**“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).

Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 **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** 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.”**

**“Three Steps to Nuclear Disarmament”**

Glen’s Parallax Perspectives TV Series

January 2023

Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 **glenanderson@integra.net**

**Glen introduced our topic and our guest, Tom Rogers:**

He welcomed the TV viewers to the January 2023 episode of “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” TV series. He said this month’s interview provides **fresh information and insights** toward abolishing nuclear weapons. Besides facts, we provide **a positive “can-do” attitude** with **practical strategies**. We explain things clearly enough so people who do not already know much about nuclear weapons will easily understand and become enthusiastic about abolishing them.

One truly expert guest – Tom Rogers – helps us explore this topic. Tom Rogers retired from the U.S. Navy in 1998 after a 32-year career as a submarine officer. He commanded a nuclear attack submarine during the Cold War. When the Cold War ended in 1991, he recognized the opportunity – and the need – to abolish nuclear weapons. Since 2004, he has been an active member of an organization working to abolish nuclear weapons. The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action is located immediately next to the Trident nuclear submarine base in Kitsap County, Washington. Tom and other Ground Zero peace activists have always worked to create mutually respectful human relations with Navy personnel. Tom lives in Poulsbo, Washington.

Glen thanked Tom for participating in this interview

**What we discuss during this hour – and what we see during this interview:**

Tom served in nuclear-powered submarines armed with nuclear weapons for much of his career. Glen asked him to summarize how his thinking about nuclear weapons changed after the Cold War ended three decades ago.

Tom said that in 1991 he quit commanding submarines and transferred to a submarine staff position on land. A few months later the Soviet Union imploded and the Cold War ended. He said, “Very quickly I realized that this was an opportunity to reduce our national security policy’s reliance on nuclear weapons.”

He said this change did not happen, so – because he had enough seniority to be able to reach decision-makers, he reached out to them and made noise. He asked serious questions but did not get any good answers. The answers all “supported continued reliance on nuclear weapons.”

Tom knew we should not continue that, so he said he became angry and made a lot more noise.

Glen thanked him for doing that. He said this TV interview’s purpose is to help the public understand that we can indeed abolish nuclear weapons if we pursue the thoughtful, step-by-step path Tom Rogers is explaining.

This TV program provides a lot of information and a lot of numbers. We explain things clearly enough so **people can** **easily follow the flow of reasoning**, even if they don’t remember all of the numbers.

Glen is posting this TV interview – and a thorough typed-up version (with visual images) – to the “TV Programs” part of his blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). Now you are reading the thorough summary of Tom’s proposed step-by-step plan, numbers and supporting information.

**Numbers of warheads in each of the 9 nations.**

Tom showed an image on the screen that says 12,720 nuclear warheads exist worldwide:



Tom said these numbers came from the Federation of American Scientists ([**https://fas.org**](https://fas.org)), which publicizes information about nuclear weapons. He said all of the numbers in his presentation here came from FAS’s “Nuclear Notebook.”

Nine nations have them. The U.S. and Russia have 90% of them. The column on the right shows each nation’s total. The column in the middle shows how many of these are currently deployed – actually ready to use immediately. He said the deployed warheads are either mated to ballistic missiles or they are bombs or cruise missiles that are stored close to dedicated bomber aircraft. These deployed nuclear warheads are always ready to be launched on short notice.

He said the numbers for France, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea do not break out into the two columns because those four nations are very secretive about their nuclear weapons.

We did not have time right now for Glen to mention what is called “the nuclear triad.” This means that the U.S. has three ways to use nuclear weapons: Drop them as bombs from airplanes, launch missiles from silos in the U.S., and launch them from submarines in an ocean.

**Go on to the next page.**

**“A Phased Process to Nuclear Disarmament” starts with U.S. and Russia
dismantling their warheads that are NOT currently deployed:**

Tom drew upon his professional expertise and additional sources of information in order to devise a smart 3-step process toward abolishing nuclear weapons.

Step 1 is to “call on the US and Russia to dismantle non-deployed nuclear warheads.” We showed on the TV screen the table in the column to the right.

Glen agreed with Tom that a sensible first step is to dismantle the warheads that are not even deployed now.

We considered the U.S.’s and Russia’s numbers of non-deployed warheads. We saw these a moment ago. Now these numbers are circled. *See the table in the next column*.

