**“Glen’s Parallax Perspectives”** is a series of TV programs offering fresh ways for people to see issues such as foreign policy, social and economic justice, governmental functioning, the environment, and so forth. We provide voices and viewpoints that are rarely heard in mainstream media.

**Mainstream media, politicians, and culture see the world in conventional ways. Therefore, in order to solve problems, we need to see things in fresh ways.** Glen Anderson created this TV series to help people see things differently so we can solve problems at all levels from the local to the global.

This series title refers to “***parallax***,” which is the view you get by looking from a different perspective. For example, put one finger in front of your nose and another finger farther away. Close one eye. Then open that eye and close the other. Your fingers will seem to move. This is called a “parallax” view. **This TV series invites you to look at issues from fresh perspectives.**

Each program airs three times a week (currently every Monday at 1:30 pm, every Wednesday at 5:00 pm, and every Thursday at 9:00 pm) for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for cable TV subscribers in Thurston County, Washington. TCTV is part of Thurston County Media. You can see their schedule at [**www.tcmedia.org**](http://www.tcmedia.org)

**You can also watch the program summarized below through your computer** at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). All episodes of “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” are posted on this blog’s “TV Programs” part and also in one or more of the categories listed in the right side of the blog home page. Also, see information about various issues at the category headings at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).

Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 [**glenanderson@integra.net**](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net)

**🡪 I saved this document in Word format with live links.** If this document does not load or print properly for you, please e-mail me at [**glenanderson@integra.net**](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net) and I’ll promptly send you the links you request.

**🡪 Please invite other people to watch this video and/or read this thorough summary through these parts of my blog,** [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)**, including the categories for “TV Programs” and “Organizing.”**

**“**Choose a Bold, Humane Future!**”**

Glen’s Parallax Perspectives TV Series

November 2022

Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 [**glenanderson@integra.net**](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net)

**Glen introduced our topic and our guest, Melanie Bennett:**

He welcomed the TV viewers to this month’s program on “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” TV series. He said he and a savvy guest will help **you** make substantive progress on issues **you** care about.

He said the American people know serious problems exist. Public opinion polls keep showing that increasing majorities are saying our nation is “on the wrong track.” So what do we do about it? Take small steps only? Or solve the big problems?

This month’s TV interview is positive, upbeat, creative, and encouraging. **Besides working to stop what we oppose, what if we also worked equally hard for what we want instead?**

A savvy guest helps us explore this topic. Glen said he is delighted that Melanie Bennett is the perfect guest to discuss today’s topic. She and Arthur Kanegis were guests on his April 2022 TV program, which urged us to get beyond narrow nationalism and see ourselves as citizens of the whole world. Melanie and Arthur produced an amazing film about that, titled, **“The World is My Country.”** We’ll discuss this during the interview you’re watching now.

Glen said he has enjoyed connecting with Melanie on something else she co-produces: the “People-Powered Planet Podcast,” where people explore bold ways to build a world that works for everyone.

**Public opinion polls keep saying the nation is “on the wrong track”:**

More and more nowadays, in public opinion polls the American people are saying our nation is “on the wrong track.” **This TV interview:**

* Explores some ways in which our nation is “on the wrong track”
* Encourages you to choose bold solutions to the big, serious problems
* Provides insights and encouragement for actually creating a better nation and world

Often people say the system is “broken.” It is not “broken.” It is “fixed” in a different sense of the word “fixed.” The system has been corruptly designed to serve people who have economic and political power – at the expense of ordinary people and the environment.

In 2013, U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren spoke to a nationwide meeting of labor union members. She told them, “The American people know that the system is rigged against them.”

**The rigged system is firmly entrenched. But a Turkish proverb says, “No matter how far you’ve gone down on a wrong road, turn back.”**

**During this hour we will encourage us to turn back from several of the wrong roads we’re on.**

Melanie strongly agreed with the metaphor about going down a wrong road. She said almost everybody in the car can see that there is a cliff ahead (although a few persons are asleep). What should we do? We stop the car and get out. We also block the road so no other cars will drive off the cliff. We work together to take action to solve the problem.

She said this is an example of an emergency. She said human beings are very smart, so we can solve problems.

Glen reinforced Melanie’s urging to solve problems collaboratively. He said we will talk about this collaborative, participatory, egalitarian approach later in the interview.

**The public wants much more progressive public policies than what governments provide:**

Glen read a short quotation and asked Melanie how well this summarizes our situation nowadays. **Here is the quotation:**

“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.”

Glen said this quotation sounds like our current crisis, but actually it is a century and a half old. President Abraham Lincoln said it on December 1, 1862, in his State of the Union message.

The crisis that Lincoln referred to sounds like the crisis we are experiencing now. Public opinion polls keep showing that – on issue after issue – the public wants stronger, more progressive public policies than our governments produce:

* The public wants to protect the environment and climate vigorously, but governments either do nothing or take only small, timid actions.
* The public wants to cut the military budget and use the savings to meet human needs, but Congress keeps failing to do that. Congress keeps escalating the military budget and refusing to fund what we really need.
* The public wants to get “Big Money” out of political election campaigns, but governments keep refusing to do that.
* The public wants high quality health care for every person, but governments keep failing to do that.

He said this pattern occurs in case after case after case. On a great many issues, the public is far, far ahead of what governments are willing to do.

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?’”

Glen also likes what David Graeber said: “The ultimate, hidden truth of the world is that it is something that we make, and could just as easily make differently.”

Glen said the problems are huge, but we really can solve them. We can indeed turn things around, and he expressed appreciation for Melanie’s wisdom and encouragement during this interview.

He said that although it is obvious that serious problems persist, NEARLY ALL INCUMBENTS -- in BOTH of the big political parties -- fail to take strong, effective actions. He said VOTERS MUST REPLACE ALL of the negligent, “do-nothing” incumbents in BOTH of the big political parties. We especially must replace the incumbents who are actively making things worse.

He said he agrees with a guest on one of his previous TV programs who said: **only 5% of democracy is about voting, but 95% of democracy is about grassroots organizing** to actually **change the realities** from the grassroots up.

He said the public really does want very bold, humane changes, but elections will **not** produce the profound changes that we really need. The bold, humane changes we want will occur **only if** ordinary people organize bold grassroots movements with smart nonviolent strategies.

Melanie agreed that a lot of work needs to be done – and that “the will of the people” is crucial. Not enough is being done now. “We do have the capacity! We can do this!” She quoted Helen Keller, who said, “Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement.”

Melanie affirmed that a starting point is to begin by knowing that we really can do what needs to be done.

Glen agreed and said he will post to his blog some relevant quotations about “hope.” He said his understanding of hope is “not a statistical probability that things will get better, but it is a realization that we **can** make things better. The option is there, and we need to act upon that.” He said Helen Keller’s quotation helps us understand this potential.

