**“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 [**glen@parallaxperspectives.org**](mailto:glen@parallaxperspectives.org) 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 “International” and “Examples of Parallax Views.”**

Replace Simplistic “National Security” with TRUE Security

Glen’s Parallax Perspectives TV Series

August 2023

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

This TV series provides fresh insights into problems – and provides practical solutions.

This month’s episode of “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” provides a bold, creative re-thinking of U.S. foreign policy:

* Instead of the usual “national security” assumptions that the U.S. must use military power over other nations – and use military violence to get our way – I’m proposing “**TRUE** Security” based on fairness, cooperation and nonviolence.
* Instead of targeting other nations as enemies, let’s solve the **real** problems! Let’s end poverty, support human rights, protect the environment, and promote fairness among all nations.
* Instead of spending more than $800 BILLION a year on the U.S. military, we should fund solutions to the real problems and promote global fairness and cooperation. Americans can be TRULY secure only if we help the rest of the world be TRULY secure.
* We could do this if we replace fear with cooperation – and if we choose peace and fairness instead of power and domination.

Instead of interviewing a guest, I provide information and insights about the problematic ways the United States interacts with the rest of the world – and I explain how to change our international relations to be more peaceful, more fair, more humane, and more effective.

Politicians keep promising to increase our “national security.” But the “national security” **slogan** is simplistic, limited, and deceptive. Politicians’ glib rhetoric about “national security” is **really just a euphemism for a bigger military and more weapons**.

TRUE security is better than threatening and using violence. The militaristic “national security” slogan totally overlooks smart ways to achieve TRUE security.

Our typical assumptions about “national security” are so simplistic and misguided that they actually have failed to make us truly secure. We must re-think “national security” in fresh ways!

To help us re-think what “security” should mean, this TV program will make four main points:

1. Our traditional assumptions and policies about “national security” have failed us.
2. Actually, we would be more safe and secure if we had a foreign policy that is truly peaceful, ethical, and fair.
3. My proposal for “TRUE Security” would make the U.S. – and the whole world – more secure.
4. The problems have come from the top down, so the solutions must come from the bottom up – from organizing a nonviolent grassroots movement.

I prepared much more information, insights and recommendations than I could squeeze into this one-hour TV program. To see the rest of this fascinating and empowering material, visit my blog, **[www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)**, click the **“TV Programs”** link, and click the title of this episode, **“Replace Simplistic ‘National Security’ with TRUE Security.”**

**Summarize the problem and solution.**

**This part of the TV program takes 3 steps to explain why “TRUE Security”  
would be better than traditional “national security”:**

**1. Expose “national security” as simplistic, glib, problematic.**

**2. Propose why we should convert to TRUE Security.**

**3. Show and summarize the TRUE Security table.**

**What has “national security” traditionally meant for the U.S.?**

The “national security” slogan is so simplistic that it actually interferes with smart thinking – and prevents us from devising policies that would be ethical and effective.

**We need a peaceful and just foreign policy that goes beyond narrow nationalism.**

Security is **NOT** a “zero-sum” game in which one nation makes itself secure by making other nations insecure. No nation can make itself TRULY secure without ALSO supporting the TRUE security of all other nations. **We can achieve TRUE security ONLY IF we treat all other nations fairly and nonviolently.**

Militarism actually **undermines** TRUE security. Instead of militarism, we need **nonviolent and multi-dimensional** strategies. Instead of assuming that a huge military makes us secure, we must understand “security” in much broader ways. Nations need **all kinds** of security – including **human rights** for all kinds of people, fair **economies**, sustainable **ecosystems and climates**, and so forth.

To be truly secure, we must recognize that here on Planet Earth “we are all in this together” – so **our** security and well-being depend on **all other nations’** security and well-being.

For many decades the U.S. has utterly failed to recognize this humane and sensible reality. The U.S.’s foreign policy has relied on using our military to serve selfish American geopolitical interests and American business interests in other parts of the world. Our foreign policy has relied on threatening military violence, conducting wars, overthrowing governments – including a number of democracies that the U.S. government and business elites did not like – and acting in other ways that have hurt the people of other nations. The U.S.’s wars also have hurt American people too.

As I said, **the U.S. keeps thinking of “national security” as a “zero-sum” game in which we increase our own security by making other nations less secure. That has caused global turmoil and instability.** The U.S.’s selfish approach has actually turned many nations – and sub-groups within nations – against us. The U.S. has turned people into enemies and terrorists, so **our traditional foreign policy has actually weakened our security!**

In order to be more secure, we should help other nations become more secure by respecting their sovereignty and by respecting their health, their human rights, their economic justice, their environments, and so forth. We must become friends with all nations’ **ordinary people** – not just their political elites, their military elites, and their business elites. If we would become friends with other nations’ ordinary people, they would not want to hurt us.

**The “national security” slogan has traditionally been defined by the military-industrial complex for their own self-serving benefit.** They wrongly assume that more weapons and more military violence make us more secure. Actually, they make us LESS secure.

Weapons manufacturers have enormous amounts of wealth. They donate very generously to political candidates of **BOTH** political parties. They also spend huge amounts of money lobbying Congress, the White House, and federal agencies.

As a result, the military has been taking more and more of our tax dollars – currently about HALF of the discretionary budget that Congress has the power to spend. This has short-changed spending for what **ordinary** Americans need for **our own security** – our health, food, housing, education, jobs, relief from poverty, environmental protection, and so forth.

On April 16, 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower said: “Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron.” That’s what President Eisenhower said.

**Here is why we need to convert to TRUE Security:**

**In any case, the Pentagon and our nuclear weapons cannot protect us from the worst dangers facing us:**

**#1. On September 11, 2001, a few men with simple box cutters hijacked airplanes** and crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon (the very headquarters of the U.S.’s gigantic military).

Our huge military – and our thousands of nuclear weapons – did not stop them.

**#2. The climate crisis threatens the lives and well-being of everybody on earth.** Military weapons cannot protect us from the climate crisis. Military spending wastes money that we need for solving the climate crisis.

Ironically, the U.S. military pollutes the atmosphere with more greenhouse gases than any other entity on earth. Our military is a major cause of the climate crisis.

**#3. The COVID pandemic is killing many people. For a while the U.S. had the VERY WORST rate of infections in the entire world!**

The U.S. has the biggest military in the world, but our troops and weapons could not protect us from this pandemic or future pandemics.

**Furthermore, our nation is NOT “secure” when:**

* + Half a million Americans are homeless
  + Twenty million Americans have no health care
  + Republicans have been eliminating environmental protections and deliberately making our air and water more dangerous and deliberately allowing big businesses to pollute our nation with cancer-causing chemicals

See a smart alternative on the next page 🡪

**I showed this table contrasting TRUE Security with the status quo “national security.”**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Typical American Way to Achieve National Security** | **Better Way to Achieve**  **TRUE Security** |
|  |  |  |
| **Vision:** | U.S. dominates all other countries | U.S. cooperates fairly with all other countries |
| **Goals:** | National security against other nations | Global security and equitable relationships among all nations |
|  | Political, military, economic, cultural dominance | Self-determination  Economic well-being for all  Respect for other cultures and religions |
| **Methods:** | Military action, arms sales, covert operations, selective diplomacy | Nonviolent direct action at international level (e.g., nonviolent peace force) |
|  | Unilateral action, coalitions that the US controls and others must accept | Multilateral resolution of conflicts. Support the UN, international treaties, international law. |
|  | Economic and “development” policies that support US interests | Marshall Plan to eradicate global poverty  Unconditional commitment to the poor |
|  | Charity to help the poor without changing structural inequities | Generous actions with no selfish motives  Structural changes for justice and fairness |
|  | Minimum wage | Living wage. Guaranteed minimum income |
|  | Conflict management focused on violence as individual pathology | Nonviolent resistance to systemic violence. Interpersonal conflict resolution skills |
| **Motivation:** | Hatred | Compassion and love |
|  | Fear | Faith |
|  | Power | Justice and profound fairness |
|  | Self-centered, so people are objects | Other-centered for the other’s sake |
| **Result:** | Global chaos | Global community |

I am proposing this wise alternative to the status quo.