Tom said 2/3 of the world’s warheads – more than 8,000 of them – are U.S. and Russian warheads that are NOT deployed.

Tom said these are stockpiled in bunkers and are separate from their launchers, so they are not available for use on short notice.



He said more than 3,000 warheads are obsolete but intact. They are waiting to be dismantled, but dismantling them has not been occurring for about ten years. He urged us to begin that dismantling again.

Glen said the non-deployed warheads are useless. They are not providing any security for us. We could easily get rid of them. We could invite Russia to join us in dismantling them, or – since they are not useful at all – we could simply do this on our own. He said this would be an easy first step.

**NON-deployed warheads:**

We showed on the screen the numbers of **three kinds** of nuclear warheads that are NOT deployed.



Tom said the U.S.’s 1,720 retired warheads are stored in a bunker at an Air Force based in Albuquerque and are waiting to be sent to the Pantex plant in Amarillo, Texas, where dismantling would occur. But, he said, the U.S. government does not see this as a priority, so we need to fix that. Glen said we need public pressure to move the government ahead with this. Tom agreed.

Tom said the “strategic reserve” warheads are basically more of the same kinds as those that are currently deployed, but these are simply not deployed. He said if the START treaty between the U.S. and Russia continues, these warheads would never be able to be used. He said it is ludicrous to think we could have a nuclear war and exchange more than 1,500 nuclear weapons on each side – and then go back and re-load. He said these “strategic reserve” warheads are useless unless you violate the START treaty and upload those warheads onto launchers.

He said Russia has many, many more of the “tactical” warheads on launchers that have a shorter range than the kinds of long-range nuclear weapons we usually think about. Russia built these for a possible war in Europe. He said the U.S. and Russia would need serious negotiations to figure out how to get rid of these “tactical” warheads that are not deployed.

Glen said we need to be in conversation with Russia, and Tom agreed. That necessary conversation is not occurring now.

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

Dismantling those NON-deployed nuclear warheads be a strategically smart way to start the process that Tom is advocating. **Glen likes Tom’s first step for several reasons:**

#1. Since these weapons are NOT deployed – we could dismantle them without in any way weakening our national defense.

#2. If the U.S. takes this first step, it would very likely induce Russia to dismantle their own NON-deployed weapons. If they don’t immediately do that, other nations would urge them to take this step.

#3. When BOTH nations have done this, we will have created a positive direction for subsequent steps. Glen remembers during the 1980s when the peace movement was urging steps that the U.S. and USSR could do that would build cooperation and trust. These were called “Confidence-Building Measures.” They were smart strategy for reducing tensions during the Cold War and promoting other steps toward peace.

**We need only a “minimum deterrent” strategy.**

**Renegotiate New START with Russia to achieve this:**

After step #1, which we discussed just now, Tom showed on the screen his step #2, which is to **renegotiate the New START treaty with Russia to achieve a “minimum deterrent” strategy.**

****

In the next few minutes we discussed the **New START** treaty and also the **“minimum deterrent”** strategy.



The New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) has been a powerful step toward peace. The Obama administration negotiated New START with Russia, and it went into effect in February 2011. It ran 10 years and needed to be renewed, but the Trump administration was allowing it to expire. As soon as President Biden took office in 2021, his administration arranged with the Russians to extend it for 5 years.

Glen especially appreciates these aspects of the New START:

* The word “REDUCTION” is vitally important! This treaty actually REDUCES the numbers of warheads and launchers.
* People who worry about cheating need to know that New START provides for VERY SERIOUS INSPECTIONS. These can be unannounced and intrusive. Instead of merely trusting that other nations will comply, we can indeed create treaties that allow very serious inspections for compliance.

**We need only a “Minimum Deterrent.”**

**Here are four steps for the U.S. to reduce warheads to achieve this:**

Glen said most Americans are **mistaken in assuming that our nuclear weapons are defensive** – a deterrent – so we would use them **only to retaliate** if another nation attacked us with their nuclear weapons.

**Most Americans do not know** that since the late 1960s the U.S. has been pursuing a **“first-strike”** policy – a policy of STARTING a nuclear war with weapons specifically designed to **begin** a nuclear war.

**Most Americans probably want** **merely a “deterrence” policy** – having only nuclear weapons to deter anyone from attacking us. This is the first bullet item on the screen, which you can see in the next column on this page. **Actually, we have many, many more nuclear weapons** in excess of what we would need for deterrence.



