beyond the militaristic notion of “national security.”**

* **Economic security:** Job security, living wages, job safety, cures for poverty, help during hard times, protection from child labor, secure retirement income, etc.
* **Food security:** Safe and nutritious food, locally grown food, freedom from hunger, etc.
* **Health security:** Access to affordable health care, respectful treatment, choices in health care options, focus on preventing diseases, strong public health services, etc.
* **Environmental security:** Sustainable ecosystems, enough water, clean water, clean air, freedom from toxics, healthy forests, land use planning for sustainability, etc.
* **Personal security:** Thoughtful and sensitive policies and services for domestic violence, child abuse, gender justice, human dignity, substance abuse, etc.
* **Community & cultural security:** Respect for all cultures and languages, freedom to practice any religion or no religion, corporate accountability, limitations on corporate power, removing the underlying causes of crime, comfort in walking anywhere at any time, ways to heal and reconcile when someone hurts another person, etc.
* **Political security:** Freedom from governmental oppression or abuse, support for civil rights and civil liberties, meaningful opportunities to participate in democratic political processes, etc.

**The currently dominant worldview PREVENTS ALL of these kinds of security.**

**The alternative worldview I’m proposing supports and promotes and would ACCOMPLISH ALL of these kinds of security.**

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his powerful “Beyond Vietnam” speech at Riverside Church, New York City, on April 4, 1967. King’s powerful speech was grounded in his religious faith and his commitment to human rights. This speech denounced the U.S. war in Vietnam and provided a biting and prophetic critique of U.S. foreign policy overall. He opposed the currently dominant worldview and promoted one consistent with what I’m calling for in this essay. These excerpts come from that speech:

“I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.

“A true revolution of values will lay hand on the world order and say of war, ‘This way of settling differences is not just.’ A nation that continues year and year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.

“America, the richest and most powerful nation in the world, can well lead the way in this revolution of values. There is nothing except a tragic death wish to prevent us from reordering our priorities over the pursuit of war.

“This call for a worldwide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one's tribe, clan, race, class, and nation is in reality a call for an all-embracing and unconditional love for all mankind. We can no longer afford to worship the God of hate or bow before the altar of retaliation.”

“America, the richest and most powerful nation in the world, can well lead the way in this revolution of values. There is nothing except a tragic death wish to prevent us from reordering our priorities over the pursuit of war.”

Many non-profit organizations and many books, websites and other informational resources urge us to convert to a peaceful worldview. For example, World Beyond War has a 95 page booklet that lays out alternatives to war. ***“A Global Security System: An Alternative to War”*** is a thoughtful, well organized resource with practical information and great quotations. The Executive Summary is at <https://worldbeyondwar.org/executive-summary-global-security-system-alternative-war/>

How do we acquire and develop our worldviews?

People’s worldviews come from several sources.

A significant source is the dominant culture in the society, so we naturally grow up knowing what our society believes is true, valuing what our society values, and so forth. That is the dominant *milieu*, the social atmosphere that we breathe while growing up, the context and environment for our lives.

In addition, each person can develop his or her own internal autonomous conscience and understandings, partly from what he or she experienced as a child and as a young adult, partly from their religious faiths and spiritual values, partly from other experiences and influences along the way.

While the potential for some fluidity exists, it is an uphill struggle to change someone’s worldview. For example, a white person who grows up knowing in every way that white people are superior will find it difficult to change to believe in racial equality. But change is possible. We can look for alternative foundations for different persons’ worldviews.

A starting point for Quakers and some other people is that “There is that of God in every person.” Buddhists especially value compassion as a guiding value. Jesus and the Early Church taught us that love is what God is. Islam values love, compassion and justice. Gandhi drew upon his Hindu faith and went beyond it in affirming that God is Truth, so we must pursue the Truth. Humanism, earth-based spiritualities and other alternatives, including agnosticism and atheism have their own ethical groundings.

As I discussed a few pages earlier, many political leaders distort or abuse their respective religions in order to justify their wars and political ambitions. But at their deepest levels, every major faith tradition strongly supports peace, fairness, compassion and love.

Martin Luther King, Jr., said, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” In other words, even though we may suffer long periods of violence and injustice, King believed that God designed the world to work better when our social and economic systems promote fairness rather than unfairness and when we choose peace rather than war. Therefore, violence not only violate King’s Christian faith, but also would be ultimately self-defeating because the universe functions better with nonviolence.

Political leaders, mainstream media, and other public opinion leaders tell us propaganda, and many people believe it and incorporate that into their worldviews.

George W. Bush contrived a phony-baloney “Axis of Evil” consisting of Iraq, Iran and North Korea, even though those three nations were not cooperating or collaborating in any way. Iraq and Iran had recently fought a war against each other, so Bush’s “Axis of Evil” was cynical and obviously false propaganda designed to whip up Americans’ hatred against three nations he disliked. Politicians of both big political parties accepted this lie as a truth, and mainstream news media obediently publicized this lie and utterly failed to debunk it, even though it was very obviously a lie.

Likewise, the Bush/Cheney “war on terror” built upon the public’s existing assumptions of nationalism, “American exceptionalism,” “myth of redemptive violence,” and other core values of American culture. Again, nearly all major politicians and mainstream media accepted the “war on terror” as valid and necessary, so many people believed the propaganda and blended it in with traditional patriotism.

