**“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.

**🡪 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” and “Nuclear Weapons” and “Nonviolence” and “Organizing.”**

**“Smart Strategies to Organize for Peace and No Nuclear Weapons”**

Glen’s Parallax Perspectives TV Series

March 2023

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

**Glen welcomed viewers and introduced this month’s topic:**

This month’s episode of the “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” TV series provides fresh insights and smart strategies to help us achieve peace in the world and abolish nuclear weapons worldwide.

**In this TV program, I address these main points:**

**Point #1. The U.S. has been provoking nuclear weapons since the 1940s.**

**Point #2. Nuclear weapons exist in the overall context of U.S. foreign policy.**

* To achieve peace, we must debunk the MISTAKEN ASSUMPTIONS that have trapped us in endless wars and the suicide of nuclear weapons.
* To get out of those traps, we must think clearly and creatively – and de-militarize our foreign policy.

**Point #3. The American people – deep down – are afraid of this existential crisis, but they feel stuck and don’t know what to do.**

**Point #4. To overcome the existential fear and move our nation toward peace, we must help the public ground itself in our best values and deepest needs.**

**Point #5. 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.**

**Point #6. We can achieve these goals if we devise fresh strategies and change public policies.**

**Point #7. Let’s understand and obey the 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.  
Let’s support the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.**

**Finally: I will close this TV program with encouragements and sources of smart information.**

**The U.S. has been provoking nuclear weapons since the 1940s.**

Ever since 1945, most Americans have believed what the government said about nuclear weapons. Politicians tell us what to believe, and – as always – the mainstream news media keep reinforcing the official government messages.

**Here are EIGHT crucial STEPS in how the U.S. trapped itself and the world in nuclear weapons:**

**Step #1. Since the 1940s, the U.S. government – and mainstream news media – have been telling us that our nuclear weapons are a “deterrent” that prevent other nations from attacking us.  
This is bogus for 2 reasons:**

(1) Actually, the U.S. military could repel any attempted **INVASION** **without** using nuclear weapons. (Also, the “deterrence” theory is bogus even regarding conventional wars. Notice that the U.S. nuclear weapons did not “deter” Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.)

(2) We could prevent **nuclear** attack through a treaty to **abolish** nuclear weapons **worldwide**. I explain the treaty later in this TV program.

On January 24, 2023, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists moved their Doomsday Clock to only 90 seconds before midnight.  This is the closest it has EVER been since the Doomsday Clock was created in 1947. These Atomic Scientists say we are closer to global destruction than at the peak of the Cold War and much closer than during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

You can see their announcement at this link: [**https://thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock/current-time/**](https://thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock/current-time/) I posted information about the Doomsday Clock to the “Nuclear Weapons” category of my blog: **www.** [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/nuclear-weapons-doomsday-clock-is-the-closest-to-midnight-its-ever-been**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/nuclear-weapons-doomsday-clock-is-the-closest-to-midnight-its-ever-been)

Here are more news reports about the Doomsday Clock’s escalation announced on January 24, 2023:

* [**https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/doomsday-clock-the-world-is-closer-to-oblivion-than-ever-before-scientists-say-as-they-change-time/ar-AA16IeoN?ocid=winp1taskbar&cvid=44d356292ddc4271a78b8542a6192762**](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/doomsday-clock-the-world-is-closer-to-oblivion-than-ever-before-scientists-say-as-they-change-time/ar-AA16IeoN?ocid=winp1taskbar&cvid=44d356292ddc4271a78b8542a6192762)
* [**https://www.cnn.com/2023/01/24/world/doomsday-clock-2023-climate-scn/index.html**](https://www.cnn.com/2023/01/24/world/doomsday-clock-2023-climate-scn/index.html)
* The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons ([**https://icanw.org**](https://icanw.org)) posted information about the Doomsday Clock announcement at their own smart website, [**https://www.icanw.org/doomsday\_clock\_no\_more\_excuses\_the\_plan**](https://www.icanw.org/doomsday_clock_no_more_excuses_the_plan) and is urging people to take more actions now: [**https://www.icanw.org/take\_action\_now?**](https://www.icanw.org/take_action_now?)

Over the centuries, Russia has been invaded many times, so they are very much afraid of invasions and the build-ups of weapons near their borders.  NATO’s reckless escalations have caused Russia to fear for their own “national security.”

Instead of blaming the Doomsday Clock’s new urgency on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is understandable, let’s also understand the historical context and stop the U.S.-NATO long-standing threats to the USSR and now Russia.

American voters should recognize that almost continuously since the 1940s, BOTH of the U.S.’s big political parties have aggressively promoted nuclear weapons and reckless policies for using them.  (I’ve posted information elsewhere in this blog’s “Nuclear Weapons” category, so I don’t need to repeat the details here.)

The crisis is systemic and includes the U.S.’s extreme nationalism, arrogance, “American exceptionalism,” a refusal to understand other nations’ needs or concerns, and the Big Money that finances American elections. We need to address those systemic problems head-on with a strategically savvy grassroots movement, as I explain later in this TV program.

Also, we need to join with the 68 nations that have already ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which went into effect for ratifying nations on January 22, 2021. See [**https://icanw.org**](https://icanw.org)

**Step #2. Since the 1940s, the government’s myth of “deterrence” has trapped us in escalating danger. Nuclear weapons exist in the OVERALL CONTEXT of U.S. foreign policy. The U.S. keeps assuming that the U.S. is entitled to dominate the rest of the world in every way – including nuclear weapons.**

A bit later in this TV program I explain U.S. foreign policy further.

Right now, we need to recognize that the government and mainstream news media have fooled most Americans into thinking that our nuclear weapons are for **retaliation only**. But **actually**, the U.S. policy has ALWAYS been a willingness to START a nuclear war. In 1945 the U.S. **escalated** a conventional war into an atomic war by dropping atomic bombs on two cities in Japan.

Also, since the late 1960s, the U.S.’s has been designing, building, and deploying nuclear weapons have been that are **designed specifically to be used first** – for a ”first strike” against another nations’ missile silos **BEFORE** that nation could lunch their missiles.

The public does not realize that for decades the U.S. has been planning **not** so much to defensively react to an attack, but **specifically** to **launch a first nuclear strike** and **aggressively start a nuclear war**. The U.S. designed missiles to fly thousands of miles and hit targets with pinpoint accuracy to destroy another nation’s missiles while those are still in their silos. That kind of accuracy is very expensive to engineer and build. We would **NOT** need that if we merely wanted to retaliate defensively. The U.S. has **NEVER** ruled out using nuclear weapons first to start a nuclear war.

