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| “Choose a Bold, Humane Future!” |
| QUOTATIONS supporting this topic |

Glen Anderson’s November 2022 TV program is titled,  
“Choose a Bold, Humane Future!”

You can watch it through his blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).

Click the “TV Programs” link and scroll down to this program’s title.

Click this title, so you can watch the TV video online.

The same link includes a document that thoroughly summarizes what we said on TV.

That document includes some quotations that support this topic.

Also, the same link includes the document you are reading now.

This document includes many more QUOTATIONS about these aspects of the topic.

A few quotations are listed under more than one of the headings listed below.

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**Status Quo and Systemic Problems:**

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| “Fighting, cheating, and bullying have trapped us in our present situation; now we need training in new practices to find a way out. It may seem impractical and idealistic, but we have no alternative to compassion, recognizing human value and the oneness of humanity.” -- The Dalai Lama |
| “If those in charge of our society -- politicians, corporate executives, and owners of press and television -- can dominate our ideas, they will be secure in their power. They will not need soldiers patrolling the streets. We will control ourselves.” -- Howard Zinn, Declarations of Independence, 1991 |
| “If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of oppressor.” -- Archbishop Desmond Tutu |
| “Indeed the three policy pillars of the neo-liberal age – privatization of the public sphere, deregulation of the corporate sector, and the lowering of income and corporate taxes, paid for with cuts to public spending – are each incompatible with many of the actions we must take to bring our emissions to safe levels. And together these pillars form an ideological wall that has blocked a serious response to climate change for decades.” -- Naomi Klein |
| “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”  -- Ecclesiastes 1:2 (New International Version)  “Most men lead lives of quiet desperation.” -- Henry David Thoreau  In light of these two wise statements, we must ask, “How can we help people find meaning for their lives – and live their lives meaningfully?” -- Glen Anderson |
| “Our problems stem from our acceptance of this filthy, rotten system.” -- Dorothy Day, pacifist, activist, co-founder of the Catholic Worker |
| “The alternative: a new way of living based on faith instead of fear, peacemaking instead of moneymaking, community instead of competition. We are so addicted to the latter that it is hard to imagine the former.” -- Richard Rohr |
| “The American people know that the system is rigged against them.” -- U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, speaking to attendees at the AFL-CIO’s 2013 annual meeting |
| “The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country.” -- Abraham Lincoln, State of the Union message, Dec. 1, 1862 |
| “The success of the system is to make unthinkable the possibility of alternatives.” -- Herbert Marcuse |
| “The underlying fact that we tend to overlook is that while systems do not listen to people very well, they are made up of the very people to whom they do not listen. The existence of a given system depends upon the cooperation of all those who do not benefit from it and all who are hurt by it, as well as upon the smaller number of people who gain status or wealth from it. If those of us who protest the injustice of our system were instead to withdraw our support from the system, then change would begin.” -- Shelley Douglass, ***The Power of Noncooperation*** |

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| “There is a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart, that you can't take part; you can't even passively take part, and you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels, upon the levers, upon all the apparatus, and you've got to make it stop. And you've got to indicate to the people who run it, to the people who own it, that unless you're free, the machine will be prevented from working at all!” -- Mario Savio, a key activist in the Berkeley Free Speech Movement, 1964 |
| “Violence has no practical results-toward building a strengthened community or solving the problems of human prejudice, bias, and injustice. People accept the ideological or even religious myth that if you want to get things done, violence is the way. But violence is not even the faster way. It complicates issues, increases and escalates the pain, postpones the hard work of facing the problem and healing it. Violence can kill somebody and destroy buildings. But it cannot build a house or create a community that is more just and fair.” -- Rev. James Lawson |
| “We cannot simply prosecute or incarcerate our way to becoming a safer nation. Today, a vicious cycle of poverty, criminality and incarceration traps too many Americans and weakens too many communities. However, many aspects of our criminal justice system may actually exacerbate this problem, rather than alleviate it.” In August 2013 U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder told this to the American Bar Association's convention in San Francisco. |
| “You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.” -- Buckminster Fuller |
| “Can any of you seriously say the Bill of Rights could get through Congress today? It wouldn’t even get out of committee.” -- F. Lee Bailey, a famous attorney |
| “If we do not change our direction, we are likely to end up where we are going.” -- Ancient Chinese proverb |
| “Liberty without equality is a name of noble sound and squalid result.” -- L.T. Hobhouse, a British writer from decades ago |
| “Once we believe in the inevitability of war, war becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Once we are committed to war’s instrumentality in pursuit of peace, we begin the Orwellian journey to the semantic netherworld where War IS Peace, where the momentum of war overwhelms hopes for peace. And once we wrap doctrines perpetuating war in the arms of justice, we can easily legitimate the wholesale slaughter of innocents... Our ability to rethink the terms of our existence, to explore the possibility of peace without war, may well determine whether we end war, or war ends us.” -- Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) |
| “The real focus of American violence is in the very culture itself, its mass media, its extreme individualism and competitiveness, its inflated myths of virility and toughness, and its overwhelming preoccupation with the power of nuclear, chemical, bacteriological, and psychological overkill. If we live in what is essentially a culture of overkill, how can we be surprised at finding violence in it? Can we get to the root of the trouble? In my opinion, the best way to do it would have been the classic way of religious humanism and nonviolence exemplified by Gandhi.” -- Thomas Merton |
| “The ultimate, hidden truth of the world is that it is something that we make, and could just as easily make differently.” -- David Graeber |
| “When you’re used to privilege, equality feels like oppression.” (I don’t know who said this originally, but I’ve seen many people repeat this insight.) |
| “With unleashed white supremacy and misogyny, with the world teetering on the edge of ecological collapse, with the very last vestiges of the public sphere set to be devoured by capital, it’s clear that we need to do more than draw a line in the sand and say ‘no more.’ Yes, we need to do that and we need to chart a credible and inspiring path to a different future. And that future ... has to be somewhere we have never been before.” -- Naomi Klein, ***No Is Not Enough*** |
| Greta Thunberg said, “Today’s business as usual is turning into a crime against humanity.” |
| Instead of declaring a “climate emergency,” Biden took only some small steps. [**https://insideclimatenews.org/news/21072022/climate-advocates-hoping-biden-would-declare-a-climate-emergency-are-disappointed-by-the-small-steps-he-announced-on-wednesday/?utm\_source=InsideClimate+News&utm\_campaign=89e8409390-&utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_29c928ffb5-89e8409390-327502737**](https://insideclimatenews.org/news/21072022/climate-advocates-hoping-biden-would-declare-a-climate-emergency-are-disappointed-by-the-small-steps-he-announced-on-wednesday/?utm_source=InsideClimate+News&utm_campaign=89e8409390-&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_29c928ffb5-89e8409390-327502737) |
| Many people say we need to “get back to normal” after Trump – and “get back to normal” after the pandemic. Actually, “normal” had been grossly unacceptable for many, many years before Trump and the pandemic came along. We need to boldly envision the world we want and organize strategically savvy nonviolent grassroots movements to accomplish bold goals for peace, social justice, the environment, a fair economy, and every sector of society. We can do so much better than reverting to merely “normal**.” Let’s create the world we really want** instead of what used to be “normal.” |
| Once when John Maynard Keynes testified before parliament, a member said something to the effect, “That is quite different from what you told us a year ago.” He replied, “When faced with new information, I change what I believe. What do you do, sir?” |
| Our current political crisis was NOT caused by one person and NOT by one political party. They are SYMPTOMS of long-standing social and political problems that festered and now erupted, including:   * Big-money corruption of political parties and election campaigns * News media valuing entertainment and profits instead of truthfully informing the public * Greedy business corporations that put profits ahead of human rights and environmental health * Longstanding bias and discrimination on the basis of race, religion sex, sexual orientation, immigrant status, economic class, etc.   We can solve these problems if we:   * Ground ourselves in humane, compassionate values * Educate ourselves about the real issues * Nonviolently expose and resist the bad stuff * Organize nonviolent grassroots movements for social, economic, environmental, and political change   For many great resources for solving these problems, contact Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 [**glenanderson@integra.net**](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net) |
| People at both ends of the political spectrum get angry at – and obsess upon – the perceived evils of the people at the other end of the spectrum. We spend a huge amount of time and effort opposing what we oppose. Let’s be proactive and create better alternatives to the status quo. I wrote a short article and posted it to my blog: **“Besides Protesting What We Oppose, Let’s Organize Even More Vigorously to Accomplish Positive Goals.”** Read it at this blog link: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/besides-protesting-what-we-oppose-lets-organize-even-more-vigorously-to-accomplish-positive-goals**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/besides-protesting-what-we-oppose-lets-organize-even-more-vigorously-to-accomplish-positive-goals) |
| Stop the wars. Solve the real problems. |

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| Subconsciously, those in power know that the US Empire is withering, so they escalate the rhetoric to maintain public support for the Empire. Those in power routinely call every soldier a “hero.” This is a vain attempt to justify the US Empire as heroic, and therefore moral, even while they subconsciously know it is bankrupt – morally and politically, as well as financially. |
| The system is not broken. It is “fixed” in the sense that it has been corrupted and entrenched. |
| The U.S. imprisons more people than ANY other nation on earth. Our criminal “justice” system is vastly more punitive and expensive than those of other Western democracies -- but it only makes problems worse. It causes more crime, and it fails to solve the underlying problems. It is based on REVENGE instead of rehabilitation. While purporting to punish crime, it actually reinforces barriers between races, social classes, and ages. “RESTORATIVE” justice would heal the brokenness that crimes cause (and reveal) within communities and individuals. We also need a “TRANSFORMATIVE” justice that would address the root causes of crime and create true healing for social and economic justice. We must rehabilitate individuals and our whole society and economy. |
| This quotation about George Orwell had written seems relevant nowadays:  “To live with the belief that your government is benign while experiencing each day its malignancy requires, Orwell argued, a constant act of double think. Double think is the act of holding ‘simultaneously two opinions which canceled out, knowing them to be contradictory and believing in both of them. . .. to forget whatever it [is] necessary to forget, then to draw it back into memory again at the moment when it is needed, and then promptly to forget it again: and above all, to apply the same process to the process itself.’  “Readers of ***1984*** often question whether doublethink can ever actually be done, which is ironic, because the questioning of double think is, itself, an act of double think. Americans each day have to perform the acrobatics of double think to maintain the faith of American identity and believe the U.S. is the chief exporter and supporter of democracy while knowing that it consistently conducts coups that remove inconvenient democratically thriving governments.”  This quotation came from an article about the recent confirmation of the (often denied) US role in the 2019 overthrow of Evo Morales in Bolivia. The article is here: [**https://original.antiwar.com/Ted\_Snider/2020/06/09/time-to-confess-to-the-bolivian-coup**](https://original.antiwar.com/Ted_Snider/2020/06/09/time-to-confess-to-the-bolivian-coup) |
| 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 using our best values and our best thinking to choose the wisest, most compassionate ones  -- and also ENCOURAGE AND EMPOWER OTHER PEOPLE to explore wider possibilities too. |
| **We need to recognize and debunk the commonplace baloney that keeps us trapped in unjust political and economic systems.** Many conservatives oppose using government money to meet poor people’s needs. They think voluntary donations to charity should suffice. Let’s apply their position to other aspects of governmental budgets. Let’s take big business off corporate welfare, and let’s stop giving tax breaks for rich people. Let’s stop subsidizing oil companies and nuclear power companies. If you want to financially support a billionaire or an oil company, write a check payable to them and mail it to them. But don’t make the rest of us subsidize them. |

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| When Obama was President, I wrote this. It needs to be repeated now – both regarding the climate and regarding other issues too. President Obama says the climate crisis is serious, but he shies away from taking the bold Executive actions that this crisis requires. Instead, in mid-February 2013 he said he would wait to work out a bipartisan deal with Republicans in Congress. This is, of course, doomed to failure. A real leader would lead. Obama persistently refuses to act as boldly as the climate crisis requires.  In early 1968, when Martin Luther King, Jr., was being criticized for taking a bold, unpopular stand against the Vietnam war, King said: “Ultimately, a genuine leader is not a searcher of consensus but a molder of consensus. On some positions cowardice asks the question, is it safe? Expediency asks the question, is it politic? Vanity asks the question, is it popular? But conscience asks the question, is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right.” |

**Truth vs. Baloney:**

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| “A populace deprived of the ability to separate lies from truth, that has become hostage to the fictional semblance of reality put forth by pseudo-events, is no longer capable of sustaining a free society.” -- Chris Hedges in his book ***Empire of Illusion*** |
| “All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.” -- Schopenhauer |
| “In a time of deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act.” -- George Orwell |
| **“The emperor has no clothes!”**  -- A child quoted by Hans Christian Andersen |
| “The enormous gap between what US leaders do in the world and what Americans think their leaders are doing is one of the great propaganda accomplishments.” -- Michael Parenti |
| “There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there always has been ... nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that ‘my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.’” -- Isaac Asimov |
| “There is one thing stronger than all the armies in the world, and that is an idea whose time has come.” -- Victor Hugo |
| “We do not err because truth is difficult to see. It is visible at a glance. We err because this is more comfortable.” -- Alexander Solzhenitsyn |
| “The ideal subject of totalitarian rule is not the convinced Nazi or the dedicated communist, but people for whom the distinction between fact and fiction, true and false, no longer exists.” ― Hannah Arendt |
| As Vaclav Havel describes it, “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” (quoted in ***Engaging the Powers***, by Walter Wink). |

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| Fascist history repeats itself now with Fox News and other right-wing propagandists. Decades ago when Benito Mussolini was imposing fascism upon Italy, he said, “The crowd doesn’t have to know. All they have to do is believe and submit to being shaped.” Nowadays decent Americans must vigorously protect truth and democracy throughout our society, including our media. |
| Glen Anderson wrote this: “Expose the lies. Replace them with the truth. Act on the truth.” |
| Lessons of Wikileaks:  1. The government can invade OUR privacy, but it doesn't like it when we quote what THEY tried to keep secret.  2. Mainstream news media are embarrassed because Wikileaks volunteers are doing investigative reporting while mainstream news media merely serve as stenographers to the powerful interests (when they aren't repeating celebrity gossip).  3. Follow the centuries-old Quaker advice (“Speak truth to power”) and the older Christian advice (“The truth will make you free”). |
| Mohandas K. (the “Mahatma”) Gandhi said: “An error does not become truth by reason of multiplied propagation, nor does truth become error because nobody sees it. Truth stands, even if there be no public support. It is self sustained.” |
| John F. Kennedy said: “We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people.” |
| Glen Anderson wrote: “Our efforts must be BOLD and SOLIDLY GROUNDED IN TRUTH. Trump – before he became president, while in office, and now afterward – has always deliberately promoted lies and suppressed the truth in many ways. President Obama also had fought against truth and transparency, just less blatantly. The Obama Administration has harassed journalists and whistleblowers worse than Nixon or other presidents in recent memory. He has prosecuted more journalists and whistleblowers under the 97-year-old Espionage Act than all previous presidents combined. The reason is easy to understand. **A dying empire needs to censor the truth in order to perpetuate the illusion that the empire is still alive and well.”** |
| The first casualty of war is truth. Most of the rest are innocent civilians. |
| Visit Glen’s blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), and see the various issue categories, including the ones for “Organizing” and “Nonviolence” and “Peace” and “Economics” and “Climate.” |
| We need to recognize and debunk the commonplace baloney that keeps us trapped in unjust political and economic systems. |

