**“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, the environment, governmental functioning, 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).

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**🡪 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.

🡪 I boldfaced a few parts to highlight some of the main points and help you flow through the interview.

**🡪 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 “Peace.”**

**“**Change to a Truly Peaceful Foreign Policy**”**

Glen’s Parallax Perspectives TV Series

December 2022

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

**Glen introduced our topic and our guest, David Swanson:**

He welcomed the TV viewers to the December 2022 episode of “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” TV series. He said this month’s interview on “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” provides fresh information and insights to help us create peace in the world.

He said a savvy guest – David Swanson – would join him in identifying some persistent problems in U.S. foreign policy and proposing some smart, practical and humane solutions.

Glen said that for a number of years he has been reading David Swanson’s boldly insightful writings about world affairs. Now Glen is delighted to welcome David as our guest for this TV interview!

David Swanson is an author, activist, journalist, and radio host. He is executive director of [**World BEYOND War**](http://WorldBeyondWar.org) and campaign coordinator for [**RootsAction.org**](http://RootsAction.org). Swanson’s books include [***War Is A Lie***](http://warisalie.org/) and [***When the World Outlawed War***](https://davidswanson.org/outlawry). He blogs at [**DavidSwanson.org**](https://davidswanson.org/) and [**WarIsACrime.org**](http://warisacrime.org/). He hosts [**Talk World Radio**](https://davidswanson.org/taxonomy/term/41). He is a [**Nobel Peace Prize Nominee**](https://davidswanson.org/node/4682). David Swanson is on the advisory boards of many peace-related organizations.

Glen welcomed David Swanson to this TV interview.

**What have actually been the main characteristics of U.S. foreign policy?**

Glen said when he thinks about Americans’ understanding of U.S. foreign policy, he also thinks about fish who do not have a concept of water, because fish are always immersed in it and do not know anything different. Likewise, many Americans are so immersed in our nation’s self-image and our persistent U.S. foreign policy that they do not see it objectively. They do not recognize what the U.S. is really doing to other people around the world – even while people in other nations are very much aware of what the U.S. government is doing to them. He said the U.S. government says it practices diplomacy and supports democracy, so most Americans assume that the U.S. does those.

He asked David to summarize how the U.S. actually interacts with other nations – and what have been the main characteristics of U.S. foreign policy for a number of decades.

**David said the U.S. is very much different from all other nations in regard to militarism. He said the U.S. has more than 90% of the foreign military bases in the world. He said the U.S. spends almost as much on its military as the entire rest of the world put together.** He said most of the other big spenders are buying their weapons from the U.S. and are allies in NATO or in other military alliances. The U.S. is far and away the most dominant military weapons seller in the world – not only to so-called democracies but also to dictatorships. He said he recently wrote a book titled, ***20 Dictators Currently Supported by the United States***. “The U.S. military arms, trains and funds most of (96% of) the most oppressive governments on the earth,” but our government has convinced the American people that the opposite is true. He called that “an incredible feat of propaganda.”

Glen said he and other people in the peace movement have talked with members of Congress and their staffers about peace and nuclear weapons. He said “they are pretty clueless.” They seemed to be “lacking in information – and lacking in heart” regarding nuclear weapons and peace in general. He said he found that appalling.

**More realities of U.S. foreign policy:**

Glen presented some information and then invited David to share his thoughts. Glen said the American people believe that the U.S. promotes democracy in other countries. Actually, the U.S. has OVERTHROWN many democracies and installed many dictators. The U.S. also has armed dictators and helped them oppress their populations.

He said that instead of admitting that our nation overthrows governments, the government – and mainstream news media – use the deceptive euphemism “regime change.” A researcher named John Coatsworth identified 41 instances of U.S.-led “regime change” in the Americas. (This was cited on page 23 of a 2018 book by Jeffrey Sachs titled ***A New Foreign Policy: Beyond American Exceptionalism***.) Page 24 of the book reported that the U.S. has done this dozens of times also to many other nations around the world.

Also, Glen said that generally, the U.S.’s foreign policy has been designed by people who think they are “realists.” They think we make the U.S. secure by threatening and attacking other nations. Furthermore, for many decades, the U.S.’s foreign policy has been truly BI-PARTISAN, regardless of which party has the President or Congress. A few days ago he read an article titled, “Biden’s National Security Strategy Is a Defense of US Domination, Not Democracy.” [**https://truthout.org/articles/bidens-national-security-strategy-is-a-defense-of-us-domination-not-democracy/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=8eb908cc-5486-4a82-9789-c8d5359afc8f**](https://truthout.org/articles/bidens-national-security-strategy-is-a-defense-of-us-domination-not-democracy/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=8eb908cc-5486-4a82-9789-c8d5359afc8f)

He invited David to tell our TV viewers how these many decades our militaristic foreign policy have actually affected the rest of the world.

David said he could spend hours and hours answering this question, but he’ll answer it only briefly now. He said that regarding Glen’s concern that Congress was “clueless,” David said the home page of [**www.rootsaction.org**](http://www.rootsaction.org) features a “Primer on Foreign Policy” for U.S. congressional candidates. (See [**https://progressivehub.net/foreignpolicy/**](https://progressivehub.net/foreignpolicy/)) He said they give this to candidates running for Congress so they will learn what they need to know.

David said the current realities in Ukraine, Iran, Venezuela, and other countries, show the ongoing importance of past coups conducted by the U.S. This information is absolutely crucial for understanding what’s happening nowadays. But the American people do not know about these crucial realities. This problem is very serious, he said. The U.S. government’s emphasis on respecting Brazil’s election in September and October 2022 was very important – and was the opposite of centuries of U.S. involvement in Latin America.

He added that there is a different group of scholars who also call themselves “realists” who believe the U.S. policies are a fantasy in places like Ukraine because these “realists” want to caution the U.S. from taking military and other actions that could provoke other nations into a major war.

Glen said that when the Cold War ended three decades ago, many Americans stopped paying attention to nuclear weapons. The older George H.W. Bush promised that the U.S. would not expand NATO into Eastern European countries, but Bill Clinton (a Democrat) and subsequent presidents (of both parties) have recklessly escalated NATO right up to Russia’s borders – and the U.S. has been deploying nuclear weapons very close to Russia, causing Russia to fear for its own national security. He said **Americans typically fail to see things from other nations’ viewpoints, but only from a U.S.-centric view.** He asked David to tell us how Russia sees their own national security in this context.

David said the ending of the Cold War was media-related, while the weapons never went away – and never even came off from “hair-trigger alert.” The Cold War “was declared over,” so it could be declared “un-over.” He said now – 30 years after diplomats, spies, and top officials had warned that breaking that promise not to expand NATO would lead us to where we are now – here we are in this crisis. Those warnings had been perfectly accurate. David did mention that President Obama had refused to send weapons to Ukraine.

**David said the concerns that Russia has after NATO’s expansion right up to their borders are the exact same concerns the U.S. would have if China’s military were lined up along the Canadian and Mexican borders** – and the concerns we had in 1962 when the Soviet Union had missiles in Cuba. He said Russia was telling us in December 2021 to move our weapons farther away from Russia’s borders. What Russia was saying then is the same as what the U.S. would say in a similar circumstance.