**I showed on the TV screen a table with the middle column showing the status quo “national security” plan – and better alternatives in the column to the right of it.** This TRUE Security alternative is more valid, ethical, and practical than the status quo. **Here is the comparison:**

Each row shows a factor in U.S. foreign policy (vision, goals, methods, etc.) The middle column shows **the status quo**: the **Typical American Way to Achieve National Security**. The column next to it shows a **Better Way to Achieve TRUE Security**.

**The first row in the table identifies the current Vision – and a better vision. For a long time, the U.S. has tried to dominate and control other countries. We would be more secure if we would cooperate fairly with them.**

The next row identifies the **Goals** of our **current militaristic foreign policy** and smarter **Goals** that would lead to TRUE Security. Instead of seeking “national security” AGAINST other nations – and seeking to DOMINATE them politically, militarily, economically and culturally, the next column’s **TRUE Security** alternative would seek:

* Global security and equitable relationships among all nations
* Self-determination
* Economic well-being for all
* Respect for other cultures and religions

The next row shows the current **Methods** (in the middle column) and the smarter, more compassionate, more effective **Methods** that would guide a **TRUE Security** model.

I fleshed out these contrasts later in this TV program.

Likewise, see the huge contrast between our current **“National Security”** **Motivations** (hatred, fear, power, and self-centeredness) and the **Motivations** for **“TRUE Security”** (love, compassion, faith, justice, and other-centeredness).

The two models produce different **Results**. Our current **“National Security**” system results in global chaos, while a **TRUE Security”** system would result in global community.

**I debunked six dominant assumptions that dominate U.S. foreign policy:**

**I showed on the TV screen six assumptions that dominate U.S. foreign policy:**

Replace Six Dominant Assumptions

#1. Polarizing into “us” vs. “them” and fearing “them” causes injustice and war. Instead, let’s recognize that ALL people are ONE human family, so OUR security depends on helping ALL people feel truly secure.

#2. The U.S. is NOT entitled to dominate or bully other nations. We would be more secure if we promoted compassion, fairness and cooperation among ALL nations.

#3. Violence does NOT solve problems. Violence only makes problems worse. War is suicidal.

#4. Everything is interconnected, so when the U.S. treats other nations badly, that bad karma returns in what – for decades – the CIA has called “blowback.” The U.S.’s mistreatment of other nations causes people to want to retaliate against the U.S. Also, our abuses cause people to flee those nations as refugees and de-stabilize other nations.

#5. Instead of assuming “zero-sum” games with winners and losers, let’s recognize that we’re all in this together. Let’s create nonviolent “win-win” solutions.

#6. Let’s replace the U.S.’s selfish, ineffective “national security” model with the egalitarian, compassionate “TRUE security” model that I am explaining.

**I followed this by urging us to replace each of these six with its OPPOSITE to create a truly peaceful and decent foreign policy. I fleshed out the six opposites on pages 6-8.**

**I urge replacing these six faulty assumptions with their opposites:**

**#1. Polarizing into “us” vs. “them,” and fearing “them” does not work. Instead, we must recognize that ALL people are ONE human family.**

**Let’s recognize that OUR safety – and EVERYONE’S safety – depends on helping ALL people feel safe.**

For many years – and in many ways – we have been polarized into thinking in terms of “us” vs. “them.” Nationalists polarize us by nationality, just like domestic oppressors polarize us by race, religion, sexual orientation, and other factors. Oppressors use this “divide-and-conquer” strategy in order to oppress people – and to prevent ordinary people from joining together into a large powerful majority to nonviolently protect ourselves from the oppressive elites. This is true both within nations and at the international scale.

Instead, let’s reject all polarization into “us” vs. “them.” Let’s affirm that ALL people are ONE human family – both within nations and across nations. Let’s affirm that we are ALL in this TOGETHER. Then we can move toward a peaceful world instead of endless wars.

**#2. The U.S. is NOT entitled to dominate or bully other nations.**

**Actually, NO nation should dominate or bully any other nation. We would be more secure by promoting compassion, fairness and cooperation among ALL nations.**

Some men think that their maleness entitles them to dominate women. Some white people think their whiteness entitles them to dominate people of color. Likewise, the concept of “American exceptionalism” is used to unjustly dominate other nations.

A longstanding problem within the U.S. is our mistaken notion that we are “the beacon of liberty” – that the U.S. is so righteous and so blessed by God that we are **entitled** to dominate the world. This notion of “American exceptionalism” causes many Americans and our government to think that the U.S. is exempt from international law and other realities. Some people even think we’re exempt from the laws of science and the climate crisis.

Nationalism and “American exceptionalism” allow powerful Americans to feel entitled to exploit other nations and rip off their natural resources. Instead, let’s recognize that other nations’ **ordinary people** – **not** their elites or the U.S.’s elites – have the right to determine what to do with their respective nations’ natural resources.

Our militaristic foreign policy has “normalized” war and other kinds of violence and injustice. This same arrogance allows American police to use unjust violence against Americans – as if poor and minority communities were enemy countries and police were an occupying army entitled to kill “the locals.”

**Defining “victory” in militaristic terms is phony, cruel, and counter-productive.** The U.S. government kept saying that Vietnam’s “body counts” proved we were winning the Vietnam War – but actually the U.S. lost the war. The Pentagon Papers exposed how the Vietnam War was based on lies. Lies drive U.S. foreign policy and other abuses – regardless of which political party is running the government.

During the Vietnam War, U.S. Senator William Fulbright denounced what he called “the arrogance of power.” The specific context was the Vietnam War, which he strongly opposed. The U.S.’s “arrogance of power” persists throughout our foreign policy, international business dealings, and the U.S.’s perpetual willingness to use nuclear weapons that could destroy most life on Planet Earth.

Let’s reject the cynical, militaristic assumption that “might makes right.” Instead, let’s support honest, profound ethics and replace militarism with an egalitarian worldview that seeks every person’s well-being.

**#3. Violence does NOT solve problems.**

**Violence only makes problems worse.**

Many movies (especially Westerns, crime movies, and spy movies) end with a big shoot-out or explosion or other violence at the end. In these fictional movies, violence is what solves the problem. This is called “the myth of redemptive violence.”

**“The myth of redemptive violence” is the myth underlying our militaristic foreign policy.** Just like fictional movies, we pretend that military violence will solve our problems. Real life is NOT like the movies, but both big political parties – and mainstream public opinion – base our foreign policy on that violent fictional myth.

We waste hundreds of billions of dollars on endless, unwinnable wars that only make problems worse, because of the widespread and mistaken assumption that violence solves problems. Violence only makes problems worse.

Let’s help people understand that the real problem is **violence itself**! Let’s create a **nonviolent** foreign policy that affirms truth, fairness and peace! Let’s commit to **nonviolent** ways of solving problems – at both international and domestic levels.

**#4. Everything is interconnected, so when the U.S. treats other nations badly, that bad karma returns to hurt us. For decades the CIA has called this “blowback.” The U.S.’s mistreatment of other nations causes people to want to retaliate against the U.S. Also, our abuses cause people to flee those nations as refugees and de-stabilize other nations.**

**Let’s stop the cruelty that provokes “blowback.” Fairness and compassion would make us more secure.**

When we study the environment, we learn that everything is interconnected. No animal or plant or body of water can pretend that it is isolated from other parts of its ecosystem. Neither can we practice “isolationism” from other nations. We must **interact with them based on fairness and honest diplomacy** instead of exploitation and war. Whatever we do to other nations produces feedback loops. When we treat other nations unfairly, we provoke feedback loops that hurt the U.S.

Some religious traditions refer to ***karma*** –whatever we do comes back to us. The “blowback” of terrorism against the U.S. occurs because of bad things our nation has done to other nations. That’s **bad *karma***.