Next Tom summarized the New START treaty. (*See four points listed in the left-hand column in the section above*.) This treaty has been very effective. Tom urges us to **renegotiate the New START treaty with Russia to achieve a “minimum deterrent” strategy**, *as shown in the box immediately above this paragraph*.

Tom explained the concept of “Minimum Deterrent.” He said we could sharply reduce our nuclear weapons and still have an adequate deterrent.



Tom explained the New START treaty. He said this is a bi-lateral treaty between the U.S. and Russia. Besides limiting deployed warheads to 1,550 on each side, it also limits deployed launchers (missiles, bombers, submarines) to 700 on each side.

The strong verification that is occurring nowadays would not occur without this treaty. This verification is crucial for making New START work well.

He said New START does NOT limit the weapons that are NOT currently deployed, so this is something we need to negotiate next. Unless we negotiate to dismantle those, they could be deployed. He said the U.S. has 1,000 warheads (W76-2 is the model number) for the Trident nuclear submarines that are stored at the Trident bases at Bangor (in Kitsap County WA) and at Kings Bay, Georgia. He said the missiles currently on those submarines do have empty slots where those non-deployed nuclear warheads could be inserted. Each Trident missile could carry eight nuclear warheads, but currently each one carries four or five warheads in order to comply with New START.

He said this is why we need to negotiate a new version of New START in order to limit the number of non-deployed warheads.

Glen thanked Tom for providing this information, because we should not be complacent in thinking we’re OK now that New START has been extended for five years. Again, he emphasized the word ***reduction***, so we really must negotiate further for further reductions.

Glen also appreciated the information about verification. He said when he does speaking engagements about nuclear weapons, people in the audience say, “But how can you trust the other side?” He said New START’s verification rules are very serious. Each side can conduct surprise inspections of the other side’s nuclear weapons sites. These are strong ways to prevent either side from cheating. We need to inform the public about this, so they will trust the treaties.

We mentioned “Minimum Deterrent” again. Tom explained this image we showed on the screen:



Tom noted the definition on the screen. Instead of the thousands of nuclear warheads we have now, Tom said that a number of expert studies have been showing that we need only several hundred in order to provide a credible deterrent. He said that based on the kinds of warheads we have now, 500 would be plenty.

He said that instead of bogging down with precise numbers, the “Minimum Deterrent” concept needs **a “no-first-use” policy**. The current first-strike (“counter-force”) policy requires many weapons, because it proposes launching a huge number of weapons against the adversary’s ground-based missile silos, in order to destroy them before they can be launched at us. Reducing our huge number of weapons to a “Minimum Deterrent” would prevent a “counter-force” policy, so this would reduce the danger.

Tom said reducing warheads down to a “Minimum Deterrent” would likely interfere with the “nuclear umbrella” of the U.S.’s commitment to use nuclear weapons on behalf of Europe’s NATO nations and in the Pacific region. In turn, this would be an incentive for our allies in NATO and the Pacific region to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which we discussed later in the interview.

Glen repeated that – although most Americans wrongly think the U.S. has a policy of “deterrence” and only retaliating if attacked – actually since the 1960s the U.S. has had a “first-strike” (“counter-force”) policy and has been engineering, building and deploying nuclear weapons that would be used FIRST to BEGIN a nuclear war. (Indeed, in 1945 the U.S. escalated a conventional war into an atomic war by dropping two atomic bombs on Japan.) Since the 1960s our policies and weapons have become vastly more aggressive and destructive. He said the “Minimum Deterrent” policy Tom is advocating would take us away from “first-strike” (“counter-force”) and help us turn the corner toward peace.

Tom said it would help the Russians in this way too. Glen agreed that recognizing the mutuality is important. The U.S. cannot boss around the rest of the world. We need to interact with other nations for everyone’s mutual benefit by reducing the dangers of global destruction.

**How the U.S. could achieve a “Minimum Deterrence:”**



The last paragraph of page 2 of this document mentioned the “nuclear triad” – the combination of land-based nuclear weapons, nuclear bombs dropped by airplanes, and submarine-based nuclear weapons. Now Tom suggested smart ways to reduce all three – and our nuclear weapons deployed in Europe – so we could achieve a “minimum deterrence” instead of the huge unnecessary numbers and kinds of nuclear warheads we have now.