**Systemic constraints, obstacles, etc., interfere with the progress that the public wants:**

When Melanie and Glen were talking on the phone to prepare for this interview, she said that the system and the culture impose limitations and excuses. We need to reject those and boldly move ahead. Some people want to avoid the hard realities.

Melanie briefly mentioned some **systemic and cultural problems** that trap us – and the **alternatives** that can free us. We discuss them more thoroughly later in the interview.

She said “the domination system” that surrounds us inhibits us from making good decisions. “The domination system” pretty much forces bad decisions upon society. We need a better system so society can make better decisions.

She said that when she is preparing to make a decision she asks herself, “Will this be good for the world or bad for the world?”

She said “each person has the capacity to change things.”

She added that some people unnecessarily limit themselves by saying, “I’m only one person, so I can’t do anything.” But that’s not the case.

Glen said that even if “I’m only one person,” there is also another “one person” next to him, and there is another “one person” next to that person, and on and on. Cumulatively, if all of us cooperate, we become a huge majority, so we really can change things.

Glen said both he and Melanie understand that a majority of people really do want to make the bold changes that we’ll be discussing during this TV interview. He said, “the numbers are on our side!”

**We did not have time for Glen to add these ideas:**

* **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, you can write a check payable to them and mail it to them. But don’t make the rest of us subsidize them.
* 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.”
* People (and our political, economic and other systems) created the problems that are hurting humanity and our environment. Since people caused the problems, people can solve those problems.
* Many conservatives assume either (1) that the bad 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 only 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, in order to remove those obstacles, we must first organize strategically savvy nonviolent grassroots movements to solve the problems.
  + We grow up in a political culture that shows us only a VERY LIMITED range of choices. Most people choose from this VERY LIMITED range, so our political culture remains stuck. We can make progress only if we CREATE A MUCH WIDER RANGE of choices – and then use our best values and our best thinking to choose the wisest, most compassionate solutions – and also ENCOURAGE AND EMPOWER OTHER PEOPLE also to explore wider possibilities push for bold solutions.
* **We need to recognize and debunk the commonplace baloney that keeps us trapped in unjust political and economic systems.**
* **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.**

**People feel powerless. In order to solve problems, we must empower ourselves:**

Glen said nowadays a great many people feel powerless:

* 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.

Glen said he believes that when people vent their frustrations – and vent their feelings of powerlessness – in these ways, society suffers. We need to recognize and understand these feelings of powerlessness. Also, we need to figure out how to change the power dynamics in society to solve problems instead of making problems worse.

Melanie said many people feel they do not have a voice. This leads them to lash out.

Instead, Melanie urged respect for ourselves and respect for all other people’s humanity. She mentioned that we live in a “domination system” that teaches us to push other people down in order to empower ourselves. She said the “domination society” is all about powerful people dominating people who have less power. The “domination society” is “pushing us to be our worst selves,” she said.

We discussed the “domination society” and a humane alternative, the “partnership society,” next in this interview. **(*See the next page*.)**

**We did not have time for Glen to add these ideas:**

* Instead of merely asking governments to solve problems, “We the People” must empower ourselves and take action. We can figure out the good solutions and how to implement them without asking or waiting for governments.
* Glen has previously written, “The Power of the People is more Powerful than the People in Power.” This is a key point for today’s TV program.
* “Dictators are never as strong as they tell you they are.” AND “People are never as weak as they think they are.” -- These wise insights came from Gene Sharp, the world’s best researcher on the power of nonviolence and how to use nonviolence to remove dictators from power. Gene Sharp said that if we recognize these truths, we can organize nonviolent grassroots movements to topple dictators and prevent other nations from conquering us. Glen encourages people to see much resource information at his non-profit organization’s website, [**www.aeinstein.org**](http://www.aeinstein.org)
* When we were preparing for this interview, Melanie said we must devise solutions that will truly empower people so people can be the leaders that we need.
* Also, before we conducted the interview, Melanie recommended that people visualize what we want. She said athletes visualize succeeding. Likewise, we in our society have the option to see the future in a good way instead of the bad status quo. If we envision good outcomes, our energies will flow toward creating those good outcomes.

🡪 Go on to the next page for Melanie’s encouragement to replace the current “domination society” with a “participation society” that we need.

**Melanie contrasted the current “domination society” with the “partnership   
society” that we need. Riane Eisler’s smart book, *The Chalice & the Blade*,   
contrasts those two models and shows that history shows a “participation   
society” really is possible:**

Glen said he has appreciated occasions in the past when Melanie has explained what the “domination society” is – and what the “partnership society” is. Now she helped our TV viewers understand the contrast – and how we can improve our society.

Melanie said she loves explaining this. She said she draws the concept from Dr. Riane Eisler’s 1987 book, ***The Chalice & the Blade***, which contrasts the “domination society” and the “partnership society.” Glen said he has read the book. Melanie said this book is “world-changing” and that Dr. Eisler is a systems scientist, historian and futurist. She pulls various kinds of knowledge together and is still actively doing this now. (*See citations in the next column*)

Melanie said that a few minutes ago we had talked about the road we are going down. She said that actually there is a very different road that has existed since ancient times that people had traveled down – a road that is a much better system than the road that is dominant nowadays.

She said our current dominant system is a hierarchy with a few “in” people on top and many people down below and “out.” This system uses violence and war to push downward the people who are not in the top elite group. She said all of that consumes a lot of energy because it is not efficient for the whole society. It also stifles creativity and ultimately hurts the society.

She contrasted that “domination society” with a “partnership society” that – while not a utopia – works much more fairly and better overall. So, for example, she said that in a business operating with a “partnership” culture, respect, accountability and power flow in both directions, instead of bosses abusing workers. She said in this kind of business a manager helps the workers flourish.

Melanie wants our society and our world to function in this “partnership” way instead of the current “domination” way. She said that even after ***The Chalice & the Blade*** was published, researchers have found more and more evidence to add to the historical evidence that Riane Eisler reported from some ancient areas (the Minoan society in Crete and archeological sites in Turkey and elsewhere) that the “partnership” way of organizing society really has existed and thrived. Archaeological evidence shows egalitarian housing instead of differences in wealth. People were not buried with weapons. War did not seem to exist. These were highly sophisticated societies that were organized for “partnership” instead of “domination.”

She said this exciting news can inform and inspire people nowadays who feel our society is stuck. She affirmed that we really do have smart alternatives to the status quo.