The U.S.’s greed, exploitation, and other sins against the earth’s **environment** also come back to hurt us in environmental damages, climate disruptions, and refugees fleeing those devastations. Also, the U.S. keeps supporting dictators and cruel governments in other nations, so their oppressed people flee as refugees, but the U.S. fails to accept those people who are seeking asylum here.

We must stop grabbing more than our fair share of the world’s natural resources. We must stop using threats and violence against other nations. We must stop allowing big businesses to mistreat other nations’ people and environments. If the U.S. would behave ethically and nonviolently, we would create friends instead of enemies. We’d be able to solve global problems through sincere diplomacy, mediation and other nonviolent methods. A foreign policy that is peaceful, compassionate, and fair would make the U.S. more secure than the cruel, counter-productive status quo.

**#5. Stop assuming “zero-sum” games with winners and losers.**

**Instead, let’s recognize that we’re all in this together. Let’s work for nonviolent “win-win” solutions.**

The assumption underlying U.S. foreign policy is that the U.S. is GOOD and the nations we disagree with are BAD. Therefore, WE feel justified in using violence, but THEY are not allowed to defend themselves from our attacks.

When individual persons – or groups – or nations – are in conflict, EACH side sees the conflict from its own viewpoint and fails to understand the other side’s perception of reality – or what the other side needs. Each new act of violence by either side only reinforces the other side’s fear and anger. Then it feels self-righteous in using violence to retaliate in a cycle that will certainly end badly. In this cycle of violence, each side justifies its own violence – while at the same time it denounces the other side’s use of violence. We must stop that retaliatory system. It is self-defeating.

Many of our nation’s political, economic and social problems were caused by a shortage of empathy – a failure to recognize our common humanity and the legitimate needs of people other than ourselves. We need to replace selfishness and oppression with a humble appreciation for every person’s inherent value, dignity and rights. We can solve conflicts through empathic listening, objective criteria and even-handed justice.

Some people think that we who want peace are naïve. But actually, the naïve people are those who think war solves problems. For thousands of years wars have only led to more wars. World War I was promoted as “The War to End All Wars.” Did World War I produce world peace in the 100 years after 1918?

Also, a century and a half ago, the Union decisively won the Civil War, but racism persisted, and many Americans still fly the Confederate flag – the battle flag of the people who made war against the United States in order to preserve slavery and racism. The Civil War did not end racism. War does NOT solve problems!

Let’s be practical. Let’s renounce violence. Let’s create a foreign policy that is peaceful, compassionate, and fair.

**#6. The status quo “national security” model is selfish and ineffective.**

**Let’s replace it with the egalitarian, compassionate “TRUE security” model that I am explaining.**

The U.S.’s militaristic foreign policy does bad things, including **these three negative results:**

#1. Instead of solving international problems, U.S. militarism makes problems worse and turns world opinion against the U.S.

#2. Our huge military budget takes money away from spending on solutions that would really make us more secure, such as ending poverty, providing health care for everyone, protecting the environment, developing “green” energy, and so forth.

#3. Militarism misleads the public into thinking that violence solves problems, so militarism sets a bad example for individuals to use violence including domestic violence and shooting people within the U.S. Actually, militarism makes global problems worse. The truly effective solutions are **non**violent ones. Instead of military violence, let’s promote fairness and peace worldwide. A commitment to fairness and peace would provide REAL “national security” – both for the U.S. and for other nations too. The “TRUE security” I’m proposing here would make Americans and all people worldwide more truly secure.

Nationalism and militarism are false idols. Let’s stop worshiping nationalism and militarism. Let’s replace both the 1980s mantra to “look out for #1” and Trump’s “America First” doctrine. Those are selfish and counter-productive.

Wise people know everything is interconnected, including all nationalities. Whatever we do will cycle back to us. Behavior that is greedy, domineering and cruel will end up hurting us. But if we act with wisdom, compassion and fairness, everyone will end up better off.

Many politicians want us to fear other races and other religions. Instead, let’s recognize that all people really are one human family, and we really all do share one earth.

NOBODY can be secure until EVERYBODY is secure. Let’s focus on “TRUE security” instead of selfish one-sided “national security.”

We would be more secure with LESS militarism! We’d be more secure by pursuing “the common good” globally and a nonviolent foreign policy. In order to achieve TRUE security, the U.S. should stop threatening, mistreating and dominating other countries. Instead, the U.S. should work with other countries fairly and cooperatively.

Instead of assuming that “national security” is a zero-sum game in which we compete with others, let’s instead help all nations enjoy friendly relationships, self-determination, human rights and sustainability.

Instead of military violence, let’s practice creative nonviolence worldwide.

Let’s replace fear and animosity with love and compassion. Let’s replace raw power with profound justice and peace.

**Powerful people trap us in endless militarism by telling us to fight enemies.**

**But they are the wrong enemies. We should be fighting the real problems:**

**Powerful people have trapped us in endless militarism by telling us to fight enemies (the Cold War, “Terrorism” and Muslims, and now Russia and China again. Big businesses also drive U.S. foreign policy. “American Exceptionalism” is an arrogant assumption.**

**Instead, Martin Luther King identified three systemic evils: racism, militarism and   
poverty. Let’s defeat those!**

The next few pages discuss the phony enemies  
and what we should be fighting instead. 🡪

**We were told to fight the Cold War:**

For half a century the U.S.’s foreign policy was obsessed with the Cold War against the Soviet Union and communism. This led the U.S. to do many extremely horrible things, including escalating each next step in the nuclear arms race, fighting stupid wars, overthrowing some democracies, installing right-wing dictators, meddling in other nations’ elections and politics, etc.

Before Castro – from 1952 to 1959 – the U.S. supported Cuba’s military dictator Fulgencio Batista, who allowed Cuba to be massively corrupt and weakened the services that ordinary people needed. Batista allowed Cuba to be a haven for gambling and the vacation spot for the U.S.’s organized crime leaders. Fidel Castro organized the grassroots effort that overthrew Batista in 1959. Then Castro vastly improved the well-being of ordinary people (literacy, health, etc.). But the U.S. opposed Castro because he supported Communism. The U.S. has held a manic Cold War grudge against Cuba ever since 1959 – and this has continued decades after the Cold War ended. Cuba has earned enormous worldwide respect by training doctors and other medical professionals and sending them to the world’s poorest nations. Even now (July 2023) the U.S. maliciously and falsely keeps Cuba on the U.S. State Department’s list of State Sponsors of Terrorism.

For decades, the U.S.’s mania for fighting the Cold War pushed the U.S. into fighting stupid and cruel wars, such as the war in Vietnam, which killed more than 2 million SE Asians and 58,000 Americans. Cold War mania pushed the U.S. into overthrowing other nations’ governments – such as Chile’s, which had been Latin America’s oldest democracy (since the 1840s) – and installing brutal dictators such as Chile’s General Pinochet, who slaughtered many thousands of people who disagreed with him.

**We were told to fight wars against “Terrorism” and Muslims:**

When the Soviet Union collapsed more than 3 decades ago, the Military-Industrial Complex and war-hawk politicians needed a new enemy, so the Bush/Cheney regime created their “War on Terror” to fight “terrorism” and Muslims in several nations.

Bush/Cheney even invented a phony-baloney international enemy they called “Axis of Evil” (Iraq, Iran and North Korea), which was obviously phony-baloney since those nations were not allies with each other. In fact, Iraq and Iran had recently fought a brutal war against each other, and North Korea was totally aloof from them. The Bush-Cheney “Axis of Evil” was simply a lie – a gimmick intended to frighten the American people into supporting their stupid wars.

The Bush/Cheney “War on Terror” really was a fiction that they designed to replace our Cold War against communism. Just like the Cold War, their “War on Terror” was designed to be worldwide and to justify U.S. violence anywhere in the world.

Also, it was clearly a war against Muslims, so Bush/Cheney – and later Trump – could cultivate support from right-wing Christians for their holy war against a religion they did not understand.