**Instead of merely fearing North Korea, we can solve that problem only if we understand why North Korea has nuclear weapons.** The Korean War never ended! No peace treaty was ever signed to formally end the war, but a ceasefire has been in effect since the early 1950s. During all of that time the U.S. has been militarily threatening North Korea – **including threatening them with nuclear weapons**.

It is perfectly reasonable for North Korea to fear for their own “national security” because the U.S. has been threatening them with our own nuclear weapons for seven decades. Since the early 1950s the U.S. has attacked and/or overthrown many dozens of other nations’ governments, but none of those have had nuclear weapons. Knowing this, we can understand why North Korea’s government feels the need to create its own nuclear weapons for self-defense.

If we fear North Korea’s nuclear weapons, the remedy is **not** more threats back and forth. The two-part remedy is (1) an actual peace treaty with North Korea and (2) a global treaty for ALL nations to abolish nuclear weapons.

For more information about Korea – including nuclear weapons – see the “Korea” part of my blog: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/international-affairs-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions/korea**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/international-affairs-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions/korea). The resources there include one of my TV programs about the history of U.S. intervention in Korea: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-korea-a-history-of-u-s-intervention**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-korea-a-history-of-u-s-intervention)

**Step #3. We are trapped in a path to nuclear suicide because since the early 1950s, the U.S. has   
PROVOKED EACH ESCALATION of the nuclear arms race with dangerous new technology.   
At each step of the U.S.’s escalation, the USSR – fearing for their own “national security” – felt the need to match the U.S.’s escalations. Now – after the Cold War ended – the U.S. is still provoking Russia.**

I explain this later in the TV program, so I’m not summarizing it at this early part of the document you’re reading now.

That later discussion provides an overview but not much detail, so I would be happy to provide more thorough information if you want some. Contact me at (360) 491-9093 or [**glenanderson@integra.net**](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net)

**Step #4. Although most Americans believe the U.S. “won” the Cold War because the Soviet Union fell apart, actually BOTH nations LOST it because BOTH nations took trillions of dollars away from being able to provide health care, housing, education, environmental clean-up, and other domestic needs.**

People in BOTH Russia AND the U.S. have been suffering badly as a result, with horrible poverty, low life expectancy, environmental damage, and other problems that we could have solved if we had invested in peace instead of war.



I showed on the TV screen these photos of poor persons in the U.S. and in Russia. Our two nations have a common enemy: military spending diverts our national budgets away from funding what our people in both nations really need:



My October TV program was titled, **“Spending for Military and Nuclear Weapons Makes Poverty Worse.”** It provides information about the extent of poverty in the United States. Then it clearly explains how extremely much money the U.S. spends on the military and nuclear weapons. Then it does two things our current TV program does: it invites us to consider what the American people feel about the combination of escalating poverty and escalating military spending, and it invites us to consider the American people’s best values. The second half of that program proposes some solutions that are humane and sensible. You can watch the video and/or read a thorough summary of the program through my blog at this link: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/10392-2**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/10392-2)

**Step #5. When the Cold War ended more than 30 years ago, almost all Americans stopped paying attention to nuclear weapons. Actually, after the Cold War, the U.S. has CONTINUED THE SAME POLICIES and has CONTINUED ESCALATING NUCLEAR WEAPONS in dangerous ways.**

Although two smart treaties actually eliminated thousands of nuclear weapons, both U.S. and Russia still have THOUSANDS of them – and still on “hair-trigger” alert!

Now – three decades after the Cold War ended – the U.S. is again escalating nuclear weapons technology and actively threatening Russia and China and North Korea, so the U.S. has actually provoked those three nations into building more nuclear weapons so they can protect their own “national security” from being attacked by the U.S.

**Step #6. And right now the U.S. is building NEW nuclear weapons SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED to make it EASIER TO START a nuclear war.**

For decades nuclear weapons were so horrible that no nation dared to actually launch them against another nation.

But recently the U.S. government made it **MORE LIKELY TO START a nuclear war** by creating new so-called “low-yield” nuclear weapons (somewhat smaller than the Hiroshima bomb). These new “low-yield” nuclear weapons will cause the Pentagon and the President to think they’re only taking a modestly destructive action against another nation.

But, if the U.S. attacks Russia or China with one of these, do you think Russia or China would simply tolerate the damage? No, in order to protect their own “national security,” Russia or China would retaliate against the U.S. with their own big nuclear weapons.

The U.S.’s new so-called “low-yield” weapons would very likely escalate into a huge nuclear war that would kill hundreds of millions – or BILLIONS – of people and DESTROY the U.S., Russia, China, and most of the world.

**Step #7. Another reason why we have become trapped in this suicidal mess is that the American people generally don’t know these things.**

Our government does **NOT** tell us the truth, and our news media do **NOT** tell us the truth.

But the rest of the world does know – and they want to stop the nuclear madness. The rest of the world is sick and tired of being held hostage by the nine nations that have nuclear weapons (U.S., Russia, China, the UK, France, Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea).

Later in this TV program I explain an exciting new solution to this global crisis: a new treaty that would **abolish all** nuclear weapons worldwide! In July 2017, 122 nations passed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) through the United Nations General Assembly with a landslide vote of 122 of 193 nations. Now 68 nations had already ratified this bold new treaty by early February 2023. I explain the TPNW later in this TV program.

**Step #8. We are trapped in this crazy crisis because BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES support a militaristic foreign policy and nuclear weapons.**

A BI-PARTISAN consensus is pushing us to nuclear suicide. With only minor variations, it does **NOT** matter very much which political party has the presidency or which political party runs Congress.

BOTH PARTIES’ political campaigns are funded significantly by big business corporations, including those that make military weapons and nuclear weapons.

**In order to achieve peace, we must get Big Money out of election campaigns!** Recently I produced a TV program about how Big Money corrupts our elections and government. You can watch the video and/or read the thorough summary I typed up – with links to more information – through this link on my blog: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/big-money-in-elections-corrupts-our-government**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/big-money-in-elections-corrupts-our-government)

**After introducing these main points early in the TV program, I fleshed them out.**

**Nuclear weapons exist in the overall context of U.S. foreign policy.  
We must DEBUNK the MISTAKEN ASSUMPTIONS and DE-MILITARIZE our foreign policy overall.  
Therefore, the peace movement must devise truly creative and smart strategies.**

After the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Japan in 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.”