It also escalated people’s fears and hatred of Islam, which had been pricked a few times before (the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, the 1979 Iranian hostage crisis, etc.), so now a profound ignorance and hatred of Islam became firmly embedded in the U.S.’s dominant worldview.

Martin Luther King never called any nation or any individual evil, because he believed everyone was created in the image of God, and everyone could change for the better. King never blamed or insulted anyone. Instead, he called for the best from each person.

What King did do was identify three **systems** (**not** individuals) as evil: racism, militarism and materialism/poverty. He urged us to overcome these systemic evils through faithful nonviolence.

In what other ways do we acquire and develop and act upon our worldviews?

* Some people have a worldview that is determined by other people, in a way that disempowers us to make a positive influence and change the world. For example, Wayne Dyer’s popular book ***Your Erroneous Zones*** debunks the psychological self-deception that someone else “made me do it.” His book urges us to take responsibility for our own feelings and our own actions, and to take responsibility to empower ourselves rather than attribute our problems and shortcomings to other people.
* If we absorb and internalize the dominant worldview discussed in this essay, we diminish our own efficacy and yield to false assumptions. When someone says, “It’s a dangerous world out there, so we must arm ourselves and be ready to make war,” they are setting us up for self-destructive behaviors, as this essay has made clear. That approach only disempowers ourselves instead of inspiring and equipping ourselves for more effective ways to solve problems. Don’t let the militarists disempower us. Use smart, strategic nonviolence to empower ourselves and win without violence.
* The words, slogans, and images people use are powerful in shaping how we think. Many of them are calculated to distract, mislead, misinform, and disinform us. Watch out for loaded terms and debunk them.
* George Lakoff, an expert in linguistics, has written many articles and some books about the power of languages and images and metaphors. I highly recommend his writings. He says most of our political thought is formed by the metaphor of the nation as a family. Conservatives idealize a traditional “Strict Father” family organized by rules, clear hierarchy, obedience, and discipline. On the other hand, liberals and progressives value an egalitarian “Nurturant Parent” family that stresses empathy, mutual cooperation, and a sense of interconnectedness. These models shape our worldviews and our political decisions.
* K-12 schools and some colleges teach history by focusing on wars, so students are fooled into seeing wars as the most significant way to understand history. Actually, nonviolence has accomplished a lot of the best things, but nonviolence is scarcely taught.
* For example, Gene Sharp has provided a very different view of history. Gene Sharp was the world’s preeminent scholar about the power and practicality of nonviolent resistance. For example, his article in a 1976 issue of ***Fellowship*** magazine (published by the national Fellowship of Reconciliation, [www.forusa.org](http://www.forusa.org)) during that bicentennial year after U.S. independence focused on nonviolence as a powerful force leading to independence from England. American history writers and teachers – and American collective memory and culture – have always told us that the U.S.’s independence resulted from winning the Revolutionary War. Actually, Gene Sharp has documented that massive and diverse kinds of nonviolent resistance had practically won our independence before the war’s first shots were fired in Massachusetts. People refused to pay taxes to England, refused to obey English orders, set up an independent court system in Virginia to resolve legal disputes and boycotted the English courts there. And on and on and on. Without any formal strategizing in nonviolent resistance, the Americans intuitively figured out nonviolent ways to resist English domination. However, once Americans started actually shooting at English troops, the English government dug in its heels and felt its ego and status were at risk from these violent Americans, so they sent many, many more English troops and the war struggled on for several years with much violence and death on both sides. Gene Sharp says we would have achieved actual independence much sooner – and with less damage to property and human life – if we had continued the nonviolent resistance instead of resorting to the violence of the Revolutionary War.
* The dominant worldview and its propaganda lead to self-fulfilling prophecies that backfire, but the Establishment keeps doing the same bad things over and over again. World War I was marketed as “the War to End All Wars.” That was 100 years ago. All it did was lead to World War II and endless cycles of violence after that. Likewise the U.S.’s “War on Terror” has only caused terrorist violence to spread in more countries worldwide. The U.S. has become the world’s greatest promoter of terror.
* Just yesterday during a weekly peace vigil, a pedestrian walked past and said that President Reagan created a peaceful foreign policy by instituting “peace through strength.” If he had wanted a conversation I could have pointed out that we’ve had continuous wars since then. But clearly he had his mind made up and his Reagan-based slogan was all he needed. The dominant worldview had conquered that man’s mind.
* Once we assume a certain worldview, our behavior is very likely to flow from that. The status quo is entrenched because the current worldview dominates us. But when we consciously and boldly reject that worldview, we free ourselves to choose smarter new behavior that can change the world for the better.

More ways to help our society change from the currently dominant worldview to a worldview that will be humane, positive, and sustainable

I have discussed some principles and strategies in earlier sections of this essay. Here are some additional ways.

It really is possible to abandon and renounce a destructive worldview such as the one that dominates U.S. politics and society – and to consciously choose a very different worldview that will better meet our needs. Let’s explore how to change the worldviews of individuals and society as a whole.

As individuals we can choose to display better behavior consistent with our alternative worldview so we can incrementally change the world one person at a time – and by our role modeling behavior. Nonviolent alternatives might be slow, but they are effective and produce positive long-lasting results.