Now in 2023 the U.S.’s so-called “War on Terror” has gone on for more than 20 years. We have wasted TRILLIONS of dollars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and many other countries. **Much evidence shows that the U.S.’s “War on Terror” is actually PROVOKING MORE terror!**

For example, U.S. “anti-terror” military activities in Africa are actually provoking more terrorism in Africa. In 2001 the U.S. started a war against Afghanistan. In 2003 the U.S. started another war against Iraq. For many years the U.S. bombed innocent people there – destroyed homes, schools and hospitals – and killed more than half a million people. The U.S. has attacked wedding reception parties with drones and killed innocent celebrants. Each time the U.S. does that, the U.S. turns more people against the U.S. Some research has shown an additional half-million Iraqis have died unnecessarily as a result of the U.S.’s wars.

Syria is a persistent problem that mainstream U.S. news media either ignore or distort. Decades ago Syria was part of the British Empire. More recently the U.S., Russia, Iran, and other entities have been trying to control Syria, regardless of what the Syrian people want. A few years ago I saw a list of about 15 armed factions fighting there. The U.S. was financing and arming SEVERAL of them, including some that were FIGHTING EACH OTHER – at U.S. taxpayers’ expense. This utterly senseless violence stems from the U.S.’s recklessly stupid “War on Terror.”

**Now we are told to fight Russia and China again:**

The stupid wars in Afghanistan and Iraq soured the American people into fighting a “War on Terror,” so now U.S. politicians and media – and the Military-Industrial Complex they serve – are telling us we must fight Russia and China again, even though the Cold War is over, and both Russia and China have replaced communism with hard-core capitalism.

The people telling us to fear Russia and China do not want us to know that the U.S. spends much more on our military than they do on theirs. The U.S. military budget is about ten times as huge as Russia’s. The U.S. spends as much on nuclear weapons as all other nations in the world combined.

Russia was wrong to invade Ukraine. But the U.S. is wrong to fight a land war against Russia there – partly because the U.S.’s land war against Russia keeps escalating and both nations have thousands of nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert. It would take only one hot-headed official or one miscalculation or one computer error to destroy most life on earth. This is NOT “security”!

**Big U.S. businesses also drive U.S. foreign policy:**

Regardless of who the politicians and the Military-Industrial Complex want us to see as enemies, **a major factor in U.S. foreign policy is to serve the interests of big business**. The U.S. has waged many wars in order to help big American businesses exploit other nations’ raw materials, including oil and minerals from several countries and even fruit from Central America:

* U.S. General Smedley Butler (1881-1940) spent more than 33 years in active military service. He famously wrote that he “spent most of my time as a high-class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers.”
* In 1953 U.S. President Eisenhower and the British government overthrew Iran’s democracy and installed the horribly brutal shah as dictator in order to enrich a British oil company.
* Nixon-Kissinger overthrew Chile’s stable democracy partly in order to serve a U.S. mining company.
* Afghanistan’s government had nothing to do with the 9-11 attacks, but Bush-Cheney used 9-11 as an excuse to overthrow Afghanistan’s government partly because a U.S. oil company supported by top Republicans wanted to route a pipeline through Afghanistan.
* Both President Bushes fought wars against Iraq that were transparently about oil.
* President Trump appointed the CEO of Exxon to be his Secretary of State, obviously showing that the main purpose of U.S. foreign policy is to pressure other nations into serving U.S. oil companies’ interests.
* President Biden appointed as Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, whose career had been selling to other countries the military weapons manufactured by U.S. companies. This means Biden sees the main purpose of U.S. foreign policy as pressuring other nations to buy military weapons from U.S. manufacturers. (Biden has been fantastically successful at this; under his rule – and with wars in Ukraine and elsewhere less reported by the media – U.S. weapons manufacturers have become even more fantastically wealthy.)

**“American Exceptionalism” is an arrogant assumption that keeps hurting the world:**

Part of the problem is what’s known as “American exceptionalism.” This is the notion that the U.S. is different from – and superior to – other nations, so the U.S. is entitled to be above the rule of law and entitled to violate treaties and entitled to be “the leader of the Free World” and entitled to boss other nations around – simply because we’re the U.S.A.

The U.S. has always refused to join the International Criminal Court because our U.S. government does not want any Americans to be held accountable for our war crimes under international law. The U.S. wants to hold other nations legally accountable for war crimes but refuses to allow itself to be held accountable.

Also, the U.S. is one of very, very few nations that has been refusing to ratify a number of treaties to protect human rights, including a treaty protecting women’s rights, a treaty protecting the rights of children, a treaty protecting the rights of people with disabilities, and many more. The U.S. keeps setting itself apart from the world community, and refuses to be accountable. Despite the U.S.’s self-serving rhetoric, the U.S. is a “rogue nation” rather than a respected leader.

“American Exceptionalism” is not the only assumption that is false. The U.S. is not really the wealthiest nation on earth when it allows rampant poverty and homelessness and fails to provide health care. The U.S. is not the freest nation when it imprisons more people than any other nation and allows rampant and racist violence by the police. Nor is the U.S. the most educated nation when American students score low on tests about math and science, and when we need to import scientists and health professionals from other nations. Actually, the ways in which the U.S. actually does differ significantly from other nations include promoting excessive militarism and incarceration and allowing horrible environmental destruction. These are not good differences from other nations.

Instead of the arrogant assumption that the U.S. is entitled to “lead the world,” the U.S. needs to learn from other nations that have actually solved the problems that the U.S. keeps failing to solve. The U.S. would be better off if we were humble and good listeners. The U.S.’s health care system is dysfunctional, while dozens of other nations have created solutions that provide every person with high quality affordable health care paid by the government. The U.S. is the only rich nation that refused to provide paid leave for new mothers.

If the U.S. thought of ourselves as part of a global community, we would have more friends and fewer enemies.

**Also, the U.S. empire is NOT sustainable.** It cannot continue. **I highly recommend this article** which came out recently. “**The End Stage of American Empire**” is an informative, insightful article Read it starting on page 1 and continuing onto page 7: [**Space-Alert-43.pdf**](file:///C:\Users\Glen\Downloads\Space-Alert-43.pdf)

**I also highly recommend the powerful writings of the savvy journalist Chris Hedges.**

**INSTEAD of fighting phony wars, let’s fight the REAL problems.**

**Martin Luther King identified 3 systemic evils: Racism, Militarism, Poverty:**

African Americans have suffered a long history of racist cruelty and oppression. Many activists in the Civil Rights Movement were brutally attacked, and some were murdered, but Martin Luther King never called any individual persons evil. Instead, he did identify three evil **systems**: racism, militarism, and poverty. He helped to organize a profoundly nonviolent movement to solve those problems.

If we want TRUE security – instead of militaristic “national security” – we need to organize nonviolently for goals that are truly peaceful and just. The TRUE Security model I’m proposing does that – both at a global level and also at the national and local levels.

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

More than half a century ago – in 1966 – Martin Luther King said: “The security we profess to seek in foreign adventures, we will lose in our decaying cities. The bombs in Vietnam explode at home – they destroy the hopes and possibilities for a decent America.” This is still true now more than half a century later.

The U.S.’s violent foreign policy seriously damages our own nation in a number of ways. Wars kill American troops and disable many, many more. Our wars have weakened America in many ways. Our militarism promotes racism and social dysfunction.

U.S. militarism hurts the environments of other nations and also within the U.S. The U.S. military is a significant destroyer of the U.S.’s land, water, air – a major poisoner of our environment and a major disrupter of the climate.

Militarism is an inherently top-down system, so it interferes with our self-government, imposes secrecy, and avoids accountability.

Another aspect of U.S. militarism is that our nation has been militarizing the police in three ways:

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

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

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

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

Our gigantic military budget diverts huge amounts of money away from solving our actual problems. Redirecting a tiny fraction of our military budget could transform our country in very positive ways.