**Since 1945, the peace movement has been changing Americans’ thinking so we can avoid that catastrophe.**

The U.S.’s foreign policy allows nuclear weapons to exist – and escalate. This is based on the mistaken belief that military violence – and nuclear threats – bring peace.

The peace movement urges us to replace militarism with a foreign policy promoting fairness, human rights, economic justice, and a sustainable environment and climate. These are the **opposite** of our current foreign policy.

The peace movement’s agenda would provide REAL “national security” – for the U.S. and also for other nations.

The U.S. needs a serious conversation and overhaul of our foreign policy. We are on a path to nuclear suicide unless we have a thoughtful, ethical, practical conversation that is **not** dominated by the weapons manufacturers and the politicians they bribe through election campaign contributions.

**Yes, Einstein was correct: we really must change our thinking. We must change our consciousness and our national culture** in order to **change our foreign policy**, so we can **abolish** nuclear weapons.

I like what the World Social Forum proclaimed two decades ago: **“Another world is possible!”**



**I truly believe that deep down, most Americans really do want peace, not nuclear war.**

**Here are FIVE compelling reasons AGAINST nuclear weapons:**

**Reason #1:** Nuclear weapons could kill hundreds of millions – or billions – of people and turn Planet Earth into a radioactive wasteland of ashes. Radioactive ash in the atmosphere would circulate worldwide – and block out the sun for several years and cause nuclear winter – years of freezing temperatures with no sunlight so no crops could grow, causing people to starve.

**Reason #2:** A nuclear catastrophe could happen easily – by one impulsive man with his finger on the button – or one accident – or one miscalculation – or one computer error.

**Reason #3:** The nine nations with nuclear weapons are antagonizing world opinion against us.

**Reason #4:** Excessive military spending takes money away from funding the solutions that would really make us more secure, such as ending poverty, providing high quality health care for everyone, protecting the environment, developing “green” energy, and so forth.

**Reason #5:** A militaristic foreign policy fools the public into thinking that violence solves problems. The government is a bad role model that promotes a nationwide culture of violence. It sets a bad example tempting ordinary Americans to shoot people with guns. **Our militarized foreign policy promotes gun violence** in the U.S., but none of the organizations working to reduce gun violence recognize this “elephant in the room,” so the peace movement must make this connection.

**Debunk the “human nature” and “original sin” myths.**

Just now I discussed some mistaken assumptions that keep us trapped in military violence.

Two more myths also bog us down. We need to debunk these myths in order to free ourselves so we can change to a peaceful foreign policy – without nuclear weapons.

* One myth is that “human nature” dooms us to be violent and prevents us from choosing peace instead of endless war.
* Another myth is the theological doctrine of “original sin” – the assumption that people are inherently evil ever since we were born.

These two myths – about “human nature” and “original sin” – are deeply held, but we can let go of them so we can choose peace and let go of nuclear weapons.

Indeed, there is good reason to debunk these myths.

I do very highly recommend a recent book titled ***Humankind: A Hopeful History***. Although we are taught that human nature is selfish and governed by self-interest, a European researcher named Rutger Bregman dug into those assumptions and showed that the opposites are true. He found compelling evidence that humans actually are hardwired for kindness rather than violence – and cooperation rather than competition.

His book shows that thinking the worst about people brings out the worst in our politics and economics. But if we recognize that humanity is inherently kind and altruistic, we can re-design our society and our foreign policy to support peace and fairness.

I learned a lot by reading ***Humankind: A Hopeful History*** by Rutger Bregman. I hope you will read it too.

**Humankind: A Hopeful History**

by [**Rutger Bregman**](https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/rutger-bregman/2744434/)  ISBN: **0316418536**

ISBN13: **9780316418539**

**Debunk the “Jobs” myth.**

Let’s debunk another myth. The Military-Industrial Complex has fooled and corrupted our nation. Now the Military-Industrial Complex dominates our foreign policy – and our economy. They are lying when they say military weapons create “jobs.”

Actually, I have been studying this since the 1970s. The military sector actually hurts the U.S. economy.

Economists have studied the “jobs” issue since the 1950s. Economists keep proving that money spent on education, housing, health, or other civilian activities creates MORE jobs – and BETTER jobs – than spending it on the military.

Also, the military sector actually perverts and distorts how our economy functions **as** an economy. It concentrates wealth and power in sectors that are destructive and corrupt. It consumes land, natural resources, science and technical skills for destructive purposes instead of productive purposes, so – in many ways – our economy and our society suffer from depletion and pollution. Military spending causes inflation. It causes unemployment. Military spending actually weakens America.

In 1977 I researched and wrote a 100-page report about this – and about the very good reasons for converting our economy—including the economy of Washington State – away from military bases and military weapons production. It would be possible and practical to convert to a peace economy. This would offer great benefits for Washington State and for our nation.

If you want to learn more about this, contact me at (360) 491-9093 or [**glenanderson@integra.net**](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net).

**This bizarre example actually exposes a myth that is far too common:**

In 1976 the Navy was planning to build a gigantic new dock for the Trident nuclear submarines that would be coming to Kitsap County, Washington in 1982. I drove there and attended the hearing for the Environmental Impact Statement regarding the proposed new dock.

Only two persons spoke in favor of building this new dock. One supporter represented the local Chamber of Commerce. The other represented the Seattle Chamber of Commerce. Both said the Trident nuclear submarine base would be good for the economy.

Neither of them understood that nuclear weapons made our local area a major target in case of nuclear war. Neither of them understood that actually using those nuclear weapons would totally destroy the local economy and turn our region into a radioactive wasteland with NO businesses left.

This is an example of the gross ignorance that allows nuclear weapons to continue existing – and escalating.

**The American people – deep down – are afraid of this existential crisis, but they feel stuck and don’t know what to do.**

The horribly frightening realities I have mentioned are so deeply rooted and persistent that they seem to be the “new normal” – the *status quo*. The terror of nuclear war exists in the backs of our minds, but people go about our daily lives and suppress this terror, but – even so – it does plague us unconsciously.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Existentialist philosophers wrote about how totally screwed up the world is – including nuclear weapons. They described the world as “absurd.” They said that in spite of this, we must make choices.

Ordinary Americans are not Existentialist philosophers, but deep down we know nuclear weapons are an existentialist crisis and really are absurd.