The movement for women’s right to vote took 70 years to accomplish the constitutional amendment in about 1920, but the long-lasting campaign helped to raise millions of people’s consciousness and built the women’s movement. Modern research has shown that nonviolent social change movements are achieving positive results in much shorter times now than back in the olden days.

A few paragraphs ago I mentioned Gene Sharp. He was not a pacifist, but he supported bold nonviolence because his research kept proving that nonviolence just works better. It is more effective and practical. It creates a better foundation for the new society. Violence is hierarchical and authoritarian and macho, but nonviolence is more democratic and egalitarian. Nonviolent action sows the seeds for a new society that will better protect human rights.

Recent research by Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan proved that during a huge number of conflicts in different parts of the world during the 1900s, movements using only nonviolence worked much better than those that included some violence (euphemistically called “diversity of tactics” by some people who refuse to practice nonviolent self-discipline). See their book ***Why Civil Resistance Works***, and see Chenoweth’s many articles, YouTube videos, TED Talks, and so forth.

Certainly the facts from researchers such as Sharp, Chenoweth and others can help people change worldviews.

Also, religious, spiritual, and philosophical insights and inspirations can shape our worldviews in better directions.

Changing our worldview will let us see the world in new ways and help us discover many new possibilities. Grounding ourselves in positive values of nonviolence and human rights is a good first step. If we also understand the principles and practices of nonviolence and grassroots organizing, we will be able to build those into new realities in the society around us.

Creativity also helps! I have always appreciated Edwin Markham’s poem called “Outwitted.” It includes this amazing verse about redefining a worldview:

“He drew a circle that shut me out-  
Heretic , rebel, a thing to flout.  
But love and I had the wit to win:  
We drew a circle and took him in!

This poem affirms that our own individual approach and demeanor in reaching out to other people would be crucial in whether we push other people away (dominant worldview) or welcome people in to enjoy living with a better worldview.

Here are some more ideas:

* Let’s figure out how to change global, national and local systems and institutions from the dominant worldview to the alternative peaceful and just worldview. How could we change structures to reward diplomacy, mediation and nonviolent resolution of conflicts, and to de-value violent and oppressive behaviors?
* Let’s practice what we preach. Let’s do our work in a cooperative way that respects other people. We can model the ethics and behaviors that we want other people and social/political institutions to practice. This will feel better and be more productive.
* Let’s engage other fields such as science, art, entertainment, education, religious/spiritual entities, and a wide range of non-profit organizations.
* Let’s refuse to live by fear. Let’s organize strategies and campaigns to reduce and eliminate fear as a driving force in people’s lives.
* Let’s recognize the financial, social and spiritual costs of violence, injustice, and oppression – and the financial, social and spiritual benefits of a better worldview of nonviolence, social justice and equality.
* Let’s generate more hope and more optimism that things **could** get better – and **will** get better if we do this work in strategically smart ways. We have the capacity to help the human species’ cultures in the real world at a much faster rate than our genes evolve. Take a long-range view and see how the world came together to end apartheid in South Africa, to create a worldwide women’s movement, create a vigorous climate movement, and so forth. We will make more progress sooner if we are positive and hopeful than if we are pessimistic or cynical. I like the slogan from the World Social Forum that affirms, “Another world is possible.”
* Imagine the world that you want – a world of peace, social justice, cooperation, environmental quality, and so forth. What would different aspects or sectors of that world look like? What would a nonviolent economy look like? What would a nonviolent criminal justice system look like? And so forth.

In the mid-1980s I organized a big, diverse community gathering that envisioned the future we wanted for many different sectors (peace, energy, economics, women’s rights, public safety, and so forth) clustered into three sessions. More than a hundred persons participated, and they were very diverse in all of the demographic variables. Each person envisioned the futures they wanted in each of these many sectors. It turned out just as I expected. There was enormous consensus in what we wanted – across the various kinds of participants. The environmentalists wanted the same future for women’s rights as the women did. The poor people wanted the same energy future as the energy activists did. The people who wanted to reform the criminal justice system wanted the same foreign policy future as the peace activists did. We recognized that we truly were all in this together, and there was a huge consensus in want we wanted for our society’s future. **This diverse group of people truly shared a common positive worldview rooted in humane, sustainable values.**

Years ago someone told me that Congress would be much better if we had fewer lawyers and more poets. Another friend said Congress needs more teachers and more people in the helping professions. Also, we need more hope and less cynicism.

The U.S. government says it wants to export democracy, but really it just meddles in other nations and sends spies and secret military troops. Why can’t non-profit organizations send more educators and trainers in how to organize nonviolently at the neighborhood level? I financially support the Nonviolent Peaceforce ([www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org](http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org)), a non-profit organization that trains people from many countries and sends them to serious conflict areas in a number of countries to provide nonviolent support and safety, debunk rumors, help opponents talk with each other, and so forth.

Let’s teach peace and nonviolence (including the history and power of nonviolence) in our public and private schools from the K-12 level through college. Let’s train “peer mediators” in K-12 so students can help other students resolve conflicts. This would create safer schools that can better educate students without the distraction of conflicts. This also would provide skills in nonviolence and mediation that kids can practice all their lives. If we teach and train enough kids, we could change our nation’s political culture and worldview.