Glen agreed and said the “partnership” society was egalitarian in a number of ways. For example, women were valued as **people**, instead of being used and oppressed, and women could actually be leaders. Those societies recognized that everybody in the population was equally valued. Melanie added that while various people had various kinds of jobs, the society respected every person equally and knew that they would thrive better if they recognized that they were all in on this together. She said those societies valued nature, life, birth, and all the parts of the ecosystems that they knew they needed to cherish and protect. She said we need this consciousness nowadays.

Melanie and Glen both encourage people to read ***The Chalice & the Blade*** and to visit Riane Eisler’s website, [**https://rianeeisler.com/**](https://rianeeisler.com/) Glen said he read the book several decades ago because a friend had recommended it, and he recognized it as powerful and informative. Melanie also mentioned the Center for Partnership Systems, [**https://centerforpartnership.org/**](https://centerforpartnership.org/), where Riane Eisler provides much more information. Melanie said Dr. Eisler has many YouTube presentations and information in many places.

Melanie said Riane Eisler was the guest for her April 27, 2022, podcast in the series that she co-hosts with Arthur Kanegis. Glen enjoyed watching it on that date. Anyone now can click this link and scroll down to April 27, 2022, to watch her video presentation: [**https://www.theworldismycountry.com/club**](https://www.theworldismycountry.com/club) Also, you can sign up to be notified for weekly podcasts. They feature a variety of expert speakers and savvy discussions. They are great!

**Instead of settling for incrementalism, set truly bold, humane, sustainable goals:**

**Glen said one of the main themes of today’s interview is to go far beyond the timid incremental reforms that the elites want to constrain us with – and instead to build the case for setting truly bold goals that can significantly overhaul or systems and our society.**

He said he would present some insights about this and then ask Melanie to share her insights about this.

He said our problems – environmental damage, climate disruptions, relying upon war as a foreign policy tool, and so forth – are **gigantic** problems, so they require **gigantic** solutions. Therefore, **we must organize to accomplish SOLUTIONS THAT ARE VERY BOLD**. Timid solutions will not be enough to solve gigantic problems!

He said in the U.S., liberals ask what is “politically feasible” and ask for small changes that fit within the current mind-set and ideology of the political and economic elites. They limit themselves to timid reforms that the political parties and giant corporations could be persuaded to grant us.

But, he said, for a long time in Latin America, people have been demanding BOLD reforms and AGITATING BOLDLY. In the U.S., our modest reforms are watered down and deferred. He said he believes that if we want real progress, we must be more assertive like the Latin Americans have been, and BOLDLY assert BOLD goals and agitate nonviolently to push for those.

**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!**

He said that when he and Melanie were talking on the phone to prepare for this interview, she agreed that we need BOLD goals and BOLD organizing instead of timid incrementalism. He invited her to share her insights now.

**Melanie said that when emergencies occur, we must take action – and we do better when we work together.**

**She said right now our emergency is nuclear weapons.** She said we absolutely must take strong actions now. She especially urged the U.S. and other nations to ratify the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** (TPNW). The Treaty was developed by several persons from several nations. They used the model that has worked successfully to ban chemical weapons worldwide in the 1990s. [See information about the Chemical Weapons Convention here: [**https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/cwcglance**](https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/cwcglance)]

She expressed great appreciation for the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons ([**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)), which developed the TPNW and successfully got the United Nations General Assembly to pass it overwhelmingly (122 of 193 nations) in July 2017. Then it went out to the world’s nations for ratification. By the date we taped this interview, 68 nations have ratified it. She said that it went into effect – and became international law – on January 22, 2021.

She said the TPNW’s wording is very strong. Its many active verbs prevent any and all kinds of support for any and all activities supporting nuclear weapons. This also prohibits business activities for nuclear weapons in the various countries that have ratified the TPNW.

She said she was talking with an employee at Lockheed Martin, one of the U.S. business corporations that makes important parts for nuclear weapons. She told him that if he were working for Lockheed Martin in any of the 68 nations that have ratified the TPNW, he could be held legally accountable (fined and/or arrested). She said the TPNW is clamping down on the businesses that support nuclear weapons in any way.

She added that decades ago consumers forced General Electric to stop all of its work on nuclear weapons. Glen said he remembers the significant nonviolent action at a GE nuclear warhead factory in the city of King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

[On September 9, 1980, some religious peace activists known as the Plowshares Eight were arrested for breaking into the GE plant, damaging some nose cones designed for the Mark 12A nuclear warheads, pouring their blood on several documents, and praying for peace. This inspired the larger Plowshares Movement, which included many other nonviolent actions over a number of years. See this [**https://www.kophistory.org/plowshares-eight/**](https://www.kophistory.org/plowshares-eight/) and this [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUph8GWFupE**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUph8GWFupE) and this [**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plowshares\_movement**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plowshares_movement)]

Glen said this 1980 Plowshares action inspired a worldwide movement of people boycotting GE products. This boycott pressure forced GE to stop making nuclear weapons because GE realized that the boycott would cost them more income than they were earning by making the weapons.

Melanie agreed with this. She said the next target for a boycott is Honeywell, which makes consumer products in addition to nuclear weapons.

She said the bold actions that we need include these kinds of worldwide boycotts. She encouraged people to visit her organization’s website and sign a pledge to join their campaign for people to find out whether any of their investments include nuclear weapons – and, if so, to sell those investments. She provided this website link – [**https://www.theworldismycountry.com/endorse**](https://www.theworldismycountry.com/endorse) – so people can support the TPNW by pulling our money out of nuclear weapons investments. She also recommended a similar effort through [**www.dontbankonthebomb.com**](http://www.dontbankonthebomb.com), so people can find out whether their pensions, banks, mutual funds, etc., are funding nuclear weapons.

She said nuclear weapons have continued for the 30 years after the Cold War ended, and our money is still funding them. She said everyone can help us get off this horrible road.

Glen said that in a few minutes from now we will discuss further the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. He said a feature that makes the TPNW so powerful is that it emphasizes a great number of active verbs, so the Treaty prohibits researching, financing, developing, manufacturing, transporting, and so forth. He said the people who developed the TPNW modeled it after the treaty that banned chemical weapons, which has been very, very effective because it used those kinds of active verbs.

**We did not have time for Glen to add these points:**

* 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?’”
* The philosopher Schopenhauer and other people have said: “All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.”
* Beatrice Fihn (Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)) said this when she accepted ICAN’s 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.”
* Cornel West said: “Justice is what love looks like in public.”
* Blaise Pascal, the French scientist and philosopher, said: “Justice and power must be brought together, so that whatever is just may be powerful and whatever is powerful may be just.”
* Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., said: “Justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love.”
* Naomi Klein, the very savvy writer about public policies, said: “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.”
* Now I would add more encouragement for us to be bold. 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.”

**The Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been excellent since 1948.  
Let’s expand and protect human rights worldwide:**

When we were on the phone preparing for this interview, Melanie told Glen that a great example of boldness is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Eleanor Roosevelt was a great champion promoting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The United Nations General Assembly adopted them in 1948.