Tom explained the four points in the box shown above:

1. Intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) are big land-based missiles in underground silos in the central and north central part of the U.S. Tom said Russia knows exactly where these missile silos are, so the ICBMs are totally vulnerable to being attacked by Russia’s incoming missiles. Because of this, there is a strong motivation to “use them or lose them.” What Tom was referring to was the danger that in case of severe international tensions, they might be launched first in order to avoid being destroyed by Russia before they could be launched. Glen said the ICBMs would be easy to get rid of. Indeed, many experts have been urging the U.S. to dismantle our ICBMs.

2. Tom said the nuclear weapons delivery system that’s easiest to eliminate is our fleet of B-52 bombers that are configured to carry and drop nuclear bombs. He said the airframes are 60 years old and need to be decommissioned anyway. Let's just do this.

3. In order to reduce the number of warheads and launchers down to a “minimum deterrent,” Tom said we should decommission 6 of the 14 Trident nuclear submarines that carry sea-launched ballistic missiles.

4. Removing 100 deployed nuclear warheads from Europe is not part of the “minimum deterrent,” but they are tactical nuclear weapons deployed in Europe through NATO, and we need to get rid of these too. Glen said these are provocative. He said that since the beginning of the Cold War, the U.S. has been threatening and provoking the Soviet Union (and now Russia). The U.S.’s persistent provocations provoked them to build their own nuclear weapons and try to match the U.S.’s technology. We must stop threatening them in order to stop the suicidal trap that we are in. After the Cold War ended, the U.S. pushed NATO right up to Russia’s borders and provoked them to attack Ukraine. He said we must reduce the threats, so he agrees with all four of Tom’s recommendations.

Tom added the very important point that this “minimum deterrent” is NOT intended to last forever. It is a transitional step toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons. He said that – therefore – the U.S. must stop the massive program of replacing ALL of the U.S.’s nuclear warheads and delivery systems (missiles, bomber, submarines) with ALL NEW ones. He said we must CANCEL the Columbia class of submarines that are being built to replace the Tridents. He said we must CANCEL the “Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent” missiles (the new name for the new land-based missiles to replace the Minuteman ICBMs). He said we must CANCEL the B-21 bomber to replace the B-52.

Glen added that Congress has funded all of these extremely expensive nuclear weapons. He said this was begun slightly more than a decade ago. Now it is going full-tilt and will PROBABLY COST MORE THAN TWO TRILLION DOLLARS. We have better uses for that money instead of new weaponry to blow up the world.

**Then what will remain in the U.S.’s stockpile of nuclear weapons?**

The image on the middle left of page 3 showed the numbers of NON-deployed nuclear warheads. Now Tom added that – because we have excess capacity on our launchers – we need to get rid of the 1,864 “strategic reserve” warheads that are NOT deployed now but could be attached to the launchers. He said reducing to a “minimum deterrent” means sharply reducing these “strategic reserve” warheads along with reducing the deployed warheads, as he said a moment ago. He said a reasonable number would be 150 (“total” minus “deployed”), as shown in the next column’s box:



He said we would need 150 because when a submarine goes in to the shipyard for repairs, all of the warheads are removed, so they are temporarily not deployed. Likewise, when a warhead is being maintained it is not currently deployed, so it needs to be counted as part of the strategic reserve. He said 150 is a reasonable number to allow for such flexibility.

Again, the table at the bottom of page 6 shows that 150 is the difference between the third column’s “total” number of 650 and the middle column’s “deployed” number of 500. These numbers make sense for Russia as well as the U.S., and the concept makes sense for other nations too.

**We showed on the screen what would remain after we eliminate the nuclear weapons in excess of what we need for a “Minimum Deterrent”:**



Glen repeated that the ICBMs in the central and north central part of the U.S. are provocative and targets, so they actually endanger this region of the U.S. We would be safer without them.

The U.S. has 20 of the B-2 Stealth bomber Glen showed on the screen (and in the column to the right). Tom wants to reduce these to zero. He told us a bit about these and the several B-61 nuclear warheads that each B-2 can carry. When the aging B-52 bombers retire, the B-2 bombers will remain unless we remove them too. The B-61-12 nuclear bomb uses gravity to drop onto its target. Their power can be up to 50 kilotons (equal to 50,000 tons of dynamite) [about 3 times as powerful as the Hiroshima bomb]. Tom said the B-2s are located in North Dakota, Louisiana and Missouri. He said if the B-21 strategic bomber goes into production, they would be deployed into additional areas.