**We need fresh goals for U.S. foreign policy. Below I’m showing the TRUE Security table again. See the Goals row. This table shows that instead of national security against other nations, let’s choose global security and equitable relationships among all nations. Let’s cooperate with them instead of trying to dominate them.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Typical American Way to Achieve National Security** | **Better Way to Achieve**  **TRUE Security** |
|  |  |  |
| **Vision:** | U.S. dominates all other countries | U.S. cooperates fairly with all other countries |
| **Goals:** | National security against other nations | Global security and equitable relationships among all nations |
|  | Political, military, economic, cultural dominance | Self-determination  Economic well-being for all  Respect for other cultures and religions |
| **Methods:** | Military action, arms sales, covert operations, selective diplomacy | Nonviolent direct action at international level (e.g., nonviolent peace force) |
|  | Unilateral action, coalitions that the US controls and others must endorse | Multilateral resolution of conflicts. Support the UN, international treaties, international law. |
|  | Economic and “development” policies that support US interests | Marshall Plan to eradicate global poverty  Unconditional commitment to the poor |
|  | Charity to help the poor without changing structural inequities | Generous actions with no selfish motives  Structural changes for justice and fairness |
|  | Minimum wage | Living wage. Guaranteed minimum income |
|  | Conflict management focused on violence as individual pathology | Nonviolent resistance to systemic violence. Interpersonal conflict resolution skills |
| **Motivation:** | Hatred | Compassion and love |
|  | Fear | Faith |
|  | Power | Justice and profound fairness |
|  | Self-centered, so people are objects | Other-centered for the other’s sake |
| **Result:** | Global chaos | Global community |

Traditional U.S. foreign policy has been very profitable for big American businesses, especially those that make military weapons, but it is morally wrong, stupid and cruel. It actually backfires on us in several ways and HURTS our nation’s security. As I said above on page 8, our militaristic foreign policy does at least these three bad things:

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

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

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

In a school playground, if one student keeps getting into fights all the time – especially a big kid repeatedly picking on kids much smaller and weaker than himself – somebody would intervene to restrain that student. But the U.S. keeps getting into wars – often with nations that are poor and weak. The U.S. keeps acting like a big schoolyard bully, but no grownups intervene to stop the U.S.’s bullying.

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

For many decades the U.S. has acted as if the U.S. is “the world’s policeman,” but for a long time most Americans have been saying the U.S. should NOT be “the world’s policeman.” Our government keeps rebuffing public opinion.

We must replace that with a sensible, ethical foreign policy. **Instead of trying to dominate other nations – militarily, economically and culturally – let’s promote fairness, economic justice, a sustainable environment and climate, and peace worldwide.** A commitment to these positive actions would provide REAL “national security” – both for the U.S. and for other nations too.

Let’s empower the American people to reject that false notion of security and affirm the deeper, more profound kind of TRUE security. Let’s collaborate with a wide range of people to build a strong grassroots movement so the American people can choose a peaceful, just and sustainable future. (I discuss this later in this article.)

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

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

Let’s **organize a nonviolent grassroots movement from the bottom up** to help us gain **many kinds of security**, including (but not limited to) those I showed on the TV screen and also here:

* **Economic security:** Provide job security, living wages, and safe working conditions. End poverty, and provide help during hard times. Provide secure retirement income.
* **Food security:** Safe and nutritious food for everybody, so we can end hunger and support small local farmers and locally owed retailers.
* **Health security:** Everybody in our nation deserves high quality, affordable health care with respectful treatment. Prevent diseases. Provide strong public health services.
* **Environmental security:** Sustainable ecosystems, enough clean water, clean air, healthy forests, land use planning for sustainability. Protect all people and environments from toxics. Protect our climate from disruptions.
* **Personal security and human rights:** Thoughtful and sensitive policies and services regarding child abuse, domestic violence, gender issues, human dignity for every kind of person, safety from substance abuse, and so forth.
* **Community and cultural security:** Respect all cultures and languages. Respect freedom to practice any religion or no religion. Protect all of us from big businesses’ power and hold them accountable for abuses. Remove the underlying causes of crime. Make it safe to walk anywhere at any time. When someone hurts another, provide ways to heal and reconcile.

**Let’s get beyond the narrow militaristic sense of “national security” and promote TRUE security in the ways listed above. Let’s organize nonviolent grassroots movements from the bottom up to help us gain these aspects of TRUE security.**

Smart legislation on 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.

**Let’s envision and create truly bold alternatives to the status quo. Examples:**

• Instead of military action, promoting military weapons, conducting covert operations, and cynically perverted “diplomacy,” let’s choose honest nonviolent direct action at the international level to solve problems and help people reconcile conflicts. For example, support the non-profit organization Nonviolent Peaceforce, which has been working in conflicted areas to bring the affected people together to promote communication, understanding and healing. [**https://nonviolentpeaceforce.org/**](https://nonviolentpeaceforce.org/)

• Instead of unilateral action by the U.S. or other powerful nations (such as NATO and the World Bank), let’s solve conflicts and economic problems through truly multilateral efforts NOT dominated by any powerful nations. Let’s support the United Nations, international treaties, international law, and development efforts that are truly fair.

• Instead of economic practices that support U.S. interests, let’s create a new Marshall Plan to end global poverty. Let’s take generous actions with no selfish motives.

• Instead of merely applying band-aids to people who are suffering, let’s change systems and promote structural changes to create real peace and real justice.

• Instead of settling for a “minimum” wage, let’s require a living wage and provide guaranteed income to eliminate poverty worldwide.

• Let’s teach interpersonal conflict resolution skills worldwide. Also, instead of seeing violence merely as an individual pathology, let’s recognize systemic violence, support nonviolent resistance, and create nonviolent alternative systems.

**These bold alternatives would replace global chaos with global community = TRUE Security.**

**Look again at the TRUE Security table on pages 4 and 12. Look at the row about Motivation.**

• Instead of hatred or violent impulses, let’s choose love and compassion.

• Instead of being driven by fear, let’s choose faith – whether religious or spiritual – or simply in the faith that peace is better than war, and cooperation is better than domination.

• Instead of military power, political power and economic power, let’s choose justice and fairness and the equitable well-being of all nations and all people.

• Instead of being self-centered and seeing people as objects to control, let’s choose to be other-centered for the other’s sake.

**I summarized these 6 points only briefly on TV:**

1. Wars do NOT solve problems. The U.S. keeps losing wars – even against poor countries.

2. Very few Americans understand the world accurately.

3. The U.S. can be secure ONLY IF we help all nations be secure – without wars.

4. Understand the context of U.S. history – and other nations’ perspectives.

5. The problem is MILITARISM ITSELF.

6. Militarism does not make us secure. Let’s replace it with multi-issue “TRUE” security.

**I flesh them out significantly on pages 15 through 19.**

**1. Wars do NOT solve problems. Militarism does NOT work.   
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 military violence, including killing many innocent people, but they won’t admit to that. We must stop letting them get away with lying!

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.

**War has a terrible track record.** Besides being violent and cruel, it does NOT work! War is NOT practical! In every war, one nation – and often both nations – end up losing (lives, health, money, buildings, cities, infrastructure, environments, etc.). Instead of military violence, let’s use honest diplomacy to solve problems – and try to create “win-win” solutions.

Sometimes nations that have lost wars arm themselves again and start new wars for revenge. Examples:

1. The nations that won World War I (France, England, the U.S., etc.) imposed the extremely harsh and humiliating Treaty of Versailles upon Germany. Germans reacted with anger and nationalistic pride that elevated Hitler to run their nation and seek revenge by conquering other European nations and starting World War II.
2. 150 years ago, the U.S. army decisively defeated the Confederate army in our nation’s Civil War, but the Civil War did not end racism. Instead, it angered the racists who are still flying the Confederate battle flag now, 150 years after they lost the Civil War.

Because powerful people in the U.S. wanted violent revenge after 9-11-2001, the U.S. attacks against other people provoke them into wanting violent revenge against the U.S. When the U.S. bombs or uses drone violence against wedding parties, neighborhoods or towns, the U.S. antagonizes those people and provokes them to become enemies of the U.S.