Melanie told Glen that people need to know what these rights are and to exercise them – including when challenged by persons who have official power.

Melanie said the Universal Declaration of Human Rights includes 30 articles. She encouraged people to read them.

She said that in order to help people appreciate the gist of them, she asked a musician friend to summarize them to a famous tune on the piano. She said it would be fun and useful for someone to adapt them to the lyrics in a rap music format. She said these would be clever musical ways for people to internalize the message that we all are born free, and we all are entitled to these universal rights. We did not have time during the TV interview to air the 93-second musical coverage, but Melanie provided this link so you can watch and hear now: [**Joy to the World -- Universal Declaration of Human Rights Lyrics! - YouTube**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dUChLi7blQ)

Glen said that – besides posting this interview to his blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) – he will also post much supplemental material. You are reading this material now. His blog post will also include a document listing a great many quotations about the topics we are discussing during this TV interview.

Melanie said the effort to get the U.N. General Assembly to adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was stalling, so Garry Davis (the man who led an effort for world citizenship and is the subject of the film she co-produced ([**https://www.theworldismycountry.com/**](https://www.theworldismycountry.com/)) organized 20,000 people into a bold effort in Paris (where the U.N. was meeting soon after it was created) to free them from obstruction so they could be adopted.

See the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at this link: [**https://www.ohchr.org/en/universal-declaration-of-human-rights**](https://www.ohchr.org/en/universal-declaration-of-human-rights)

**Peace: De-militarize foreign policy:**

Glen raised another major issue that needs truly bold, humane progress. He said the American people must take responsibility to change how the U.S. government interacts with other nations.

He said the world is chronically suffering from war and military violence, which are examples of the “domination system” oppressing people from the top down. People with too much economic and political power hurt the rest of us. We can and must reverse that.

People have said that “truth is the first casualty of war.” It is also true that almost all of the other casualties of war are innocent victims. The war system is terribly abusive.

An important part of this TV program – choosing truly bold and humane alternatives – is to radically change how the U.S. government interacts with people worldwide.

He said during most of our nation’s history we had relatively few wars, but in 1947 our government changed the name of the Department of War into the Department of “Defense” – and ever since 1947 we have started dozens of wars all over the world – while using the deceptive euphemism “defense” to justify them. He said we have been at war almost continuously since then – and often have been conducting several wars at the same time.

He said the Constitution says we can’t go to war unless Congress actually declares war, but the last time Congress actually declared war was ¾ of a century ago – in 1941 for World War II. Since 1947 Congress has abdicated its constitutional responsibility by allowing presidents to start and conduct wars all over the world. Congress – instead of honestly declaring wars – keeps passing bigger and bigger budgets for endless undeclared wars. He said, “Congress is in cahoots with presidents in that abusive domination system.”

Millions of Americans want to de-militarize our foreign policy and replace the war system with honest diplomacy so we can solve international problems without violence.

Powerful forces – big businesses and especially the ones that manufacture military weapons – fund the election campaigns for Presidents and Congress members.

As a result of all this, President Reagan’s Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger staked out the global turf for the U.S. to militarize. He stated, “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.” **Ironically, this claim for the U.S.’s unilateral right to dominate the world came from the Reagan Administration, which said it opposed “Big Government”! Actually, they wanted the biggest governmental agency of all to oppress the entire world!**

Glen said this actually has been U.S. policy – the policy of BOTH political parties – since the end of World War II.

He said war and other forms of violence just don’t work. The last war the U.S. actually won was World War II. Since then we’ve lost long wars to poor nations, such as our long war in Vietnam and our 20-year war in Afghanistan. We can’t even win wars against the world’s poorest nations! Militarism does NOT work!

**Military “solutions” only make problems worse!** **Glen said he agrees with these quotations by very well-informed persons:**

* 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.”
* Marcus G. Raskin and A. Carl Levan wrote: “American democracy is decaying because freedom has been mortgaged to bear the costs of empire.”
* Jeremy Scahill wrote: “US policy has been its own worst enemy…. We’ve created the very threats we claim to be fighting.”
* 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.”
* Albert Einstein wrote: “Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.”

Glen urged us to recognize the wisdom expressed here and to recognize that military “solutions” only make problems worse. He said, “**We must BOLDLY replace the war system with a peace system – a nonviolent system supporting peace and human rights!”**

At this point, Glen proposed a VERY BOLD solution now – **NONVIOLENT NATIONAL DEFENSE** instead of militarism. He summarized a few points now and said that in about 2 minutes he would invite Melanie to propose another VERY BOLD solution – **WORLD CITIZENSHIP** instead of narrow nationalism.

**He said Nonviolent National Defense – Nonviolent Civilian-Based Resistance – is the kind of BOLD alternative we need to replace the status quo of military violence.**

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 against any nation that would invade us. Besides eliminating the danger of nuclear war, a nonviolent national defense would also provide better security without all of the downsides (including economic waste and environmental damage) that violent militarism causes.

He said his May 2022 TV program explains how nonviolent national defense could actually work effectively if we are open-minded, bold and creative. That TV program is one hour long. The article he wrote explains it more thoroughly and shares several practical examples of other nations’ successful nonviolent resistance to repel invaders and topple dictators, so he recommends READING THE ARTICLE he wrote. Here is the link to the article **and** the TV video: [**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)

Glen said he’ll be summarizing the case for nonviolent national defense for the January 11, 2023, podcast that Melanie will be hosting at 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time. See Melanie’s podcast information here: [**https://www.theworldismycountry.com/club**](https://www.theworldismycountry.com/club) Melanie said people need to understand how much more powerful nonviolence is than the violence that is dominant in the status quo. She expressed appreciation for George Lakey, Gene Sharp, and other experts who have researched and encouraged nonviolent alternatives.

She said people keep getting taught to use violence, such as hitting a kid that does something wrong. Glen said hitting the kid only teaches the kid to use violence.

Glen said his blog’s “TV Programs” category also includes his April 2022 TV program in which Melanie Bennett and Arthur Kanegis made a solid case for world citizenship instead of narrow nationalism. Here is that link: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/world-citizenship-see-fascinating-information-here**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/world-citizenship-see-fascinating-information-here)

**We did not have time for Glen to add these points:**

* + 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.
  + Let’s urge Congress to SLASH military spending and FULLY FUND human needs.