**Politics:**

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| “...[T]he moral test of government is how that government treats those in the dawn of life, the children; those in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those in the shadows of life: the sick, the needy, and the handicapped.” -- Hubert H. Humphrey, US Vice President 1965-69 |
| “[B]oth political parties are now adept at enacting hollow laws that appear to serve large public purposes but are actually wired with special-interest traps that guarantee continued evasion and meager results.” -- William Greider, ***The Soul of Capitalism***, page 309 |
| “Our political class, and its courtiers on the airwaves, insists that if we refuse to comply, if we step outside of the Democratic Party, if we rebel, we will make things worse. This game of accepting the lesser evil enables the steady erosion of justice and corporate plundering.” -- Chris Hedges |
| “There can be no faith in government if our highest offices are excused from scrutiny - they should be setting the example of transparency.” -- Edward Snowden |
| “American politics is the entertainment wing of the military industrial complex.” -- Frank Zappa |
| Both of the big political parties cause serious problems.  Republican Party leaders deliberately and enthusiastically make problems worse.  Republican Party members obediently follow along.  Not anywhere near enough Democratic Party members want to solve problems (Green New Deal, Medicare for All, tax extremely rich people, cut the Pentagon budget, etc.)  Democratic Party “leaders” refuse to solve the big problems that majorities of voters want to solve. Democratic “leaders” rebuff the voters – and wonder why Democrats lose elections. |
| Congress and presidents who cater to Big Business want to weaken or abolish many laws and regulations that have been protecting the environment. This would cause more pollution. The “Make America Great” slogan is baloney because 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. |
| Decades ago an elderly friend told me about living in Germany when Hitler was coming to power. My friend told other friends what Hitler would do when he gained more power. Nobody would believe that Hitler would do bad things because they kept saying that Germany was a highly civilized nation of music and science and philosophy, so the cruelties my friend was warning about could never occur there.  Now most Americans believe the U.S. is the greatest nation on earth. They believe our nation is highly civilized and the world’s leader in freedom and democracy. Most Americans believe the U.S. would never sink into fascist cruelty.  Hitler promoted “*Deutschland über alles*.” Trump promotes “America First” and “America #1.” Look at other similarities regarding racism, deliberate cruelty, suppression of dissent, dictatorial one-man rule, the perversion of honest democracy, political abuses of religion, the subservience of loyal followers to the great leader, etc.  Yes, it really can happen here! |
| Dennis Kucinich concluded this from his several decades of work as a city, state and federal elected official:  “Government has become an exclusive, closed-loop system … a secret society, which does not grant entry unless, as in my first successful election, you remove the doors. Access to government has become, then, ever more exclusive. Only an enlightened, active citizenry can remove the barriers.”  He added: “Big money and corporate leverage have driven Cleveland politics for the past four decades. City Hall is a Potemkin village.\* Break through the facade and you see corporate interests which control local government, with no discernible benefit to people who live in the city.”  \* Potemkin village: In politics and economics, a Potemkin village is any construction whose sole purpose is to provide an external façade to a country which is faring poorly, making people believe that the country is faring better. See info here: [**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potemkin\_village**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potemkin_village) |
| Despite the “conventional wisdom” that candidates must move to the political center in order to be “electable,” progressives have proven that truly progressive candidates can win if they:   * + Run on truly progressive values and issues   + Devise savvy strategies that will attract support and volunteers   + Inspire and mobilize volunteers and voters |
| George Carlin said this about politicians: “Now, there’s one thing you might have noticed I don’t complain about: politicians. Everybody complains about politicians. Everybody says they suck. Well, where do people think these politicians come from? They don’t fall out of the sky. They don’t pass through a membrane from another reality. They come from American parents and American families, American homes, American schools, American churches, American businesses and American universities, and they are elected by American citizens. This is the best we can do folks. This is what we have to offer. It’s what our system produces: Garbage in, garbage out.” |
| Immigrants make America great. Environmentalists, Water Protectors, and Climate Activists make America great. Organizers of grassroots movements for peace, social justice, and Left economics make America great. |
| In 1776 the Declaration of Independence included this in its list of grievances against the British empire: “In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury.”  Doesn't this sound familiar as grassroots people who work for peace, social justice, and economic fairness petition the U.S. government for redress of our grievances? In 1776 the American colonists – based on principles of democracy and human rights – launched a revolution. Why can’t Americans nowadays launch a nonviolent revolution of resistance against the oppression that grinds us down nowadays and denies democracy and human rights? |
| In 1912 – BEFORE he was elected president – Woodrow Wilson said this about democracy in the United States: “Suppose you go to Washington and try to get at your government. You will always find that while you are politely listened to, the men really consulted are the big men who have the biggest stakes – the big bankers, the big manufacturers, the big masters of commerce.... Every time it has come to a critical question, these gentlemen have been yielded to, and their demands treated as the demands that should be followed as a matter of course. The government of the United States is a foster child of the special interests.” |
| Instead of declaring a “climate emergency,” Biden took only some small steps. [**https://insideclimatenews.org/news/21072022/climate-advocates-hoping-biden-would-declare-a-climate-emergency-are-disappointed-by-the-small-steps-he-announced-on-wednesday/?utm\_source=InsideClimate+News&utm\_campaign=89e8409390-&utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_29c928ffb5-89e8409390-327502737**](https://insideclimatenews.org/news/21072022/climate-advocates-hoping-biden-would-declare-a-climate-emergency-are-disappointed-by-the-small-steps-he-announced-on-wednesday/?utm_source=InsideClimate+News&utm_campaign=89e8409390-&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_29c928ffb5-89e8409390-327502737) |
| Serious problems persist, but NEARLY ALL INCUMBENTS – in BOTH of the big political parties – fail to take strong, effective actions. VOTERS MUST REPLACE ALL of those negligent “do-nothing” incumbents. |

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| The results produced by the U.S.’s current political system show how utterly broken that system is. Utterly incompetent and reckless and cruel people are running our government, despite the facts that George W. Bush and Donald Trump had lost the popular vote. In 2016 the two big political parties nominated two of the most unpopular politicians for president. Big business and extremely rich people fund the election campaigns. During the 2016 campaign, mainstream corporate news media failed us; they sought ratings and advertising income instead of pursuing the truth. Donald Trump and Republicans are imposing corruption and fascism upon us. Ordinary Americans must nonviolently resist – and organize from the grassroots – for what we want instead. Let’s connect with individuals and non-profit organizations to organize nonviolently for solutions to the big systemic problems. WE CAN DO IT! |

**Democracy:**

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| “[B]oth political parties are now adept at enacting hollow laws that appear to serve large public purposes but are actually wired with special-interest traps that guarantee continued evasion and meager results.” -- William Greider, ***The Soul of Capitalism***, page 309 |
| “A nation can be one or the other, a democracy or an imperialist, but it can’t be both. If it sticks to imperialism, it will, like the old Roman Republic, on which so much of our system was modeled, like the old Roman Republic, it will lose its democracy to a domestic dictatorship.” -- Chalmers Johnson in his book ***Nemesis: the Last Days of the American Republic*** |
| “American democracy is decaying because freedom has been mortgaged to bear the costs of empire.” -- Marcus G. Raskin and A. Carl Levan, in ***In Democracy's Shadow: The Secret World of National Security*** |
| “The freedom of which we boast is not lost in shattered Dunkirks and blazing Pearl Harbours, ... such events call forth the utmost resistance. Freedom is lost little by little in noiseless theft, a fragment of concession to expediency here, a morsel of 'what does it matter?' there. Then, shockingly, we find that freedom has disappeared in the regimentation of not only our daily doings but our eternal ambitions.” -- The Royal Bank of Canada Monthly Letter, January 1966 |
| “The survival of democracy depends on the renunciation of violence and the development of nonviolent means to combat evil and advance the good.” -- AJ Muste |
| “We can either have democracy in this country or we can have great wealth concentrated in the hands of a few. But we can’t have both.” -- US Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis |
| “Democracy is not what governments do. It’s what people do.” -- Howard Zinn |
| “Fear of the people is the sickness of all those who belong to authority; the people, for those in power, are the enemy.” -- Pierre-Joseph Proudhon wrote this in France in the 1840s |
| “Government is instituted for the common good; for the protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness of the people; and not for profit, honor, or private interest of any one man, family, or class of men; therefore, the people alone have an incontestable, unalienable, and indefeasible right to institute government; and to reform, alter, or totally change the same, when their protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness require it.” -- John Adams, 1776 |
| “The supreme issue, involving all others, is the encroachment of the powerful few upon the rights of the many.” -- Robert M. La Follette, a progressive from Wisconsin a century ago |
| “The survival of democracy depends on the renunciation of violence and the development of nonviolent means to combat evil and advance the good.” — A.J. Muste |
| A guest on one of my previous TV programs said only 5% of democracy is about voting, but 95% of democracy is about grass-roots organizing to actually change the realities from the grassroots up. |
| Americans wrongly assume that “democracy” means exactly two political parties – and no more. Other countries with more parties give voters more choices, achieve higher voter turnout, and have more democratic governments. |
| Authoritarianism is replacing democracy. In the U.S., Turkey, parts of Europe, etc., authoritarianism (with fascist tendencies) is displacing democracy. This is yet one more problem that is GLOBAL in scope and requires a GLOBAL solution. Let’s reach out to our friends and our organizational allies and organize from the grassroots to achieve more profound democracy, a sustainable climate, global economic justice, support for world citizenship to replace narrow nationalism, etc., etc., etc. |
| Congress and presidents who cater to Big Business want to weaken or abolish many laws and regulations that have been protecting the environment. This would cause more pollution. The “Make America Great” slogan is baloney because 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. |
| Nowadays American society is horribly polarized. A large portion of our population is believing lies and is consumed by hatred against various kinds of social and political enemies. On January 6, 2021, a huge mob of armed thugs – actually, domestic terrorists – violently attacked and occupied the U.S. Capitol in an attempt to violently overthrow the November 2020 election.  Most Americans oppose their crimes, including sedition. But retaliating with hatred against them only perpetuates the cycle of hatred. In one of Martin Luther King’s most famous sermons “Loving Your Enemies”), Dr. King preached: “Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”  It is not enough to merely defeat these violent insurrectionists. We must affirm the truth and heal the anger, racism, and other forces that led to this insurrection in Washington DC and around the country.  A century and a half ago the Union Army decisively defeated the Confederacy, but the Civil War did not end racism. Now – 150 years later – some Americans are flying the Confederate battle flag. This is the flag of people who were so obsessed with supporting slavery that they broke away from the U.S. and made war against the U.S. government.  We must take strong political (constitutional, legal) actions to stop the crimes. But those actions will NOT solve the underlying problems of ignorance, racism, fascism or cruelty.  We need to figure out how to ACTUALLY HEAL the underlying problems. Nonviolence is a crucial part of this. You can watch Glen Anderson’s November and December 2020 TV programs about de-polarizing American society. They’re at the “TV Programs” part of my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).  Some people who have left violent gangs (urban, racist, right-wing, etc.) have been reaching out to their fellow gang members to help them escape and heal. We need to figure out a variety of smart remedies for healing the Trump cult members, racists, fascists, and other folks on those gangs. |

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| Decades ago an elderly friend told me about living in Germany when Hitler was coming to power. My friend told other friends what Hitler would do when he gained more power. Nobody would believe that Hitler would do bad things because they kept saying that Germany was a highly civilized nation of music and science and philosophy, so the cruelties my friend was warning about could never occur there.  Now most Americans believe the U.S. is the greatest nation on earth. They believe our nation is highly civilized and the world’s leader in freedom and democracy. Most Americans believe the U.S. would never sink into fascist cruelty.  Hitler promoted “*Deutschland über alles*.” Trump promotes “America First” and “America #1.” Look at other similarities regarding racism, deliberate cruelty, suppression of dissent, dictatorial one-man rule, the perversion of honest democracy, political abuses of religion, the subservience of loyal followers to the great leader, etc.  Yes, it really can happen here! |