Glen added that in recent centuries, Russia actually has been invaded a number of times from directions as diverse as Sweden and Turkey – and also from Germany during World War II. During World War II the German war against the Soviet Union killed many millions of Russians. They have legitimate historical fears for their national security, whereas the U.S. is protected on both sides by big oceans and we have not been invaded by other countries.

**We did not have time for Glen to add this:**

Glen recently read Jeffrey Sachs’ 2018 book ***A New Foreign Policy: Beyond American Exceptionalism***. It provides a lot of information about what he and David and Glen are saying during this TV interview. Sachs recommends a wise “internationalism” that encourages nations to understand each other and cooperate. President Biden is rejecting that and reverting to blatant U.S. imperialism in support of the U.S.’s biggest business corporations and military dominance. It’s as though Biden is channeling Henry Kissinger and the worst bullies in U.S. history, but his Orwellian rhetoric belies the cruel realities, which include reckless antagonism toward both Russia and China. Despite Biden’s Orwellian rhetoric supporting “democracy,” he wants the U.S. to militarize Taiwan with no regard whatsoever to what Taiwan’s people want. After all, the U.S. is the “good guy” in the world, just like U.S. presidents throughout the past century have claimed, so we do not need to consider what people in other countries want.

**Nuclear weapons are a central part of U.S.’s “defense” strategies:**

Glen said **most Americans do not know that the U.S. has PROVOKED EVERY escalation in the nuclear arms race from the 1940s onward.** The U.S. was the first to invent, build and deploy the many crucial technological escalations that have occurred from the 1940s through the Cold War and on to the present day. Only after the U.S. had done them did the Soviet Union try to catch up with each kind of technological innovation. He invited David to discuss the dynamics of the nuclear arms race.

David said, “it takes two to tango.” He added, therefore, that “the only sane operation is unilateral disarmament,” but neither the U.S. nor Russia has been willing to do that. These two countries have more than 90% of the world’s nuclear weapons. The U.S. is – very arguably illegally – keeping our nuclear weapons in six European nations, and the U.S. is clearly illegally training those nations how to use them. In recent weeks we have been conducting nuclear war rehearsals. The U.S. has put our nuclear-capable missile bases into Romania and Poland. During the Cold War there was a buffer zone between NATO’s U.S. weapons and the Soviet Union, but now the U.S.’s nuclear weapons are right up next to the border. He said there are good reasons why the “Doomsday Clock” of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists is as close to “midnight” as it has ever been. [See [**https://thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock/**](https://thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock/)]

Glen added to David’s concern about the illegality of what the U.S. has been doing. He said Americans do not understand or respect international law. He said Trump is not the only powerful U.S. official who opposes international law. He said this is long-standing and bi-partisan. He said there is a long list of ways in which the U.S. has been violating international law.

He said Americans assume that we need nuclear weapons to “deter” an attack upon the U.S., so he asked David to discuss the “deterrence” theory. David said that just before doing this interview he was reading a new report about the Biden Administration’s use of drones as military weapons to kill people. The report said the Biden Administration is hiding the basis for the policy about killing people from flying robots, because if they admitted what their policy was – what kinds of things might put a person in danger of being killed from flying robots – then people would know. David said this is the OPPOSITE of the “deterrence” theory that the U.S. uses to justify our nuclear weapons – and also to justify mass incarceration and to justify the death penalty.

**He said the ”deterrence” theory is not based on actual evidence. He said any theory must be subject to being challenged by evidence and subject to being disproven.** Our nuclear weapons did not deter Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. We are told that the U.S.’s nuclear weapons protect the Baltic nations from Russia, but the government refuses to tell us that during the Cold War the people in the Baltics kicked the Soviet Union out by using nonviolent civil resistance. He repeated that the “deterrence” theory is very much in need of analysis based on actual evidence.

Glen said that in 1945 after the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Japanese civilian cities, Albert Einstein famously said, “The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking, and we thus drift toward unparalleled catastrophe.” **Glen agreed with Einstein that we really do need to change our thinking – and change our foreign policy.**

He said we will discuss some specific changes to foreign policy later in the interview, but first he asked David to summarize broadly some overall changes in nuclear weapons policies that we need.

David said there are many, many movies set in the future in which people attack each other at the slightest insult but somehow survive despite the existence of weapons that are radically worse than our current nuclear weapons. He said that would absolutely not be a possibility. He said we cannot even keep our current nuclear weapons. Eventually our luck will run out. There have been many accidents, mishaps and misunderstandings when we came close to nuclear war. President Kennedy had to take U.S. nuclear weapons out of Turkey during the Cuban Missile Crisis, or else we would not exist now. Also, a Russian military official refused to launch nuclear weapons, and if he had obeyed orders we would not exist now. **“Our luck will not hold out forever.” He said the only reasonable defense policy would be to get rid of nuclear weapons.**

Glen added that – again – the American people do not know about the many examples of times when we came very close to destroying the world.

**How has U.S. foreign policy actually affected the world?**

Glen said our interview began by discussing some main characteristics of U.S. policy over the decades. Now David could share further information and insights about how U.S. foreign policy has been affecting the rest of the world.

Glen said that when our nation was founded in the late 1700s, our founders did NOT want the U.S. entangled in foreign politics, because they saw how much trouble European nations were having with recurring wars among various combinations of nations. But now for a long time – and especially after World War II – the U.S. radically changed how it interacts with the rest of the world by meddling in many different countries’ internal affairs and conducting many wars all over the world. He invited David to discuss the U.S.’s actual role and behaviors in the world nowadays.

David said the issue is a matter of degree. He said that from the U.S.’s very beginning, one of the goals of the new nation was to expand westward and attack the nations of Native Americans and take their lands and resources. He said even now Americans tend to not recognize those are actual nations with their own peoples. He said U.S. imperialism occurred there and expanded from there across the oceans. He said **the U.S.’s foreign policy changed with World War II when the U.S. started seeking total domination of the entire globe.** He said, “this has been a major operation for 80 years.”

Glen said it’s an odd thing that Americans feel somehow entitled to do that. He asked what would the U.S. do if some other nation – perhaps Paraguay or Zimbabwe – were to say, “Paraguay is #1, so we are entitled to dominate the rest of the world because we are Paraguay, and we’re the best, and we can control you” – of if Zimbabwe were to do that. The American people would say, “That’s crazy!” But somehow as Americans we feel entitled to do that to the rest of the world. He said we need to challenge that unjust assumption.

**More about the U.S.’s effects upon the world:**

Glen said that now he would mention some current realities and propose some changes. Then he would invite David to share his insights. It is obvious that our militaristic foreign policy does at least these three bad things:

#1. It turns world opinion against the U.S.

#2. It takes money away from spending on solutions that would really make us more secure, such as ending poverty and desperation, protecting the environment and climate, developing “green” energy, and so forth.

#3. It misleads the public into thinking that violence solves problems, when actually militarism makes problems worse, and the real solutions are nonviolent ones.

He said that he is am convinced that **instead of military violence, our foreign policy should start promoting fairness, economic justice, a sustainable environment and climate, and peace worldwide.** A commitment to these positive actions would provide REAL “national security” – both for the U.S. and for other nations too. He said that later in this TV program he would propose a bold, refreshing peaceful alternative to “national security” that would provide “**TRUE** security.”