Glen repeated that the “nuclear triad” consists of bombs dropped by airplanes, land-based missiles, and submarines that launch missiles. Each Trident submarine can have possibly 72 nuclear warheads. They are based in Kitsap County, Washington, and Kings Bay, Georgia.

Tom said the Trident is the predominant part of the strategic triad. He said 14 Tridents exist now – 6 based at Kings Bay, Georgia, and 8 based in Kitsap County, WA.

To comply with New START’s limit, each Trident carries 20 missiles. He said the “minimum deterrent” he wants as an interim step toward total nuclear disarmament would require reducing the total number of Tridents down to 8 with no more than 16 missiles per submarine, and 4 to 5 warheads per missile.

The discussion we have completed thus far nearly finishes the second step in Tom’s 3-step plan for nuclear disarmament. The remaining part in Tom’s second step is to negotiate ways to strengthen the New START treaty.

**Negotiate a stronger New START with these features:**

The final part of Tom’s second step toward nuclear disarmament would be to strengthen the New START treaty in the four ways we showed on the TV screen:



Tom said the most important part of any treaty to reduce weapons is verification. He urged “robust on-site inspections.” He urged re-starting the “Open Skies” agreements that had been working well until the Trump Administration withdrew the U.S. from them. [See information about “Open Skies” here: [**https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/openskies**](https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/openskies)]

Tom said we should continue with the notifications (about moving missiles, testing weapons, etc.). When nations tell each other about these, we prevent unnecessary fears about what might be happening. Glen agreed that we should be open and transparent, so nobody will worry that the other side is cheating or preparing for a sneak attack. He said the more we can communicate, reduce tensions, and build mutual confidence, the safer everyone will be.

On the TV screen we posted Tom’s four suggestions for what else should be included in New START. (*See the bottom of this page’s left column*.) We already talked about the first bullet point (inspections, etc.)

Next, Tom said we must likewise verify the dismantling of warheads and the various launchers (submarines, etc.).

He said the third bullet item – destroying plutonium pits – is the very most important part of his plan for abolishing nuclear weapons! He said “the plutonium pit is the heart of a nuclear weapon.” He said it’s just the size of a softball. This is what starts the explosion.

Glen added that plutonium is what makes a hydrogen bomb different from a regular atomic bomb such as the one the U.S. dropped on Hiroshima. He said the Nagasaki bomb did have plutonium. Nowadays, plutonium makes a bomb radically more destructive. Both of us agreed that we need to destroy the plutonium pits and shut down the facility that makes them. Tom said, “If you have a pit, you can build a bomb.” He said, “Right now there are 15,000 pits stored at the Pantex site in Texas waiting to be destroyed, but the program to destroy them was terminated in 2018.” He added that the Department of Energy is funded to produce new pits. He said this is the opposite of what we [in the peace movement] are trying to do.

Tom said the fourth bullet point on the screen’s list is not part of New START, but it is necessary because China is building facilities to make new nuclear weapons, and it is increasing its numbers of warheads. He said we need a separate bi-lateral treaty with China – similar to New START – to limit their nuclear weapons while the U.S. negotiates a stronger bi-lateral treaty with Russia.

Glen said, “We have a lot of American politicians who have been threatening China – threatening China – threatening China. China, of course, cares about “their own national security, so they feel that they need to have more nuclear weapons to protect themselves from the U.S.’s threats.” He said the solution is for us to stop threatening them and to negotiate a treaty with them so we can protect both nations from nuclear war. He thanked Tom for adding this bullet point to his presentation here, because most people do not understand that we need this.

**Now here is step #3 in Tom’s path to Nuclear Disarmament.**

**It calls for the nations with nuclear weapons to START OBEYING
the 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty:**

Glen said we have made a lot of progress through **Tom’s first two steps** toward nuclear disarmament. Now we will look at his **third step**. It’s #3 here on this screen:



Glen said almost no Americans know about this, so he provided some background so people will understand the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and what it requires.

He said the world created – and ratified – the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) because during the 1960s the world was afraid that more nations would be acquiring nuclear weapons.