**Economics:**

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| “And the banks – hard to believe in a time when we’re facing a banking crisis that many of the banks created – are still the most powerful lobby on Capitol Hill. And they frankly own the place.” -- U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-Illinois), April 2009, while trying unsuccessfully to pass legislation to help people by reforming bankruptcy laws. |
| “Congress is not preparing to defend the people of the United States. It is planning to protect the capital of American speculators and investors.... Incidentally this preparation will benefit the manufacturers of munitions and war machines.... Strike against war, for without you no battles can be fought! Strike against manufacturing shrapnel and gas bombs and all other tools of murder! Strike against preparedness that means death and misery to millions of human beings! Be not dumb, obedient slaves in an army of destruction! Be heroes in an army of construction!” -- Helen Keller at Carnegie Hall January 5, 1916 |
| “Corporations, which should be the carefully restrained creatures of the law and the servants of the people, are fast becoming the people’s masters.” -- President Grover Cleveland, 4th State of the Union Address on December 3, 1888 |
| “For the evils of racism, poverty and militarism to die, a new set of values must be born. Our economy must become more person-centered than property- and profit-centered. our government must depend more on its moral power than on its military power.” -- Martin Luther King, Jr., on p. 133 of his 1967 book, ***Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?*** |
| “I spent 33 years and four months in active military service and during that period I spent most of my time as a high class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism. I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street. I helped purify Nicaragua for the International Banking House of Brown Brothers in 1902-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for the American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras right for the American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that Standard Oil went on its way unmolested. Looking back on it, I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents.” -- Smedley D. Butler, ***War is a Racket: The Antiwar Classic by America's Most Decorated Soldier*** |
| “Poverty is not an accident. Like slavery and apartheid it is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings.” -- Nelson Mandela |
| “The poverty of our century is unlike that of any other. It is not, as it was before, the result of natural scarcity, but of a set of priorities imposed upon the rest of the world by the rich. Consequently, the modern poor are not pitied, but written off as trash.” -- John Berger |
| “We can either have democracy in this country or we can have great wealth concentrated in the hands of a few. But we can't have both.” -- US Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis |
| “What would be the result in heaven itself if those who get there first instituted private property in the surface of heaven, and parceled it out in absolute ownership among themselves, as we parcel out the surface of the earth?” -- Henry George |
| “Man did not make the earth, and, though he had a natural right to occupy it, he had no right to locate as his property in perpetuity any part of it; neither did the Creator of the earth open a land-office, from whence the first title-deeds should issue.” -- Thomas Paine |
| “When resources are degraded, we start competing for them, whether it is at the local level in Kenya, where we had tribal clashes over land and water, or at the global level, where we are fighting over water, oil, and minerals. So one way to promote peace is to promote sustainable management and equitable distribution of resources.” -- [**Wangari Maathai**](https://default.salsalabs.org/T0e29bcf6-4581-4b65-9973-80f0a64ac5db/73f213d0-9291-4d36-89ed-21024f132530) |
| “Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people.” - Isaiah 10: 1-2 |
| “Changing the structure and rules of the global economy will require a mass movement based on messages of compassion, justice and equality as well as collaborative and democratic processes . If we stay positive, inclusive and democratic we have a truly historic opportunity to build a global movement for social justice.” -- Medea Benjamin |
| “Environmental degradation is … driven by the triple imperatives of GDP growth at almost any cost, sustained corporate profits, and the projection of national power around the world. … Rebuilding people power requires a fusion of progressive efforts, which means that progressives of all stripes must come out of our individual silos to build an unprecedented social movement.” -- James Gustave Speth and J. Phillip Thompson III on page 23 of ***The Nation***’s May 9/16, 2016, issue |
| “Once weapons were manufactured to fight wars. Now wars are manufactured to sell weapons.”  -- Arundhati Roy |
| “Replace capitalism with something nice.” -- Sign at an anti-austerity protest in England, October 2012 |
| “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, materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.” -- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. |
| “What does Wall Street do that benefits society? Doctors and nurses make patients healthier. Firefighters and EMTs save lives. Telecommunications companies and smart phone manufacturers permit people to communicate with each other at a distance. Automobile executives and airline pilots help people close that distance. Teachers and professors help students learn. Wall Street bankers help mostly just themselves.” -- Lynn Stout, Cornell Law School, September 1, 2016 |
| “When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, militarism and economic exploitation are incapable of being conquered.” -- Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., in his “Beyond Vietnam” speech on April 4, 1967 |
| Alan Greenspan, head of the Federal Reserve (the US’s bank for banks) called the Iraq War “essential” to secure world oil supplies. In his memoir he stated, “I am saddened that it is politically inconvenient to acknowledge what everyone knows: The Iraq War is largely about oil.” |
| An e-mail shows that in a 2011 speech Hillary Clinton’s State Department told corporate executives, “It’s time for the United States to start thinking of Iraq as a business opportunity.” |
| 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. |
| Divest from fossil fuels. |
| Greta Thunberg said, “Today’s business as usual is turning into a crime against humanity.” |
| Here is a statement Pope Francis made to a gathering of children at The Vatican: “This is serious. Some powerful people make their living with the production of arms and sell them to one country for them to use against another country... It's the industry of death, the greed that harms us all, the desire to have more money... The economic system orbits around money and not men, women... So war is waged in order to defend money. This is why some people don’t want peace: They make more money from war, although wars make money but lose lives, health, education...” |
| I’m concerned that the economic system that dominates the U.S. and the world sees human beings only as economic units to be used and manipulated – both as workers and as consumers – for profit of rich people and giant corporations. An economic system that denies people’s full humanity causes psychological and medical problems in people’s lives. These add up to cause social problems for the societies and nations overall. **We must see how profoundly stupid and cruel such an economic system is. We need a truly BOLD understanding and truly BOLD solutions.** – Glen Anderson wrote this in 2014. |
| “If a man walks in the woods for love of them half of each day, he is in danger of being regarded as a loafer. But if he spends his days as a speculator, shearing off those woods and making the earth bald before her time, he is deemed an industrious and enterprising citizen.” -- Henry David Thoreau |
| In August of 1967 – almost half a century ago – Martin Luther King said: “A nation that will keep people in slavery for 244 years will thingify them -- make them things. Therefore they will exploit them, and poor people generally, economically. And a nation that will exploit economically will have foreign investments and everything else, and will have to use its military to protect them. All of these problems are tied together.” |
| In this era of abuse by Trump and other corrupt bullies, it is good to remember the wise words Lao Tzu wrote more than 2,000 years ago: “If people of wealth and exalted position are arrogant, they abandon themselves to unavoidable ruin.” |

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| Joanna Macy wrote this: “If there is to be a livable world for those who come after us, it will be because we have managed to make the transition from the Industrial Growth Society to a Life-Sustaining Society. ... While the agricultural revolution took centuries and the Industrial revolution took generations, (the Great Turning) has to happen within a matter of years. It also has to be conscious—involving not only the political economy, but the habits, values and understandings that foster it.” |
| Martin Luther King, Jr., said this in 1968: “Whenever the government provides opportunities in privileges for white people and rich people they call it ‘subsidized’ when they do it for Negro and poor people they call it ‘welfare.’ The fact that is the everybody in this country lives on welfare. Suburbia was built with federally subsidized credit. And highways that take our white brothers out to the suburbs were built with federally subsidized money to the tune of 90 percent. Everybody is on welfare in this country. The problem is that we all too often have socialism for the rich and rugged free enterprise capitalism for the poor. That’s the problem.” |
| No one can say America is socialistic. With socialism, the government owns the businesses. In the U.S., it is just the opposite. |
| On Oct 10, 2021, Melanie Bennett and Arthur Kanegis hosted a Zoom event with a speaker who said we need to boldly change our thinking and systems about economics. We need a different concept about “money” and “markets” – and different systems to replace our current ones. Markets cannot regulate themselves. We need “bottom-up” solutions. Our current economics actually are destroying democracy. Businesses should be chartered to last for only 20 years – not in perpetuity. We need to create and use a “regenerative economy.” |
| Our world is on the verge of transition. “We are moving from a world in which individual choice and competition made sense to one in which collective choice and cooperation are necessary, not because ideologies have changed but because both the problems we face and the nature of the resources required to solve them have changed. When the costs of economic activity are collective, capitalism (*i.e*., private property rights and individual choice) is suicidal; when the benefits are collective (*e.g*., new vaccines for COVID, new forms of alternative energy), capitalism in inefficient. The main challenge remains how deeply wedded politicians, economists and even the average person are to economic growth.” -- Joshua Farley, University of Vermont, Professor of Community Development and Applied Economics |
| [**Poverty isn't a lack of character; it's a lack of cash | Rutger Bregman - YouTube**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydKcaIE6O1k&list=PLtl3g8BtPqFMjz5QkM7EovvpyK6BqlmJC&index=3) – 14-minute video |
| Tax the greedy! Help the needy! |
| The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) that President Obama and many Congress members of BOTH political parties are promoting “is not mainly about trade. It is a corporate Trojan horse. The agreement has 29 chapters, and only five of them have to do with trade. The other 24 chapters either handcuff our domestic governments, limiting food safety, environmental standards, financial regulation, energy and climate policy, or establishing new powers for corporations.” -- Lori Wallach, Director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch (www.citizen.org/tradewatch) Also see "Expose the TPP" at [**www.exposethetpp.org**](http://www.exposethetpp.org) |
| Thomas Merton wrote (in his ***Essential Writings***): “We must not lose sight of the real problem, which is not the individual with a revolver but death and even genocide as big business… It is this polite, massively organized white-collar murder machine that threatens the world with destruction.” |
| Today the richest 85 people on earth own more wealth than the 3.5 BILLION people at the bottom half. Author Naomi Klein wrote: “We are witnessing a transfer of wealth of unfathomable size. It is a transfer of wealth from public hands, from the hands of government collected from regular people in the form of taxes, into the hands of the wealthiest corporations and individuals in the world.” |

**Environment and Climate:**

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| “I don't want your hope. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear that I feel every day and then I want you to act as if the house is on fire. Because it is.” -- Greta Thunberg  Yes, the climate crisis is serious. So are the crises about nuclear weapons and Trump’s existential attacks on the environment, human rights, constitutional government, the rule of law. Yes, the “house is on fire.” Each of us must take strong actions now. We can take actions that are STRATEGICALLY SMART, not randomly panicky. Use truthful information and devise smart strategies and act boldly. Build a smart movement from the grassroots up. |
| “In shallow ecology, human beings are put above nature or outside nature, and, of course, this perspective goes with the domination of nature.  Value is seen as residing in human beings; nature is given merely use of value, or instrumental value.  Deep ecologists use human beings as an intrinsic part of nature, as merely a special strand in the fabric of life.” *–* [***Fritjof Capra – Belonging to the Universe***](http://org.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=CFCjuiRCE1oldh7mXSpTZcLP%2BLK3Q%2FNG) |
| “Industrialization is rooted in a mechanistic worldview: the industrial world works like a big, complex machine that can be manipulated by humans to extract natural resources and use them to meet our needs and wants. In reality, the world is an extremely complex living ecosystem, of which we humans are a part. Our well-being ultimately depends on working and living in harmony with nature rather than conquering nature. We are currently seeing the disastrous consequences of treating living ecosystems as if they were inanimate mechanisms.” -- John Ikerd's article in March-April 2015 issue of ***Dollars & Sense*** magazine |
| “One of the reasons we’re destroying the planet is that it has lost its sacred dimension for us. The planet as given to us by science is a physical reality essentially meaningless in itself. It’s a resource for our physical activity.” -- Thomas Berry |
| “The climate crisis has already been solved. We already have all the facts and solutions. All we have to do is to wake up and change. And why should I be studying for a future that soon will be no more when no one is doing anything whatsoever to save that future? And what is the point of learning facts in the school system when the most important facts given by the finest science of that same school system clearly means nothing to our politicians and our society?” -- Greta Thunberg  Of course, the basic reality that Greta Thunberg states in her first two sentences is true. The world REALLY DOES KNOW what we must do in order to protect the climate.  Her remaining sentences express frustration that is certainly understandable. Instead of merely venting frustration, WHAT WE MUST DO is ORGANIZE FROM THE GRASSROOTS to BUILD A STRONG NONVIOLENT MOVEMENT to change the political, economic and cultural problems that created and sustain the climate crisis. |
| “We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.” -- Aldo Leopold |
| “Because we all share this small planet earth, we have to learn to live in harmony and peace with each other and with nature. That is not just a dream, but a necessity.” -- The Dalai Lama |

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| “Environmental degradation is … driven by the triple imperatives of GDP growth at almost any cost, sustained corporate profits, and the projection of national power around the world. … Rebuilding people power requires a fusion of progressive efforts, which means that progressives of all stripes must come out of our individual silos to build an unprecedented social movement.” -- James Gustave Speth and J. Phillip Thompson III on page 23 of ***The Nation***’s May 9/16, 2016, issue |
| In approximately 1990, James R. Udall wrote, “If, as it sometimes seems, nations require an adversary to maintain their cohesiveness, let global warming be the foil – it’s the common enemy. Though ancient antagonisms won't vanish overnight, armies are vestigial from an ecological perspective: The globe needs tree-planters more than soldiers.” |
| Instead of declaring a “climate emergency,” Biden took only some small steps. [**https://insideclimatenews.org/news/21072022/climate-advocates-hoping-biden-would-declare-a-climate-emergency-are-disappointed-by-the-small-steps-he-announced-on-wednesday/?utm\_source=InsideClimate+News&utm\_campaign=89e8409390-&utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_29c928ffb5-89e8409390-327502737**](https://insideclimatenews.org/news/21072022/climate-advocates-hoping-biden-would-declare-a-climate-emergency-are-disappointed-by-the-small-steps-he-announced-on-wednesday/?utm_source=InsideClimate+News&utm_campaign=89e8409390-&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_29c928ffb5-89e8409390-327502737) |
| We are experiencing global ecological collapse. Global ecosystems are collapsing in many ways. The climate crisis is one example of this. See smart insights at the 3-minute video and the 30-minute video at this link: [**http://ecosystemguild.org/2021/04/05/mayday-murmuration/**](http://ecosystemguild.org/2021/04/05/mayday-murmuration/) |
| When Obama was President, Glen Anderson wrote this. It needs to be repeated now – both regarding the climate and regarding other issues too: “President Obama says the climate crisis is serious, but he shies away from taking the bold Executive actions that this crisis requires. Instead, in mid-February 2013 he said he would wait to work out a bipartisan deal with Republicans in Congress. This is, of course, doomed to failure. A real leader would lead. Obama persistently refuses to act as boldly as the climate crisis requires.” |
| Whether we and our politicians know it or not, Nature is party to all our deals and decisions, and she has more votes, a longer memory and a sterner sense of justice than we do.” -- Wendell Berry |

**Peace:**

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| * The U.S. is #1 in military spending and #1 in killing people in other nations. * But Americans are WORSE OFF than people in countries that spend LESS on the military and MORE to meet human needs. * The military does NOT solve problems. Military violence IS the problem. * -- Urge Congress to SLASH military spending and FULLY FUND human needs. |
| “A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.” -- Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., on April 4, 1967 |
| “All those who seek to destroy the liberties of a democratic nation ought to know that war is the surest and shortest means to accomplish it.” -- Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859) French historian |
| “American democracy is decaying because freedom has been mortgaged to bear the costs of empire.” -- Marcus G. Raskin and A. Carl Levan, in ***In Democracy's Shadow: The Secret World of National Security*** |