Furthermore, decades ago, many Americans were saying the U.S. should NOT be “the world’s policeman,” but consistently for many decades the U.S. has treated other nations as if the U.S. is “the world’s policeman.” He asked David to comment on the U.S.’s self-proclaimed role as “the world’s policeman” – and the problems with that.

David said it was ironic that – when Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022 – some U.S. media pundits were talking about prosecuting Russia in the International Criminal Court. He said actually the U.S. government has spent years trying to tear down the rule of law. **“If you want to support the rule of law, you have to be subject to it yourself.”** After World War II when the U.S. was prosecuting Nazi war criminals at Nuremberg, the American prosecutor said our nation also will be subject to those laws. **David said it doesn’t work to have the rule of law apply ONLY to OTHER people. The U.S. must be one among equals, but the U.S. keeps refusing to do this.**

Glen agreed and said the U.S. has always refused to join the International Criminal Court because our U.S. government does not want it or any of its people to be held accountable for our war crimes under international law. The U.S. wants to hold other nations legally accountable for war crimes but refuses to allow itself to be held accountable.

Also, he said, the U.S. is one of very, very few nations that has been refusing to ratify a number of treaties to protect human rights, including a treaty protecting women’s rights, a treaty protecting the rights of children, a treaty protecting the rights of people with disabilities, and many more. “The U.S. keeps setting itself apart from the world community, and refuses to be accountable.” David agreed with Glen.

**“American exceptionalism”:**

Glen said some of our TV viewers might not be very familiar with the term “American exceptionalism,” so he invited David to summarize the concept of “American exceptionalism” and give examples of it.

David said the concept of “American exceptionalism” is the notion that the U.S. is different from – and superior to – other nations, so the U.S. has a responsibility to be above the rule of law and treat other nations differently.

Related assumptions are false: The U.S. is not really the wealthiest nation on earth, or the freest nation, or the most educated nation. Actually, the ways in which the U.S. actually does differ significantly from other nations include militarism, incarceration, and environmental destruction. These are not good differences from other nations.

Contrary to the “American exceptionalism” assumption that the U.S. needs to lead the world, he said that actually on most issues the U.S. needs to shut up and listen to how other nations have actually solved the problems that the U.S. keeps failing to solve. The U.S. would be better off if we were humble and good listeners. The U.S.’s health care system is dysfunctional, while dozens of other nations have created solutions that provide every person with high quality affordable health care paid by the government. If the U.S. thought of ourselves as part of a global community – instead of “U.S.-ian” we would have more friends, allies, brothers and sisters in the world.

Glen expressed appreciation for David’s wise, practical solution. Let’s change the whole macro-level thinking.

**We did not have time for these four aspects of U.S. interactions with the world:**

#1. The U.S.’s so-called “War on Terror” has gone on for more than 20 years. We have wasted TRILLIONS of dollars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and many other countries. **Much evidence shows that the U.S.’s “War on Terror” is actually PROVOKING MORE terror.** A few days before producing this TV program, Glen read about how U.S. “anti-terror” military activities in Africa are actually provoking more terrorism in that continent, too.

#2. Syria is a persistent problem that mainstream U.S. news media either ignore or distort. Decades ago Syria was part of the British Empire. More recently the U.S., Russia, Iran, and other entities have been trying to control Syria, regardless of what the Syrian people want. A few years ago Glen saw a list of about 15 armed factions fighting there. The U.S. was financing and arming SEVERAL of them, including some that were FIGHTING EACH OTHER – at U.S. taxpayers’ expense.

#3. A wise foreign policy would be able to see things from other nations’ perspectives. But the U.S. keeps refusing to do that. The U.S. keeps doing things – supposedly for our own “security” –that other nations see as threatening their own “security.” We see these as “defensive,” but other nations see them as “offensive.”

#4. In a school playground, if one student keeps getting into fights all the time – especially with kids much smaller and weaker than himself – somebody would intervene to restrain that student. But the U.S. keeps getting into wars – often with nations that are poor and weak.

**How has our foreign policy affected the U.S. society and economy?**

Glen said that more than half a century ago – in 1966 – Martin Luther King said: “The security we profess to seek in foreign adventures, we will lose in our decaying cities. The bombs in Vietnam explode at home – they destroy the hopes and possibilities for a decent America.” This is still true now more than half a century later. The U.S.’s violent foreign policy seriously damages our own nation in a number of ways. He asked David to point out some ways in which our foreign policy’s main characteristics have been hurting the U.S. internally (our society, our economy, and so forth).

David said that if we had the time, he could add thirty more problems than the few Glen mentioned. **Our foreign policy hurts our own nation by promoting bigotry, racism, and hateful violence based on racism.** We see upsurges of these within the U.S. during and after major wars. U.S. militarism causes environmental destruction in other countries and also within the U.S. Although our wars in distant countries are supposed to be protecting the U.S., actually they hurt the environment here in addition to other countries. **The U.S. military is a significant destroyer of the U.S.’s land, water, air, and a major poisoner of our environment.**

He said militarism interferes with our self-government by imposing secrecy for a number of reasons, including the creation of enemies for us to fight. This erodes the rule of law within the U.S. and causes the U.S. to reject the International Criminal Court, many treaties, and international laws. In contrast to those hard realities, the U.S. claims to be the promoter of rule-based order. He agreed with Glen’s statement earlier in this interview that when the U.S. uses violence to solve problems, the U.S. creates a bad example that induces ordinary people to use violence within the U.S. to solve their problems.

**Also, our gigantic military budget diverts huge amounts of money away from solving our actual problems. He said redirecting a tiny fraction of our military budget could transform our country in very positive ways.**

**More insights about U.S.’s internal effects:**

Glen mentioned another aspect of U.S. militarism is that our nation has been militarizing the police in several ways, including:

(1) Training and policies to dominate people instead of the “protect and serve” mission;

(2) Hiring military veterans who have been trained to occupy other nations and apply those behaviors in the U.S.;

(3) Receiving actual military equipment and deploying it locally throughout the U.S., such as the Pentagon’s 1033 program. See [**https://blackallianceforpeace.com/1033**](https://blackallianceforpeace.com/1033)

**We did not have time for Glen to add this:**

The U.S. keeps overthrowing other nations’ governments – but instead of admitting it is overthrowing governments – the U.S. and our news media use the euphemism “regime change.” Sometimes the U.S. and our news media say we’re doing that for their own good, because their governments have been violating human rights there.

But shouldn’t this principle be applied both ways? The U.S. has been violating the human rights of African American citizens for centuries. Wouldn’t an African nation – Nigeria, for example, be able to do “regime change” to the U.S. and install a government that will protect black Americans’ human rights?

**If we were to design a new foreign policy, what ethical values   
– and what practical needs – should be guiding our new foreign policy?**

Glen repeated Albert Einstein’s insight when the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Japanese civilian cities that we need to change our thinking. Glen said we really do need to change our thinking – and change our foreign policy. He said he believes we could imagine a better world and work with other people to replace the U.S.’s current foreign policy with one that will be truly peaceful. He likes what the World Social Forum affirmed a few decades ago: “Another world is possible!” He encouraged us to **envision what we really want instead of the status quo that has trapped us in military violence**. He truly believes that deep down, most Americans actually would prefer values that are humane, compassionate, peaceful, fair to everyone, and environmentally sustainable.