If anything goes wrong – a national leader getting angry or crazy and pushing the button – or a mistaken reading on a radar screen – or a computer error – anything could cause a nuclear war today, and we’d all be dead tomorrow.

Even if we don’t think about this consciously, it’s in the back of everyone’s mind.

**Even I this absurd world, we must take responsibility, learn about the problems and solutions, and take smart actions.**

Ironically, the people who got us into this suicidal crisis and have kept it going since the 1940s think they are “realists.” They think peace and human rights are too “soft” for the “real world,” so they support violence as the main solution. These “realists” include presidents, cabinet members, and members of Congress.

They think they are “realists,” but their *realpolitik* is not realistic at all, because they always keep us in wars, and they are always willing to destroy the world in nuclear war. Their worldview causes them to keep escalating nuclear weapons.

These are nearly all politicians of **BOTH** political parties, the big businesses that make weapons, the people whose jobs make military weapons and wars, the mainstream news media that support all of this as “just the way things are,” and our dominant culture, which feels that – as Americans – we need to have nuclear weapons. This mistaken worldview got us into this existential crisis – and **it will kill us unless we ABOLISH nuclear weapons**.

Every year there’s a small percentage probability of nuclear war. Eventually – year after year – the odds will catch up with us, and our nuclear weapons will certainly destroy the world unless we abolish them first.

**These frightening realities have made many people feel overwhelmed and powerless. Unfortunately, people who feel overwhelmed and powerless do not take positive actions to solve the problems.**

**Therefore, in order to solve the problems, we must empower ordinary people to know that we can indeed solve the problems.**

We must help people understand how to organize the nonviolent grassroots movement that is necessary in order to abolish nuclear weapons and convert to a truly peaceful foreign policy – and a peaceful and prosperous economy.

**To overcome the existential fear and move our nation toward peace, we must help the American people ground ourselves in our most humane values and deepest needs.**

Because the problems came from the top down – from powerful political, military and economic systems – they cannot reform themselves. **Only a grassroots bottom-up movement of ordinary people can solve the problems.**

To do this, we must shift public opinion toward peace. Let’s recognize that ordinary people do have better values and wisdom than the Establishment does, because the Establishment is trapped in the problems I’ve just described.

Therefore, our solution must start with helping ordinary people discover their **best values** and **deepest needs**. When people reflect on their best values and their deepest needs, they’ll demand things better than nationalism, foreign domination, and organized violence.

Indeed, in the Nonviolent Communication methodology devised by Marshall Rosenberg, one of his four steps toward solving conflicts is helping other people and ourselves recognize what our real needs and our real values are. When we recognize our best values and our deepest needs, we can move toward solving problems that have been dividing us.

Also, when people recognize their best values and deepest needs, people inspire and empower themselves to act upon them. We can indeed build a nonviolent grassroots movement to reduce the likelihood of nuclear war and then to abolish nuclear weapons worldwide.

**The problems came from the top down, so solutions must come from the bottom up.  
Only a nonviolent GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT can change foreign policy and abolish nuclear weapons.**

****

**I want to emphasize again that the problems came from the top down, so the solutions must come from the bottom up!**

**Only a nonviolent GRASSROOTS PEACE MOVEMENT can change to a peaceful foreign policy and abolish nuclear weapons!**

**Public opinion polls keep showing that – on issue after issue – the public wants stronger, more progressive public policies than our governments produce:**

* The public wants to protect the environment and climate vigorously, but governments take only small, timid actions.
* The public wants high quality health care for every person, but governments keep failing to do that.
* The public wants to get “Big Money” out of election campaigns, but governments keep refusing to do that.
* The public wants to cut the military budget and use the savings to meet human needs, but Congress keeps failing to do that. Congress keeps escalating the military budget and failing to fund the domestic programs that we really need.

**Go on to the next page.**

**On a great many issues, the public is far, far ahead of what governments are willing to do.**

**Let’s recognize and act upon these next points:**

1. Our political culture shows us only a VERY LIMITED range of choices. Most people choose from this VERY LIMITED range, so our political culture prevents us from making much progress! We can make real progress only if we CREATE A MUCH WIDER RANGE of choices, including VERY BOLD SOLUTIONS – and also ENCOURAGE AND EMPOWER OTHER PEOPLE to join with us.
2. We need to recognize and debunk the mistaken assumptions and persistent baloney that keep us trapped in the problems caused by unjust political and economic systems. I discussed this a few minutes ago.
3. **We need to CHANGE OUR OVERALL CULTURE** in a variety of ways in order for the public to organize changes in specific policies, such as how the U.S. interacts with other nations.
4. Indeed, for some kinds of problems, instead of merely asking governments to solve them, **“We the People” must empower ourselves and take action.** We can figure out good solutions to some kinds of problems and start implementing them without asking or waiting for governments.
5. A key point for this TV program – and for the essay you are reading now – is that “The Power of the People is more Powerful than the People in Power.”
6. Gene Sharp was the world’s best researcher on the power of nonviolence and how to use nonviolence to achieve political and social goals. He said, **“Dictators are never as strong as they tell you they are,”** AND HE SAID, **“People are never as weak as they think they are.”** See much excellent information at his non-profit organization [**www.aeinstein.org**](http://www.aeinstein.org). You can download and print out some of it for free.
7. Our problems – nuclear weapons, political corruption, economic injustice, the environment and climate, and so forth – are gigantic problems, so they require gigantic solutions. Therefore, we must organize to accomplish **SOLUTIONS THAT ARE VERY BOLD**. Timid solutions will not be enough to solve gigantic problems! We must organize from the grassroots to DE-MILITARIZE U.S. foreign policy – and ABOLISH nuclear weapons! Besides changing some aspects of the U.S.’s policies about nuclear weapons, we must also organize from the grassroots to ABOLISH nuclear weapons altogether!
8. In the U.S., liberals ask what is “politically feasible” and ask for small changes that fit within the current mind-set and ideology of the political and economic elites. Liberals limit themselves to only timid reforms that they think the political parties and giant corporations might possibly be persuaded to grant us. But, for a long time in Latin America, people have been demanding BOLD reforms and AGITATING BOLDLY. In the U.S., our requests for modest reforms keep getting watered down and deferred. In order to make real progress, we must be more assertive like the Latin Americans have been, and BOLDLY assert BOLD goals and agitate nonviolently to push for those**. Instead of limiting ourselves to what the elites tell us is “politically feasible,” we need to EXPAND OUR VISION of what is “politically feasible! We need to MOVE THE GOALPOSTS!**

**Actually, varying numbers of people have opposed nuclear weapons over the years ever since the U.S. bombed Japan in 1945.** The peace movement’s size has ebbed and flowed.