The “Iran nuclear deal” (JCPOA) was working well, but Trump pulled the U.S. out of it. Iran responded by enriching uranium in order to poke a finger in Trump’s eye.

Trump thought his very harsh, militaristic actions against Iran would force them to cave in, but he only strengthened their hard-liners. Trump repeatedly threatened horribly violent war against Iran. Trump assassinated Iran’s top military general. (How would the U.S. like it if another nation assassinated the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff?) Trump’s actions threatened Iran’s national security, so – instead of caving in to Trump’s violence – Iran’s voters elected hard-liners who strongly oppose the U.S. Trump also angered the rest of the world, which wants peaceful relations with Iran.

**War does NOT solve problems!** Americans – and our government – need to appreciate diplomacy and other nonviolent ways of solving problems – instead of threats and violence.

In conflict situations, **nonviolence actually has been proven to work better than efforts that include violence**. If you want more information about this, contact me at (360) 491-9093 or [**glen@parallaxperspectives.org**](mailto:glen@parallaxperspectives.org). I can provide things to read about nonviolence, and I conduct free online workshops about it.

We need to learn about nonviolent ways to accomplish various kinds of goals (both foreign and domestic). Contact me if you’d like to learn about how a **nonviolent** national defense would actually be practical and workable – and save enough money to fund the things our nation really needs, such as health, education, housing, ending poverty, and protecting our environment and climate. I recently produced a TV program that makes a solid case that a **nonviolent** national defense would be effective and practical. See [**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)

Beyond the budget trade-offs between spending on the military vs. spending to meet human needs, in 1976-1977 I researched how military spending hurts the economy’s functioning AS AN ECONOMY. I researched the potential to **convert our economy** – especially the economy of Washington State – away from military bases and building military weapons – to actually meet human needs and create better, more sustainable jobs and better local communities. The problems are worse now than they were nearly a half century ago when I researched and wrote about this.

**2. Very few Americans understand the world accurately.**

Nearly all Americans’ understanding of U.S. foreign policy is very much like fish who do not have a concept of water, because fish are always immersed in it and do not know anything different. Likewise, many Americans are so immersed in our nation’s self-image and our persistent U.S. foreign policy and the official rhetoric that they do not see it objectively. They do not recognize what the U.S. is really doing to other people around the world – even while people in other nations are very much aware of what the U.S. government is doing to them. The U.S. government says it practices diplomacy and supports democracy, so most Americans assume that the U.S. does those. Also, “American Exceptionalism,” which I explained on pages 6 and 10 contaminates the thinking of a great many Americans, including people high up in our government – and mainstream media.

Apart from the U.S.’s self-serving rhetoric, how does the U.S. actually interact with other nations? What have been the realities of U.S. foreign policy for many decades?

The American people believe that the U.S. promotes democracy in other countries. Actually, the U.S. has OVERTHROWN many democracies and installed many dictators. The U.S. also has armed dictators and helped them oppress their populations.

But instead of admitting that the U.S. overthrows other nations’ governments, our government – and mainstream news media – use the deceptive euphemism “regime change.” Sometimes the U.S. and our news media say we’re doing that for their own good, because their governments have been doing bad things.

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

A researcher named John Coatsworth identified 41 instances of U.S.-led “regime change” in the Americas. (This was cited on page 23 of a 2018 book by Jeffrey Sachs titled ***A New Foreign Policy: Beyond American Exceptionalism***.) Page 24 of Sachs’ book reported that the U.S. has done this dozens of times also to many other nations around the world.

The dominant assumption is that the U.S. protects its “national security” by threatening and attacking other nations. But, as I’ve explained, this assumption is false. Generally, the U.S.’s foreign policy has been designed by people who think they are “realists.” But this is not realistic. Peace works better than war, so if we want to be truly realistic, we need to convert to a truly peaceful foreign policy.

Furthermore, for many decades, the U.S.’s foreign policy has been truly BI-PARTISAN, regardless of which party has the President or Congress. A few weeks ago I read an article titled, “Biden’s National Security Strategy Is a Defense of US Domination, Not Democracy.” You can read it at [**https://truthout.org/articles/bidens-national-security-strategy-is-a-defense-of-us-domination-not-democracy/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=8eb908cc-5486-4a82-9789-c8d5359afc8f**](https://truthout.org/articles/bidens-national-security-strategy-is-a-defense-of-us-domination-not-democracy/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=8eb908cc-5486-4a82-9789-c8d5359afc8f)

The home page of [**www.rootsaction.org**](http://www.rootsaction.org) features a “Primer on Foreign Policy” for U.S. congressional candidates. (See [**https://progressivehub.net/foreignpolicy/**](https://progressivehub.net/foreignpolicy/)) This savvy peace organization gives this to candidates running for Congress so they will learn what they need to know.

The current problems in Ukraine, Iran, Venezuela, and other countries show the ongoing importance of past coups conducted by the U.S. This information is absolutely crucial for understanding what’s happening nowadays. But the American people do not know the history, so they keep allowing our government to make problems worse.

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

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. When the president says on TV that **“all options are on the table,” this is an explicit threat to use nuclear weapons!**

Some of us in the peace movement have talked with members of Congress and their staffers about peace and nuclear weapons. We keep finding that they are pretty clueless. They seemed to be lacking in information – and lacking in heart regarding issues of peace and nuclear weapons. This is truly appalling.

**3. The U.S. can be secure ONLY IF we help all nations be truly   
secure – without wars.**

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 support 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!

The U.S. can NOT achieve our “national security” by making other nations **in**secure.

**I recommend the three principles that I showed on the TV screen:**

#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.

**As I said earlier, politicians keep promising to protect our “national security.” Their glib rhetoric is really just a euphemism for a bigger military and more military weapons. Instead, we need to seriously re-think the concept of “national security” in a context much wiser than the narrow military assumptions.**

As I said earlier, the “national security” slogan is so simplistic and false that it actually interferes with smart thinking, so it 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) For example, see this bold, creative alternative foreign policy: [**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)

**4. Understand the context of U.S. history – and understand other   
nations’ perspectives.**

When our nation was founded in the late 1700s, our founders did NOT want the U.S. entangled in foreign politics, because they saw how much trouble European nations were having with recurring wars among various combinations of nations. But now for a long time – and especially after World War II – the U.S. radically changed how it interacts with the rest of the world. Now the U.S. meddles in many different countries’ internal affairs and wages many wars all over the world.

From the U.S.’s very beginning, one of the goals of the new nation was to expand westward and attack the nations of Native Americans and take their lands and resources. Even now Americans tend to not recognize those are actual nations with their own peoples.

U.S. practiced imperialism by conquering Native lands and expanded from here to across the oceans. **The U.S.’s foreign policy changed with World War II when the U.S. started seeking total domination of the entire globe – and this has continued for 80 years.**

It’s an odd thing that Americans feel somehow entitled to do that. Suppose some other nation – perhaps Paraguay – were to say, “Paraguay is #1, so we are entitled to dominate the rest of the world because we are Paraguay, and we’re the best, and we can control you.” What would the American people and our government think about this? We would say, “That’s crazy!” But somehow Americans feel entitled to do that to the rest of the world. That assumption is nationalistic ***hubris***. We need to challenge that.

**5. The problem is MILITARISM ITSELF.**

The whole world is afraid of violence, but – ironically – it is **militarism itself** that actually causes much of the world’s violence! **Actually – and ironically – militarism itself is a root cause of people’s fears and lack of security!**

We cannot achieve security by making other nations **in**secure. A good first step is to recognize our common humanity and refuse to let people make you afraid of “the other” (other nations, religions, sexual orientations, etc.). We must promote love, compassion, nonviolence, human rights and egalitarianism.