He invited David to share his ideas. If we were to design a new foreign policy, what ethical values – and what practical needs – should be guiding our new foreign policy?

David said we want everybody who opposes war to continue opposing it, but he recognizes that not everybody who opposes war will agree with what he is saying now. He wants to **empower GLOBAL and LOCAL governments and to somewhat disempower NATIONAL governments**. Nations are mismanaging planet earth. We need to democratize institutions at all levels: international, national and local. We need to defund the use of violence and de-militarize current institutions. **“There is no reason that nations can’t invest in and train unarmed civilian resistance forces that do a better job than violence at defending those nations.”** Unarmed civilian resistance forces would not be attacking nations thousands of miles away or creating empires, he said.

Glen said he appreciates the practicality of nonviolent national defense. He said his May 2022 TV program devotes an hour to explaining why and how **nonviolent national defense would actually be more practical than military violence**. He said we would have better national security if we would abolish the Pentagon and organize and train people locally throughout our nation to protect our nation through nonviolent resistance against any attacker. This would cost only a very tiny amount of what we spend now on military violence, so we could use the gigantic savings to solve many problems in the U.S., such as ending poverty and homelessness, providing good health care for everyone, protecting our environment, and so forth. His May 2022 TV episode is titled, “Nonviolent National Defense: A Practical Way to Be More Secure.” He encouraged people to watch the TV video and read the much more thorough article he wrote at this part of his blog: [**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)

**Could we REALLY ABOLISH war? How could we do that?**

Glen said he greatly appreciates what David’s organization, World BEYOND War, does. Glen said he especially appreciates the substantive document they produced titled, **“A Global Security System: An Alternative to War.”** [**https://worldbeyondwar.org/alternative/**](https://worldbeyondwar.org/alternative/)

The website of World BEYOND War has a section asking: “So you heard war is: Inevitable? Justified” Necessary? Beneficial?” Glen said those assumptions keep us stuck in the war system, so he asked David how to challenge these common assumptions that keep us stuck.

David said we can challenge those false assumptions with facts – including facts that are beyond dispute – but are not widely known.

He said the facts already exist that prove nonviolent unarmed civilian resistance would work better than military “defense” and would save a huge amount of money. Governments do not convert to that great improvement because this would empower ordinary people to resist those very governments’ abuses – in addition to foreign invaders. Governments do not want to be challenged effectively by their citizens’ nonviolent resistance. He said Lithuania successfully expelled the Soviet Union because Lithuania’s people were afraid of Russia.

He added that “when people think that war is inevitable, you can present them with basic facts.” Doctors have documented huge numbers of cases of human suffering from wars, but nobody has suffered from being deprived of war. In every country – including the most war-mongering countries – people do their darnedest to avoid their own going to war. People suffer when they go to war. People who push buttons in the U.S. to launch military drones to attack people in other countries suffer too. War is not natural, healthy or inevitably human, he said. If war were normal, the government would not need to spend $1 billion every year on propaganda to convince the American people.

Glen referred to David’s statement about the harm to people in the U.S. who push buttons to launch military drone attacks in other countries. Glen said that – in addition to the well-known reality of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) that U.S. troops suffered because of the violence they committed against people during the Vietnam War and previous wars – there is also something called “Moral Injury” related to that. Glen said he works for peace with some Vietnam-era veterans who are helping veterans cope with “Moral Injury” – attacks to their consciences – about what they did as soldiers (including people who push buttons to launch military drone attacks). He said they need healing from that, and we need to stop traumatizing U.S. military people nowadays.

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

* **Wars do NOT solve problems. They make problems worse and cause resentments and injustices that lead to subsequent wars. We must stop the cycle of violence and replace war with diplomacy and other peaceful strategies.**
* Politicians and mainstream news media talk about “the use of force,” but that is a very dishonest euphemism for “violence” or “war.” Glen thinks of “the use of force” needing to apply muscle to open a pickle jar. That’s very different from bombing innocent civilians in other countries. The government is deliberately trying to deceive us when they advocate “the use of force.” That’s not honest.
* If your only tool is a hammer, you will treat every problem as if it is a nail. For many decades the U.S. has relied so much on militarism that we have neglected honest diplomacy and nonviolent ways of solving international problems. We must replace violence with honest diplomacy, cooperation and collaborative problem-solving.
* In various parts of the world, people have used **nonviolence** to topple heavily armed dictators. Examples include India leading up to independence in 1947, Czechoslovakia in 1968, Iran in 1979, and the Philippines in 1986, Serbia in 2000, and the “Orange Revolution” in Ukraine in 2004-2005.
* Also, in the late 1980s, Estonia won independence from the Soviet Union in the “Singing Revolution” in which they sang folk songs in their own language in defiance of the Soviet Union’s attempts to impose the Russian language upon them. The totally nonviolent “Singing Revolution” was so successful that Estonia became independent from the Soviet Union in 1991.
* Glen’s May 2022 TV program devotes an hour to explaining why and how nonviolent national defense would actually be more practical than military violence. He titled that TV episode, “Nonviolent National Defense: A Practical Way to Be More Secure.” You can watch the TV video and read the much more thorough article he wrote at this part of his blog: [**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 enthusiastically recommends the smart resource published by World BEYOND War titled, **World Beyond War published “A Global Security System: An Alternative to War” --** **<https://worldbeyondwar.org/alternative/>**

**We need a nonviolent GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT to change our foreign policy:**

Our government seems stuck in a militaristic foreign policy. We are stuck for several reasons:

1. **Our national self-image assumes and values U.S. militarism as our national entitlement.** Our schools teach history as largely about wars instead of teaching students about the many realities of life in the past (*e.g*., what it was like to be a peasant or a woman in years past). Our mainstream news media, movies, and other forces have pushed us into assuming that the U.S. must have the world’s biggest military.
2. Giant business corporations that make military weapons keep funding candidates for Congress and President, so – when they take office – they reward their funders by spending our tax dollars on more weapons.
3. Congress keeps refusing to stop “Big Money” donations from corrupting election campaigns.

Powerful forces from above keep us stuck in a militaristic foreign policy, so Glen said **ONLY a GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT can solve the problems**. We need to **change our culture** and **eliminate the political corruption**.

David agreed that we need grassroots empowerment in order to stop war. He said, “We need a mass nonviolent movement of creative disruptive action.”

He said **voting is not enough to solve the systemic problems**. He said public opinion polls show that more than ¾ of Democrats, more than ¾ of Republicans, and more than ¾ of independents want to prevent Congress members and their spouses from buying and selling stock. This includes all stocks, not just those making weapons, because those stock trades are a form of corruption. He said Congress keeps refusing to stop this corruption – even now before the November 2022 election. (We taped this interview on November 1, 2022.) Congress keeps arming the world and bombing many places in the name of democracy.

He said **Congress members do not answer to the voters or what the public tells pollsters**. Congress members would respond only to massive nonviolence that inconveniences and disrupts what they are up to.

He said the corruption extends beyond campaign donations. The corruption includes “jobs” for their districts. This is why a weapon manufacturer subcontracts the production into as many congressional districts as possible. This is part of the corruption that keeps us trapped in the war system.