More than a decade ago, Olympia’s peace organizers brought to Olympia for a speaking engagement a university history professor named Lawrence Wittner to discuss his book, ***Confronting the Bomb: A Short History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement***. This historian’s research proved that that when people organized vigorously against nuclear weapons, we made progress, but during times when the public failed to speak out and act boldly, nuclear weapons increased. The peace movement achieved powerful results only when we have organized boldly.

We did indeed make a lot of progress in the 1960s with some smart treaties – and again in the 1980s with the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign and a very smart treaty, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty of 1987, which eliminated an entire category of nuclear weapons that threatened the Soviet Union and western Europe.

However, when the Cold War ended, the public stopped paying attention to nuclear weapons, so now for the past three decades the U.S. government has been escalating nuclear weapons again.

**The peace movement – in the U.S. and worldwide – must organize a bigger, more strategically savvy grassroots movement to PREVENT the global suicide that the U.S. government has been provoking since the 1940s and to ABOLISH nuclear weapons worldwide!**

**Since the 1940s, the U.S. has been stuck deeper and deeper in a militaristic foreign policy for several reasons, as I said earlier. Here are four reasons for this:**

Reason #1. We are stuck in the myth that the U.S. must be the #1 nation in the world with the world’s biggest military – including nuclear weapons.

Reason #2. We are stuck in that myth because we have been pushed there by our national self-image, our politicians, our mainstream media, the way schools teach history, and so forth.

Reason #3. We are stuck because the giant business corporations that make military weapons keep funding candidates for Congress and President.

Reason #4. We are stuck because Congress and the Supreme Court keep allowing “Big Money” to corrupt election campaigns.

**Big economic and political elites keep us stuck. They have corrupted corrupt election funding and trapped us in a militaristic foreign policy with suicidal nuclear weapons.**

**These big forces are so powerful that ONLY a BIG, STRATEGICALLY SAVVY GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT can solve the problems from the bottom up!**

**People in the Olympia, Washington area have organized some successes:**

* In the early 1980s, President Reagan’s reckless escalation of the nuclear arms race and his glib willingness to start a nuclear war frightened the hell out of millions of Americans. While some people argued about the numbers of weapons and how many megatons of destruction they would cause, in Massachusetts a grassroots movement arose that said, “JUST STOP EVERYTHING ABOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS! **FREEZE** the research, production, and deployment!” The public understood and agreed. Instead of arguing about numbers, people decided to simply STOP EVERY ASPECT of nuclear weapons. The “Nuclear Weapons Freeze” movement spread across the nation. From December 1981 to the November 1982 election, I volunteered actively with the Thurston County Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign. In just eleven months we organized a ballot issue that won in the November 1982 election. We won a landslide of more than 62% of the vote in a county-wide ballot initiative calling for a “FREEZE” – an immediate, absolute stop to every aspect of nuclear weapons: producing, testing and deploying of nuclear weapons. Just STOP EVERYTHING!
* In 2005 people in the Olympia area organized “Beyond Hiroshima” events and succeeded in getting the Olympia City Council to unanimously pass an anti-nuclear resolution in February 2005 as part of a nationwide organizing effort of city mayors as part of a nationwide campaign by Mayors for Peace: [**https://mayorsforpeace.org**](https://mayorsforpeace.org) In 2020 the U.S. Conference of Mayors actually opposed nuclear weapons.
* Now we are building a new grassroots movement to abolish nuclear weapons. In 2017 I organized dozens of local people to create the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. We have been organizing and carrying out a great variety of strategically useful activities. These include speaking engagements and other public events, holding banners over the freeway, meeting with elected officials, conducting online courses that has taught people nationwide about nuclear weapons, and much more. Besides our e-mail list of many individuals, the Olympia coalition includes five local organizations that are engaging their own members in the grassroots movement to abolish nuclear weapons. Also, we are active in a statewide coalition, Washington Against Nuclear Weapons, [**https://wanwcoalition.org**](https://wanwcoalition.org)

**Let’s devise FRESH OVERALL STRATEGIES for reducing nuclear weapons and creating real peace.**

**Now here are five examples of bold, practical, savvy strategies that can get you started:**

* **Strategy #1:** Expose, debunk, and eliminate each of the systemic problems I described earlier. Help the public recognize that nuclear weapons make us LESS secure! We would be MORE secure if we had better diplomacy, compassionate listening, and better collaboration among nations. We could do this, but the political will is lacking. Therefore, planet earth’s survival requires a grassroots movement to push Congress and the Executive Branch to support peace instead of nuclear suicide.
* **Strategy #2:** Replace the U.S.’s selfish, egocentric, arrogant “national security” model that threatens other nations. The rest of the world resents being bullied by the U.S. and resents being held hostage by the nine nations that threaten them with nuclear weapons. Instead of a “national security” mania, let’s adopt a “true security” model that serves the real needs of all nations and creates peace. I have been writing and speaking about this for about 20 years. See information at this part of my blog: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/how-to-achieve-peace-and-true-security**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/how-to-achieve-peace-and-true-security) Also you can watch my December 2022 TV program (**“Change to a Truly Peaceful Foreign Policy”**) at the “TV Programs” part of my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). The direct link is: [**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)
* **Strategy #3.** Practice honest diplomacy with other nations to reduce nuclear war dangers in multi-lateral ways. Diplomacy requires honest listening – and recognizing the needs of the parties with whom we are negotiating. Too often the U.S. just bullies other nations and calls that “diplomacy.” We need to use Marshall Rosenberg’s four-step process for resolving conflicts. He calls it “Nonviolent Communication.” This really would help achieve world peace. I encourage you to learn more about NVC at [**https://www.cnvc.org/**](https://www.cnvc.org/)
* **Strategy #4:** Support and ratify the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and obey Article VI of the 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty that led to the TPNW. I explained these treaties a few minutes later in this TV program, so I’ll explain these starting on page 14 below. (See [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)).
* **Strategy #5:** Work with local, national and global organizations that oppose nuclear weapons and work for peace and nonviolence worldwide. I list many organizations and information sources in a link on page 17.