The U.S.’s militarism is deeply bi-partisan, so merely replacing Republicans with Democrats – or vice versa – will not solve the underlying problem. Instead, let’s take positive steps toward peace. **Smart, peaceful steps for TRUE security include:**

* Close **all** of the U.S.’s nearly 800 military bases that are installed in 80 other nations.
* Support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). It went into effect on January 22, 2021. By July 2023, 68 nations have ratified it. (See [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org))
* Teach nonviolent conflict resolution in all schools from the K-12 level on up through college, and in adult education courses.
* Let’s reduce the military budget to a tiny fraction of what it is now – and use the financial savings to help people become even more secure by ending poverty, providing everyone with education, safe drinking water, good health care, a sustainable environment, and a safe climate. De-militarizing would help EVERYONE be safe and secure.
* Cynicism and despair hold us back. Let’s replace them with empowerment and hope! I wrote an encouraging, inspiring article about this. I encourage you to read it on my 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)

* Develop your knowledge, insights, skills and tools to help you become more effective in organizing for peace and other important issues. From time to time, I offer a series of six free online workshops on “Nonviolent Grassroots Organizing” that will strengthen your ability to organize nonviolent grassroots movements for social and political change. Contact me at either (360) 491-9093 or [**glen@parallaxperspectives.org**](mailto:glen@parallaxperspectives.org) See relevant parts of my blog [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), such as the categories for “Nonviolence” and “Organizing.”

Earlier in this document I mentioned some mistaken assumptions that keep us trapped in military violence. Two more myths also bog us down. **We need to de-bunk these two myths in order to free ourselves so we can convert 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 highly recommend reading a great book, ***Humankind: A Hopeful History*** by [**Rutger Bregman**](https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/rutger-bregman/2744434/)

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

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

**6. The traditional concept of “national security” is simplistic and narrow. Let’s replace it with multi-issue “TRUE Security.” It is both ethical and practical.**

In any debate, whoever frames the terms of the debate has a tremendous advantage. If we allow “security” to mean more guns and more nuclear weapons and more suppression of our rights, then we are screwed.

**However, thoughtful people can challenge those wrong assumptions and replace them with policies that would REALLY would make us “secure.” Let’s promote TRUE security and progressive alternatives to the status quo, so we can win the public over to our side!**

People want security, but we can’t gain TRUE security through escalating militarism and sacrificing our civil liberties. TRUE security must be based on peace, social and economic justice, a sustainable environment, a vibrant democracy, civil liberties for everyone, and many other progressive values.

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

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

Sometimes our movements debate whether to work on a wide range of progressive issues versus focus our energies on a specific issue (*e.g*., economics). If we reframe the unifying issue in the overall context of providing TRUE security, we can **connect everything at this more profound level**, **so all progressives can become allies** rather than competitors. **A multi-faceted campaign for TRUE security can unite and support all peace and progressive movements!**

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

Let’s organize nonviolent grassroots movement from the bottom up to achieve **many kinds of security**, including (but not limited to) those I showed on the TV screen – and I copied onto page 13 of the document you are reading now.

**We must debunk the assumption underlying militarism.****Military violence does NOT solve problems. Violence makes problems worse.  
Instead of militarism, we need a TRULY PEACEFUL foreign policy.**

* **Really,** **violence does NOT solve problems.**
* **Military “solutions” actually are the problem!**
* **Let’s be secure by changing to a nonviolent foreign policy!**

In our daily lives, we know better than to think violence solves problems, but at the national level, the U.S. government routinely threatens and uses military violence all over the world.

The U.S. had a Department of War from 1789 to 1947. During that time – more than century and a half – our nation fought only a few foreign wars

But – in an Orwellian irony – since 1947 when the Department of War changed to the Department of Defense, the U.S. has been almost constantly at war. Now we simply pretend that endless wars were for our “defense.”

The US has been fighting wars practically non-stop for more than 70 years, but 1942 was the last time Congress actually declared war. All of our subsequent wars have been started by presidents with or without approval by Congress, in violation of the US Constitution and often in violation of the Vietnam-era War Powers Act.

Now the U.S. has between 750 and 800 military bases in about 80 nations around the world.

During the Cold War, the U.S. created NATO, so the USSR created the Warsaw Pact. After the Cold War ended a quarter of a century ago, the Warsaw Pact was dissolved, but – in violation to what the U.S. had promised – NATO expanded all the way to Russia’s borders, and NATO has conducted wars in areas even beyond the “North Atlantic.”

Public opinion surveys find more and more Americans saying our nation is “on the wrong track.” But those surveys never ask whether the public thinks endless wars and excessive militarization are examples of being “on the wrong track.” Public opinion polls do report that most Americans say the U.S. should **NOT** be the “world policeman.”

The self-serving myth of “American exceptionalism” is the notion that the U.S. is so special that we are not bound by international law, and that the U.S. is entitled to attack any other nation on earth. Ancient Greek tragedies referred to this as ***hubris***, the kind of arrogance that led to tragic outcomes in the ancient Greek tragedies. The U.S. keeps acting on the ***hubris*** of “American exceptionalism,” and we are reaping the consequences worldwide and at home.

To live in a civilized and truly secure nation and world, we must renounce killing in international matters – just like we do at the interpersonal level – and solve all of our problems in peaceful ways.

In 1954 the CIA first wrote about “blowback,” the CIA’s tendency to create enemies from its activities, but for nearly 70 years the CIA and the Pentagon have continued to do more and more of the very actions that they know are causing “blowback.” The CIA and Pentagon know they keep creating new enemies, so we attack them and create even more new enemies, and so on. It seems stupid to us, but **it gives escalating budgets and political power to the CIA and Pentagon** – and **it gives escalating profits to the weapons manufacturers who fund the election campaigns for Congress and presidents**.

**They do NOT want to win our endless wars, because this would shrink their budgets – and the profits of the weapons manufacturers and other U.S. businesses.**

Instead of cruel violence, we need a NONVIOLENT FOREIGN POLICY.

Imagine a **truly nonviolent** foreign policy grounded in fairness, compassion, economic justice, environmental sustainability, and profound respect for human rights, the oneness of the entire human family, and the best standards of International Law.

This **nonviolent** foreign policy would **create friends worldwide instead of provoking enemies worldwide**. It would allow us to slash the Pentagon budget, eliminate poverty, restore the environment, fund a bold Green New Deal, and more!

The government will NOT lead the way. **Only a bold, nonviolent grassroots movement can turn things around and lead us into a better future.**

**Let’s also practice nonviolence throughout ALL of American society!**

Presidents and Congress members will NOT lead the way, because they are stuck in the status quo ideology and profiteering. Instead, we must organize a powerful movement from the grassroots up. Then the people with the official power must bend to our will, or else we will vote them out and elect better “leaders.”

**We must organize people to build grassroots peace movements, including:**

* Organizing “Citizen Diplomacy” with person-to-person connections and solidarity with ordinary people in other nations.
* Bringing together organizations and constituencies that would benefit from cutting the military budget in order to fund human and environmental needs
* Teaching people the truth about the rest of the world – and how International Humanitarian Law and various international bodies serve peace and justice

**I like what the World Social Forum has affirmed: “Another world is possible!”**

**Yes, we can imagine a better world and work with other people to organize to bring it into being.**

**Let’s create a new foreign policy – a more ethical and effective one:**

* Let’s stop opposing treaties and international agreements that are good for the whole world.
* Let’s support the disarmament agreements that the U.S. has refused to join – and support new ones, such as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. (See [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org))
* Let’s close our foreign military bases. The U.S. wants them so it can control other countries – often to the detriment of their own people. Let’s stop our imperialistic military oppression.
* Let’s “spread democracy by example, not by bomb.”
* Let’s stop letting big businesses corrupt politicians with huge donations to their campaigns.

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

**Let’s envision what we really want instead of the status quo that has trapped us in military violence**. I truly believe that deep down, most Americans actually would prefer values that are humane, compassionate, peaceful, fair to everyone, and environmentally sustainable.