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| “And the leaders of the world today talk eloquently about peace. … They talk about peace as a distant goal, as an end we seek, but one day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal we seek, but that it is a means by which we arrive at that goal. In the final analysis, means and ends must cohere because the end is pre-existent in the means, and ultimately destructive means cannot bring about constructive ends.” --Martin Luther King Jr, ***The Trumpet of Conscience*** |
| “Because the world is not at peace, any conduct – individual, group or mass – that essentially maintains the status quo, or admits only slow change, is not real commitment to peace. To achieve peace, we must be revolutionaries, nonviolent revolutionaries.” -- Danilo Dolci, an Italian nonviolent organizer |
| “By peace we mean the capacity to transform conflicts with empathy, without violence, and creatively – a never ending process.” -- Johann Galtung, historian and author who wrote extensively about the perils of empire |
| “Congress is not preparing to defend the people of the United States. It is planning to protect the capital of American speculators and investors.... Incidentally this preparation will benefit the manufacturers of munitions and war machines.... Strike against war, for without you no battles can be fought! Strike against manufacturing shrapnel and gas bombs and all other tools of murder! Strike against preparedness that means death and misery to millions of human beings! Be not dumb, obedient slaves in an army of destruction! Be heroes in an army of construction!” -- Helen Keller at Carnegie Hall January 5, 1916 |
| “Even if only two percent of those assigned to perform military service should announce their refusal to fight, governments would be powerless.” -- Albert Einstein, Honorary Chair of the War Resisters League ([**www.warresisters.org**](http://www.warresisters.org)), speaking in 1930 to a WRL meeting |
| “For the evils of racism, poverty and militarism to die, a new set of values must be born. Our economy must become more person-centered than property- and profit-centered. our government must depend more on its moral power than on its military power.” -- Martin Luther King, Jr., on p. 133 of his 1967 book, ***Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?*** |
| “God has made of one blood all nations under heaven. No man can suddenly become my enemy just because he happens to have been born on the other side of a river or boundary line, and his government has issued an ultimatum against mine. Is it not time that we refused to fight?” -- Muriel Lester, a British faith-based pacifist who organized for social justice with poor people and was a friend of Gandhi, carried this peace declaration around the world with her in 1933. |
| “I like to point out that it is easy for war mongers to be war mongers as long as other people are doing the sacrificing. At least people arguing for peace aren’t expecting other people to suffer if they get their way.” -- John Page, Gulf War veteran |
| “I spent 33 years and four months in active military service and during that period I spent most of my time as a high class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism. I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street. I helped purify Nicaragua for the International Banking House of Brown Brothers in 1902-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for the American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras right for the American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that Standard Oil went on its way unmolested. Looking back on it, I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents.” -- Smedley D. Butler, ***War is a Racket: The Antiwar Classic by America's Most Decorated Soldier*** |
| “If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner.” -- Nelson Mandela |
| “It is an absurd contradiction to speak of peace, to negotiate peace, and at the same time promote or permit the global arms trade. Is this war or that war really a war to solve problems? Or is it a commercial war for selling weapons in illegal trade and so that the merchants of death can get rich?” -- Pope Francis |
| :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." -- General Douglas MacArthur, May 15, 1951 |
| “More than an end to war, we want an end to the beginning of all wars – yes, an end to this brutal, inhuman, and thoroughly impractical method of settling the differences between governments.” -- Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1945  “Wars are easy to start, but hard to stop. The only remedy is PREVENTION. PREVENT tense situations from becoming hot wars.” -- Glen Anderson, 2014 |
| “Oil dependency is the crucial pivot of American foreign policy and military policy.” -- Michael T. Klare, "Beyond Oil" conference sponsored by Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation and others (Seattle, May 14, 2005) |
| “Peacemaking, like most beautiful things, begins small. Matthew 18 gives us a clear process for making peace with someone who has hurt or offended us; first we are to talk directly with them, not at them or around them… Straight talk is counter-cultural in a world that prefers politeness to honesty. Peacemaking begins with what we can change –ourselves. But it doesn’t end there. We are to be peacemakers in a world riddled with violence. That means interrupting violence with imagination, in our streets and in our world.” -- ***Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*** |
| “People who go to war start to resemble their enemy.” -- Mark Kurlansky – ***Nonviolence: Twenty Five Lessons From The History of a Dangerous Idea*** |
| “So we must see that peace represents a sweeter music, a cosmic melody that is far superior to the discords of war. Somehow we must transform the dynamics of the world power struggle from the nuclear arms race, which no one can win, to a creative contest to harness man’s genius for the purpose of making peace and prosperity a reality for all the nations of the world. In short, we must shift the arms race into a ‘peace race.’ If we have the will and determination to mount such a peace offensive, we will unlock hitherto tightly sealed doors of hope and bring new light into the dark chambers of pessimism.” -- Martin Luther King’s 1967 ***The World House*** essay |
| “The history of war is the history of powerful individuals willing to sacrifice thousands upon thousands of other people’s lives for personal gains.” -- Michael Rivero |
| “There is no corner of the world so remote, no nation so insignificant, that it does not represent a vital interest of the United States.” -- Casper Weinberger, U.S. Secretary of Defense under President Ronald Reagan. (This has been U.S. policy for decades before and since.) |
| “Those who love peace must learn to organize as effectively as those who love war.” -- Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. |
| “War will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same reputation and prestige that the warrior does today.” -- John F. Kennedy |
| “War will stop when we no longer praise it, or give it any attention at all. Peace will come wherever it is sincerely invited. Love will overflow every sanctuary given it. Truth will grow where the fertilizer that nourished it is also truth. Faith will be its own reward.” -Alice Walker |
| “Is it not clear by now that wars and the arms race cannot solve today’s global problems? War is a sign of defeat, a failure of politics.” -- Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev |
| “Once we believe in the inevitability of war, war becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Once we are committed to war’s instrumentality in pursuit of peace, we begin the Orwellian journey to the semantic netherworld where War IS Peace, where the momentum of war overwhelms hopes for peace. And once we wrap doctrines perpetuating war in the arms of justice, we can easily legitimate the wholesale slaughter of innocents... Our ability to rethink the terms of our existence, to explore the possibility of peace without war, may well determine whether we end war, or war ends us.” -- Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) |
| “Once weapons were manufactured to fight wars. Now wars are manufactured to sell weapons.” -- Arundhati Roy |
| “Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.” -- Albert Einstein |
| “To seek national security, using militarism is like the old method of ‘bleeding’ a sick person. People used to think it healed, but actually it causes death.” – Glen Anderson |
| “US policy has been its own worst enemy… We’ve created the very threats we claim to be fighting.”  -- Jeremy Scahill |
| “War, just like deadly diseases, has to be prevented and cured. Violence is not the right medicine: it does not cure the disease; it kills the patient.” -- Gino Strada (2015 Right Livelihood Award recipient) |
| “With all my heart, I believe that the world’s present system of sovereign nations can only lead to barbarism, war and inhumanity, and that only world law can assure progress towards a civilized peaceful community.” -- Albert Einstein |
| A smart bumper sticker says: “To stop terrorism, stop terrorizing.”  Let’s really organize a smart, bold campaign to stop terrorism.  Let’s make the U.S. government lead the way.  Let’s make the U.S. government stop terrorizing people in other countries. |
| After the attempted coup on January 6, 2021, Public Citizen ([**www.citizen.org**](http://www.citizen.org)) tweeted this: “If you’re spending $740,000,000,000 annually on ‘defense’ but fascists dressed for the renaissance fair can still storm the Capitol as they please, maybe it’s time to rethink national security?” |
| After World War II, the U.S. led the prosecution of Nazi war criminals at Nuremberg. The U.S.’s chief of counsel there was Justice Robert H. Jackson. He said, “We must never forget that the record on which we judge these defendants today is the record on which history will judge us tomorrow.” However, the U.S. has been committing war crimes in many places throughout the world – and is seriously planning to commit war crimes with nuclear weapons – but the U.S. has never been held accountable. |

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| Bob Zeigler suggested applying Robert F. Kennedy’s bold statement to nuclear weapons. Bob asked these questions:   * Could there be a way out: Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) that 66 nations majority of which are also nations most impacted by climate disasters and hunger but including Ireland and Vatican, first Nation to sign (Pope Francis). * What if economic analysis on cost of Nuclear Weapons development were made by various countries in the world and the benefits of removing nuclear weapons production and storage would be great if their enemy also did that? Examples below: * What if Israel, Saudi Arabia and Iran, all signed on to TPNW on same day arranged by diplomacy? * What if Pakistan and India did the same analysis and signed on the same day a week later? * What if North Korea and Japan, signed a week later? * Could US, Russia and China, sign on same day? Could this remove Putin’s excuse for invading Ukraine? * Could the world get to solving international existential crises of climate, pandemic, housing, food instead of spending its resources on weapons that science tells us are increasing risks to both security and life on our planet. * Is now the time to take these bold actions? |
| Beatrice Fihn (Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)) said this when she accepted the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize: “Those who say a future without nuclear weapons is impossible need to get out of the way of those who are making it a reality.” |
| President George W. Bush pushed through Congress a radical law to defund school districts whose students do not pass certain tests. Ironically, he called this “No Child Left Behind.” Congressman Dennis Kucinich said this about the failure of “Star Wars” anti-missile defense systems to pass honest tests of effectiveness: “We have $10 billion for a missile system that can't pass a test, and yet we tell our school districts that if the children don’t pass tests, they’re not going to get funded .... Figure it out -- no missile system left behind.” |
| Everybody who wants to abolish nuclear weapons knows that nuclear weapons are the PROBLEM, not the solution. Glen Anderson’s May 2022 TV program makes a compelling case that **militarism itself** also is a PHONY solution. A NONVIOLENT national defense would actually make us more secure and solve several other problems. You can watch the TV video and/or read the more thorough article Glen wrote about this (with many examples of successful nonviolent resistance) at this link on Glen’s blog: **“Nonviolent National Defense — A Practical Way to Be More Secure”** is at [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/tv-programs-parallax-perspectives-series**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/tv-programs-parallax-perspectives-series) |
| Here is more information about this: **Nonviolent National Defense – Civilian-Based Resistance – is the kind of BOLD alternative we need to the status quo of militarism.**  The May 2022 episode of “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” TV series provides powerful information and inspiration to significantly improve the U.S.’s “national security” by – ironically — de-militarizing our “national defense.” Instead of military violence, we could defend our nation better through carefully planned strategies of nonviolent resistance. Besides eliminating the danger of nuclear war, a nonviolent national defense would also provide better security without all of the downsides that violent militarism causes. During this hour Glen Anderson encourages us to think open-mindedly, boldly and creatively – and explains how nonviolent national defense could actually work effectively.  The TV program makes a solid case, and the much more thorough article Glen wrote explains it more convincingly and shares many practical examples, so **Glen recommends reading the article** even if you also watch the TV program. Here is the link to the blog post with the TV video AND the article: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/nonviolent-national-defense-a-practical-way-to-be-more-secure**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/nonviolent-national-defense-a-practical-way-to-be-more-secure) |
| Here is a statement Pope Francis made to a gathering of children at The Vatican: “This is serious. Some powerful people make their living with the production of arms and sell them to one country for them to use against another country... It’s the industry of death, the greed that harms us all, the desire to have more money... The economic system orbits around money and not men, women... So war is waged in order to defend money. This is why some people don't want peace: They make more money from war, although wars make money but lose lives, health, education...” |
| In August of 1967 – almost half a century ago – Martin Luther King said: “A nation that will keep people in slavery for 244 years will thingify them – make them things. Therefore they will exploit them, and poor people generally, economically. And a nation that will exploit economically will have foreign investments and everything else, and will have to use its military to protect them. All of these problems are tied together.” |
| In February 2022 before Russia invaded Ukraine, some American and Russian women wrote this “Letter to the World”: “At a time when poverty is increasing in the U.S., Ukraine, and Russia, when the world collectively faces the existential threat of climate change, a pandemic that has taken 5.8 million lives and caused rising ‘deaths of despair,’ declining life expectancy and extreme inequality, isn’t it time to think anew?” |
| In light of the problems in Ukraine, the U.S. is picking a fight with Russia.  Wouldn’t it be interesting if the U.S. and Russia went to war with each other?  Both the U.S. and Russia were defeated by Afghanistan after long wars.  It’s like we’re doing “playoffs” for the bottom ranking.  -- Glen Anderson |
| Instead of escalating the Ukraine crisis into a nuclear war, we need to change the dynamics by using nonviolence and honest diplomacy (listening and sincere problem-solving, not bullying).  Recently Glen Anderson posted several relevant and timely articles to his blog: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/nonviolent-resistance-is-effective-in-ukraine-and-elsewhere**](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fparallaxperspectives.org%2Fnonviolent-resistance-is-effective-in-ukraine-and-elsewhere&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ca831dd77672a497377d308d9ffb148dc%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637821959163507851%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=4SnOvBCb%2B4GBpHWAClxOyRha5nmcKz68XJjN7QARK7Y%3D&reserved=0) |
| Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote this in his 1968 book ***The Trumpet of Conscience***: “It’s one of the strangest things that all the great military geniuses of the world have talked about peace. The conquerors of old who came killing in pursuit of peace, Alexander, Julius Caesar, Charlemagne, and Napoleon, were akin in seeking a peaceful world order .... Every time we drop bombs in Vietnam President Johnson talks eloquently about peace ... but one day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal we seek, but that it a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means.” |
| On April 3, 1968, the night before he was assassinated, Dr. King told thousands of people at the Mason Temple in Memphis, Tennessee: “For years now, we have been talking about war and peace. But now, no longer can we just talk about it. It is no longer a choice between violence and nonviolence; it’s nonviolence or nonexistence.” |
| On April 4, 1967, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his famous “Beyond Vietnam” speech at Riverside Church in New York City. He connected the Vietnam War and our nation’s civil rights crisis. He said this about the horribly excessive amount of military spending: “…And I knew that America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demonic, destructive suction tube. So I was increasingly compelled to see the war as an enemy of the poor and to attack it as such.” Watch his powerful speech at this link: [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJhgXKGldUk**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJhgXKGldUk) |
| My dad, who opposed excessive materialism, often used to say, “The more you’ve got, the more you’ve got to worry about.” Isn't this true of the U.S. empire? Americans are forced to constantly worry about (and pay war taxes for) protecting the far-flung U.S. empire. If we were a more modest nation without the hubris that causes tragedy, Americans would save billions of tax dollars and enjoy living without pervasive fears of attacks on our “vital national interests” in other countries. |
| On March 23, 2020, during the Coronavirus pandemic, Antonio Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, said this: “The fury of the virus illustrates the folly of war. That is why today I am calling for an immediate global ceasefire in all corners of the world. It is time to put armed conflict on lockdown and focus together on the true fight of our lives.” |
| President John F. Kennedy said: “Every man, woman and child lives under a nuclear sword of Damocles, hanging by the slenderest of threads, capable of being cut at any moment by accident or miscalculation or by madness. The weapons of war must be abolished before they abolish us.” |
| Glen implores the U.S. to stop the wars – and solve the **real** problems! |
| Subconsciously, those in power know that the US Empire is withering, so they escalate the rhetoric to maintain public support for the Empire. Those in power routinely call every soldier a “hero.” This is a vain attempt to justify the US Empire as heroic, and therefore moral, even while they subconsciously know it is bankrupt – morally and politically, as well as financially. |
| The Bible supports peace. It urges turning weapons of war into tools for peaceful purposes. Isaiah 2:4 calls for this: “They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” |
| The first casualty of war is truth. Most of the rest are innocent civilians. |
| The great pacifist A.J. Muste (1885-1967) wrote: “We cannot have peace if we are only concerned with peace. War is not an accident. It is a logical outcome of a certain way of life. If we want to attack war, we must attack that way of life.” |
| The insightful historian Howard Zinn wrote, “War is manufactured by political leaders, who then must make a tremendous effort—by enticement, by propaganda, by coercion—to mobilize a normally reluctant population to go to war.” |
| The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is a great example of the kind of boldness we need. See [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org) As of October 2022, 68 nations around the world have ratified this bold treaty to actually ABOLISH nuclear weapons. The rest of the world is sick and tired of being held hostage by 9 nations that have nuclear weapons and are willing to use them to destroy the world. |
| Trying to fight terrorism by opening up more battlefronts is like trying to fight alcoholism by opening up more bars. |
| U.S. Empire is NOT sustainable! This should be obvious by now! Let’s find creative, nonviolent, effective ways to convey this to the public, the media, and all levels of government. |
| War and other forms of violence just don’t work. Military “solutions” only make problems worse. David Dellinger said: “Just as it would be stupid to plant weeds and try to harvest vegetables, so it would be stupid to encourage the lies, conscription and murder of war, and hope to produce democracy, freedom and brotherhood. War is a Trojan horse from which emerge, at home, the enemies that destroy us.” |
| War is terrorism with a bigger budget! The dynamics are the same! Militarism – just like terrorism – threatens populations and uses violence against people in order to frighten and dominate them into submission. |
| Wars will end when people refuse to fight. |
| * We ALL share ONE earth! Although national borders have been drawn on maps, the earth itself has no national boundaries. Those were contrived by powerful nations and drawn onto maps – not onto the earth itself. The people on earth must live with each other peacefully. War violates the spirit of Planet Earth. * Likewise, the climate transcends national boundaries and affects the ENTIRE earth. * Also, Coronavirus is a GLOBAL pandemic that transcends national boundaries. * Furthermore, a nuclear war would spread radiation around the world – and it would kill people in the nation that started the nuclear war.   We must change the culture of the various nations – and Planet Earth’s global culture – to help everyone transcend nationalism and cooperate globally. |
| We should close all of the U.S.’s approximately 800 foreign military bases. American politicians want us to be afraid of China, which has only one small foreign military base (in Djibouti).  In 2009 the U.S. lease on an air base in Ecuador was set to expire. President Obama told Ecuador’s president to renew it, but Ecuador’s president replied.: “We will renew the base on one condition: that they let us put a base in Miami.” The U.S. refused the offer.  The U.S. claims that we have a right to install military bases in other countries because the U.S. has “vital national interests” there. But other nations also have their own “vital national interests” to protect their nations from exploitation by the US. Shouldn’t they create military bases in various parts of the U.S. so they can enforce their access to U.S.’s resources? EXAMPLES:  • China’s military base in Bellevue-Redmond WA to make sure Microsoft’s computer resources remain fully available to China at prices China is willing to pay  • Russia’s military base in Eastern WA to protect their access to our wheat |
| **Why is the U.S. experiencing so many murders – including mass murders – and including those committed with assault rifles invented for the military?** In addition to the companies that manufacture them and earn huge profits – and in addition to the Republican politicians who receive enormous campaign contributions from the gun lobby and keep refusing to pass sensible laws to reduce gun violence, Martin Luther King also identified a cause in his “Beyond Vietnam” speech on April 4, 1967:  “The bombs in Vietnam explode at home; they destroy the hopes and possibilities for a decent America.” King explained that the U.S. government spends money to conduct the immoral war in Vietnam but refuses to adequately fund programs in the U.S. to end poverty. Beyond that, King objected to the violence and cruelty of militarism. The U.S. keeps conducting horrible wars that kill people in other countries – and keeps preparing to conduct a nuclear war that could kill all human life on earth.  King pointed out that such obsessive VIOLENCE COMES HOMES so “the bombs in Vietnam explode at home.” NOW WE ARE SEEING U.S. MILITARISM CONTAMINATING AMERICAN SOCIETY SO ORDINARY PEOPLE ARE FOOLED INTO THINKING THAT KILLING PEOPLE IS OK.  **We must STOP WAR. We must STOP THE AMERICAN GUN MANIA. We must CREATE A NONVIOLENT CULTURE that opposes all war and all kinds of violence.** |
| “With all my heart, I believe that the world's present system of sovereign nations can only lead to barbarism, war and inhumanity, and that only world law can assure progress towards a civilized peaceful community.” -- Albert Einstein |
| Glen Anderson says: “World domination is harder than you’d think.” |