Each person can explore, cultivate and deepen his or her best values. Each person can explore how to implement them in our daily lives and through special efforts. Anyone with a religious or spiritual faith can consider that faith’s grounding in love, nonviolence and peace.

Use the power of the pen. Write letters to the editor, articles for newsletters, church bulletins, and so forth. When more people read more alternative writings, they will realize that there is a better worldview.

Closing encouragement

Our nation is in a horrible mess. In many ways the mess has gotten worse now that the Republican Party controls all three branches of the federal government and many state and local governments. Even worse, Trump is doing many of the cruel things that fascists and dictators do.

**But this current crisis has been a long time in the making. This current crisis is the culmination of a worldview that has been very cruel, corrupt, stupid and harmful in many ways for many years. Our current crisis goes far beyond partisanship!**

An unjust society seeks to perpetuate itself, including perpetuating its injustices. People who benefit from those injustices defend them as “just the way things are.” Their worldviews are grounded in the unjust status quo.

We must expose and challenge the injustices. We must replace the dominant worldview with one grounded in truth, nonviolence, universal human rights, and environmental sustainability. Certainly we must oppose each specific public policy proposal that is stupid or cruel.

And we must also figure out how to publicly expose the stupidity and cruelty in the **worldview** that has been dominating our nation for the past decades. Its stupidity and cruelty have escalated in the past few years.

It is important for us to understand the **worldviews** explained in the Nov. and Dec. 2018 TV programs and in both essays, because:

• We need to understand the context in which the various issues exist, so we can strategize and organize more effective activities to work on the various issues.

• We need to ALSO work directly on the larger worldviews themselves, besides the individual issues.

**Ordinary Americans have better sense – and better hearts – and better values – than our society’s currently dominant worldview.** Let’s help ordinary Americans activate their brains and their hearts to **replace** the dominant worldview with a worldview that supports peace, human rights, a sustainable environment, and truth.

We do not need to settle for an “us vs. them” world. We are all in this together!

**As the World Social Forum says, “Another world is possible!” We can indeed replace the dominant worldview with one that is thoroughly positive and humane.**

It really is possible to renounce a destructive worldview such as the one that dominates U.S. politics and society – and to consciously choose a very different worldview that will better meet our needs. Let’s explore how to change the worldviews of individuals and of society as a whole.

If you would like to learn how to organize nonviolent grassroots movements for social and political change, please contact me. From time to time I offer a series of six workshops on “Nonviolent Grassroots Organizing” that will inform and empower you. Contact me at (360) 491-9093 or [glenanderson@integra.net](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net)

The essay you are reading is a greatly expanded version of what I said on a TV program that you can watch through my blog. This is PART 2 (December 2018). PART 1 was the November 2018 episode. Both TV programs – and both very thorough essays that expand upon the TV programs – are posted on the “TV Programs” part of my blog. Visit [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), click “TV Programs (Glen’s Parallax Perspectives),” and then click the “Worldviews” episodes for Part 1 and Part 2 (November and December 2018).

I always end my TV programs by affirming:

We're all one human family,

and we all share one planet.

We can create a better world,

but we all have to work at it.

The world needs you! You can help!

Many good sources of information exist.

Listed below are some of the excellent non-profit organizations that provide alternative sources of information, protect constitutional democracy, and promote governmental reforms. Some of these organizations explicitly promote nonviolence and grassroots organizing. Some work on specific issues and better worldviews.

**Alternative media and other general multi-issue sources of good information:**

AlterNet compiles news articles from a progressive perspective. [www.alternet.org](http://www.alternet.org)

Center for Public Integrity [www.publicintegrity.org](http://www.publicintegrity.org)   
This is one of the U.S.’s oldest and largest nonpartisan, nonprofit investigative news organizations. They use investigative journalism to serve democracy by revealing abuses of power, corruption and betrayal of public trust by powerful public and private institutions.

Common Dreams compiles news articles from a progressive perspective. [www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org)

Democracy Now! provides daily TV broadcasts and online reporting. [www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org)

*Dollars & Sense* is a left-oriented economics periodical. [www.dollarsandsense.org](http://www.dollarsandsense.org)

Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR) critiques media bias and provides good info. [www.fair.org](http://www.fair.org)

*In These Times* is a nationwide magazine for progressive policies, esp. including labor. [www.inthesetiems.com](http://www.inthesetiems.com)

*Mother Jones* is a great progressive magazine. [www.motherjones.com](http://www.motherjones.com)

*New Internationalist* [www.newint.org](http://www.newint.org)   
This British-based international magazine provides fresh information and insights about a very wide variety of issues, especially with articles written by people from many different nations.

*The Nation Magazine* is a long-standing progressive magazine. [www.thenation.com](http://www.thenation.com)

*The Progressive* is an excellent, truly progressive magazine. [www.progressive.org](http://www.progressive.org)

Truthout compiles news articles from a progressive perspective. [www.truthout.org](http://www.truthout.org)

*Washington Spectator* provides interesting, informative articles. [www.washingtonspectator.org](http://www.washingtonspectator.org)

*Yes! Magazine* provides positive solutions, sometimes inspiring. [www.yesmagazine.org](http://www.yesmagazine.org)

**Organizations promoting good government and other relevant issues:**

Albert Einstein Institution [www.aeinstein.org](http://www.aeinstein.org)   
For decades this non-profit org has promoted the research and writings of the late Gene Sharp, the world’s top expert in nonviolent resistance against oppressors and invaders. Gene Sharp’s excellent research and strategizing has been used worldwide to protect democracy and human rights nonviolently.