**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.**

The NPT’s 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.”

**The NPT went into effect in 1970, but for more than half a century since then, the nuclear nations have been violating the NPT.**

The Americans need to understand the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the bold action it **requires**.

Glen thanked Tom for including the NPT in his third step toward nuclear disarmament. The NPT is a crucial strategic pivot toward world peace.

Here is more information about the NPT:



**The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is a powerful, positive
next step after the NPT:**

Next Glen summarized how the NPT led to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Tom showed his image about it:



Glen repeated that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) went into effect in 1970, but – because the nations that have nuclear weapons had been violating it for half a century – world public opinion and most of the world’s nations pushed ahead with another bold treaty, which the peace movement vigorously supports.

He said that the nuclear nations – besides violating the NPT – are actually holding the rest of the world hostage to our 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) and passed it overwhelmingly (122 of 193 nations) through the United Nations General Assembly in July 2017.

By early December 2022, 91 nations have signed the treaty, so they could consider actually ratifying it, and thus far 68 nations have actually ratified it.

**The TPNW seeks disarmament consistent with what the NPT requires!**

**It really is possible to abolish nuclear weapons worldwide! In case you think this is too bold to be practical, Glen shared these examples of treaties that have already outlawed other kinds of “weapons of mass destruction:”**

* 1972: Biological weapons were banned under the Biological Weapons Convention.
* 1993: Chemical weapons were banned under the Chemical Weapons Convention.
* 1997: Land mines were banned under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty.
* 2008: Cluster munitions were banned under the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

These historical precedents prove that the world community **can indeed ban** horrible “Weapons of Mass Destruction” (WMDs). We have banned other WMDs. Now we must ban nuclear weapons too – the worst WMD of all! **This worldwide treaty, the TPNW, really could abolish all nuclear weapons worldwide!**

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is especially powerful because **it was written based on the very, very successful 1993 treaty that banned chemical weapons.** That treaty’s success came largely from using a number of **active verbs**. It used many active verbs to **explicitly prohibit any and all kinds of activities** supporting chemical weapons.

**Likewise, active verbs in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) prohibit activities:**

PARTIES TO THE TREATY UNDERTAKE NEVER UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES TO

**Develop, Test, Produce, Manufacture, Otherwise Acquire, Possess, Transfer, Deploy, Use, Threat** to use, **Stockpile** nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices

**Assist, Finance, Encourage, Induce others to carry out any of these prohibited acts**

PARTIES ARE OBLIGATED TO COMPLETELY ELIMINATE NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

Although none of the 9 nations that have nuclear weapons have supported the TPNW, we can build a strong worldwide movement to pressure them to do this.

On the screen, Tom proposed a step leading to nuclear disarmament with inspections and other verifications:



Glen encourages people to learn more about the TPNW by visiting the website of the worldwide organization that has been promoting it. See [**https://www.icanw.org/**](https://www.icanw.org/)

He said the TPNW went into effect on January 22, 2021, so now we are planning celebrations worldwide for its second anniversary on January 22, 2023, and a few days before and after that.

**Tom and Glen say we really can abolish nuclear weapons.**

**Yes, peace really is possible!**

Tom showed this image on the screen:



He said “the NPT is the pivot” in bringing together the nations that have nuclear weapons so they can negotiate disarmament. He added that only then will those nations be likely to enter into the TPNW. When they do enter into the TPNW, they must submit to a safeguards agreement and verifications by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). He said the U.S., Russia and China must finance the IAEA’s inspections forever.

[The IAEA is a multi-national organization that helps nations cooperate for the safe and peaceful use of nuclear technology. It is related to the United Nations.] Glen said the IAEA is highly competent. They do vigorous and rigorous inspections and can be trusted if the world community continues supporting them. He said we need to make sure all nine of the nuclear nations support the IAEA’s efforts. Tom said the U.S. and Russia have jointly supported the IAEA’s efforts for many years under several treaties to control nuclear weapons. He said we know how to do verifications, so now we need to spread this among all nine of the nuclear nations.

Again Glen encouraged people to learn more about the TPNW by visiting the website of the worldwide organization that has been promoting it, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. Their website [**https://www.icanw.org/**](https://www.icanw.org/) provides much information and many ways people can take action to promote nuclear disarmament. ICAN won the Nobel Peace Prize in December 2017, after having organized enough support to pass the TPNW through the United Nations General Assembly in July 2017 with 122 of 193 nations voting support.