**Conscience:**

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| “He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it.” -- Martin Luther King |
| “Never do anything against conscience, even if the state demands it.” -- Albert Einstein |
| “Real human progress depends not so much on inventive ingenuity as on conscience.” -- Albert Einstein |
| “In matters of conscience, the law of [the] majority has no place.” -- Mohandas G. Gandhi |
| “No matter how far you’ve gone down on a wrong road, turn back.” -- Turkish Proverb |
| “Social movements must be based on widely held universal values. To place their social movement in the center of society ... movement activists must consciously stand for and articulate the culture’s fundamental values, such as justice, democracy, civil and human rights, security, and freedom.” -- Bill Moyer- ***Doing Democracy*** |
| “The soul of our country needs to be awakened. ... When leaders act contrary to conscience, we must act contrary to leaders.” -- This quotation comes from “Veterans Fast for Life.” |
| “War will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same reputation and prestige that the warrior does today.” -- John F. Kennedy |
| “There remains an experience of incomparable value … to see the great events of world history from below: from the perspective of the outcast, the suspects, the maltreated, the powerless, the oppressed, the reviled – in short, from the perspective of those who suffer … to look with new eyes on matters great and small.” -- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, ***Letters and Papers from Prison*** |
| Chelsea Manning, the courageous former US Army PFC intelligence analyst, wrote this in her public letter to President Obama, and it was read at her August 2013 sentencing for providing documents and video to the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks:  “Patriotism is often the cry extolled when morally questionable acts are advanced by those in power. When these cries of patriotism drown out any logically based dissension, it is usually the American soldier that is given the order to carry out some ill-conceived mission.  “Our nation has had similar dark moments for the virtues of democracy – the Trail of Tears, the Dred Scott decision, McCarthyism, and the Japanese-American internment camps – to mention a few. I am confident that many of the actions since 9/11 will one day be viewed in a similar light.” |
| In early 1968, when Martin Luther King, Jr., was being criticized for taking a bold, unpopular stand against the Vietnam war, King said:  “Ultimately, a genuine leader is not a searcher of consensus but a molder of consensus. On some positions cowardice asks the question, is it safe? Expediency asks the question, is it politic? Vanity asks the question, is it popular? But conscience asks the question, is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right.” |

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| Carl Jung said, “Children are educated by what the grown-up is and not by his talk." Likewise, the personal character and actions of members of the peace & justice movement tell the general public more than the ideas we express verbally. |
| The first chief rabbi of Palestine, Abraham Isaac Kook (who was also a noted talmudist, mystic and poet), urged people to connect across religions. He said, "we must clarify the common elements of all religions ... [rather than oppose] everything alien." A modern rabbi and scholar, Harold Schulweis, agrees: “The unitive elements of all religions are embedded in the collective conscience of each faith. Moral conscience lies at the depth of earnest interfaith dialogue.” |

**Empower Ourselves:**

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| “Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have the exact measure of the injustice and wrong which will be imposed on them. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.” -- Frederick Douglass |
| “Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love.” -- Martin Luther King, Jr. |
| “The old saying, ‘Power corrupts’ has more layers of truth in it. Certainly power corrupts the people who hold power. In addition, those people are corrupted further by their fear of losing power. And beyond that, the people who are victimized by those corrupt power-holders are corrupted if they use violence when reacting to their abusers. The only way for ordinary people to break the cycle of corruption is to break the cycle of violence. We can free ourselves only if we use principled nonviolence and smart strategies to fight back against corrupt power-holders.” -- Glen Anderson |
| In the 1960s, a great middle-aged peace activist – David Dellinger – wrote a book about nonviolent organizing for peace and social justice. He titled his book, ***More Power Than We Know***. |
| Glen believes that feeling powerless is a serious problem throughout our society. People who feel powerless will not take the bold actions necessary to solve our society’s big, serious problems. Oppressors want people to feel powerless, so people will not organize to solve the problems. This allows oppressors to continue oppressing us for their own benefit. **Here are some other aspects of the problem:**   * + Many people feel powerless compared to big businesses and the government.   + Many employees feel powerless on their jobs.   + Some men try to compensate for feeling powerless by trying to control their wives and children.   + Some men try to compensate by buying guns and big trucks so they can feel like “real men” and dominate other people and small cars.   + Some men who feel powerless vote for right-wing politicians who will keep women and people of color in their subservient roles.   When people feel powerless, they also feel frustrated, so they vent their feelings in ways that hurt society. We need to recognize and understand these feelings of powerlessness. Then we need to figure out how to change the power dynamics in society to solve problems instead of making problems worse. Let’s help people understand the oppressions that cause them to feel powerless. Let’s empower people by organizing them into movements for social justice, economic justice, and other positive solutions. |

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| The Dhammapada says:   * Conquer the angry man by love. * Conquer the ill-natured man by goodness. * Conquer the miser with generosity. * Conquer the liar with truth. |
| Helen Keller said: “Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.” |
| “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” -- Mohandas K. Gandhi |
| “Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle. And so we must straighten our backs and work for our freedom.” -- Martin Luther King Jr. |
| “Do something wonderful. People may imitate it.” -- Albert Schweitzer |
| “Fighting, cheating, and bullying have trapped us in our present situation; now we need training in new practices to find a way out. It may seem impractical and idealistic, but we have no alternative to compassion, recognizing human value and the oneness of humanity.” -- The Dalai Lama |
| “I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.” -- Angela Davis |
| “I don't want your hope. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear that I feel every day and then I want you to act as if the house is on fire. Because it is.” -- Greta Thunberg  Yes, the climate crisis is serious. So are the crises about nuclear weapons and Trump’s existential attacks on the environment, human rights, constitutional government, the rule of law. Yes, the “house is on fire.” Each of us must take strong actions now. We can take actions that are STRATEGICALLY SMART, not randomly panicky. Use truthful information and devise smart strategies and act boldly. Build a smart movement from the grassroots up. |
| “If there is going to be real change, it will have to work its way from the bottom up, from the people themselves.’ -- Howard Zinn |
| “Imagination is more important than knowledge.” -- Albert Einstein |
| “Take one step out of your comfort zone.” -- Jackie Hudson |
| “The climate crisis has already been solved. We already have all the facts and solutions. All we have to do is to wake up and change. And why should I be studying for a future that soon will be no more when no one is doing anything whatsoever to save that future? And what is the point of learning facts in the school system when the most important facts given by the finest science of that same school system clearly means nothing to our politicians and our society?” —Greta Thunberg  Of course, the basic reality that Greta Thunberg states in her first two sentences is true. The world REALLY DOES KNOW what we must do in order to protect the climate.  Her remaining sentences express frustration that is certainly understandable. Instead of merely venting frustration, WHAT WE MUST DO is ORGANIZE FROM THE GRASSROOTS to BUILD A STRONG NONVIOLENT MOVEMENT to change the political, economic and cultural problems that created and sustain the climate crisis. |

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| “Revolutionary change does not come as one cataclysmic moment (beware of such moments!) but as an endless succession of surprises, moving zigzag toward a more decent society. We don't have to engage in grand, heroic actions to participate in the process of change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world. Even when we don’t ‘win,’ there is fun and fulfillment in the fact that we have been involved, with other good people, in something worthwhile. We need hope.” --Howard Zinn |
| “The future doesn't take form irrationally, even though it feels that way. The future comes from where we are now. It materializes from the actions, values and beliefs we're practicing now. If we want a different future, we have to take responsibility for what we are doing in the present.” -- Margaret J. Wheatley |
| “The Power of the People is more Powerful than the People in Power.” -- Glen Anderson |
| “The soul of our country needs to be awakened. … When leaders act contrary to conscience, we must act contrary to leaders.” -- This quotation comes from “Veterans Fast for Life.” |
| “We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope.” -- Martin Luther King, Jr. |
| “We will take action against injustice without waiting for other agencies to act. We will not obey unjust laws or submit to unjust practices. We will do this peacefully, openly, cheerfully because our aim is to persuade. We adopt the means of nonviolence because our end is a community at peace with itself. We will try to persuade with our words, but if our words fail, we will try to persuade with our acts. We will always be willing to talk and seek fair compromise, but we are ready to suffer when necessary and even risk our lives to become witnesses to the truth as we see it." -- Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. |
| “When we awaken to the enormity of our crisis and the magnitude of our loss, often the first response is a crushing despair. Yet on the other side of despair is fullness and an urgency to live life beautifully. We can choose a different world – the ‘more beautiful world our hearts tell us is possible.’” -- Charles Eisenstein in ***The Ascent of Humanity*** |
| “A nation of sheep will beget a government of wolves.” -- Edward R. Murrow |
| “As long as the general population is passive, apathetic, diverted to consumerism or hatred of the vulnerable, then the powerful can do as they please, and those who survive will be left to contemplate the outcome.” – Noam Chomsky |
| “Change the paradigm within myself, to liberate myself from the way I was programmed and to be in harmony with how I choose to live, with how I reflect the story that resonates the most in my heart. In other words, I strive to create that chosen world within. Peace begins with me.” -- Marshall Rosenberg quoted at [**www.cnvc.org**](http://www.cnvc.org) |
| “Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”  -- Robert F. Kennedy |
| “No president, not Bernie Sanders, not anybody, will succeed [in taking on the oligarchs] unless there is a mass mobilization of millions of people who stand up and say enough is enough.” -- Bernie Sanders told this to MSNBC |
| “Noncooperation with evil is as much a duty as cooperation with good.” -- Mohandas K. Gandhi |
| “Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.” -- James Baldwin. |
| “To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness. What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places – and there are so many – where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction.” And if we do act, in however small a way, we don’t have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory.” -- Howard Zinn |
| “Live your life meaningfully, vigorously and effectively. If YOU don’t act BOLDLY for your best values, nobody else will.” -- Glen Anderson |
| “Never be discouraged from being an activist because people tell you that you’ll not succeed. You have already succeeded if you’re out there representing truth or justice or compassion or fairness or love.”  -- Doris “Granny D” Haddock |
| “To be psychologically healthy, a person needs to cultivate and maintain self-esteem. But when the surrounding society and culture de-value certain kinds of people, it is difficult for them to cultivate or maintain self-esteem. As a result, some of those de-valued individuals respond by alienating themselves from society. People who have been de-valued and alienated often internalize that negativity and respond by behaving in ways that are destructive to themselves and to society as a whole. ‘Nice’ society does not want to accept responsibility for what it has done, so it blames the people it has harmed. We need to help victims heal, and we need to help “nice” society take responsibility instead of venting blame.”  -- Glen Anderson |
| “We are locked in a battle with a set of corporate interests that are heavily invested in the status quo and have become skilled at converting money into political power. In ***The Art of War***, Sun Tzu said most battles are decided before they begin by the choice of battlefield. The higher up the political strata you go, the more powerful corporations get and the weaker we get. The closer to the ground you push, the stronger citizens’ movements are and the weaker corporations are.” -- I don’t remember the source of this quotation. |
| “We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late. Procrastination is still the thief of time. … We must move past indecision to action. … Now let us begin. Now let us re-dedicate ourselves to the long and bitter – and beautiful – struggle for a new world. This is the calling of the children of God, and our brothers and sisters wait eagerly for our response. Shall we say the odds are too great? Shall we tell them the struggle is too hard? … Or will there be another message, of longing, of hope, of solidarity with their yearnings, of commitment to the cause, whatever the cost? The choice is ours, and though we might prefer it otherwise we must choose in this crucial moment in human history.” -- Martin Luther King, Jr. |