**Let’s recognize that we can indeed solve the problems, abolish nuclear weapons, and achieve world peace! This requires a nonviolent grassroots movement with smart strategies to move our nation to have the political will to make peace. We can do this!**

**We must significantly change public policies.**

**Wars do NOT solve problems!**

**We must significantly change some long-standing public policies to convert from war to peace!**

Politicians and mainstream news media talk about “the use of force,” but that is a very dishonest euphemism for “violence” or “war.” I think of “the use of force” when I really need 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.” They really mean extreme violence, including killing many people, but they won’t admit to that. They are not honest! We must not let them get away with this deception.

We must replace all kinds of violence with honest diplomacy, cooperation and collaborative problem-solving.

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.

Some people think the U.S. has not used nuclear weapons since 1945. Actually the U.S. **has** **used them CONTINUOUSLY** by always keeping them on hair-trigger alert, and also by **repeatedly threatening** to launch them. This is “using” nuclear weapons in the same way that a robber stealing your wallet at gunpoint is guilty of Armed Robbery even if he never shoots. In criminal law, threatening with a weapon **is** “using” it. **During some international crises, a president goes on TV and speaks to the whole world. On TV the president often says, “all options are on the table.” This is an explicit threat to use nuclear weapons!**

The U.S. cannot achieve our “national security” by making other nations insecure.

**I recommend three principles:**

#1. Recognize our common humanity worldwide.

#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.

**Politicians keep promising to protect our “national security.” Their glib rhetoric is really just a euphemism for a bigger military and more military weapons.**

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

The “national security” slogan is so simplistic and false that it actually interferes with smart thinking. Therefore, it also prevents us from devising smart, ethical public policies that would make us TRULY SECURE. I have posted to my blog some bold, creative foreign policy proposals. See the “Peace” category of [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)

See the bold, creative alternative foreign policy I posted to my blog: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/how-to-achieve-peace-and-true-security**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/how-to-achieve-peace-and-true-security) AND ALSO the visual display I posted to: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/replace-the-national-security-scheme-with-true-security**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/replace-the-national-security-scheme-with-true-security)

Security is NOT a “zero-sum” game in which one nation makes itself secure by making other nations **in**secure. No nation can make itself TRULY secure without also helping all other nations to be TRULY secure. Of course, TRUE security is multi-dimensional, but militarism actually undermines TRUE security.

For TRUE security, we must stop using military violence anywhere in the world, stop funding abusive nations’ militaries and police forces, and stop letting the U.S.’s government and businesses exploit any nation’s economy, environment, democracy, and autonomy.

Instead of what the U.S. often does to other nations, we must protect everybody’s human rights, health, social justice, democracy and environment.

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 redefine TRUE security, promote progressive alternatives to violence, take the moral and political high ground, and win the public over to the peace movement’s side!

**Nationwide, for several years people have been urging Presidents to take five smart, straightforward actions to take us “BACK FROM THE BRINK” of nuclear war.** The “Back from the Brink” campaign urges the President to take the five actions I’ve listed below. The President can take most of these on his own authority **without asking Congress**. These five actions are:

#1. Renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first.

#2. End the sole, unchecked authority of any U.S. president to launch a nuclear attack.

#3. Take U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert.

#4. Cancel the plan to replace the U.S.’s entire nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons.

#5. Actively pursue a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals. (The TPNW is a way to do this.)

Presidents keep failing to take smart actions for peace. These five changes have also been introduced as legislation for Congress to enact, but Congress keeps failing to move these bills ahead. We need to push more effectively.

See more about the “BACK FROM THE BRINK” campaign at [**www.preventnuclearwar.org**](http://www.preventnuclearwar.org)

These five steps would reduce the likelihood of nuclear war, but they are only a beginning.

The **REAL SOLUTION** to the problem is to **ACTUALLY ABOLISH** nuclear weapons altogether!

A smart way to proceed toward reducing – and then abolishing – nuclear weapons was explained clearly in my January 2023 TV program, **“Three Steps to Nuclear Disarmament.”** I interviewed a retired Navy nuclear submarine commander who explained an easy-to-understand 3-step process toward abolishing nuclear weapons. You can watch the video and/or read the thorough summary I typed up through the “TV Programs” part – and the “Nuclear Weapons” part – of my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). Here is the direct link to that program’s video and typed summary: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/three-steps-to-nuclear-disarmament**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/three-steps-to-nuclear-disarmament)

**Also, I recommend these smart, positive steps we could take toward peace:**

* Close all of the U.S.’s 800 military bases in 80 other nations. (We are told to fear China, but they have only one foreign military base, while the U.S. has nearly 800.)
* Slash the military budget! Use the financial savings to help people become truly secure by ending poverty and 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.
* Support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. I explained it a few minutes later in the TV program and on page 14 of the document you’re reading now. By mid-November 2022, 68 nations have ratified it. See [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)
* Huge problems cause many people to feel overwhelmed and defeated. So let’s replace cynicism and despair with empowerment and hope! I wrote an article about this and posted it to my blog. You can read it here: [**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) Also, I encourage you to watch the video (and/or read the summary document I typed up) of my November 2022 TV program **(“Choose a Bold, Humane Future”**) at [**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) and my February 2023 TV program **(“Nonviolent Ways to Heal Our Society’s Dysfunction”**) at [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/nonviolent-ways-to-heal-our-societys-dysfunction-watch-glens-tv-program-online-or-on-cable**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/nonviolent-ways-to-heal-our-societys-dysfunction-watch-glens-tv-program-online-or-on-cable)
* Let’s create more opportunities to teach everybody how to resolve conflicts nonviolently. Let’s teach the skills in all schools from the K-12 level on up through college, and also in adult education courses. If Americans knew how to resolve interpersonal conflicts without violence, we could do this internationally too.
* Empower yourself by strengthening your knowledge and skills and tools for nonviolent grassroots organizing. These help us work for peace and all other important issues too. Several times every year I conduct a FREE ONLINE series of six workshops on “Nonviolent Grassroots Organizing” that will strengthen your ability to organize grassroots movements for positive social and political change. Contact me at (360) 491-9093 or [**glenanderson@integra.net**](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net)
* Consider the bold, wise proposals produced by World BEYOND War ([**https://worldbeyondwar.org**](https://worldbeyondwar.org)). This organization produces smart information, readable resources, and online advocacy. I appreciate their substantive document titled, **“A Global Security System: An Alternative to War.”** I encourage people to read it online and/or download it for free at [**https://worldbeyondwar.org/alternative/**](https://worldbeyondwar.org/alternative/)
* See the categories on my blog [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), such as the categories for “Peace” and “International” and “Nuclear Weapons” and “Nonviolence” and “Organizing.”