**How could we actually ABOLISH war?**

Many excellent peace organizations are working in strategically smart ways on various aspects of the problems – and working for smart solutions. See dozens of them listed **below on pages 24-25**. For example, I greatly appreciate the organization World BEYOND War ([**https://worldbeyondwar.org**](https://worldbeyondwar.org)). They produced a substantive document titled, **“A Global Security System: An Alternative to War.”** [**https://worldbeyondwar.org/alternative/**](https://worldbeyondwar.org/alternative/)

**How can we get from here to there? I recommend these four ways:**

**1. Teach the truth about U.S. foreign policy.**

**2. Debunk the myths that perpetuate militarism.**

**3. Promote profound nonviolence throughout society.**

**4. Get “Big Money” out of politics.**

**The American people – deep down – are alienated from U.S. foreign policy – and are afraid of nuclear weapons – but they feel stuck and don’t know what to do. 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.

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

**We need a strategically savvy nonviolent grassroots movement** to replace the status quo with a truly peaceful foreign policy. People of the U.S. and worldwide really do want peace.

**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.**

**Again, I recommend the three principles I showed on the TV screen and listed on page 17 above:**

#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.

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 been describing.

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!

**On a great many issues, the public is far, far ahead of what governments are willing to do. 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 steps.
* The public wants high quality health care for every person, but governments keep frefusing 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 refusing to do that. Congress keeps escalating the military budget and refusing to adequately fund the domestic programs that we really need.

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

1. 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.
2. **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.**

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!**

Powerful forces from above keep us stuck in a militaristic foreign policy, so **ONLY a NONVIOLENT GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT can solve the problems!** We must free ourselves from being stuck. This includes **changing our culture** and **eliminating the political corruption** that entrenches militarism.

**Voting is not enough to solve the systemic problems**.

**I want to emphasize again that the problems came from the top down, so the solutions must come from the bottom up. I showed this photo on the TV screen to illustrate that only a nonviolent GRASSROOTS PEACE MOVEMENT can change to a peaceful foreign policy.**

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

I invite you to visit various relevant parts of my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) Click the categories for “Peace,” “International Affairs,” “Nuclear Weapons,” “Terrorism,” “Military Spending,” and “Nonviolence.”

I posted this TV video to my blog, and now you are reading the transcript of what I said – plus a lot more information – and the following lists of BOOKS, WEBSITES, ORGANIZATIONS, and other sources of information.

I invite you to share these with other people. Invite people to visit [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), click **“TV Programs,”** and click this program’s title, **“Replace Simplistic ‘National Security’ with TRUE Security.”**

BOOKS and PUBLICATIONS:

* I highly recommend [**https://worldbeyondwar.org**](https://worldbeyondwar.org) and World BEYOND War’s smart resource, **“A Global Security System: An Alternative to War,”** which you can read or download at: [**https://worldbeyondwar.org/alternative/**](https://worldbeyondwar.org/alternative/)
* Recently I read Jeffrey Sachs’ 2018 book ***A New Foreign Policy: Beyond American Exceptionalism***. Sachs recommends a wise “internationalism” that encourages nations to understand each other and cooperate.
* I highly recommend reading a great book, ***Humankind: A Hopeful History*** by [**Rutger Bregman**](https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/rutger-bregman/2744434/) Earlier I mentioned that myths about “human nature” and “original sin” bog us down and keep us trapped in military violence. **We need to debunk these myths in order to free ourselves so we can change to a peaceful foreign policy.**  Rutger Bregman’s book ***Humankind*** debunks the common assumption that human nature is inherently selfish and governed primarily by self-interest. Instead, his research proves that we are hardwired for kindness, geared toward cooperation rather than competition, and more inclined to trust rather than distrust one another. Bregman shows us that believing in human generosity and collaboration isn't merely optimistic – it’s realistic.
* Research has shown that **non**violence really **does** work. It works better than efforts that include violence. Recent research proves that in the 20th century scrupulous nonviolence worked better than conflicts using even small amounts of violence. I highly recommend the well-researched and highly readable book ***Why Civil Resistance Works*** by Erica Chenoweth & Maria J. Stephan. I also recommend Erica Chenoweth’s TED Talks and YouTube videos.
* For more than half a century, Gene Sharp researched and wrote about nonviolence and how to use it effectively. I recommend the publications available at his website, the Albert Einstein Institution, [**www.aeinstein.org**](http://www.aeinstein.org) Many of the resources can be downloaded and printed out for free.
* The article titled, “Biden’s National Security Strategy Is a Defense of US Domination, Not Democracy” is at this link: [**https://truthout.org/articles/bidens-national-security-strategy-is-a-defense-of-us-domination-not-democracy/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=8eb908cc-5486-4a82-9789-c8d5359afc8f**](https://truthout.org/articles/bidens-national-security-strategy-is-a-defense-of-us-domination-not-democracy/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=8eb908cc-5486-4a82-9789-c8d5359afc8f)
* The home page of [**www.rootsaction.org**](http://www.rootsaction.org) features a “Primer on Foreign Policy” for U.S. congressional candidates. (See [**https://progressivehub.net/foreignpolicy/**](https://progressivehub.net/foreignpolicy/)) This peace organization gives it to candidates running for Congress so they will learn what they need to know.
* I know and respect Norman Solomon, the author of this article: **“The Convenient Myth of ‘Humane’ Wars: How America hides the human toll of its military machine”** at this link:[**https://www.thenation.com/article/world/middle-east-wars-terrorism/**](https://www.thenation.com/article/world/middle-east-wars-terrorism/)
* I highly recommend “The End Stage of American Empire” is an informative, insightful article Read it starting on page 1 and continuing onto page 7: [**Space-Alert-43.pdf**](file:///C:\Users\Glen\Downloads\Space-Alert-43.pdf)
* I also highly recommend the powerful writings of the savvy journalist Chris Hedges.

Glen’s blog and TV Programs:

For nearly six years I have been posting fresh information about peace-related topics to m blog, [**https://parallaxperspectives.org**](https://parallaxperspectives.org). (The word ***parallax*** has ONE R and TWO Ls.) People can watch this TV interview and/or read the thorough summary by clicking the blog category for “PEACE” or “TV PROGRAMS.” Click this episode’s title, **“Replace Simplistic ‘National Security’ with TRUE Security.”**

My blog’s **“TV programs” category** includes 65 programs I’ve produced and hosted since January 2018 (and a few from before that). Earlier in this TV program, I urged the U.S. to pivot away from the militaristic status quo. We must seriously plan how to free ourselves from fear – and to choose bold, creative alternatives to the status quo. Some of my TV programs help us do that. You can **watch the TV videos** and/or **read the thorough summaries of what we said** at these links:

* + My April 2022 TV program is all about transcending narrow nationalism and declaring ourselves to be citizens of the whole world. You can watch the one-hour video interview and/or read my thorough summary of what we said (with links to more information sources) at this link to his blog: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/world-citizenship-see-fascinating-information-here**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/world-citizenship-see-fascinating-information-here) This episode’s title is, **“World Citizenship: A Lost Piece of History -- And a Key to Humanity’s Survival.”**
  + My May 2022 TV program devotes an hour to explaining why and how nonviolent national defense would actually be more practical than military violence. I titled this TV episode, “**Nonviolent National Defense: A Practical Way to Be More Secure.”** You can watch the TV video and read the much more thorough article he wrote at this part of his blog: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/nonviolent-national-defense-a-practical-way-to-be-more-secure**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/nonviolent-national-defense-a-practical-way-to-be-more-secure)
* 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)

Organizations and Websites:

**I recommend these peace organizations and their websites:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Glen’s closing encouragement:**

I thank the people who have been watching this TV program.

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

We must boldly re-think what “SECURITY” means!

Instead of escalating militarism, let’s promote **TRUE** security for the U.S. and the rest of the world.

This requires changing to a truly peaceful foreign policy and solving systemic problems such as economic injustice and environmental abuse.

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

The problems are serious, so many people feel hopeless, powerless and cynical. But those negative 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.”**

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 [**glen@parallaxperspectives.org**](mailto:glen@parallaxperspectives.org)

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!**