Alliance for Democracy [www.thealliancefordemocracy.org](http://www.thealliancefordemocracy.org)   
AfD works to strengthen real democracy by opposing “corporate personhood” and other elite abuses.

Alliance for Global Justice [www.afgj.org](http://www.afgj.org)

American Civil Liberties Union (national level) [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org)

American Civil Liberties Union (Washington State) [www.aclu-wa.org](http://www.aclu-wa.org)

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)  
This Quaker-based organization works for peace and social justice in the U.S. and elsewhere.

Americans for Tax Fairness [www.americansfortaxfairness.org](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org)

Americans United for the Separation of Church and State [www.au.org](http://www.au.org)

Amnesty International USA [www.amnestyusa.org](http://www.amnestyusa.org)

Avaaz [www.avaaz.org](http://www.avaaz.org)  
This worldwide non-profit org does great work on international solidarity and social justice issues, especially by providing online opportunities for people to send advocacy messages.

Backbone Campaign [www.backbonecampaign.org](http://www.backbonecampaign.org)   
This non-profit org is based on Vashon Island WA and works in many places to train and empower people to take creative nonviolent actions (including “artful activism”) for peace, the environments, honest government, and so forth.

Beyond Nuclear [www.beyondnuclear.org](http://www.beyondnuclear.org)   
They oppose nuclear power and nuclear weapons and the reckless disposal of nuclear waste.

Bread for the World [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)   
For decades they have worked effectively through churches and Congress to end hunger and poverty worldwide.

Campaign for Peace and Democracy [www.cpdweb.org](http://www.cpdweb.org)   
These folks have expertise in several international areas.

Center for Constitutional Rights [www.ccrjustice.org](http://www.ccrjustice.org)

Center on Conscience and War [www.centeronconscience.org](http://www.centeronconscience.org)   
This organization began to help World War II’s conscientious objectors, especially those grounded in religious faith. Its purpose and name evolved to help any kind of conscientious objectors to war.

Children’s Alliance [www.childrensalliance.org](http://www.childrensalliance.org)

Climate Truth [www.climatetruth.org](http://www.climatetruth.org)

Coalition to Stop Gun Violence [www.csgv.org](http://www.csgv.org)

Code Pink [www.codepink.org](http://www.codepink.org)   
This peace organization was started by women opposed to war and welcomes everyone to join it in working for peace in a variety of nonviolent ways.

Color of Change [www.colorofchange.org](http://www.colorofchange.org)   
They work to oppose racial injustice.

Common Cause [www.commoncause.org](http://www.commoncause.org)   
Since 1970 they have worked to oppose corruption and reform government and elections in many ways.

Corporate Accountability International [www.stopcorporateabuse.org](http://www.stopcorporateabuse.org)

Courage to Resist [www.couragetoresist.org](http://www.couragetoresist.org)   
This group especially helps people in the military oppose war.

Credo [www.credoaction.com](http://www.credoaction.com)  
This progressive communications company provides free advocacy opportunities.

Death Penalty Information Center [www.deathpenaltyinfo.org](http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org)

Defending Rights and Dissent [www.rightsanddissent.org](http://www.rightsanddissent.org)

Demand Progress [www.demandprogress.org](http://www.demandprogress.org)

Democracy for America [www.democracyforamerica.com](http://www.democracyforamerica.com)

Drug Policy Alliance [www.drugpolicy.org](http://www.drugpolicy.org)   
This organization works to replace the current cruel laws and policies with humane alternatives that are supported by valid research.

Earth Justice [www.earthjustice.org](http://www.earthjustice.org)

Earth Ministry [www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org)   
This Seattle-based Pacific NW organization affirms that environmentalism and climate protection must be part of religious faith, and they help all religions take actions – both practical and inspired – to protect the environment and climate.

Equal Justice USA [www.ejusa.org](http://www.ejusa.org)   
They work against the death penalty and for a fair system of criminal justice.

Fair Vote [www.fairvote.org](http://www.fairvote.org)   
They work to reform electoral systems to provide better democracy.

Faith Action Network [www.fanwa.org](http://www.fanwa.org)  
They bring together people of faith to work in WA State for social justice, especially at the Legislature.

Faithful America [www.faithfulamerica.org](http://www.faithfulamerica.org)  
They protect honest religious values from right-wing abuse.

Fellowship of Reconciliation [www.forusa.org](http://www.forusa.org)   
Since 1915 this organization has promoted pacifism, peace, and social justice, with special opportunities for people of religious faith, although it is open to everyone.

Fix Democracy First [www.fixdemocracyfirst.org](http://www.fixdemocracyfirst.org)   
This WA statewide org works to make elections more fair.

Food & Water Watch [www.foodandwaterwatch.org](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org)   
They organize nationally, state-by-state, and locally to protect clean, safe water, and they work especially hard to stop fracking.