**Let’s get beyond the narrow militaristic sense of “national security” and promote TRUE security. Let’s organize nonviolent grassroots movements from the bottom up (as I’ve explained above) 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 locally owned retailers.
* **Health** security: Access to high quality, affordable health care for everyone 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 civil rights, civil liberties, child abuse, domestic violence, gender issues, human dignity for every kind of person, safety from substance abuse, etc.
* **Community and 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.

Smart legislation on some of these issues keeps getting introduced into Congress, but almost none of the good bills get passed. Good nationwide organizations track and promote these bills. Let’s get onto e-mail lists and help.

By the way, the U.S.’s militarism is deeply bi-partisan, so merely replacing Republicans with Democrats – or vice versa – will NOT solve the underlying problems.

**Go on to the next page.**

**Let’s understand and obey the 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.  
Let’s support the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

**Very few Americans know about the 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and how it led the world to create the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. When more Americans understand these two powerful treaties, we can make more progress.**

Since 2017 we have had a powerful new historic opportunity to ABOLISH ALL nuclear weapons worldwide! We must ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The peace movement supports it vigorously. See [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)

Here are 4 things about powerful treaties to ABOLISH nuclear weapons. I’m listing these 4 now. Then I’ll flesh out each one on the next few pages:

1. How the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) arose because of the 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (the NPT)
2. The new treaty has made great progress!
3. What the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (the TPNW) is – and what its active verbs require
4. Promoting the TPNW further with more publicity in U.S., more ratifications, and so forth
5. The 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) arose because of the 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

During the 1960s the world was afraid that more nations would be acquiring nuclear weapons. This prompted the world to create – and ratify – the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (**NPT**). It went into effect in 1970.

**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, five 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.”

**However, for more than half a century after 1970, the nuclear nations have been violating the NPT.** The nine nations with nuclear weapons have been holding the rest of the world hostage to their nuclear weapons. This global threat has angered the rest of the world.

**Since the nuclear nations have been violating the Non-Proliferation Treaty for half a century, the non-nuclear nations created the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) as a powerful, positive next step to fulfill the NPT. Non-nuclear nations created the TPNW to ABOLISH ALL nuclear weapons worldwide!**

2. The TPNW has made great progress thus far!

**The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) would abolish all nuclear weapons worldwide, consistent with what the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) requires.**

The world’s non-nuclear nations created the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). In July 2017, the United Nations General Assembly passed it by an overwhelming majority (122 of 193 nations). This allowed the TPNW to go out to the world’s nations so they could consider approving it on a nation-by-nation basis.

By mid-February 2023, 91 nations had signed the treaty – so they could consider actually ratifying it – and 68 nations had actually ratified the Treaty and made it part of their national laws. This is very fast progress!

The Treaty’s wording provided that it would go into effect 90 days after the 50th nation ratified it. In October 2020, Honduras was the 50th ratification, so the Treaty became international law on January 22, 2021, for the nations that have ratified it.

People all over the world celebrated the Treaty’s first and second anniversaries on January 22, 2022 and 2023.

3. Here is what the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (the TPNW) is – and what its active verbs require:

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) would actually **ABOLISH ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS WORLDWIDE!**

**This is NOT “pie in the sky”! It really is possible to abolish nuclear weapons worldwide!** In case you think this is too bold to be practical, **here are examples of four other 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.” We have banned other WMDs. Now we must ban nuclear weapons too – the worst WMD of all – through the worldwide treaty, the TPNW.

The 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, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) includes the provisions I am QUOTING HERE:**

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.

4. Now let’s promote the TPNW further with more publicity in the U.S. and more ratifications by the world’s nations.

The U.S. government opposes the treaty. As I said earlier, in the 1940s the U.S. government started the nuclear arms race. The U.S. government has been aggressively escalating the nuclear arms race since the 1940s.

Mainstream U.S. news media are obeying the government’s desire to BLACK OUT ANY COVERAGE of the Treaty, so **almost nobody in the U.S. even knows that the Treaty exists!**

ORDINARY PEOPLE need to **learn** about this Treaty, and **publicize** it, and **urge** our government to STOP VIOLATING THE 1970 Non-Proliferation Treaty, and to **support** and **ratify** the TPNW.

**I encourage people to learn more about the TPNW by visiting the website of the worldwide organization that has been promoting it. See** [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)That organization won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its bold, effective work!

You can see more about the TPNW and nuclear weapons at my blog’s category about nuclear weapons: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/nuclear-weapons**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/nuclear-weapons)

In August 2022, the nations that ratified the TPNW met in Vienna, Austria, to follow up further. In September I posted this information: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/nuclear-non-proliferation-treaty-info-update**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/nuclear-non-proliferation-treaty-info-update)

In October 2022, I posted this: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/prohibit-nuclear-weapons-support-this-global-treaty-to-do-this**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/prohibit-nuclear-weapons-support-this-global-treaty-to-do-this)

Before that, in January 2021, I posted a number of interesting articles about the TPNW: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/several-items-with-interesting-info-on-the-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons-tpnw**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/several-items-with-interesting-info-on-the-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons-tpnw)

**I did not have time to say this next topic during the TV program, but it is worth mentioning now in this document because it is another creative, bold, practical alternative to militarism itself.**

**Let’s consider replacing the military with Nonviolent National Defense.**

Johann Galtung, historian and author who wrote extensively about the perils of empire, wrote: “By peace we mean the capacity to transform conflicts with empathy, without violence, and creatively – a never ending process.”

Martin Luther King Jr, wrote this in his book, ***The Trumpet of Conscience***: “And the leaders of the world today talk eloquently about peace. . . . They talk about peace as a distant goal, as an end we seek, but one day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal we seek, but that it is a means by which we arrive at that goal. In the final analysis, means and ends must cohere because the end is pre-existent in the means, and ultimately destructive means cannot bring about constructive ends.”

I agree with what King said. Instead of leaving “peace” as a vague platitude for some possible future date, let’s start organizing now to replace the U.S.’s violent foreign policy with a truly peaceful one!

The U.S.’s perpetual foreign policy allowed President Reagan’s Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger to stake out the entire global turf for the U.S. to militarize. He stated, “There is no corner of the world so remote, no nation so insignificant, that it does not represent a vital interest of the United States.” Ironically, this claim for the U.S.’s unilateral right to dominate the world came from the Reagan Administration, which said it opposed “Big Government”! Actually, they wanted the biggest governmental agency of all to dominate and oppress the entire world!