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| “We the People” do have power! Glen Anderson titled his September 2017 TV program, “Political Despair or Empowerment? It’s Your Choice!” It really is **our choice** whether to get stuck in political despair or to empower ourselves to solve the problems.  During the 1980s when Reagan’s escalating threats of nuclear war with the Soviet Union caused enormous fear and stress, many people asked Glen whether the U.S. would blow up the world or whether we could survive Reagan’s nuclear crisis. Glen always answered, “What do you think?” People’s individual answers would be the world’s answer. If people thought we were doomed, then they would feel powerless to take the necessary actions, so the world would become doomed. But if people thought we could work hard to turn things around and save ourselves, then they would feel empowered to take the necessary actions, so we would indeed turn things around and save the world.  This is true now. Trump and the Republicans have been trying hard to impose fascism on the U.S. Whether they succeed depends entirely upon what ordinary people do or fail to do. This problem has persisted since the September 2017 TV interview. You can watch that TV program and/or read a thorough summary of what we said – through this link: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-political-despair-or-empowerment-its-your-choice**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-political-despair-or-empowerment-its-your-choice) |
| “When we become serious about resisting violence and injustice, we find that change doesn’t just happen by itself. It takes strategizing and planning and discipline. That’s how change happens.” -- James Lawson, leader of Nashville student lunch counter sit-ins, 1960 |
| “When we believe in the impossible, it becomes possible, and we can do all kinds of extraordinary things.”  -- Madeleine L'Engle |
| “Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. ... Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.” -- Eleanor Roosevelt |
| A modern Chinese proverb says: “In the face of the winds of change, some people build walls. Others build windmills.” |
| Author and poet Alice Walker said: “Activism is my rent for living on this planet.” |
| Beatrice Fihn (Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)) said this when she accepted the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize: “Those who say a future without nuclear weapons is impossible need to get out of the way of those who are making it a reality.” |
| Decades ago an elderly friend told me about living in Germany when Hitler was coming to power. My friend told other friends what Hitler would do when he gained more power. Nobody would believe that Hitler would do bad things because they kept saying that Germany was a highly civilized nation of music and science and philosophy, so the cruelties my friend was warning about could never occur there.  Now most Americans believe the U.S. is the greatest nation on earth. They believe our nation is highly civilized and the world’s leader in freedom and democracy. Most Americans believe the U.S. would never sink into fascist cruelty.  Hitler promoted “*Deutschland über alles*.” Trump promotes “America First” and “America #1.” Look at other similarities regarding racism, deliberate cruelty, suppression of dissent, dictatorial one-man rule, the perversion of honest democracy, political abuses of religion, the subservience of loyal followers to the great leader, etc.  Yes, it really can happen here! |

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| Glen Anderson says, “During crazy political times, humor and creativity are revolutionary acts – and they can be effective in “making end runs” around “politics as usual.” He wrote an article titled, **“How to use humor to help the climate (and other scary issues, such as nuclear weapons, etc.)”** and posted it to his blog. You can read it here: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/how-to-use-humor-to-help-the-climate-and-other-scary-issues-such-as-nuclear-weapons-etc**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/how-to-use-humor-to-help-the-climate-and-other-scary-issues-such-as-nuclear-weapons-etc) |
| During the Trump administration, Glen Anderson wrote this: “The Trump regime is throwing all sorts of horrible stuff at us in an abusive ‘shock & awe’ strategy to overwhelm us and cause us to feel powerless and despair so we will not be able to resist them. Let’s understand that that is their strategy and refuse to let their ‘shock & awe’ get us down. We can nonviolently fight back with savvy and strategic grassroots organizing that exposes their corruption and their violation of decent values. We can turn the public against their cruelty and corruption. To stand strong and nonviolently fight back, we must avoid mindless “escapism” and “self-medication” that reduce our determination and our energy. Let’s ground ourselves in the principles and practices of profound nonviolence – and share those with other people. Confronting Trumpism head-on can be empowering!” |
| Each person can do something! Together we can accomplish much! |
| If you give me a fish, you have fed me for a day. If you teach me to fish, you have fed me until the river is polluted and the shoreline seized for development. But if you teach me to organize, then, no matter what the challenge, I can join my community and we can make our own solution. |
| Let’s join together with other people so we can organize and make real progress. I like this wise encouragement: “The ongoing pandemic has made us rusty, but start finding people or groups who are as concerned as you and doing something about it. Especially seek out groups who’ve been working for change far longer than you, who have a plan forward, and generally refrain from alarmist rhetoric. If the seas ahead get rougher, the ship of community will assist our safe passage.” --Jan Hoffman, Americans of Conscience Checklist, July 15, 2022 |
| Martin Luther King said this to about 35 people in a church basement: “We have the power in this room, if we mobilize it, to change the future course of America.” |
| Martin Luther King’s famous “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” deserves to be read and re-read every now and then. When some nice Christian ministers expressed concern that King did things that landed him in jail, he re-directed their attention to the underlying problems of severe racial injustice that he had confronted nonviolently. I urge you to read his entire letter. This short quotation provides the flavor:  “You deplore the demonstrations taking place in Birmingham. But your statement, I am sorry to say, fails to express a similar concern for the conditions that brought about the demonstrations. I am sure that none of you would want to rest content with the superficial kind of social analysis that deals merely with effects and does not grapple with underlying causes. It is unfortunate that demonstrations are taking place in Birmingham, but it is even more unfortunate that the city's white power structure left the Negro community with no alternative. In any nonviolent campaign there are four basic steps: collection of the facts to determine whether injustices exist; negotiation; self purification; and direct action.” -- Martin Luther King, Jr. |
| Oppressors try to bury the people who nonviolently resist them. But the oppressors don’t “know that when they try to bury us, we become seeds. Nonviolent resistance grows from the grassroots. Truly, the power of the people is more powerful than the people in power.” – Glen Anderson |

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| Our current political crisis was NOT caused by one person and NOT by one political party. They are SYMPTOMS of long-standing social and political problems that festered and now erupted, including:   * + - Big-money corruption of political parties and election campaigns     - News media valuing entertainment and profits instead of truthfully informing the public     - Greedy business corporations that put profits ahead of human rights and environmental health     - Longstanding bias and discrimination on the basis of race, religion sex, sexual orientation, immigrant status, economic class, etc.   We can solve these problems if we:   * + - Ground ourselves in humane, compassionate values     - Educate ourselves about the real issues     - Nonviolently expose and resist the bad stuff     - Organize nonviolent grassroots movements for social, economic, environmental, and political change   Contact me for many great resources for solving these problems: Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 [**glenanderson@integra.net**](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net) |
| Part of our strategy must be to change what the debate is about. If we are not changing the debate, we will lose the debate. |
| We spend a huge amount of time and effort opposing what we oppose. Besides working to stop what we oppose, what if we also worked equally hard for what we want instead? Glen wrote an article encouraging us to be proactive instead of merely reactive. Let’s be proactive and create better alternatives to the status quo. I wrote a short article and posted it to my blog: **“Besides Protesting What We Oppose, Let’s Organize Even More Vigorously to Accomplish Positive Goals.”** Read it at this blog link: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/besides-protesting-what-we-oppose-lets-organize-even-more-vigorously-to-accomplish-positive-goals**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/besides-protesting-what-we-oppose-lets-organize-even-more-vigorously-to-accomplish-positive-goals) |
| Reforms must come from below. Nobody with four aces howls for a new deal. |
| The best changes we have made in this country have resulted from organizing big, strategically savvy grassroots movements. The labor movement, women’s movement, environmental movement, LGBTQ movement, etc., **all were organized from the bottom up**. We must organize more skillfully from the grassroots. Nonviolent grassroots organizing is powerful. |
| This short quotation from a white civil rights organizer from the South from decades ago is an example of the BOLDNESS and CREATIVITY we need. (Decades ago I knew people who used to work with Anne Braden.) “In every age, no matter how cruel the oppression carried on by those in power, there have been those who struggled for a different world. I believe this is the genius of humankind, the thing that makes us half divine: the fact that some human beings can envision a world that has never existed.”  -- Anne McCarty Braden |
| Nonviolent grassroots organizers with good attitudes can say, “The difficult we'll do right now. The impossible will take a little while.” |
| Three questions for action: If not here, where? If not now, when? If not us, who? |
| We know that Mohandas (“the Mahatma”) Gandhi said, “First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.” Recently someone followed up by adding this: “Then they do what you forced them to do and all the political leaders that once opposed you take credit for the effort as if it was their idea all along.” |

**Boldness:**

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| “Justice and power must be brought together, so that whatever is just may be powerful and whatever is powerful may be just.” -- Blaise Pascal |
| “Justice is what love looks like in public.” -- Cornel West |
| “Nothing could be worse than fear that one has given up too soon and left one effort unexpended which might have saved the world.” -- Jane Addams |
| “The interplay between lofty dreams and earthly victories has always been at the heart of moments of deep transformation. The breakthroughs won for workers and their families after the Civil War and during the Great Depression, as well as for civil rights and the environment in the sixties and early seventies, were not just responses to crises. They were responses to crises that unfolded in times when people dared to dream big, out loud, in public—explosions of utopian imagination.” --[**Naomi Klein**](http://org.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=wdO94ST%2BFgYAuJ6tIhoeALSip77LS0hu), ***No Is Not Enough*** |
| “If you don't feel hopeful, you're not doing enough." -- Josh Fox, creator, director and narrator of the film "Gasland” |
| “The truth is that happiness is not something we get from life. Happiness comes from what we give back to it. Happiness comes from discovering what the world needs that we can give it.” -- Sister Joan Chittister |
| “Until you start focusing on what needs to be done rather than what is politically possible, there is no hope. We can’t solve a crisis without treating it as a crisis. … We need to focus on equity, and if the solutions within the system are so impossible to find, maybe we should change the system itself.” -- Greta Thunberg |
| “We should say immediately, for the sake of the skeptics, that we do not believe vision makes anything happen. Vision without action is useless. But action without vision is directionless and feeble. Vision is absolutely necessary to guide and motivate. More than that, vision, when widely shared and firmly kept in sight, does bring into being new systems.” -- Donella Meadows |
| “Be realistic, demand the impossible!” Glen says this inspiring slogan from the 1968 French uprising is even more important today when we face an extremely serious climate crisis, escalating danger of nuclear war, and Trump imposing fascism upon us. We must fight – urgently, boldly, nonviolently and creatively – in order for democracy, civilization and our species to survive. |
| “Changing the structure and rules of the global economy will require a mass movement based on messages of compassion, justice and equality as well as collaborative and democratic processes. If we stay positive, inclusive and democratic we have a truly historic opportunity to build a global movement for social justice.” -- Medea Benjamin |
| “I am in the world to change the world.” -- Murial Rukeyser |
| “It always seems impossible until it’s done.” -- Nelson Mandela |
| “Live your life meaningfully, vigorously and effectively. If YOU don’t act BOLDLY for your best values, nobody else will.” -- Glen Anderson |
| “Our only hope today lies in our ability to recapture the revolutionary spirit and go out into a sometimes hostile world declaring eternal hostility to poverty, racism, and militarism. With this powerful commitment we shall boldly challenge the status quo and unjust mores, and thereby speed the day when “every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain.” -- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “Beyond Vietnam” Speech, April 4, 1967 |
| “Radical Is Now Rational” – This is the title of the editorial in July 7, 2022, issue of ***In These Times***: [**https://inthesetimes.com/article/radical-is-rational**](https://inthesetimes.com/article/radical-is-rational) |
| “As individual fingers we can easily be broken, but all together we make a mighty fist.” -- Sitting Bull |
| Dear Good Americans: Whatever you wish more good Germans would have been doing in Germany in 1933 – you need to be doing that now. |
| Decades ago, Senator Robert Kennedy famously said: “Some men see things as they are and say, ‘Why?’ I dream things that never were and say, ‘Why not?’” |
| “First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.” -- Mohandas K. (“Mahatma”) Gandhi |
| Gandhi said, “Be gentle, be truthful, be fearless.” A wise friend of mine summarized Gandhi’s method in this way: “Seek the truth, express the truth, and bear it by taking responsibility.” |
| Glen Anderson wrote an essay titled, **“Besides Protesting What We Oppose, Let's Also Organize to Achieve Positive Goals.”** It includes these thoughts:  “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 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.”  You can read it at this link on Glen’s blog: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/besides-protesting-what-we-oppose-lets-organize-even-more-vigorously-to-accomplish-positive-goals**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/besides-protesting-what-we-oppose-lets-organize-even-more-vigorously-to-accomplish-positive-goals) |
| Glen Anderson wrote this**:** “In the U.S., liberals timidly ask what is “politically feasible” and ask for small changes that the political parties and giant corporations could be persuaded to grant us. In Latin America, people demand bold reforms and agitate actively. In the U.S., our modest reforms are watered down and deferred. If we want real progress, we must be more like the Latin Americans.” |