**We did not have time to mention these quotations:**

* Johann Galtung, historian and author who wrote extensively about the perils of empire, wrote: “By peace we mean the capacity to transform conflicts with empathy, without violence, and creatively – a never ending process.”
* Martin Luther King Jr, wrote this in his book, ***The Trumpet of Conscience***: “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.”
* 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.
* Arundhati Roy wrote: “Once weapons were manufactured to fight wars. Now wars are manufactured to sell weapons.”
* A number of savvy people have said: “Wars will end when people refuse to fight.”
* Glen has said: “World domination is harder than you’d think.”
* Glen also keeps telling people to use our words to break out of this domination. Instead of referring to “the defense budget,” we should accurately call it “the military budget.” It does not really defend us. Using that term plays into the framing that the war-hawks want. Let’s call military spending what it really is.
* Martin Luther King, Jr., said: “Those who love peace must learn to organize as effectively as those who love war.”
* 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.”

**World citizenship:**

Next, Melanie introduced another BOLD REMEDY that is also fun to think about and work toward.

Glen said he has enjoyed following Melanie’s work to promote world citizenship instead of narrow nationalism. He watched the film she and Arthur Kanegis produced about this. They explained world citizenship on Glen’s April 2022 TV program: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/world-citizenship-see-fascinating-information-here**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/world-citizenship-see-fascinating-information-here)

Now she told our TV viewers about this exciting bold solution. Her website promoting world citizenship is [**https://www.theworldismycountry.com**](https://www.theworldismycountry.com) It provides much information and some resources. You can watch the film about world citizenship for a low cost and/or watch the film trailer for free. You can see more resources here: **<https://www.theworldismycountry.com/resources>**

Melanie says the movie “The World Is My Country” makes a compelling case for seeing ourselves as **world citizens** regardless of what countries we happen to live in. She said this was promoted decades ago by Garry Davis, whose experience in World War II – in which he bombed countless people in Germany – influenced him to renounce war and promote **world citizenship**. He was an American who loved his country but knew we must transcend narrow nationalism and embrace the entire world with a new consciousness and a commitment to connecting all of humanity. He took a number of BOLD ACTIONS to transcend narrow nationalism on behalf of **world citizenship**.

Garry Davis gave up his passport, created a World Passport, and asserted his right to travel anywhere as a citizen of the whole world. One of the organizations that has been carrying on his work has been issuing world passports: [**https://www.theworldismycountry.com/worldpassport**](https://www.theworldismycountry.com/worldpassport)

Melanie said that while we might see ourselves as citizens of our local cities or states or nations, we also need to care about the entire planet, so we can see ourselves as citizens of the entire world – and stop violent conflicts with other nations – and care for all of Planet Earth’s ecosystems and people – and protect them for future generations. Hurting the environment anywhere hurts the environments of other places. Detonating a nuclear bomb anywhere would hurt other places, so she said we need to recognize nuclear weapons as “suicide machines.”

Garry Davis has been called World Citizen #1. Melanie Bennett and Arthur Kanegis produced the film about Garry Davis’s work, titled, “The World is My Country.” Glen enjoyed watching the full-length theatrical movie online. A shorter TV version also exists. Melanie’s non-profit organization has been organizing wider outreach for the concept of world citizenship, and they have been showing their film and the TV version through more kinds of viewing opportunities. It has been on over a hundred PBS stations and broadcast to 31 million homes on LINK TV.

She and Arthur also co-produce the “People-Powered Planet Podcast,” where people discuss how we can build a world that works well for everyone: [**https://www.theworldismycountry.com/club**](https://www.theworldismycountry.com/club)

**Abolish nuclear weapons! Support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW):**

Next we discussed another BOLD SOLUTION: abolishing nuclear weapons!

Glen said we support the incremental steps that are necessary, such as taking our weapons off from “hair-trigger” alert, declaring a “no-first-use” policy, and so forth. He said the U.S. has ALWAYS had a policy of willingness to start a nuclear war instead of protecting the world by promising never to again be the first nation to launch them. ALL presidents have claimed to have that right, and Congress has NEVER passed legislation to prevent “first-use.”

He said we need to take a number of these specific steps to reduce the likelihood of nuclear war, but the REAL SOLUTION to the problem is to ABOLISH nuclear weapons!

He said that in May 1946, the brilliant physicist Albert Einstein warned us: “The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything except our thinking. Thus, we are drifting toward catastrophe beyond conception. We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if mankind is to survive.”

Therefore, the BOLD SOLUTION we need now is to actually ABOLISH nuclear weapons. Glen said that earlier in our interview Melanie had provided some information about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Now we are adding more information.

He said both Melanie and he are enthusiastic about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). (See [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)). He said he is active in the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear weapons and in the statewide coalition Washington Against Nuclear Weapons. Both organizations strongly support the TPNW.

He said that – fortunately -- the world’s nations have already started that process. In July 2017 a huge majority of the United Nations General Assembly – 122 of 193 nations – passed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This allowed the world’s nations to start ratifying it. Thus far (in October 2022) 68 nations have ratified it and made the Treaty a solid part of their national laws, so they can implement the Treaty’s very, very strict requirements. (The 9 nations that have nuclear weapons oppose the Treaty.)

Glen said the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN, [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)) has been promoting the Treaty effectively and won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize after having passed the Treaty in the U.N. General Assembly.

Melanie said that in June 2022, the 66 nations that had ratified the TPNW by that time met in Vienna to organize further progress for promoting and implementing the Treaty.

[This information was publicized before that meeting -- [**https://www.icanw.org/tpnw\_first\_meeting\_of\_states\_parties\_vienna\_january\_2022**](https://www.icanw.org/tpnw_first_meeting_of_states_parties_vienna_january_2022).]

[Here are two reports about what the meeting accomplished: [**https://www.icanw.org/vienna\_declaration\_action\_plan\_overview**](https://www.icanw.org/vienna_declaration_action_plan_overview) and [**https://hrn.or.jp/eng/news/2022/07/04/report-on-the-first-meeting-of-states-parties-to-the-un-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons/**](https://hrn.or.jp/eng/news/2022/07/04/report-on-the-first-meeting-of-states-parties-to-the-un-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons/) ]

Melanie said that Beatrice Fihn, a leader of ICAN, debunked the myth that nuclear weapons are a necessary deterrent by asking people whether they trust each of the nine men who have the power to launch nuclear weapons. Melanie said a great many mistakes, accidents, and other events have nearly caused nuclear destruction over the decades.

She said that in 1983 Lt. Col. Petrov, a Soviet Air Force official, disobeyed Soviet military protocol by refusing to notify his superiors of incoming missiles which would have caused them to launch their nuclear weapons against the U.S. She said the USSR’s technology recognized missiles heading toward the Soviet Union, but it turned out that those images were reflections from clouds, so disobeying the Soviet military protocol prevented nuclear war. This Soviet military official now is recognized as “the man who saved the world.” See this: [**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanislav\_Petrov**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanislav_Petrov)

We did not have time for us to share other examples of disobeying orders during the Cuban Missile Crisis or examples of the many, many false alarms, accidents, screw-ups, and other occasions that nearly destroyed the world.