Glen agreed and said that starting in 1976 he conducted a lot of economic research into the findings by economists that we would have more jobs and better jobs and solve many of our nation’s problems and have a healthier economy if we would cut the military budget and convert our economy (factories, military bases, etc.) to meeting civilian needs. The military’s domination of our politics and our economy prevent us from solving these problems and meeting human needs.

**David’s proposals for a new foreign policy – a more ethical and effective one:**

Glen invited David to add any further recommendations for a truly peaceful foreign policy that would be better in many ways than the dysfunctional status quo that has persisted for many decades.

**David urged the U.S. to join the rest of the world and stop being the main holdout that has been opposing treaties and international agreements that would be good for the whole world.** Support the disarmament agreements that the U.S. has refused to join – and support new ones, such as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. (See [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org))

The U.S. should close our foreign military bases. We do not need them for our imperialistic military dreams. U.S. airplanes can go anywhere quickly, so we do not need those foreign military bases. The U.S. wants them so it can control other countries. In most of those countries, the U.S. controls them to the detriment of their own people.

Reform U.S. elections. “Spread democracy by example, not by bomb.” Try democracy here at home. He said this year – in 2022 – Brazil’s voters elected an actual Leftist and defeated an actual Fascist. Meanwhile, in the U.S., “centrists” who are subservient to Big Business and slightly left of Fascist do not want to do significant things and simply want to get along with established powers and do not inspire voters to elect them, so their out-and-out Fascist opponents win elections. He would open up elections with smarter media coverage, honest transparency and hand-counted paper ballots instead of computers that can by manipulated by monkey business. Get Big Money out of elections so we can replace the “bought-and-paid-for” politicians.

**Glen’s additional insights and suggestions:**

The world is experiencing some extremely serious problems – including massive poverty, lack of health care, environmental abuses, climate disruption, and so forth. However, the U.S. government promotes militarism instead of solving these problems.

**We need to create a foreign policy that supports peace and solves problems worldwide:**

1. Instead of a top-down, U.S.-dominated world, we need “win-win” solutions in which the U.S. honestly collaborates with and cooperates with other nations. Instead of threats and violence, Let’s create “win-win” solutions that keep everybody safe and healthy, that protect the environment and climate, and so forth.
2. This fresh approach would allow the U.S. and other nations to jointly protect the environment and the climate. Both the environment and the climate extend worldwide, so – instead of “American exceptionalism – we need honest global cooperation to protect them.
3. The U.S. CANNOT make our nation secure by making other nations insecure. We need to recognize our common humanity. Recognize that ALL people are ONE human family. Refuse to let anyone make us afraid of “the other” – other nations, other races, or other religions.
4. Promote worldwide the positive values such as love, compassion, human rights, nonviolence, egalitarianism, and a sustainable environment for everybody. These are positive things that other people in the world could agree upon, so the U.S. needs to act consistently with these values.
5. Teach nonviolent conflict resolution in every sector throughout our society: at community and neighborhood levels, in all schools from the K-12 level on up through college, and in adult education courses. If people can learn how to resolve inter-personal conflicts nonviolently, they will be better able to do this internationally too.
6. Let’s replace cynicism and despair with empowerment and hope! Glen posted his article about this to his blog: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/we-can-replace-cynicism-and-despair-with-empowerment-and-hope**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/we-can-replace-cynicism-and-despair-with-empowerment-and-hope)
7. Develop your knowledge and skills and tools for nonviolent grassroots organizing for peace and other important issues. Several times every year Glen conducts a FREE ONLINE series of six workshops on “Nonviolent Grassroots Organizing” that will strengthen your ability to organize nonviolent grassroots movements for social and political issues that you care about. Contact him at (360) 491-9093 or [**glenanderson@integra.net**](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net)
8. Recognize the systemic and cultural roots of our dysfunctional foreign policy, which has been BI-PARTISAN for many decades. Therefore, recognize that it is not enough to replace politicians of one political party with candidates from the other big political party.
9. He agrees with David’s urging to close the U.S.’s nearly 800 foreign military bases in 80 other countries. Politicians and mainstream news media want us to be afraid of China, but China has only one small foreign military base (in Djibouti).
10. He agrees with David in urging support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. (See [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)) This Treaty would actually ABOLISH ALL nuclear weapons. By November 2022, 68 nations have ratified it.
11. Reduce the military budget to a tiny fraction of what it is now – and use the financial savings to help people become truly secure by ending poverty, providing everyone with education, safe drinking water, good health care, a sustainable environment, and a safe climate. De-militarizing would help EVERYONE be safe and secure. If everyone had their basic needs met, we would have fewer conflicts that would erupt into violence.
12. See relevant parts of Glen’s blog [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), such as the categories for “Peace” and “International” and “Nonviolence” and “Organizing.”

**“TRUE” Security would be better than the U.S.’s concept of “national security”:**

**Next, Glen proposed a wise alternative to the status quo. Here is more information than his brief mention during the TV program:**

He said politicians keep promising to protect our “national security.” Their glib rhetoric is really just a euphemism for escalating a bigger military and more military weapons. **The “national security” slogan is so simplistic and false that it actually interferes with smart thinking.** Therefore, it also prevents us from devising public policies that would be ethical and would make us TRULY SECURE.

Security is **NOT** a “zero-sum” game in which one nation makes itself secure by making other nations insecure. No nation can make itself TRULY secure without ALSO supporting the TRUE security of all other nations. **We can achieve TRUE security ONLY IF we treat all other nations fairly and help ALL nations become truly secure.** Of course, **TRUE security is far more multi-dimensional than militarism** – and militarism actually **undermines** TRUE security.

**Glen showed on the screen a table that contrasts the status quo assumptions about “national security” in one column and the column next to it**, which shows more valid, ethical, and practical features of “TRUE Security. **Here it is:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **Typical American Way to Achieve National Security** | **Better Way to Achieve**  **TRUE Security** | |
|  | |  |  | |
| **Vision:** | | U.S. dominates all other countries. | U.S. cooperates fairly with all other countries. | |
| **Axis of Evil:** | | Iraq, Iran, North Korea | Martin Luther King identified 3 evils: Racism, Militarism, and Poverty/Materialism. | |
| **Goals:** | | National security against other nations | Global security and equitable relationships among all nations | |
|  | | Political, military, economic, cultural dominance | Self-determination  Economic well-being for all  Respect for other cultures & religions | |
| **Methods:** | | Military action, arms sales, covert operations, selective diplomacy | | | Nonviolent direct action at international level (e.g., nonviolent peace force) |
|  | | Unilateral action, coalitions that the US controls and others must endorse | | | Multilateral resolution of conflicts. Support the UN, international treaties, and international law. |
|  | | Development initiatives linked to “good” governments  Economic practices that support US interests | | | Marshall Plan to eradicate global poverty  Unconditional commitment to the poor |
|  | | Volunteerism and acts of charity to help the poor without changing structural inequities | | | Short-term: Generous actions with no selfish motives  Long-term: Structural changes for justice |
|  | | Minimum wage | | | Living wage. Guaranteed minimum income |
|  | | Conflict management focused on violence as individual pathology | | | Nonviolent resistance to systemic violence. Interpersonal conflict resolution skills |
| **Motivation:** | | Hatred | | | Love, compassion |
|  | | Fear | | | Faith |
|  | | Power | | | Justice |
|  | | Self-centered (Greek word *porneia*: people as objects) | | | Other-centered for the other’s sake (Greek word *agape*) |
| **Result:** | | Global chaos | | | Global community |

Let’s help the American people see that the familiar policies of militarism, dominance and greed are **a sham being foisted upon us**. **Let’s help Americans understand what would REALLY would make us “secure.”** Then we can re-define TRUE security, promote progressive alternatives, take the moral and political high ground, and win the public over to the peace movement’s side!