Foreign Policy in Focus [www.fpif.org](http://www.fpif.org)  
This non-profit organization provides thoughtful information about many foreign policy issues.

Free Speech for People [www.freespeechforpeople.org](http://www.freespeechforpeople.org)   
This group also works to impeach Trump.

Friends Committee on National Legislation [www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org)  
This nationwide Quaker-based lobby for peace and social justice is highly respected.

Friends of the Earth [www.foe.org](http://www.foe.org)

George Lakoff has written books and articles about “framing” and “re-framing” issues and concepts. Although his Rockridge Institute no longer exists, a web search for his writings will provide many resources for you.

Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space [www.space4peace.org](http://www.space4peace.org)   
Their website provides a huge amount of information opposing the militarization of space and other military abuses of the world.

Global Zero [www.globalzero.org](http://www.globalzero.org)   
This organization works to abolish nuclear weapons.

Government is Good [www.governmentisgood.com](http://www.governmentisgood.com)  
This organization opposes mindless government-bashing and upholds the value of good government.

Governmental Accountability Project [www.whistleblower.org](http://www.whistleblower.org)   
They work against corruption and they protect whistleblowers.

Grassroots Global Justice Alliance [www.ggjalliance.org](http://www.ggjalliance.org)

Grassroots International [www.grassrootsonline.org](http://www.grassrootsonline.org)   
They connect people in the US with global movements solving the root causes of inequality and climate change.

Green Party [www.gp.org](http://www.gp.org)   
This progressive political party promotes nonviolence, peace, social & economic justice, a sustainable environment, grassroots organizing, etc.

Greenpeace [www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org)   
This bold non-profit organization works for the environment, climate, etc., and is especially good at nonviolent direct action.

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action [www.gzcenter.org](http://www.gzcenter.org)   
Since 1977 this organization – whose house is located across the fence from the Trident nuclear submarine base at Bangor in Kitsap County WA – has nonviolently opposed the Trident and all nuclear weapons. They educate the public and take nonviolent direct actions.

Health Care for All – WA [www.healthcareforallwa.org](http://www.healthcareforallwa.org)   
This is Washington State’s best organization working for universal single-payer health care.

Health Care Now! [www.healthcare-now.org](http://www.healthcare-now.org)   
This nationwide organization works for universal single-payer health care.

Institute for Local Self-Reliance [www.ilsr.org](http://www.ilsr.org)   
They work against concentrations of economic and political power, and for broad-based, human-scaled ownership with local accountability.

Institute for Policy Studies [www.ips-dc.org](http://www.ips-dc.org)   
They provide good research and progressive information on many issues, foreign and domestic.

Jobs with Justice [www.jwj.org](http://www.jwj.org)

Just Foreign Policy [www.justforeignpolicy.org](http://www.justforeignpolicy.org)

Justice Matters [www.justicematters.org](http://www.justicematters.org)   
They provide empowering legal services to vulnerable and marginalized people, specializing in immigrants and families, and survivors of human trafficking and other traumas, and helping them rebuild their lives.

Latin America Working Group [www.lawg.org](http://www.lawg.org)

Metta Center for Nonviolence [www.mettacenter.org](http://www.mettacenter.org)

MoveOn [www.moveon.org](http://www.moveon.org)   
This liberal/progressive organization works on a variety of issues related to democracy, etc.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) [www.naacp.org](http://www.naacp.org)

National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty [www.ncadp.org](http://www.ncadp.org)

National Council for a Peace Tax Fund [www.peacetaxfund.org](http://www.peacetaxfund.org)   
Since before World War II started, the U.S. government has recognized that when people who are Conscientious Objectors are drafted, they can perform alternative service as civilians rather than serve in the military. The Peace Tax Fund extends that concept to our tax dollars, which are currently “drafted” to fund war. This federal legislation would allow taxpayers who are Conscientious Objectors to divert the military’s share of their income tax into new peace-oriented programs.

National Priorities Project [www.nationalpriorities.org](http://www.nationalpriorities.org)   
This organization provides factual information and organizing suggestions for cutting the military budget and using the savings to fund human needs.

National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) [www.nrcat.org](http://www.nrcat.org)

National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee [www.nwtrcc.org](http://www.nwtrcc.org)   
This organization encourages people to consider refusing to pay war taxes. It offers information and confidential counseling.

Nonviolence International [www.nonviolenceinternational.net](http://www.nonviolenceinternational.net)   
This is an excellent resource. I wish it were much better known.

Nonviolent Peaceforce [www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org](http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org)   
They hire and train people from any nation to be sent to areas of severe conflict in order to dispel rumors, protect victims, and pursue peace. This is like Gandhi’s vision of a “peace army” (“Shanti Sena”).

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation [www.napf.org](http://www.napf.org)

Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) [www.nirs.org](http://www.nirs.org)

Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance [www.orepa.org](http://www.orepa.org)   
This group is located near the Oak Ridge, Tennessee, nuclear weapons complex. It opposes those and all nuclear weapons.

Oil Change International [www.priceofoil.org](http://www.priceofoil.org)

Pace e Bene [www.paceebene.org](http://www.paceebene.org)   
This is a great resource for profound nonviolence. It is grounded especially at the spiritual level, and not for Catholics only.