**One nation dominating the world is NOT the way to peace! It is NOT sustainable! We need to recognize that military “solutions” only make problems worse!**

**We must BOLDLY replace the war system with a peace system – nonviolent ways to support international fairness, human rights, and sustainability!**

Again – as I said on page 13 – I strongly recommend the wise proposal produced by World BEYOND War ([**https://worldbeyondwar.org**](https://worldbeyondwar.org)). Please read and/or download their substantive document titled, **“A Global Security System: An Alternative to War.”**  Their website provides it at this link [**https://worldbeyondwar.org/alternative/**](https://worldbeyondwar.org/alternative/)

**Furthermore, for decades I have been promoting another VERY BOLD ALTERNATIVE solution that would actually make us more secure: NONVIOLENT NATIONAL DEFENSE instead of militarism.**

Nonviolent National Defense (Nonviolent Civilian-Based Resistance) is the kind of BOLD alternative we need to replace the status quo of military violence.

The May 2022 episode of “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” TV series (***SEE THE NEXT PARAGRAPH BELOW***) provides powerful information and inspiration to significantly improve the U.S.’s “national security” by – ironically — de-militarizing our “national defense.” Instead of military violence, we could defend our nation better through carefully planned strategies of nonviolent resistance against any nation that might try to invade us. Besides eliminating the danger of nuclear war, a nonviolent national defense would also provide better security without all of the downsides (including economic waste and environmental damage) that violent militarism causes.

My May 2022 TV program explains how nonviolent national defense could actually work effectively if we are open-minded, bold and creative. That TV program is one hour long. The article I wrote explains it more thoroughly and shares several practical examples of other nations’ successful nonviolent resistance to repel invaders and topple dictators, so **I recommend READING THE ARTICLE even if you also watch that TV video. Both the TV video and the more thorough article are at this link:** [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/nonviolent-national-defense-a-practical-way-to-be-more-secure**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/nonviolent-national-defense-a-practical-way-to-be-more-secure)

**I did not have time to say this during the TV program, but it is worth mentioning in this document.  
Ordinary people can apply economic pressures in several ways.**

Strategies for abolishing nuclear weapons include boycotting companies that make consumer products in addition to nuclear weapons. During South Africa’s *apartheid* era, people worldwide boycotted companies doing business there, and our economic pressure helped stop that cruelty.

Decades ago, General Electric used to make nuclear weapons, but a consumer boycott convinced GE to stop.

On September 9, 1980, some religious peace activists known as the Plowshares Eight were arrested for nonviolently breaking into the GE nuclear warhead factory in the city of King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. They slightly damaged some nuclear warhead nose cones, poured their blood on several documents, and prayed for peace.

This inspired the larger Plowshares Movement, which included many other nonviolent actions in following years. See [**https://www.kophistory.org/plowshares-eight/**](https://www.kophistory.org/plowshares-eight/) and [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUph8GWFupE**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUph8GWFupE)[**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plowshares\_movement**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plowshares_movement)

After the first “Plowshares” action in 1980 publicized that effort, a worldwide boycott of GE’s consumer products forced GE to stop making nuclear weapons, because GE realized that the consumer boycott would cost them more income than they were earning by making nuclear weapons.

Now people are calling for consumer boycotts of Honeywell and other nuclear weapons manufacturers that also make products that consumers could boycott.

Also, you can find out whether any of your **investments** include nuclear weapons. This website can show you whether you are invested in companies that make nuclear weapons: [**https://www.theworldismycountry.com/endorse**](https://www.theworldismycountry.com/endorse) Another website can help you see whether your bank is financing nuclear weapons: [**www.dontbankonthebomb.com**](http://www.dontbankonthebomb.com).

**I offered these closing encouragements – and some sources of information and help.**

Thousands of years ago in the Bible’s Proverbs 29:18, it was written: **“Where there is no vision, the people perish.”** **We need the vision of a nuclear-free world!** I believe that humanity will indeed perish if we do not ABOLISH nuclear weapons. **Besides the vision of a nuclear-free world, we also need bold nonviolent grassroots organizing** to abolish them.

We are suffering many extremely serious problems including a violent foreign policy, nuclear weapons, the climate crisis, and political corruption.

With so many serious problems, many people feel hopeless, powerless and cynical. But those feelings interfere with taking the positive actions necessary to solve the problems. Among the signs I hold at our weekly peace vigils downtown , one affirms, **“We can solve the problems.”** Another sign encourages people to **“Choose a bold, humane future.”**

Anyone anywhere at any time can watch my December 2022 TV program, which I titled, **“Change to a Truly Peaceful Foreign Policy.”** I interviewed David Swanson from World BEYOND War. You can visit my blog to WATCH the video and/or READ the thorough summary I typed up with links to more information. It’s on the “TV Programs” and “Peace” categories of my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). Here is the direct link: [**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)

I compiled a great list of information sources about nuclear weapons and how to abolish them. This list includes websites and organizations. I posted it to my blog’s “Nuclear Weapons” category. Here is the direct link: [**Nuclear Weapons Information Sources — UPDATED to Dec. 2022**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Nuclear-Weapons-Information-Sources-UPDATED-to-Dec.-2022.docx)  Please connect with some of the good organizations, attend the events I’ve sent publicity about, and find lots of ways to educate the public and push the government.

I have posted to my blog a lot of other interesting and informative resources on various aspects of this TV program’s topics. You can see some at my blog’s categories for “TV Programs” and “Peace” and “Nuclear Weapons” and “Nonviolence” and “Organizing.” My blog is [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).

I am posting this TV program – and the document you are reading now (which contains additional information that I could not squeeze into the one-hour TV program) to those parts of my blog too. Look for this TV episode’s title, **“Smart Strategies to Organize for Peace and No Nuclear Weapons.”**

Please visit my blog, watch, read, and share these resources with your friends by e-mail, post them blogs, and publicize them in other ways.

**I offer you these three bold, inspiring quotations:**

* Decades ago, Senator Robert Kennedy famously said: “Some men see things as they are and say, ‘Why?’ I dream things that never were and say, ‘Why not?’”
* Some wise people have said: “All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.”
* Beatrice Fihn (Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)) said this when she accepted ICAN’s 2017 Nobel Peace Prize: “Those who say a future without nuclear weapons is impossible need to get out of the way of those who are making it a reality.”

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!**