People want security, but we can’t gain TRUE security by fighting wars, sacrificing our civil liberties, and diverting the funds we need for health and education and other valid needs. **TRUE security can be achieved only by promoting peace, social and economic justice, a sustainable environment, a vibrant democracy, civil liberties for everyone, and many other progressive values.**

Let’s empower the American people to reject that false notion of security and affirm the deeper, more profound kind of TRUE security. Let’s collaborate with a wide range of allies in a strong movement so the American people can choose a peaceful, just and sustainable future.

Progressive movements for peace, social justice, economic justice, healthy environments, etc., offer **positive alternatives** that can **actually solve** a variety of big problems. The peace and progressive movements can relieve people’s fears and increase their TRUE security.

This fresh approach also can also unite the broad American public across many social and political categories (age, religion, race, class, occupation, political spectrum, etc.) into an electoral majority. Current policies threaten everyone’s security, but progressive alternatives offer TRUE security for the American people.

We can **organize a nonviolent grassroots movement from the bottom up** to help us gain **many kinds of security**, including (but not limited to):

* **Economic security:** Job security, living wages, job safety, cures for poverty, help during hard times, protection from dangerous working conditions, secure retirement income, etc.
* **Food security:** Safe and nutritious food for everybody, so we can end hunger and support small local farmers and local retailers.
* **Health security:** Access to high quality, affordable health care for everybody in our nation, respectful treatment, focus on preventing diseases, strong public health services, etc.
* **Environmental security:** Sustainable ecosystems, enough clean water, clean air, healthy forests, land use planning for sustainability, protecting all people and environments from toxics, protecting us all from climate disruptions, etc.
* **Personal security and human rights:** Thoughtful and sensitive policies and services regarding child abuse, domestic violence, gender issues, human dignity for every kind of person, safety from substance abuse, etc.
* **Community & cultural security:** Respect for all cultures and languages, freedom to practice any religion or no religion, protections from big businesses’ power, accountability when big businesses abuse us, removing the underlying causes of crime, comfort in walking anywhere at any time, ways to heal and reconcile when someone hurts another person, etc.

David said he agrees 100% with what Glen said about security and the TRUE Security table. David said he almost always can find something to disagree with, but not about what Glen said.

**Benefits include using the savings to end poverty and solve many problems:**



Next Glen showed on the screen the billboard that David’s organization, World BEYOND War, installed. It says, “3% of U.S. Military Spending Could End Starvation on Earth.” The billboard’s caption includes a link to an explanation at their website: [**www.worldbeyondwar.org/explained**](http://www.worldbeyondwar.org/explained).

David said this link at World BEYOND War’s website explains it. The U.S. spends approximately one trillion dollars a year now on military and military-related spending, so 3% would be about $30 billion. He said the United Nations says $30 billion a year would be enough to end starvation worldwide.

He said – even if the U.N. were radically wrong, or if massive corruption reduced effectiveness -- even if ending starvation required $60 billion, even that amount would be fine with him. Ending starvation worldwide would be a terrific goal, so he can’t understand why we don’t do that.

He said the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which has been in effect since 1970, already requires the elimination of nuclear weapons – and, indeed, all weapons. [This treaty is international law, but the 5 nations with nuclear weapons that ratified it have been violating it for more than half a century!]

Furthermore, David said the Kellogg-Briand Pact, which has been in place since 1928, **requires the abolition of all war**. He said people should find these two treaties encouraging. What was happening in the 1920s and the 1960s that allowed people to accomplish bold things that we don’t even dream of today? Now, he said, we are dreaming of new treaties when we already have bold treaties on the books. **Why can’t we bring ourselves to recognize and believe that they already exist? Let’s demand that these treaties be complied with.**

Glen added some context to David’s mention of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which went into effect in 1970. Glen said it was the result of worldwide fears during the 1960s that more nations would be acquiring nuclear weapons, so **the NPT was a grand bargain between the nations that already had nuclear weapons and those that did not. The nations that did not have them promised in the NPT to never acquire them. In exchange for that, 5 nations that did have them promised in the NPT’s Article VI to promptly abolish their nuclear weapons.** Article VI says: “ Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.” **However, for more than half a century after 1970, the nuclear nations have been violating the NPT.**

The nuclear nations not only have been violating the NPT but are actually holding the rest of the world hostage to their nuclear weapons. This has angered the rest of the world so seriously that non-nuclear nations created the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW, [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)) and passed it overwhelmingly (122 of 193 nations) through the United Nations General Assembly. By late November 2022, 68 nations have ratified it.

Also, beyond what David said about the military budget, Glen added that every year the President proposes a federal budget, and every year Congress passes the federal budget. **Every year** the President and Congress **DECIDE NOT** to end homelessness and poverty when they **REFUSE** to fund solutions. But **every year** the President and Congress give gigantic funding for military violence and nuclear weapons. He said **every year** Presidents and Congress **CHOOSE TO KEEP PEOPLE HOMELESS** and **CHOOSE TO KEEP PEOPLE IN POVERTY** because they are committed to military violence and nuclear weapons instead of ending poverty.

David said that every two years and four years they campaign on the opposite. He said the 2020 Platform of the Democratic Party – the party that won the presidency and both houses of Congress – called for cutting military spending and funding human needs instead. He said this is what people thought they were voting for. But we got the opposite. President Biden – contrary to his party’s Platform – demanded a very big increase in military spending, and Democratic majorities in both houses of Congress increased those increases even further – also in violation of their party’s Platform. This happened in 2021 and also again in 2022.

Glen said these perverted budget priorities are bi-partisan. People who like to demonize the Republican Party should recognize that the Democratic Party is equally bad. This horrible corruption is truly bi-partisan.

**What could people do to significantly improve our foreign policy?**

Both of us have already said that **only a strategically savvy nonviolent grassroots movement** can replace the status quo with a truly peaceful foreign policy. The people of the U.S. and the people of the world do want peace.

Glen said he agrees with the pledge that David’s organization – World BEYOND WAR – is urging people to sign. The pledge says:

I understand that wars and militarism make us less safe rather than protect us, that they kill, injure and traumatize adults, children and infants, severely damage the natural environment, erode civil liberties, and drain our economies, siphoning resources from life-affirming activities. I commit to engage in and support nonviolent efforts to end all war and preparations for war and to create a sustainable and just peace.

Glen said this is sensible and wise. Most people probably support this pledge. He asked David how we could help the general public to understand the realities, and to reflect on their best values, and to push for a truly peaceful and humane foreign policy.