Tom showed his final slide on the screen. It urged us to imagine the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Tom said that peace is possible.

Glen agreed. We need to imagine this bold goal – and organize grassroots movements all around the world to make this goal a reality. He said we have been so bogged down by fears and anxieties and stresses that people seem to feel that they problems are too big but people are too small and powerless, so they can’t abolish nuclear weapons. Glen said, “Yes! We really can!”

**Tom offered this additional encouragement:**

Tom said the organization for which he volunteers actively – the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action ([**www.gzcenter.org**](http://www.gzcenter.org)) – is a member of ICAN, along with many other organizations around the world. Ground Zero is located immediately next to the Trident nuclear submarine base at Bangor in Kitsap County, Washington. Tom said that when ICAN won the Nobel Peace Prize, Ground Zero celebrated their portion of that victory.

Tom said that for many, many years, he and Glen and many other people have been urging the abolition of nuclear weapons. He said that the three-step path he laid out here is a sensible part of this movement. He said we won’t be able to abolish them all at once, but if we have a plan we can take each step over a sequence of several years and accomplish our goal.

Glen agreed that people need to **imagine the bold goal** and **organize grassroots movements** all around the world to make this goal a reality. He said these grassroots movements are being organized.

**We must build a strategically savvy, bold, ambitious grassroots movement!**

Glen said he wants the public to significantly improve the creativity and boldness of our thinking so we can move ahead to nuclear disarmament. He said that after the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on two Japanese civilian cities in August 1945, Albert Einstein famously said that “the unleashed power of the atom has changed everything [except how we think, so we are drifting] toward unparalleled catastrophe.” Glen agreed with Einstein: **we really do need to change our thinking** – and **change our consciousness** and **change our national culture** – in order to **change our overall foreign policy**, so we can move toward abolishing nuclear weapons.

He said nuclear weapons exist in the overall context of U.S. foreign policy, so we must de-militarize our foreign policy overall in order to make more progress toward nuclear disarmament.

**Glen recently posted to his blog some materials about this. See these blog posts:**

* Recently Glen wrote this about nuclear weapons in the context of the U.S.’s overall foreign policy and how the peace movement can organize effectively for peace and nuclear disarmament: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/nuclear-weapons-and-the-peace-movement-2**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/nuclear-weapons-and-the-peace-movement-2)
* Glen’s December 2022 TV program identifies long-standing problems with U.S. foreign policy and proposes bold peaceful alternatives. Click this link to watch the video and/or read a thorough summary of what we said: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/change-to-a-truly-peaceful-foreign-policy-glens-december-tv-program**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/change-to-a-truly-peaceful-foreign-policy-glens-december-tv-program)
* In early December 2022 Glen posted to his blog a list of “Nuclear Weapons Information Sources.” It’s at this link:[**https://parallaxperspectives.org/nuclear-weapons-information-sources-2**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/nuclear-weapons-information-sources-2)
* Here is a list of many excellent peace organizations and websites: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/peace-organizations-and-websites**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/peace-organizations-and-websites)
* His blog has an entire category of resources about nuclear weapons: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/nuclear-weapons**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/nuclear-weapons)
* Glen’s November 2022 TV program encourages us to be much bolder than the timid incrementalism that the political elites want us to settle for. Let’s choose a truly bold and humane future: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/choose-a-bold-humane-future-glens-november-2022-tv-program**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/choose-a-bold-humane-future-glens-november-2022-tv-program)
* Some of his other recent TV programs have focused on NUCLEAR WEAPONS: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/tv-programs-parallax-perspectives-series**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/tv-programs-parallax-perspectives-series)and PEACE: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/peace-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/peace-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions)

He said he likes what the World Social Forum affirmed two decades ago: **“Another world is possible!” Let’s imagine the world we want instead of the status quo – and let’s organize to build that better world!**

He said he truly believes that deep down, most Americans actually would prefer values that are humane, compassionate, peaceful, fair to everyone, and environmentally sustainable.

But because the economic and political elites keep us stuck in a militaristic foreign policy, ONLY a GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT for PEACE and DISARMAMENT can solve the problems. **Let’s organize grassroots movements to implement our positive values into our nation’s public policies!**

**We need to seriously re-think the concept of “national security” in a context much wiser than the narrow military assumptions. 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.