Melanie cited the metaphor she had mentioned earlier in the interview about being in a car rushing toward a cliff. We must stop the car now.

**Melanie provided these resources about the TPNW’s June 2022 meeting in Vienna:**

* [**https://meetings.unoda.org/section/tpnw-msp-1-2022\_webcast/**](https://meetings.unoda.org/section/tpnw-msp-1-2022_webcast/)
* [**https://www.youtube.com/user/ICANinAction/videos**](https://www.youtube.com/user/ICANinAction/videos)
* [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBfEoaA01-k**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBfEoaA01-k)
* [**https://vienna.icanw.org/msptv-by-ican**](https://vienna.icanw.org/msptv-by-ican)**?**
* [**https://www.nuclearbantreaty.org/get-involved/**](https://www.nuclearbantreaty.org/get-involved/)

**Melanie provided these resources about stopping our investments in nuclear weapons:**

* “Don’t Bank on the Bomb” ([**www.dontbankonthebomb.com**](http://www.dontbankonthebomb.com)) explains to people that we do have the power to pressure the economic powers that fund nuclear weapons.
* “Fix My Funds” ([**www.fixmyfunds**](http://www.fixmyfunds)) helps people eliminate their investments that fund nuclear weapons.
* Pledge to exclude nuclear weapons from any of your investments: [**https://www.theworldismycountry.com/endorse**](https://www.theworldismycountry.com/endorse)

**We did not have time for Glen to add these points:**

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.”

TPNW resonates with people around the world who are sick and tired of being always threatened by nuclear weapons. Many millions of people worldwide experience the TPNW as empowering and validating them.

**The next page calls for BOLD ACTIONS for the environment and climate.**

**Environment + Climate + Quickly transition from fossil fuels   
+ Recognize legal rights for nature:**

Glen said EVERY sector of our society has very serious problems. EVERY sector of our society needs truly BOLD solutions – including the ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE.

The problems keep getting worse and worse. Governments hold worldwide meetings and talk, but at ALL of those meetings they FAIL to take necessary actions.

He said in November 2022 the COP27 meeting will occur in Egypt, but there is NO evidence that the world’s nations will act responsibly there – just as they have failed to act responsibility in the previous 26 worldwide climate summits. The U.S. and other nations have repeatedly blocked meaningful actions. Fossil fuel companies are heavily represented at these COP summits, and they lobby the hell out of the governments in order to prevent meaningful actions to protect the climate from fossil fuel companies.

**Our society needs to listen to these wise people:**

* The Dalai Lama said: “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.”
* Wendell Berry said: “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.”
* Thomas Berry said: “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.”
* Aldo Leopold said: “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.”

Glen said we urgently need very strong environmental laws and policies at local, state and federal levels.

He said we must boldly and rapidly transition away from fossil fuels. ALSO, we must push banks, insurance companies, pension funds, and other entities to rapidly sell their investments in fossil fuels.

He said Joe Biden campaigned for President with promises to protect the climate, but – after taking office – he has vigorously promoted more oil drilling, even in environmentally sensitive areas, and more exports of crude oil.

An example of the BOLD, fresh actions we need is to recognize legal rights for nature, so ecosystems will have legal standing to sue entities that hurt them. Several Latin American nations have done this.

The problem is that when governments or businesses cause serious environmental damage and people sue them, courts throw out those lawsuits because those individuals were not personally hurt, so they do not have legal “standing.” Giving Nature “legal standing” would allow legal representation to represent Nature’s interests in court, so rivers, forests, etc., could sue to protect their interests.

Watch Glen’s January 2022 TV program, “Let’s Recognize Legal Rights for Nature” -- [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/lets-recognize-legal-rights-for-nature**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/lets-recognize-legal-rights-for-nature)

**We need nonviolence for EVERY SECTOR of society:  
the economy, the criminal justice system, and so forth:**

Glen said that EVERY SECTOR of society has VIOLENCE embedded in it. Our foreign policy and our criminal justice system rely upon violence. Racism and sexism are inherently violent. Our economy is violent to people below the middle class. The list goes on and on.

He said we need VERY BOLD reforms so they will be grounded in nonviolent **principles** that we can activate through nonviolent **organizing and actions** to change our culture in very profound ways.

He said many movies end with violence (gunfights, car crashes, explosions, etc.) that solve the plots’ problems. This “myth of redemptive violence” is a recurring scam that has trapped our culture – including our foreign policy and our domestic systems – in cruelty and violence.

So, for example, governments and politicians are lying when they tell us that nuclear weapons will save us, or that cruelty to minorities, immigrants, and lawbreakers will make us safe.

Nonviolence must be our BOLD GOAL for EVERY aspect of society – AND ALSO we must **organize BOLD nonviolent grassroots movements** with nonviolent strategies so we can accomplish our bold goals. The “top-down” powers rely upon violence, so we need a nonviolent “bottom-up” movement to replace the violent mind-set and the violent culture, so we can solve these systemic problems!

**Let’s think CREATIVELY:**

* How would a TRULY nonviolent **foreign policy** differ from what we have now?
* How would a nonviolent **economy** differ from what we have now?
* How would a nonviolent **criminal justice system** differ from what we have now?

For all of our problems, PROFOUND NONVIOLENCE truly is the BOLD REMEDY!

**Listen to what these wise people have said:**

* 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.”
* A.J. Muste said: “The survival of democracy depends on the renunciation of violence and the development of nonviolent means to combat evil and advance the good.”
* Gene Sharp said: “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.”
* Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan said: “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.”
* Mark Kurlansky wrote that nonviolence is 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.”

A few minutes ago, Glen urged us to convert from our violent military to **nonviolent national defense**. This is a good example of the BOLD – COURAGEOUS – NONVIOLENT – solutions we need for every sector of society. 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. Replacing the military would save enough money to solve all of our nation’s problems.

Glen’s TV program encourages us to think open-mindedly, boldly and creatively, so we can understand how nonviolent national defense could actually work effectively. That TV program is one hour long, but the article Glen wrote explains it more thoroughly and shares more about practical examples, so you will gain stronger insights by READING THE ARTICLE. Here is the link to the article and TV program: [**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)

**Debunk the myths that hold us back. The *Humankind* book debunks bad myths about “human nature”:**

Glen said he wants to debunk the myths that are holding us back. For example, many people assume that “human nature” condemns us to being stuck in violence and injustice. And many people feel that – as white people – they are entitled to dominate people who have darker skin, or – as men – we are entitled to dominate women and their health-related decisions, or – as Americans – we are entitled to dominate people in other countries.