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| Glen Anderson wrote that we all share one earth. Therefore:   * + We must stop all wars and use diplomacy instead of threats or military violence.   + We must respect the integrity of every nation and every kind of people and stop attacking and exploiting them.   + We must protect environments and climates all over the world.   + We must protect health care all over the world.   + The list goes on and on. Besides general principles, we need to support good public policies and improve cultural values to support these. |
| “The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country.” -- Abraham Lincoln, State of the Union message, Dec. 1, 1862 |
| “The interplay between lofty dreams and earthly victories has always been at the heart of moments of deep transformation. The breakthroughs won for workers and their families after the Civil War and during the Great Depression, as well as for civil rights and the environment in the sixties and early seventies, were not just responses to crises. They were responses to crises that unfolded in times when people dared to dream big, out loud, in public – explosions of utopian imagination.” -- Naomi Klein |
| Glen wrote this resource to add more insights to a previous TV program topic about empowering ourselves BOLDLY: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/replace-negativity-and-centrism-with-bold-progress**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/replace-negativity-and-centrism-with-bold-progress) |
| Instead of assuming that only timid incrementalism is possible, what future do you REALLY want? “Another world is possible.” Like tectonic plates that usually grind slowly but then suddenly move a lot quickly and cause earthquakes, history can change suddenly (e.g., inventing printing press, liberating anti-colonial movements for independence, the women’s movement, ……). How could we create another “revolution of rising expectations”? |
| Instead of limiting ourselves to what the elites tell us is “politically feasible,” we need to CHANGE OUR VISION of what is “politically feasible! We need to MOVE THE GOALPOSTS! |
| Let’s understand how FEAR keeps people trapped and submissive. **Our BOLDNESS must include overcoming the fear that is imposed upon us:**   * "My belief is that when a country primarily instills fear in the minds and hearts of the people of the world, it is no longer useful in joining the dialogue we need for saving the planet." —Alice Walker * "The more you can increase fear of drugs, crime, welfare mothers, immigrants and aliens, the more you control all of the people." -- Noam Chomsky * "You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself 'I lived through this horror; I can take the next thing that comes along'. You must do the thing you think you cannot do." — Eleanor Roosevelt * Nelson Mandela said, "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear but the triumph over it. It always seems impossible until it is done." |
| Martin Luther King urged people to take strong actions in the present moment. He wrote and spoke about “the fierce urgency of now.” He also wrote: **“This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy.”** King’s vigorous encouragement is relevant now. His context was to strengthen the Civil Rights Movement half a century ago. It is equally relevant now when we work to achieve peace, protect the climate, stop right-wing extremism, and work for other crucially important and urgent issues. |
| Nonviolent grassroots organizers with good attitudes can say, “The difficult we'll do right now. The impossible will take a little while.” |
| Our boldness must include solidarity with every kind of people who are oppressed. “In Germany they first came for the Communists, and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn’t speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me – and by that time no one was left to speak up.” ~ Rev. Martin Niemoeller, a Lutheran pastor in Nazi Germany |
| So many problems exist – and so many systems are broken – that it’s easy for people to feel hopeless, powerless and cynical. But that prevents us from taking positive actions to solve the problems. Among the signs I hold at our weekly peace vigils, one affirms, **“We can solve the problems.”** Another sign invites people to **“Choose a bold, humane future.”** Many years ago the Quaker economist and peace activist Kenneth Boulding observed, “Anything that exists is possible.” We can emulate and build upon the good things that already exist – and push further to envision and build a world of peace, social justice, and environmental sustainability. |
| The big problems we face – environmental harms, climate disruptions, etc. – are GLOBAL problems. They require GLOBAL solutions. These SOLUTIONS MUST BE VERY BOLD. |
| The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is a great example of the kind of boldness we need. See [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org) This global treaty seeks to ABOLISH nuclear weapons worldwide. Most of the support for the Treaty has come from the Global South. |
| This short quotation from a white civil rights organizer from the South from decades ago is an example of the BOLDNESS and CREATIVITY we need. (Decades ago I knew people who used to work with Anne Braden.) “In every age, no matter how cruel the oppression carried on by those in power, there have been those who struggled for a different world. I believe this is the genius of humankind, the thing that makes us half divine: the fact that some human beings can envision a world that has never existed.”  -- Anne McCarty Braden |
| Many people were horribly depressed during the Trump regime and felt they must be merely reactive instead of proactive, so in October 2019 I posted this to my blog: **“What bold, positive realities would you want for 4 years from now?”** You can read the article here: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/2740-2**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/2740-2) |
| 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 using our best values and our best thinking to choose the wisest, most compassionate ones  -- and also ENCOURAGE AND EMPOWER OTHER PEOPLE to explore wider possibilities too. |
| We have been urging bold alternatives to the status quo regarding a variety of ISSUES. We also urge EACH PERSON to take BOLD, principled actions to implement these bold changes. Otherwise, the BOLD alternatives we are proposing get stuck as being merely theoretical. |
| We need to CHANGE OUR CULTURE in a variety of ways in order to make it more likely that we can change specific public policies. |
| While Republicans escalate the class warfare of the 1% against the 99%, most Democratic politicians say America is in a crisis that requires moderate, middle-of-the-road solutions that won't upset the status quo. No wonder the American voters are disgusted with both of the big political parties. |

**Nonviolence:**

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| “Behind every converted nonviolent struggle there is a powerful mistica: the conviction that truth, justice, and love are ontological. That is to say, these are objective forces tied to the very structure of reality, of human society, of being human. No matter how much they are violated, they always persist, and they find an echo in both the consciousness of people and in historical processes. These are the banners that never fail . . . the mistica of active nonviolence implies changing ourselves as well as working to change the world. We must live the truth. We must be just, our integrity transparent. We must be peacemakers."  -- Leonardo Boff |
| “Have we not come to such an impasse in the modern world that we must love our enemies – or else? The chain reaction of evil – hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars – must be broken, or else we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.” -- Martin Luther King Jr. |
| “I am convinced now, more than ever, that there is something we can do to create a ‘new normal’ in America—one that emphasizes nonviolence over violence, love over hate. Creating nonviolent schools is an essential component that, in conjunction with common sense gun laws that value human lives, will redefine the world we want our children to grow up in.” -- Robin Wildman |
| “I am not only a pacifist, but a militant pacifist. I am willing to fight for peace. Nothing will end war unless the people themselves refuse to go to war.” -- Albert Einstein |
| “I’ve never focused on answering what nonviolent action can’t do. I focus on what it has done. If we can’t push back that barrier of impossibility, then violence will be used, and that will be out of our control. But if we can keep pushing it back, and revealing that nonviolent action can do much more than was ever expected, pretty soon there will be almost nothing left for violence.” -- Gene Sharp |
| “If you fight with violence you are fighting with your enemy's best weapon ...” -- Gene Sharp |
| “In 1989, thirteen nations comprising 1,695,000,000 people experienced nonviolent revolutions that succeeded beyond anyone's wildest expectations. … If we add all the countries touched by major nonviolent actions in our century (the Philippines, South Africa … the independence movement in India ...), the figure reaches 3,337,400,000, a staggering 65% of humanity! All this in the teeth of the assertion, endlessly repeated, that nonviolence doesn’t work in the ‘real’ world.” -- Walter Wink |
| “It is clear that nonviolent struggle is an important part of political reality. It has often been belittled or ignored by persons, movements, or governments that ‘know’ that the ‘real’ power derives from violence. However, nonviolent struggle is another very powerful form of force.” -- Gene Sharp, ***Waging Nonviolent Struggle*** |
| “It is surprising how few people have seriously considered nonviolence as a way of life and a strategy for social change. … We trust violence. Violence ‘saves.’ … We trust violence because we are afraid. And we will not relinquish our fears until we are able to imagine a better alternative.” -- [**Walter Wink**](http://org.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=xpq%2FRVjQIwIyF6mctLv%2BBxxJxWkhBis3) |
| “Justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love.” -- Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. |

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| “Nonviolence has been marginalized because it is one of the rare truly revolutionary ideas, an idea that seeks to completely change the nature of society, a threat to the established order. And it has always been treated as something profoundly dangerous. Advocates of nonviolence – dangerous people – have been there throughout history, questioning the greatness of Caesar and Napoleon and the Founding Fathers and Roosevelt and Churchill.” -- Mark Kurlansky |
| “Nonviolence means avoiding not only external physical violence but also internal violence of spirit. You not only refuse to shoot a man, but you refuse to hate him.” -- Martin Luther King Jr. |
| “Nonviolent strategy calls those who are now faithful to the good present inside them, to awaken the good inside their adversaries who at that same moment serve violence or injustice. This dynamic is built on confidence in the divine power of the good and its unity.” -- Alain J. Richard |
| “One is called to live nonviolently, even if the change one works for seems impossible. It may or may not be possible to turn the US around through nonviolent revolution. But one thing favors such an attempt: the total inability of violence to change anything for the better.” -- Daniel Berrigan |
| “People turn to war and violence not because they are wicked or hateful. They resort to violence because they do not see any other option for resolving intractable conflicts. It is (therefore) fruitful to show how a strategy of nonviolent conflict can be an effective alternative to armed struggle.” -- [**Gene Sharp**](http://org.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=%2BQWRMCGfgq%2BAoJGPcYwq4vAzWQFirxfl) |
| “Satyagraha has a double meaning: it signifies a determined holding on to, a grappling with truth, while at the same time it implies the force that arises from that grappling, what Gandhi called “soul-force.” It stands for both the means and the ends, the struggle and the force that is generated in the struggle. As heat is generated by friction, Gandhi contended, power is released from writhing the depths of the human spirit in its struggle toward truth.” -- Badshah Khan, who was known as “The Frontier Gandhi”  For many years, Badshah Khan – a devout pacifist Muslim from the mountainous Pashtun area of what is now in Pakistan, NW of India and near Afghanistan – practiced courageous nonviolent resistance to the British Empire along with Mohandas (“the Mahatma”) Gandhi. He found that profound nonviolence was fully compatible with his Islamic faith, just as Gandhi found it fully compatible with his Hindu faith. This man organized an “army” of pacifist Muslims to practice Satyagraha in support of independence – and he spent many years in prisons in his homeland. (Some accounts exceed the 16 years I had heard of, ranging up to 30 or 37 years in total.) I highly recommend the informative and inspiring book by Eknath Easwaran titled: ***A Man to Match His Mountains***. |
| “The discipline of nonviolence requires of us that we move into the various forms of noncooperation. We will probably move slowly, one step at a time. Each step will lead to another step; each step will be a withdrawal from support of what is wrong and at the same time a building of an alternative.” -- Shelley Douglass |
| “The survival of democracy depends on the renunciation of violence and the development of nonviolent means to combat evil and advance the good.” -- AJ Muste |
| “Those who love peace must learn to organize as effectively as those who love war.” -- Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. |
| “Through nonviolence, courage displaces fear; love transforms hate. Acceptance dissipates prejudice; hope ends despair. Peace dominates war; faith reconciles doubt. Mutual regard cancels enmity. Justice for all overthrows injustice. The redemptive community supersedes systems of gross social immorality.”  -- James Lawson |

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| “The nonviolent approach does not immediately change the heart of the oppressor. It first does something to the hearts and souls of those committed to it. It gives them new self-respect; it calls up resources of strength and courage that they did not know they had. Finally it reaches the opponent and so stirs his conscience that reconciliation becomes a reality.” -- Martin Luther King, Jr. |
| “The most maximal meaning of nonviolence is the one that counts humanity as ‘we’; sees violence as ‘inhibiting self-realization,’ and defines nonviolence as encompassing both maximal without violence and against violence.” -- Stellan Vinthagen, ***A Theory of Nonviolent Action*** |
| “It is important that activists act on the positive emotions of compassion, love and passion for a society that lives up to its highest values. Effective activists use the energy of their emotional distress, particularly their anger, fear, and frustration with powerholders, and strategically redirect it through imaginative and responsible nonviolent actions” -- Bill Moyer in ***Doing Democracy*** |
| “The most striking finding is that between 1900 and 2006, nonviolent resistance campaigns were nearly twice as likely to achieve full or partial success as their violent counterparts.” -- Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan wrote a well-researched and readable book titled, ***Why Civil Resistance Works*** |
| “Violence has no practical results-toward building a strengthened community or solving the problems of human prejudice, bias, and injustice. People accept the ideological or even religious myth that if you want to get things done, violence is the way. But violence is not even the faster way. It complicates issues, increases and escalates the pain, postpones the hard work of facing the problem and healing it. Violence can kill somebody and destroy buildings. But it cannot build a house or create a community that is more just and fair.” -- Rev. James Lawson |
| “Conventional war wisdom says that without war, Hitler wouldn't have been defeated. The more radical wisdom of nonviolence says that it was because of war itself and its necessary false obedience that Hitler even came to power at all. If nonviolence had been lived, Hitler would not have been obeyed in the first place” -- Leonard Desroches, ***Allow the Water*** |
| “Dictators are never as strong as they tell you they are.” “People are never as weak as they think they are.” -- Gene Sharp said these wise, empowering things. He was the world’s best researcher on the power of nonviolence and how to use nonviolence to remove dictators from power. See resource information at his non-profit organization [**www.aeinstein.org**](http://www.aeinstein.org) |
| “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed…. Live in harmony with one another…. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good…. If your enemies are hungry, feed them.” -- Excerpts from St. Paul’s letter to the Romans, chapter 12 |
| “I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.” -- Martin Luther King |
| “Just imagine if all the energy that goes into fighting other people and reinforcing the belief in separateness was instead directed at showing respect for people. What if the five R’s of restorative justice – respect, relationship, responsibility, repair, and reintegration – were guiding principles of our activism?”  -- G. Scott Brown |
| “Nonviolence is not a political weapon or a technique for social change so much as it is an essential art – perhaps the essential art – of civilization. Nonviolence is a way of thinking, a way of life, not a tactic, but a way of putting love to work in resolving problems, healing relationships, and generally raising the quality of our lives. Nonviolence is a skill. Love is a skill. The transformation of anger is a skill. All these can be learned. We cannot say we aren’t capable of nonviolence; all we can say is we are not willing to do what is necessary to learn.” -- Eknath Easwaran |
| “Nonviolent struggle is a technique for conducting conflicts by social, psychological, economic, and political methods of protest, noncooperation, and disruptive intervention. It is a technique built on the social, economic, and political application of basic human stubbornness – the determination and ability to dissent, to refuse to cooperate, to defy, and to disrupt. In other words, people may refuse to do things they are asked to do, and may do what they are forbidden to do. All governments rely on cooperation and obedience for their very existence. When people choose to withhold or withdraw that cooperation, governments are left without any pillars to support their weight.” -- Gene Sharp |
| “Our society is so inured to violence that it finds it hard to believe in anything else. And that phrase believe in provides the clue. People trust violence. Violence ‘saves.’ It is ‘redemptive.’ But when we make survival the highest goal and death the greatest evil, we hand ourselves over to the gods of the Domination System. We trust violence because we are afraid. And we will not relinquish our fears until we are able to imagine a better alternative.” -- [**Walter Wink**](http://org.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=Yj3S%2FtJS7RKWZG5MBn2%2Fid0aUp5ovM2v) |
| “Satyagraha is truth-force, love-force, soul-force – words describing a process of spiritual transformation which goes far beyond the usual meanings attached to ‘nonviolence.’ It is rooted in the belief that truth/love/soul-force is the most powerful force in existence, a spiritual reality as unexplored today as the power of the atom was a century ago.” -- James W. Douglass, ***Lightning East to West*** |
| “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them.… But not so with you. Rather, the greatest among you becomes like the youngest, the leader is one who serves.” Jesus quoted in Luke 22:24-27 |
| “The survival of democracy depends on the renunciation of violence and the development of nonviolent means to combat evil and advance the good.” -- A.J. Muste |
| “The world waits for a great nation that has the common sense, the imagination and the faith to devote to the science and practice of nonviolence so much as a tenth of the money, brains, skill and devotion which it now devotes to the madness of war preparation. What is that nation waiting for before it undertakes its mission?” -- A.J. Muste |
| “There is no greater illusion than fear, no greater wrong than preparing to defend yourself, no greater misfortune than having an enemy. Whoever can see through all fear will always be safe. In leading, don’t try to force issues or defeat enemies. For every force there is a counterforce. Violence, even well-intentioned, always rebounds upon oneself.” -- Lao Tsu 46, 30 |
| “Through nonviolence, courage displaces fear; love transforms hate. Acceptance dissipates prejudice; hope ends despair. Peace dominates war; faith reconciles doubt. Mutual regard cancels enmity. Justice for all overthrows injustice. The redemptive community supersedes systems of gross social immorality.”  -- [**James Lawson**](http://org.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=fYHL7G7cftz2xqR0z60IsVhIAqY1UshM) |
| “You have heard that it was said, ‘love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, ‘Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” -- Jesus quoted in Matthew 5:43-48 |
| Albert Einstein was a committed pacifist. He stated, “I am not only a pacifist but a militant pacifist. I am willing to fight for peace. Nothing will end war unless the people themselves refuse to go to war. ” |
| Everybody who wants to abolish nuclear weapons knows that nuclear weapons are the PROBLEM, not the solution. My May 2022 TV program makes a compelling case that militarism itself also is a PHONY solution. A NONVIOLENT national defense would actually make us more secure and solve several other problems. Look for information coming soon to my blog, the May 2022 TV program, and elsewhere. |