David encouraged people to visit his organization’s website, [**www.worldbeyondwar.org**](http://www.worldbeyondwar.org) and then click on the link [**https://worldbeyondwar.org/individual/**](https://worldbeyondwar.org/individual/) to read and sign this Declaration of Peace. He said people in 193 countries have signed it. That’s more than the number of countries where the Pentagon has troops. Also, he said, you can check boxes to connect with what you want to learn about, take actions on, and so forth.

He also encouraged people to find out why the war in Ukraine is similar to 10,000 previous wars and not unique in world history or pure and sacred and glorious. His website has information at [**https://worldbeyondwar.org/ukraine**](https://worldbeyondwar.org/ukraine)

He said people need to know some basic facts that are not disputed. However, these facts are not well known and are not on TV, but we can use the internet to share the facts.

Glen mentioned a few resources that he has produced to inform the public about little-known aspects of peace. He said two of his recent TV programs provide insights and encouragement compatible with what we are saying now in this interview. **These two TV programs help us pivot away from the status quo and free ourselves from fear. They help us choose bold, creative alternatives to the status quo:**

* Glen’s April 2022 TV program is all about transcending narrow nationalism and declaring ourselves to be citizens of the whole world. This is a bold consciousness-raising strategy for peace. You can watch the one-hour video interview and/or read his thorough summary of what we said (with links to more information sources) at this link to his blog: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/world-citizenship-see-fascinating-information-here**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/world-citizenship-see-fascinating-information-here)
* Glen’s May 2022 TV program devotes an hour to explaining why and how nonviolent national defense would actually be more practical than military violence. He titled that TV episode, “Nonviolent National Defense: A Practical Way to Be More Secure.” You can watch the TV video and read the much more thorough article he wrote at this part of his blog: [**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)

**World BEYOND War does excellent work!**

This interview has been laying out a solid case for actually abolishing war. Glen said that a few times during this interview we have mentioned the organization for which David is a primary contact person, World BEYOND War. The website is **[www.worldbeyondwar.org](http://www.worldbeyondwar.org)**. Glen said he has enjoyed donating financial support for several years. Now he asked David to tell us about this organization.

David said this is a non-profit organization funded by small donations (not from any military contractors) – and he thanked Glen for his financial support. He said they began in 2014 and are global. They have chapters, board members and staffers and volunteers around the globe. They work on education and activism toward ending war. They conduct activities including in-person activism (such as putting bodies in front of trains carrying weapons) and a great many online activities, such as educational events, courses, book discussions, study groups, helping people lobby elected officials, helping people get their universities to divest from weapons dealers, and much more.

Glen expressed appreciation for World BEYOND War because the organization has clear, humane values, and they provide information that explains things clearly, so they make it easy for people to say, “Wow! I agree with that!” He encouraged people to contact [**www.worldbeyondwar.org**](http://www.worldbeyondwar.org) and sign up to receive their e-mails, as Glen has been doing ever since the organization began.

**Roots Action.org helps people take smart actions!**

Glen asked David to tell us about another organization that Glen has been reading – and financially supporting – and taking action through – for a number of years. David is a contact person for Roots Action, whose website is [**www.rootsaction.org**](http://www.rootsaction.org). Glen asked David to tell us about Roots Action.

David said Roots Action is a U.S.-based non-profit organization with the website [**www.rootsaction.org**](http://www.rootsaction.org). They conduct online activism through mass e-mail campaigns. Roots Action enables people to easily send e-mails and petitions to people who have power – especially elected officials – to urge them to take specific actions on a wide variety of issues related to peace, social justice, economics, environment, racial justice, and so forth.

He said many progressive organizations that conduct online advocacy do not include peace in their range of issues (as if the military’s half of our federal budget does not matter), but Roots Action does strongly include peace.

Glen agreed with David’s last point and said he sees many surveys from progressive organizations about which issues their organizations should be working on, and they list a great many domestic issues but ALMOST NEVER include foreign policy among them. Do these progressive organizations think the U.S.’s unjust and violent foreign policy is OK? Glen said in order to solve our domestic problems, we must also significantly change our foreign policy – and pull our money away from the military so we can afford to solve domestic problems. We need to get rid of the unjust and violent values that are driving our foreign policy and start using humane and peaceful values for our foreign policy, as well as for domestic policies.

**Many excellent sources of information can help you:**

Glen said a great many sources of information exist. We have only a little to mention a few on TV right now, but when he posts this TV video to his blog, he will include a lists (on pages 15-16 below) near the end of the very thorough summary he typed up (which you are reading now) of what we said during this interview.

Glen highly recommends [**https://worldbeyondwar.org**](https://worldbeyondwar.org) and World BEYOND War’s smart resource, **“A Global Security System: An Alternative to War,”** which you can read or download at: [**https://worldbeyondwar.org/alternative/**](https://worldbeyondwar.org/alternative/)

He also recommended [**https://rootsaction.org**](https://rootsaction.org) and David Swanson’s own blog, [**https://davidswanson@org**](https://davidswanson@org)

Glen invited people to you to see a great many resources on his blog -- [**https://parallaxperspectives.org**](https://parallaxperspectives.org). (The word ***parallax*** has ONE R and TWO Ls.) People can watch this TV interview and/or read the thorough summary by clicking the blog category for “PEACE” or “TV PROGRAMS.”

Earlier in this interview, Glen urged the U.S. to pivot away from the status quo that traps us in militarism. We must seriously plan how to free ourselves from fear – and to choose bold, creative alternatives to the status quo. Again now please watch (or read the thorough summaries of) two of his recent TV programs especially help us do that:

• Glen’s April 2022 TV program is all about transcending narrow nationalism and declaring ourselves to be citizens of the whole world. You can watch the one-hour video interview and/or read my thorough summary of what we said (with links to more information sources) at this link to his blog: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/world-citizenship-see-fascinating-information-here**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/world-citizenship-see-fascinating-information-here)

• Glen’ May 2022 TV program devotes an hour to explaining why and how nonviolent national defense would actually be more practical than military violence. He titled that TV episode, “Nonviolent National Defense: A Practical Way to Be More Secure.” You can watch the TV video and read the much more thorough article he wrote at this part of his blog: [**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 recommends these peace organizations and their websites:**

**Albert Einstein Institution** promotes strategically savvy and profoundly nonviolent resistance to invaders, dictators, etc.: [**www.aeinstein.org**](http://www.aeinstein.org)

**American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)** is a long-standing Quaker-based organization working for peace, social justice, and more: [**www.afsc.org**](http://www.afsc.org)

**Center on Conscience & War** provides information and help for Conscientious Objectors and resisters: [**www.centeronconscience.org**](http://www.centeronconscience.org)

**Churches for Middle East Peace**: [**www.cmep.org**](http://www.cmep.org)

**Code Pink** is a highly expert and active woman-based peace organization: [**www.codepink.org**](http://www.codepink.org)

**Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft (COMD)** works to protect young people from military recruiters and Junior ROTC programs, in addition to opposing the military draft: [**www.comdsd.org**](http://www.comdsd.org)

**Courage to Resist** supports people in the military who refuse to obey orders: [**www.couragetoresist.org**](http://www.couragetoresist.org) See Glen’s September 2022 TV program about this, featuring two veterans who had resisted: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/some-people-in-the-military-refuse-orders**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/some-people-in-the-military-refuse-orders)

**Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR)** is a pacifist organization supporting peace, social justice and nonviolence since 1915: [**www.forusa.org**](http://www.forusa.org)

**Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)** is a long-standing Quaker-based organization that educates the public and effectively lobbies in Washington DC for peace, social justice, and more: [**www.fcnl.org**](http://www.fcnl.org)

**Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space** provides substantive information and advocacy against militarizing space: [**www.space4peace.org**](http://www.space4peace.org)

**Global Zero** works to abolish nuclear weapons: [**www.globalzero.org**](http://www.globalzero.org)

**Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action** is the non-profit organization located immediately next to the Navy’s Trident nuclear submarine base in Kitsap County WA, the site of more deployed nuclear weapons than anywhere else in the Western Hemisphere. Since 1977, GZ has been educating the public, educating the Navy’s people who work at the base, and organizing nonviolent civil disobedience: [**www.gzcenter.org**](http://www.gzcenter.org)

**Institute for Policy Studies** has worked since the 1970s on a great variety of issues, including peace: [**www.ips-dc.org**](http://www.ips-dc.org)

**Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW)** has brought together many veterans of the Iraq war to work for peace, especially in light of what they experienced and learned first-hand. The website [**www.ivaw.org**](http://www.ivaw.org) continues as an archive, while a new name and website – About Face [**https://aboutfaceveterans.org/**](https://aboutfaceveterans.org/) – now includes all veterans since the September 11, 2001 tragedy, and they are continuing their active organizing for peace.

**Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP)** works for truly peaceful and just solutions to the Israel-Palestine conflict by engaging Jews and all other kinds of people to work together to protect Palestinian people’s rights in seeking peace and justice: [**www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org**](http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org)

**Just Foreign Policy** mobilizes people to promote diplomacy, cooperation, and the rule of law in international settings. Their website is being overhauled in early December 2022: [**www.justforeignpolicy.org**](http://www.justforeignpolicy.org)

**Lutheran Peace Fellowship** is one of several dozen religious peace fellowships affiliated with the Fellowship of Reconciliation. The LPF engages with Lutheran individuals and congregations to connect their faith-based values with the principles and policies that also are grounded in nonviolence and peace: [**www.lutheranpeace.org**](http://www.lutheranpeace.org)

**National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund (NCPTF)** has worked since the 1970s for a federal law that would allow federal taxpayers to claim Conscientious Objector status and divert the military’s share of their tax dollars to new peace-oriented projects: [**www.peacetaxfund.org**](http://www.peacetaxfund.org)

**National Priorities Project** is a part of the Institute for Policy Studies (see above) that helps individuals and movements to learn the facts and take actions to change our federal resources to prioritize peace and economic justice for everyone: [**www.nationalpriorities.org**](http://www.nationalpriorities.org) Also see [**www.costofwar.com**](http://www.costofwar.com)

**National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTRCC)** unites people in learning how to avoid paying taxes for war and encouraging war tax resistance as a way to obey their own consciences and to build nonviolent resistance to war: [**www.nwtrcc.org**](http://www.nwtrcc.org)

**Nonviolent Peaceforce** is a non-profit organization that protects civilians in violent conflicts by training and deploying unarmed people to work side-by-side with local communities and use nonviolent methods to improve communication among the parties, protect people from violence, and empower local people to affirm and practice nonviolence: [**www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org**](http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org)

**Nuclear Age Peace Foundation** was founded in 1982 and works for a just and peaceful world with no nuclear weapons. [**www.wagingpeace.org**](http://www.wagingpeace.org)

**Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA)** focuses on the nuclear weapons manufacturing plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where 100% of the highly enriched uranium for all of the U.S.’s nuclear weapons has been produced. OREPA is very well informed and does good work educating people and organizing nonviolent resistance. [**www.orepa.org**](http://www.orepa.org) Glen’s March 2022 TV program explains the horrible issues and OREPA’s excellent work: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/the-new-nuclear-arms-race-is-happening-in-oak-ridge-tennessee**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/the-new-nuclear-arms-race-is-happening-in-oak-ridge-tennessee)

**Peace Action** resulted from the merger of the 60-year-old SANE organization that opposed nuclear weapons and the 1980s Freeze Movement. They work for peace, and especially against nuclear weapons. [**www.peace-action.org**](http://www.peace-action.org)

**Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS)** has been working since the mid-1970s in the greater Spokane WA area to promote peace, social justice, and nonviolence. They organize a variety of strategically smart activities and engage people of all ages: [**www.pjals.org**](http://www.pjals.org)

**PeaceWorkers** is a community of activists, based primarily in the San Francisco Bay area, whose website and activities help people all over work for peace, justice, reconciliation, and nonviolence worldwide: [**www.peaceworkersus.org**](http://www.peaceworkersus.org)

**Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice**: When Rachel Corrie, a young peace activist from Olympia WA was murdered on March 16, 2003, while nonviolently protecting a Palestinian family’s home from being destroyed by an Israeli military bulldozer, people in her hometown created this non-profit organization to continue working for peace and social justice, with a special emphasis on the Middle East crisis: [**www.rachelcorriefoundation.org**](http://www.rachelcorriefoundation.org)

**“The World is My Country”** is a documentary film about the movement started by Garry Davis to promote world citizenship as a smart, peaceful alternative to narrow nationalism. You can learn more about the film and the movement at [**www.theworldismycountry.com**](http://www.theworldismycountry.com)

**United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ)** was founded in 2003 to build a coalition of local and national peace and justice organizations to prevent the U.S. from starting a war against Iraq. UFPJ has persisted: [**www.unitedforpeace.org**](http://www.unitedforpeace.org)

**Veterans for Peace** brings together American military veterans to inform each other and organize a variety of activities to promote peace, especially in light of what they have experienced and learned. They also welcome people who have not been in the military: [**www.veteransforpeace.org**](http://www.veteransforpeace.org)

**War Resisters International** is a global pacifist organization working for peace and nonviolence: [**www.wri-irg.org**](http://www.wri-irg.org)

**War Resisters League (WRL)** is the U.S. part of this pacifist organization. For a whole century, WRL has opposed all wars and the injustices that lead to wars: [**www.warresisters.org**](http://www.warresisters.org)

**World BEYOND War** is an excellent organization that we mentioned several times during Glen’s December 2022 TV program and in the thorough summary of what we said in the interview: [**www.worldbeyondwar.org**](http://www.worldbeyondwar.org)

**Glen’s closing encouragement:**

Glen thanked David Swanson for being our guest for this interview – and for sharing his smart, humane values and practical information that we can act upon.

He also thanked the people who have been watching this TV interview.

The U.S.’s foreign policy has been very seriously distorted for many decades. Our foreign policy’s violence and cruelty have hurt many, many millions of other people in other countries – and our foreign policy has hurt the American people too.

The problems were imposed from the top down by BOTH of the big political parties, so the government will NOT voluntarily solve the problems. The ONLY way we can change to a truly peaceful foreign policy will be if ordinary people inform themselves and organize a nonviolent grassroots movement that will apply creative strategies and pressures from the bottom up.

David’s organizations and other organizations (listed on pages 15-16 above) are working on this.

Please join us!. You will feel better about yourself if you are working positively for peace.

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!**