He said such baloney is entrenched throughout our society. Other societies have their own baloney myths that hold them back from positive changes.

Corrupt systems refuse to change. The status quo is so entrenched that it keeps holding us back. Our culture – and powerful political and economic interests – keep promoting common myths that trap us in the dysfunctional, unjust status quo.

Herbert Marcuse wrote: “The success of the system is to make unthinkable the possibility of alternatives.”

**Glen said we need to recognize and debunk the commonplace baloney that keeps us trapped in unjust political and economic systems.**

**We need to CHANGE OUR CULTURE in a variety of ways in order to remove the roadblocks so we can BOLDLY, NONVIOLENTLY solve the big problems:**

* **Yes, we really could convert to a “partnership society”!**
* **Yes, we really could replace militarism with Nonviolent National Defense!**
* **Yes, we really could abolish nuclear weapons through a treaty!**
* **Yes, we really could have Universal Human Rights!**
* **And on and on and on!**

Let’s recognize and debunk the myths that keep trapping us in unjust political and economic systems. Let’s create BOLD solutions to those problems. We can do this nonviolently from the bottom up.

Howard Zinn wrote: “Democracy is not what governments do. It’s what people do.”

Glen repeated what a savvy guest said on one of his previous TV programs: “Only 5% of democracy is about voting. 95% of democracy is about grassroots organizing.”

Americans assume that “democracy” means exactly two political parties – and no more. Other nations have more political parties, more people voting, and more progressive public policies, including Proportional Representation. (See [**https://fairvote.org/resources/archives/**](https://fairvote.org/resources/archives/))

He said our health care “system” is trapped by health insurance companies and Big Pharma. These systemic corruptions waste more than 20% of what we spend on health care – and they also cause the U.S. to fall below dozens of other nations in terms of actual health outcomes (life expectancy, infant mortality, unnecessary deaths from preventable diseases, etc.)

The BOLD solution would be Universal Single-Payer, so we could eliminate insurance companies and have the government pay the bills. The government could cover everyone, provide high quality, efficiently manage the system, and so forth. See Glen’s TV programs about this, including these from recent years:

* Universal Single-Payer Health Care: We need it NOW more than ever! [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/universal-single-payer-health-care-we-need-it-now-more-than-ever**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/universal-single-payer-health-care-we-need-it-now-more-than-ever)
* Universal Single-Payer Health Care — New information! [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/universal-single-payer-health-care-new-information**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/universal-single-payer-health-care-new-information)
* Here is a solid case for REAL “Medicare for All” — Universal Single-Payer:[**https://parallaxperspectives.org/here-is-a-solid-case-for-real-medicare-for-all-universal-single-payer**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/here-is-a-solid-case-for-real-medicare-for-all-universal-single-payer)
* Universal Single-Payer health care is the real solution! Debunk the myths and lies about it: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/universal-single-payer-health-care-is-the-real-solution-debunk-the-myths-and-lies-about-it**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/universal-single-payer-health-care-is-the-real-solution-debunk-the-myths-and-lies-about-it)

Melanie affirmed that it’s important to think in a global sense and learn from other countries. She mentioned Michael Moore’s film that asked which country we should invade next. She said the film featured Moore visiting Cuba and a number of European countries, where he saw how they treat workers better, provide better health, better public education, and so forth. Americans need to know that many other countries treat their people better than the U.S. does.

She said we can watch movies and read stories to help us improve who we are. She recommended “For All Mankind,” which is on Apple TV. It considers how the world could have been different if the USSR had been the first to land people on the moon, or if the U.S. had already included the Equal Rights Amendment in the Constitution.

She said the stories we tell ourselves often limit ourselves from doing good things. She said we should not limit ourselves by yielding to traps such as “it’s always been this way,” or by thinking that we are powerless to do something. She said we really can deal with tough issues.

**We did not have time for Glen to add these points:**

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, this will also change people for the better.

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.

Glen appreciated reading a great book, ***Humankind: A Hopeful History*** by [**Rutger Bregman**](https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/rutger-bregman/2744434/)

This book debunks the common assumption that human nature is inherently selfish and governed primarily by self-interest. International bestseller Rutger Bregman debunks that myth and instead proves that we are hardwired for kindness, geared toward cooperation rather than competition, and more inclined to trust rather than distrust one another. Bregman shows us that believing in human generosity and collaboration isn't merely optimistic – it’s realistic.

Moreover, it has huge implications for how society functions. When we think the worst of people, it brings out the worst in our politics and economics. But if we believe in the reality of humanity's kindness and altruism, it will form the foundation for achieving true change in society, a case that Bregman makes convincingly with his signature wit, refreshing frankness, and memorable storytelling.

**Listen to what these wise people have said:**

* “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)
* “You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.” -- Buckminster Fuller
* “The emperor has no clothes!” -- A child quoted by Hans Christian Andersen
* “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
* “It always seems impossible until it’s done.” -- Nelson Mandela

**This is not too far-fetched. We’ve actually done this before: 1776, decolonizing movements (“Revolutions of Rising Expectations”), grassroots movements for women, labor, enviro, LGBTQ, and so forth:**

Glen said the bold changes we need will not come from the top down. They can come only from bottom-up nonviolent GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING.

**This is not something weird or impractical. It actually has a long, successful history in the U.S. and other countries. Actually, GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING for VERY BOLD goals is an effective route to progress that has been used very successfully throughout history. Consider these:**

* The women’s movement – labor movement – environmental movement – LGBTQ movement: ALL of these were very BOLD and organized from the grassroots up.
* The U.S. Declaration of Independence and many kinds of nonviolent resistance to English colonial oppression were making the U.S. an independent nation, even apart from the Revolutionary War. One savvy researcher said the American colonists had been making great progress toward independence through nonviolent actions, but once the Revolutionary War began, Britain retaliated against the colonists for killing British troops, so the Revolutionary War actually delayed independence.
* Worldwide during the 1950s-1960s-1970s, many of European nations’ colonies refused to be oppressed any longer, so they declared their independence. When a few nations started doing this, other colonies said, “We can do this too,” so they declared their own independence and they also became independent nations. This happened dozens of times, with each grassroots movement inspired by the ones that had recently succeeded. Now historians recognize this as a “Revolution of Rising Expectations.”
* The American Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s created a “Revolution of Rising Expectations” and practical models for grassroots liberation movements (the women’s movement, the LGBTQ movement, the environmental movement, etc.).

**Glen encouraged us to do this now on issue after issue. We can learn from the successful liberation movements that have made great progress. We really can create a new “Revolution of Rising Expectations” to solve each of the many big problems!**

In 2003 the slogan of the World Social Forum was, **“Another world is possible!”** They affirmed that they actually could imagine, envision, organize and create a very fresh new world of social justice, economic justice, environmental sustainability, and peace.