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| Instead of escalating the Ukraine crisis into a nuclear war, we need to change the dynamics by using nonviolence. Recently Glen posted several relevant and timely articles to his blog: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/nonviolent-resistance-is-effective-in-ukraine-and-elsewhere**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/nonviolent-resistance-is-effective-in-ukraine-and-elsewhere) |
| Mark Kurlansky wrote this about nonviolence as REVOLUTIONARY: “Nonviolence has been marginalized because it is one of the rare truly revolutionary ideas, an idea that seeks to completely change the nature of society, a threat to the established order. And it has always been treated as something profoundly dangerous. Advocates of nonviolence – dangerous people – have been there throughout history, questioning the greatness of Caesar and Napoleon and the Founding Fathers and Roosevelt and Churchill." |
| Martin Luther King said: “Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time; the need for mankind to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to oppression and violence.” |
| Mohandas K. Gandhi (revered as “the Mahatma,” the great soul) said these two wise statements:  “One thing is certain. If the mad race for armaments continues, it is bound to result in a slaughter such as has never occurred in history. If there is a victor left, the very victory will be a living death for the nation that emerges victorious. There is no escape from the impending doom save through a bold and unconditional acceptance of the nonviolent method with all its glorious implications.”  “My optimism rests on my belief in the infinite possibilities of the individual to develop nonviolence. The more you develop it in your own being, the more infectious it becomes till it overwhelms your surroundings and by and by might oversweep the world.” |
| Nelson Mandela said: “No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.” |
| Nonviolent National Defense – Civilian-Based Resistance – is the kind of BOLD, NONVIOLENT ALTERNATIVE we need to the status quo of militarism.  The May 2022 episode of “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” TV series provides powerful information and inspiration to significantly improve the U.S.’s “national security” by – ironically – de-militarizing our “national defense.” Instead of military violence, we could defend our nation better through carefully planned strategies of nonviolent resistance. Besides eliminating the danger of nuclear war, a nonviolent national defense would also provide better security without all of the downsides that violent militarism causes. This TV program encourages us to think open-mindedly, boldly and creatively—and explains how nonviolent national defense could actually work effectively – and provides some examples.  The TV program is one hour long, but the article I wrote explains it better and shares more about practical examples, so I recommend READING THE ARTICLE. Here is the link: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/nonviolent-national-defense-a-practical-way-to-be-more-secure**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/nonviolent-national-defense-a-practical-way-to-be-more-secure) |
| Our world and our nation need better insights and strategies for resolving conflicts in sensible, humane ways. War and violence do not solve problems. President Kennedy said, “Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable.” George Lakey, the internationally respected trainer and writer about nonviolent grassroots organizing, said this: “Terror often happens when a population tries to suppress conflicts instead of supporting their expression. A technique for reducing terror, therefore, is to spread a pro-conflict attitude and the nonviolent skills that support people waging conflict to give full voice to their grievances.” |

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| Nowadays – leading up to Trump’s presidency and before and after – American society has been suffering horrible polarization and political violence. A large portion of our population is believing Trump’s lies and is consumed by hatred against various kinds of social and political enemies. On January 6, 2021, a huge mob of armed thugs – actually, domestic terrorists – violently attacked and occupied the U.S. Capitol in an attempt to violently overthrow the November 2020 election.  Most Americans oppose their crimes, including sedition. But retaliating with hatred against them only perpetuates the cycle of hatred. In one of Martin Luther King’s most famous sermons (“Loving Your Enemies”), Dr. King preached: “Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”  It is not enough to merely defeat these violent insurrectionists. We must affirm the truth and heal the anger, racism, and other forces that led to this insurrection in Washington DC and around the country.  A century and a half ago the Union Army decisively defeated the Confederacy, but the Civil War did not end racism. Now – 150 years later – some Americans are flying the Confederate battle flag. This is the flag of people who were so obsessed with supporting slavery that they broke away from the U.S. and made war against the U.S. government.  We must take strong political (constitutional, legal) actions to stop the crimes. But those actions will NOT solve the underlying problems of ignorance, racism, fascism or cruelty.  We need to figure out how to ACTUALLY HEAL the underlying problems. Nonviolence is a crucial part of this. See the November and December 2020 TV programs about de-polarizing American society. They’re at the “TV Programs” part of my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)  Some people who have left violent gangs (urban, racist, right-wing, etc.) have been reaching out to their fellow gang members to help them escape and heal. We need to figure out a variety of smart remedies for healing the Trump cult members, racists, fascists, and other folks on those gangs. |
| Oppressors try to bury the people who nonviolently resist them. But the oppressors don’t “know that when they try to bury us, we become seeds. Nonviolent resistance grows from the grassroots. Truly, the power of the people is more powerful than the people in power.” – Glen Anderson |
| The Dalai Lama said these three things about compassion:   * “Compassion is the radicalism of this age.” * “Compassion and concern for others are the key to human survival.” * “To develop the drop of compassion in our own heart is the only effective spiritual response to hatred and violence.” |
| The Dhammapada says:   * Conquer the angry man by love. * Conquer the ill-natured man by goodness. * Conquer the miser with generosity. * Conquer the liar with truth. |
| Some Baltic nations nonviolently freed themselves from the Soviet Union decades by nonviolently singing in their native languages. This successful bold nonviolent resistance has been called “The Singing Revolution”: [**https://actionnetwork.org/ticketed\_events/the-singing-revolution-screening-and-discussion-with-the-filmmakers?clear\_id=true&link\_id=10&can\_id=1d662460c0abb8939c5044c82927552b&source=email-wbw-news-action-awards-to-be-presented-today&email\_referrer=email\_1654258&email\_subject=wbw-news-action-awards-to-be-presented-today**](https://actionnetwork.org/ticketed_events/the-singing-revolution-screening-and-discussion-with-the-filmmakers?clear_id=true&link_id=10&can_id=1d662460c0abb8939c5044c82927552b&source=email-wbw-news-action-awards-to-be-presented-today&email_referrer=email_1654258&email_subject=wbw-news-action-awards-to-be-presented-today) |
| Wendell Berry says:  “You can best serve civilization by being against what usually passes for it.”  “Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you.” |

**Human Nature:**

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| Here is a good interview from August 14, 2022 on Velshi’s Band Book Club on Theology (especially minutes 32-42): [**Ali Velshi 9AM 8/14/22 | MSNBC BREAKING NEWS Latest Today August 14, 2022 - YouTube**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SbuRJwJGx8) or minutes 32-42 of [**Velshi – 8/14/22 | 9AM | Top News Show**](https://topnewsshow.com/velshi-8-14-22-9am/) |
| “The cost of liberty is less than the price of repression.” -- W.E.B. Du Bois |
| “We tend to think the problem is that human beings have this natural tendency to kill, and yet in the middle of a hot war, WWII, a ‘good war,’ as it were, the US army was astonished to learn that at least three out of every four riflemen who were trained and commanded to kill, could not bring themselves to pull the trigger when they could see the person they were ordered to kill. And that inner resistance to violence is a well kept secret.” -- William Ury |
| “No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.” -- Eleanor Roosevelt |
| “True community is based upon equality, mutuality, and reciprocity. It affirms the richness of individual diversity as well as the common human ties that bind us together.” -- Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray |
| Glen Anderson wrote these four points:   * People (and our political, economic and other systems) created the problems that threaten humanity. Since people caused the problems, people can solve those problems. * Many conservatives assume either (1) that the realities are not problems, or (2) that the problems are “human nature” or beyond our control. * Many liberals and progressives also assume that the problems are too big and beyond our control, so we should settle for making tiny incremental changes. * I believe that we can indeed solve the huge problems if we remove the obstacles (*e.g*., cynicism, big money’s domination of politics, mainstream political and media corruption and biases). Also, even before we remove those obstacles, we must organize nonviolent grassroots movements to solve the problems. |
| ***Humankind: A Hopeful History*** by [**Rutger Bregman**](https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/rutger-bregman/2744434/): This best-selling author wrote what one reviewer called “the riveting pick-me-up we all need right now.” This book makes a solid, well-researched case that humans thrive in a crisis and that our innate kindness and cooperation have been the greatest factors in our long-term success. Despite the widespread assumptions that “human nature” is bad, and we are naturally greedy and self-interest, Rutger Bregman debunks those assumptions and provides important information from throughout human history in many parts of the world. He explains – and provides evidence – that we are hardwired for cooperation and kindness and mutual trust. Humans have survived because of these inherent characteristics. Believing this is not naïve wishful thinking; it is realistic. This alternative understanding has powerful implications for how we can make society function better. Our politics and economics bring out the worst in people, but if we understand our actual altruism, we can make human society much better in many ways. The ***Humankind*** book has two chapters on soldiers refusing to fight. |

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| You can listen to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights set to music! Watch and hear this: [**Joy to the World -- Universal Declaration of Human Rights Lyrics! - YouTube**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dUChLi7blQ) |
| Sometimes when we work to significantly improve our society or our politics, people will try to inhibit our efforts by saying, “You can’t change human nature.” They assume that “human nature” is fixed and impervious to improvement. Actually, history has proven otherwise. People have indeed made radical progressive changes, and we can accomplish more.  We do not need to “change human nature.” If we change our society so it will function better, people will change for the better too.  So, for example, instead of assuming that “human nature” causes people to be greedy, let’s change our economic system and our tax system to promote cooperation and sharing instead of overconsumption, exploitation (of nature and people), and accumulation of excess wealth. If we change our economic and tax systems – and the values and culture they represent – we’ll find that people will be more likely to cooperate and share.  This is a positive “can-do” approach that replaces negative assumptions about “human nature” that hold us back from creating a peaceful, nonviolent, equitable, sustainable, satisfying society.  Also, see the ***Humankind*** book mentioned above for a readable way to learn and understand the exciting possibilities instead of the inaccurate and negative assumptions about “human nature.” |

**Spirituality:**

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| “A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.” -- Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., on April 4, 1967 |
| “Is there a spiritual reality, inconceivable to us today, which corresponds in history to the physical reality which Einstein discovered and which led to the atomic bomb? Einstein discovered a law of physical change: the way to convert a single particle of matter into enormous physical energy. Might there not also be, as Gandhi suggested, an equally incredible and undiscovered law of spiritual change, whereby a single person or a small community of persons could be converted into an enormous spiritual energy capable of transforming a society and a world?” -- James W. Douglass***, Lightning East to West*** |
| “Satyagraha has a double meaning: it signifies a determined holding on to, a grappling with truth, while at the same time it implies the force that arises from that grappling, what Gandhi called ‘soul-force.’ It stands for both the means and the ends, the struggle and the force that is generated in the struggle. As heat is generated by friction, Gandhi contended, power is released from writhing the depths of the human spirit in its struggle toward truth.” -- Badshah Khan, who was known as “The Frontier Gandhi”  For many years, Badshah Khan – a devout pacifist Muslim from the mountainous Pashtun area of what is now in Pakistan, NW of India and near Afghanistan – practiced courageous nonviolent resistance to the British Empire along with Mohandas (“the Mahatma”) Gandhi. He found that profound nonviolence was fully compatible with his Islamic faith, just as Gandhi found it fully compatible with his Hindu faith. This man organized an “army” of pacifist Muslims to practice Satyagraha in support of independence – and he spent many years in prisons in his homeland. (Some accounts exceed the 16 years I had heard of, ranging up to 30 or 37 years in total.) I highly recommend the informative and inspiring book by Eknath Easwaran titled: ***A Man to Match His Mountains***. |
| “Let us reflect on what is truly of value in life, what gives meaning to our lives, and set our priorities on the basis of that.” -- 14th Dalai Lama |
| “One of the reasons we’re destroying the planet is that it has lost its sacred dimension for us. The planet as given to us by science is a physical reality essentially meaningless in itself. It’s a resource for our physical activity.” -- Thomas Berry |
| “The kingdom of heaven begins right here.” -- Archbishop Oscar Romero |
| “We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.” -- Aldo Leopold |
| “I am calling for the mother of all uprisings to begin. Many remarkable individuals have called for different kinds of revolution: economic, technological, energy, educational, spiritual, ethical, inner: a revolution of the conscience and of the heart. … All are motivated by the need to create a better world. But for me, the Revolution of Compassion is the heart, the bedrock, the original inspiration for all others.”  -- Tenzin Gyatso, The XIV Dalai Lama |
| “The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift.” -- Albert Einstein |
| I wish the politicians who claim to be Christians would respect these commands from the Bible:   * “Seek peace, and pursue it.” -- Psalm 34:14 and 1 Peter 3:11 * “Live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers and sisters, be compassionate and humble.” -- 1 Peter 3:8 |
| The Bible supports peace. It urges turning weapons of war into tools for peaceful purposes. Isaiah 2:4 calls for this: “They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” |