The U.S. cannot achieve **our** “national security” by making **other nations** LESS secure. He recommended three principles:

#1. Recognize our common humanity.

#2. Refuse to let anyone make you afraid of “the other” (other nations, other races, other religions, other sexual orientations, and so forth).

#3. Promote positive values worldwide, such as love, compassion, nonviolence, human rights, egalitarianism, and a sustainable environment.

Again, this is a crucial point: **The problems came from the top down, so solutions must come from the bottom up. Only a NONVIOLENT GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT** can change our foreign policy and abolish nuclear weapons!

The huge problems cause some people to feel overwhelmed and defeated**. We need to replace cynicism and despair with empowerment and hope! We need a positive and bold “can-do” attitude.** Glen encourages you to read what he wrote about this for his blog: [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/we-can-replace-cynicism-and-despair-with-empowerment-and-hope**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/we-can-replace-cynicism-and-despair-with-empowerment-and-hope)

Glen thanked Tom for sharing his positive “can-do” attitude during this hour on TV.

If we were to take the smart steps Tom is proposing – and seriously move toward abolishing nuclear weapons – the world would support our efforts to make the whole world secure – without any nuclear weapons!

**Go on to the next page.**

**The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action is doing good work:**

Glen said he is glad Tom mentioned the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action a few minutes ago. They are located immediately next to the Trident nuclear submarine base at Bangor in Kitsap County Washington. They are next-door neighbors who share a fence.

Ground Zero has been doing excellent work for nuclear disarmament since they began in 1977, and Glen has been connected with them from the beginning. You can learn more – and get involved – by visiting their website, [**www.gzcenter.org**](http://www.gzcenter.org).

Since 1977, Ground Zero has practiced profoundly ethical nonviolence – and educated the community – and educated people who work for the Navy – toward abolishing nuclear weapons. They reach out to the heavily Navy-oriented community in Kitsap County and with the larger peace movement to promote mutually respectful human relations.

Several times each year they conduct nonviolent actions at the entry points to the Trident nuclear submarine base.

Glen encouraged people to visit [**www.gzcenter.org**](http://www.gzcenter.org).

**Nuclear disarmament organizing in Olympia and throughout Washington State:**

Glen encouraged people to connect with Ground Zero and other organizations working to abolish nuclear weapons.

He said in the greater Olympia, Washington, area, he founded and chairs the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. This group has done a variety of smart work since 2017. You can join our e-mail list by contacting him at (360) 491-9093 or **glenanderson@integra.net**

People throughout Washington State work together through our statewide coalition. It includes dozens of grassroots organizations and many individual members. Contact Washington Against Nuclear Weapons at [**www.wanwcoalition.org**](http://www.wanwcoalition.org) or phone (206) 547-2630.

**Glen recommends these peace organizations and their websites:**

Glen said a great many other organizations are active at local, regional, national, and international levels. He posted to his blog a list titled, “**Nuclear Weapons Information Sources.”** It’s at this link: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/nuclear-weapons-information-sources-2**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/nuclear-weapons-information-sources-2)

Tom provided a handout with the visual images we’ve seen on the screen and supplemental information. Glen posted to his blog the.pdf version of Tom’s handout.

Glen encourages you to invite your friends to watch this video through the blog at any time and see the other materials about this TV program and nuclear weapons that are posted to the blog. Visit [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), and click either the “TV Programs” link or the “Nuclear Weapons” link. Look for the title of this January 2023 TV program, “Three Steps to Nuclear Disarmament.” Some of Glen’s previous TV programs about nuclear weapons are available there too.

People in Thurston County WA can watch this TV interview program on Thurston Community Media, Cable Channel 22, three times a week during January 2023: every Monday at 1:30 pm, every Wednesday at 5:00 pm, and every Thursday at 9:00 pm.

**Glen’s closing encouragement:**

Glen thanked Tom Rogers for sharing his information and insights.

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

Glen encouraged people to join with other people in working to abolish nuclear weapons.

Governments **caused** the problems, so they will **not** take the initiative in solving them.

Mainstream news media seem to support the government’s assumptions and positions about nuclear weapons.

**Since the problems have come from the top down, the solutions must come from the bottom up.**

Please connect with other people and organizations who are working for nuclear disarmament.

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**

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!**