Peace Action [www.peace-action.org](http://www.peace-action.org)   
This group formed from the merger of two organizations opposing nuclear weapons: SANE and the Freeze Campaign. They continue to do good work.

Peace Alliance [www.peacealliance.org](http://www.peacealliance.org)

People for the American Way [www.pfaw.org](http://www.pfaw.org)   
This multi-issue progressive org tackles bias, right-wing extremism, and other problems.

People’s Action Institute [www.peoplesaction.org](http://www.peoplesaction.org)

Physicians for Social Responsibility [www.psr.org](http://www.psr.org)  
This nationwide group has an excellent history of working for peace, a healthy environment & climate, etc. Also see our statewide organization, Washington PSR, at [www.wpsr.org](http://www.wpsr.org)

Popular Resistance [www.popularresistance.org](http://www.popularresistance.org)

Power Shift (They work on oil issues.) [www.powershift.org](http://www.powershift.org)

Project on Governmental Oversight (POGO) [www.pogo.org](http://www.pogo.org)  
They research government spending and corruption, including within the Pentagon.

Public Citizen [www.citizen.org](http://www.citizen.org)  
Ralph Nader founded this bold, highly competent, multi-issue organization against corruption, etc.

Quaker Voice on Washington Public Policy [www.quakervoicewa.org](http://www.quakervoicewa.org)  
This statewide organization advocates for humane public policies at the state legislature

Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice [www.rachelcorriefoundation.org](http://www.rachelcorriefoundation.org)   
This organization educates and organizes the public to promote peace and justice in Palestine and Israel.

Regeneration International [www.regenerationinternational.org](http://www.regenerationinternational.org)   
They support sustainable agriculture.

Represent Us [www.represent.us](http://www.represent.us)   
They work to improve democracy and stop governmental corruption, especially related to elections.

Revolutionary Love Project [www.revolutionarylove.net](http://www.revolutionarylove.net)

Roots Action [www.rootsaction.org](http://www.rootsaction.org)

Showing up for Racial Justice (SURJ) [www.showingupforracialjustice.org](http://www.showingupforracialjustice.org)

Sierra Club and its various state-level and local branches [www.sierracluub.org](http://www.sierracluub.org)

Sightline Institute [www.sightline.org](http://www.sightline.org)   
They work on democracy, climate, effective communication, etc.

Social Security Works [www.socialsecurityworks.org](http://www.socialsecurityworks.org)  
They work to protect Social Security and Medicare from privatization and other weakening.

Southern Poverty Law Center [www.splc.org](http://www.splc.org)  
They work for civil rights and against all kinds of right-wing extremism and hate groups.

Stand [www.stand.earth](http://www.stand.earth)  
They work on a variety of environmental issues

Stand up to Oil [www.standuptooil.org](http://www.standuptooil.org)   
They work against oil pipelines, oil export facilities, etc.

Statewide Poverty Action Network [www.povertyaction.org](http://www.povertyaction.org)  
They work within Washington State.

The Fairness Project [www.thefairnessproject.org](http://www.thefairnessproject.org)  
They work nationwide at state and city levels to promote economic fairness.

The Other 98 [www.other98.org](http://www.other98.org)   
They nonviolently organize against the abuses of political and economic elites.

The Sentencing Project [www.sentencingproject.org](http://www.sentencingproject.org)   
They research criminal sentencing facts and advocate for humane sentencing.

United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ) [www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org)

Veterans for Peace [www.veteransforpeace.org](http://www.veteransforpeace.org)

Voices for Creative Nonviolence [www.vcnv.org](http://www.vcnv.org)   
These courageous folks are active in Afghanistan (with the Afghan Peace Volunteers) and elsewhere. They are boldly nonviolent.

Waging Nonviolence [www.wagingnonviolence.org](http://www.wagingnonviolence.org)   
Nonviolence is not passive or timid. This organization affirms that we must actually practice nonviolence. They offer insights, empowerment, and resources.

War Resisters League [www.warresisters.org](http://www.warresisters.org)   
For nearly a century the WRL has refused to participate in war and worked to eliminate the causes of war.

War Resisters International [www.wri-irg.org](http://www.wri-irg.org)   
WRL’s international level is a global network of grassroots antimilitarist and pacifist groups, working together for a world without war.

Washington Alliance for Gun Responsibility [www.wagunresponsibility.org](http://www.wagunresponsibility.org)   
They work statewide in WA. They supported I-1639, which voters passed in the November 2018 election.

Washington Against Nuclear Weapons [www.wanwcoalition.org](http://www.wanwcoalition.org)   
This statewide coalition does great work. It includes the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

Washington Community Action Network (Washington CAN) (They work for social, racial, gender, economic justice in WA State.) [www.washingtoncan.org](http://www.washingtoncan.org)

Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility [www.wpsr.org](http://www.wpsr.org)   
This statewide affiliate of PSR does excellent work opposing nuclear weapons (especially through Washington Against Nuclear Weapons [www.wanwcoalition.org](http://www.wanwcoalition.org) a statewide coalition that includes the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

WashPIRG [www.washpirg.org](http://www.washpirg.org)   
This group has its origin in a Ralph Nader-based organization. This consumer group stands up to powerful interests that threaten our health and safety, our financial security or our right to fully participate in our democratic society.

Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC) [www.work.org](http://www.work.org)   
They work on a variety of environmental issues in the Western U.S.

Working Families Party [www.workingfamilies.org](http://www.workingfamilies.org)  
They support politically progressive candidates who want economic justice for working class people.

World Beyond War [www.worldbeyondwar.org](http://www.worldbeyondwar.org)   
This is one of many non-profit organizations and many books, websites and other informational resources urge us to convert to a peaceful worldview. For example, World Beyond War has a 95 page booklet that lays out alternatives to war. ***“A Global Security System: An Alternative to War”*** is a thoughtful, well organized resource with practical information and great quotations. The Executive Summary is at <https://worldbeyondwar.org/executive-summary-global-security-system-alternative-war/>

**My blog offers much information on many relevant topics.**

I have posted to the “TV Programs” part of my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), the links for watching the November and December 2018 episodes of my TV program titled “Choose a Better Worldview to Build a Better World” and also the essays I wrote that provide much more thorough information and insights than I could squeeze into those one-hour TV programs.

For background on the U.S.’s current crisis and recommendations for solving it, I very highly recommend a very thorough essay I wrote in 2017 about **“How We Got into Our Current Crisis – and How to Get Out.”** It provides many insights and also addresses some of the worldview problems. Here is a direct link to that document on blog: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/how-we-got-into-our-current-crisis-and-how-to-get-out-this-thorough-essay-helps-us-understand-trumpism-and-stop-it>

I believe we really can turn things around and have written extensively to affirm that and propose how we could proceed. I highly recommend another article I wrote about this: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/widely-held-values-actually-oppose-trumpisms-cruelty-etc>

Many other parts of my blog include postings that I’ve mentioned in these essays. Those posts explain the dominant worldview and propose better alternatives. Especially relevant to this essay are the blog categories on “Nonviolence,” “Organizing,” and “Our Current Political Crisis.”

For information about a great variety of issues related to this topic see the following topic categories on my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org):

**Climate** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/climate>

**Conflict Resolution** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/conflict-resolution-also-see-nonviolence>

**Conservatism and Right Wing** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/conservatism-and-right-wing>

**Criminal Justice** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/criminal-justice-also-see-death-penalty>

**Death Penalty** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/death-penalty>

**Democracy, Electoral Reforms, Voting Rights** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/democracy-electoral-reforms-voting-rights>

**Economics, Labor, Capitalism, Trade, Poverty** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/economics-labor-capitalism-trade-poverty-also-see-taxes>

**Energy Issues** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/energy-issues-also-see-oil-climate-environment>

**Environment** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/environment>

**Examples of Parallax Views** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/examples-of-parallax-views>

**Gandhi, Mohandas (the Mahatma)** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/dandshi-mohandas-the-mahatma>

**Governmental Abuses** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/governmental-abuses>

**Guns** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/guns>

**Health Care Reform** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/health-care-reform>

**Human Rights** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/human-rights>

**Immigrants and Refugees** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/immigrants-and-refugees>

**International Affairs** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/international-affairs-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions>

**Iran** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/international-affairs-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions/iran>

**Iraq** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/international-affairs-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions/iraq>

**Judicial and Constitutional** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/judicial-and-constitutional>

**King, Martin Luther** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/king-martin-luther>

**Korea** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/international-affairs-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions/korea>

**Latin America** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/international-affairs-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions/latin-america>

**Local Government** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/local-government>

**Media (News and Other Media)** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/media-news-and-other>

**Middle East** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/international-affairs-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions/middle-east>

**Military Service, Recruitment, Draft, Conscientious Objection** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/military-service-recruitment-draft-conscientious-objection>

**Military Spending** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/military-spending>

**Nonviolence** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/nonvilence-also-see-peace-conflict-resolution-organizing-activism>

**Nuclear Weapons** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/nuclear-weapons>

**Oil** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/oil-also-see-environment-and-climate>

**Olympia Area**  http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/olympia-area

**Organizing and Activism** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/organizing-activism-also-see-nonviolence-outreach>

**Other** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/other>

**Our Current Political Crisis** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/our-current-political-crisis>

**Outreach, Framing, Re-Framing** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/outreach-framingreframing-also-see-organizing-activism>

**Peace** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/peace-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions>

**Political Parties and Elections** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/political-parties-and-elections-also-see-democracy>

**Race** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/race>

**Religion and Spirituality** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/religion-and-spirituality>

**Russia** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/international-affairs-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions/russia>

**Science** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/science>

**Space Weapons** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/space-weapons>

**Syria** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/international-affairs-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions/syria>

**Taxes** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/taxes>

**Terrorism and 9-11 Attacks** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/terrorism-and-9-11-attacks>

**Trump and Trumpism** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/trump-and-trumpism>

**TV Programs (“Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” series)** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/tv-programs-parallax-perspectives-series>

**TV programs to watch through www.olympiafor.org** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/list-of-146-tv-programs-to-watch-through-www-olympiafor-org>

**Vietnam** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/international-affairs-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions/vietnam>

**Young People** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/young-people>

**Feel free to contact me directly.**

Besides getting information about a wide variety of issues related to peace, social justice and nonviolence through my blog, [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), you may also contact me directly at (360) 491-9093 or [glenanderson@integra.net](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net)