**Again, let’s really recognize and affirm that the best changes we have made 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 boldly and skillfully from the grassroots up to make progress on more issues. Nonviolent grassroots organizing is powerful! Let’s push strategically for the truly bold solutions we want, instead of settling for the timid incrementalism to which the elites and the entrenched systems want to limit us.

**Instead of assuming that only timid incrementalism is possible, let’s ask ourselves and each other: 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, and the women’s movement). How could we create another “Revolution of Rising Expectations”?

Our solutions must be empowering for people so they can be the leaders that we need.

Bold nonviolent actions by ordinary people (NOT the military) freed some of the Baltic nations from the Soviet Union. They achieved independence nonviolently through what has been called “the Singing Revolution.” See this: [**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)

**We did not have time for Glen to add these points about creating a new   
“Revolution of Rising Expectations and organizing bold nonviolent movements:**

In light of all this, **the next step should be creating several NEW “Revolutions of Rising Expectations.”**

George Bernard Shaw invented the quotation that Robert F. Kennedy famously used: “Some men see things as they are and ask why. I dream things that never were and ask why not.” People are inspired to take bold actions for goals that are assumed to be too big – but we really could achieve them if we had savvy strategies and self-confidence.

Serious problems require bold actions.

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 quotation from 1776 sound familiar nowadays when grassroots people are working for peace, social justice, and economic fairness – and petitioning 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?

A moment ago Glen said the inspiring slogan of the 2003 World Social Forum was, “Another world is possible!” If so, let’s start now to devise smart, nonviolent strategies to build it!

The 1968 French uprising had its own inspiring slogan: “Be realistic, demand the impossible!” This is even more important today when we face an extremely serious climate crisis, escalating danger of nuclear war, and fascism escalating in several countries including the U.S. Don’t let anyone tell you that replacing big, bad systems is impossible. We must organize – urgently, boldly, nonviolently and creatively – in order for democracy, civilization and our species to survive.

**Listen to what these wise people have said:**

* “The difficult we’ll do right now. The impossible will take a little while.”
* “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
* “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” -- Mohandas K. Gandhi
* “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
* “Revolutionary change does not come as one cata-clysmic 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 in-volved, with other good people, in something worth-while. We need hope.” -- Howard Zinn
* 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.”
* Glen would ask these three questions for action: If not here, where? If not now, when? If not us, who?

When we were preparing for this TV interview, Melanie said she urges people to visualize what we want. We have the option to see the future in a bad way or in a good way. If we envision good outcomes, our energies will flow toward creating them. Athletes do this. We can do this too.

**Sources of information:**

Please invite your friends to see these resources.

Glen’s blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), includes collections of information about dozens of issue categories – including the blog categories for “Organizing” and “Nonviolence” – and also the “TV Programs” category, where he has posted more than 60 of his TV programs since January 2018.

Visit the “TV Programs” category and click the title of this episode, **“Choose a Bold, Humane Future.”** Then you – and your friends – at any time and in any location will be able to watch this TV program and/or read the thorough summary you are reading now. Besides summarizing Melanie and Glen said during the TV interview, the document you are reading now also includes much supplemental information. **That same blog link also includes another document that lists a great many QUOTATIONS about the topics we’re discussing here.**

Glen’s June 2020 TV program also encouraged people to **choose a bold, humane future**. Watch that TV video and/or read its thorough summary here: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/lets-boldly-create-the-future-we-really-want-4**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/lets-boldly-create-the-future-we-really-want-4)

Also, two other TV programs (Part 1 and Part 2) urged people to **choose a better worldview** so we can organize to solve the problems. Glen titled these two programs, **“A blistering critique of U.S. politics!”** PART 1: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-program-a-blistering-critique-of-u-s-politics-part-1-choose-a-better-worldview-to-build-a-better-world**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-program-a-blistering-critique-of-u-s-politics-part-1-choose-a-better-worldview-to-build-a-better-world) PART 2: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/part-2-of-choose-a-better-worldview-to-build-a-better-world**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/part-2-of-choose-a-better-worldview-to-build-a-better-world)

Three TV programs earlier in 2022 are especially relevant to this current TV program about CHOOSING A BOLD, HUMANE FUTURE. Visit [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), click the “TV Programs” category, and scroll down to the 2022 TV programs about the BOLD remedies:

* World Citizenship
* Nonviolent National Defense
* Legal Rights for Nature

**Melanie also recommends some excellent sources of information, including:**

* Her movie about world citizenship at [**https://www.theworldismycountry.com**](https://www.theworldismycountry.com)
* More resources about world citizenship at [**https://www.theworldismycountry.com/resources**](https://www.theworldismycountry.com/resources)
* The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at [**https://www.ohchr.org/en/universal-declaration-of-human-rights**](https://www.ohchr.org/en/universal-declaration-of-human-rights)
* The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons at [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)
* Riane Eisler’s writings at [**https://rianeeisler.com/**](https://rianeeisler.com/)

The next page concludes this document.

**Glen’s closing encouragement:**

Glen thanked Melanie Bennett for sharing her wise insights and her encouragement. He also thanked the people who have been watching this interview.

We are suffering many very serious problems including a violent foreign policy, nuclear weapons, environmental abuses, the climate crisis, Big Money corruption of political elections, and the increasing danger of fascism being imposed upon the U.S.

So many problems exist – and so many systems are broken – that it’s easy for people to feel hopeless, powerless and cynical. But that would prevent us from taking the positive actions necessary to solve these problems. Among the signs Glen holds at our weekly peace vigils, one affirms, **“We can solve the problems,”** and another invites people to **“Choose a bold, humane future.”**

Glen wrote an essay titled, “Besides Protesting What We Oppose, Let's Also Organize to Achieve Positive Goals.” (You can read it here: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/besides-protesting-what-we-oppose-lets-also-organize-to-achieve-positive-goals**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/besides-protesting-what-we-oppose-lets-also-organize-to-achieve-positive-goals)) This essay 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.

**Instead of limiting ourselves to the timid steps that the elites tell us are “politically feasible,” we need to CREATE A BOLDER VISION to make bold, positive goals “politically feasible! We need to MOVE THE GOALPOSTS!**

The philosopher Schopenhauer wrote: “All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.”

**Live your life meaningfully, vigorously and effectively. If YOU don’t act BOLDLY for your best values, nobody else will.**

You can get information about a wide variety of issues related to peace, social justice and nonviolence through my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)or by phoning me at   
(360) 491-9093 or e-mailing me at [**glenanderson@integra.net**](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net)

I end each TV program with this invitation to help make progress:

**We're all one human family, and we all share one planet.**

**We can create a better world, but we all have to work at it.**

**The world needs whatever you can do to help!**