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

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

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

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

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

Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 **[glen@parallaxperspectives.org](mailto:glen@parallaxperspectives.org)**

**🡪 This document provides a clear summary of what we said in the one-hour TV program. I encourage people to watch the interview and also to read this document for some additional information and links to more sources of information.**

**🡪 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 “Nuclear Weapons” and “Peace.”**

**“U.N. Update on Nuclear Weapons Treaty”**

Glen’s Parallax Perspectives TV Series

January 2024

Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 [**glen@parallaxperspectives.org**](mailto:glen@parallaxperspectives.org)

Joanne’s visual images consume a lot of computer memory, so I have not copied them into this document. Watch them through the TV program on cable TV (as noted in the second box above) or watch them through the video link on my blog (as noted in the second box above).

Turn the page to proceed.

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

This month’s interview on “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” provides you with the newest update about a powerful, inspiring, exciting worldwide movement to abolish all nuclear weapons.

Nine nations in the world have nuclear weapons. Most of the world’s nations are angry at them for holding the entire world hostage with the threat of destroying the world in nuclear war.

In July 2017 the United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly approved the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Now 69 nations have ratified the Treaty and are bringing its strong requirements into their own national laws.

Just recently – from November 27 to December 1, 2023, most of those nations and many other people gathered at the United Nations in New York for the second meeting of the nations that have ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

During this hour, Joanne Dufour – who attended the United Nations meeting with credentials – will share with you her first-hand experiences of what happened – and some additional information and insights.

Joanne Dufour has a long background in the peace movement, including first-hand experience volunteering directly with the United Nations in New York decades ago, and decades of experience working to abolish nuclear weapons. Joanne is an active member of the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons in Olympia, Washington.

Glen welcomed Joanne to this TV interview.

Glen said he will lay out some basic information. Then Joanne will share highlights from the exciting meeting she attended at the United Nations to strengthen the global movement to abolish nuclear weapons through the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

**What is the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons? What does it do?**

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is one of the most powerful and exciting treaties ever to be developed – and to gain significant traction among the world’s nations.

A treaty is a legal contract among nations. The nations that have ratified this Treaty seriously intend to eliminate all nuclear weapons worldwide.

This is not “pie in the sky.” In the past few decades, the world’s nations have ratified treaties that have banned entire categories of Weapons of Mass Destruction. **Glen showed this image on the TV screen. 🡪**

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The world has set a precedent for taking seriously the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

**Glen said now is the time to take this major step toward abolishing nuclear weapons!**

**Why was this Treaty developed? How did it come into being?**

**Here is the background and context in which most of the world’s nations have actually demanded the abolition of all nuclear weapons.**

About 50 years ago the world’s nations were worried that more and more nations might develop or acquire nuclear weapons. They devised a treaty to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) went into effect in 1970.

This was a grand bargain between the nations that already had nuclear weapons and the nations that did not. In exchange for the non-nuclear nations agreeing never to get nuclear weapons, the nations that did have nuclear weapons agreed to take actions to promptly reduce and eliminate theirs. In the NPT’s Article VI, the nuclear nations that signed the NPT promised – in writing – to promptly stop the nuclear arms race and to push for **“a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.”**

The NPT recognized five nations that had nuclear weapons then: the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, France, and China. Since then four more nations have developed nuclear weapons: India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel, for a total of nine now.

**The nuclear nations that signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty have been violating it for half a century by failing to take prompt action toward nuclear disarmament. Now the rest of the world has said, “Enough is enough! We’re going to solve this problem from the bottom up.”**

This is the context for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The rest of the world is acting upon the NPT’s grand bargain by creating and ratifying the TPNW. Leadership for the TPNW has come from the global South. Most nuclear weapons are owned by nations in the global North.

Here is what they did: The NPT authorized reviews to occur from time to time. The rest of the world was recognizing that the nuclear nations had not been making the progress toward disarmament that they had promised. During the 2010 review of the NPT about 40 non-nuclear nations raised strong concerns that they would suffer from a nuclear war, and they did not like being powerless in relation to the nuclear nations. They started discussing the crisis in 2010. By 2015, the number of nations discussing this increased to 100. They were planning how to actually abolish nuclear weapons.

***We did not have time during the interview to mention this link about the Treaty’s origins and practicality:***

Joanne used to maintain a disarmament blog for the national level of the Unitarian-Universalist church. This blog post is relevant: **“How the ‘Impossible’ Became Possible”** explains the origins and practicality of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: [**https://www.uua.org/international/blog/disarmament/how-impossible-became-possible**](https://www.uua.org/international/blog/disarmament/how-impossible-became-possible) “The point here is that the 2017 adopted Convention to Ban Nuclear Weapons may be pie in the sky for some, but this is simply a new chapter for those who have been working diligently for disarmament over the last several decades and is soon coming into force.”

**Joanne attended the special meeting of TPNW nations at the United Nations in New York:**

We produced this TV interview program in mid-December 2023. Now 69 nations have ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the TPNW. Ratification requires nations to bring the TPNW’s strong provisions into their own national laws.

Glen said he is happy that Joanne attended the recent meeting of the nations that have ratified the TPNW. It occurred from November 27 to December 1 at the United Nations headquarters in New York City. In addition to representatives from those nations, the meetings and other activities included a great many other people from around the world.

Joanne started showing her series of visual images and explained what we were seeing.

She said this meeting in New York was the second time that the ratifying nations gathered to make more progress. The ratifying nations are known as “states parties.” This meeting is known as “2MSP,” as her image shows. This meeting occurred at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The first MSP was held in Vienna, Austria.

She defined some important vocabulary terms:

**ICANW** is the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. This is the strategically savvy organization that has been promoting the TPNW and keeps moving it ahead. It’s known as “ICAN.” They won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for their work. They worked hard and skillfully behind the scenes to organize this meeting in New York. Their website is [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)

**ICRC** is the International Committee of the Red Cross. Their leader for many years urged nations to see the human beings affected by nuclear war rather than focus on the weapons’ technical details.

**Signing a treaty** means that a nation’s ambassador expressed interest and takes the first step so that nation can consider the treaty.

**Ratifying a treaty** is when a nation actually approves the treaty, brings its provisions into its own national laws, and promises to enforce it.

**States parties** is the term for the collection of nations that have ratified a treaty.

**Civil Society** is a term that is widely used at the United Nations. It refers to the great number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other civil organizations representing professions, religious organizations, and other civilian groups.

**Observer countries** are interested in the treaty but have not yet ratified it. They want to be present and learn more. Joanne said 30 nations observed.

**Parliamentarians** are people who guide nations’ legislative bodies at national or local levels.

**Off-site events in Manhattan:**

Joanne said many people arrived a few days before the official 2MSP events and participated in a variety of related events that occurred in locations elsewhere in Manhattan. Joanne showed and explained some images about these. She said there were 60 off-site events in advance and during the week. New Yorkers welcomed participants very well.

She said she attended one event at a big, beautiful Presbyterian church on Park Avenue. They welcomed ICAN’s organizers. She said about 500 persons attended this event. It ran all day long and featured three panels with panelists from a variety of countries.

The events included many young people. She said a quarter of the participants were under 30, and many were under 20.

**2nd Meeting of the States Parties occurred from November 27 to December 1 at the U.N. headquarters in NY:**

She said the 2MSP began on a sunny, brisk morning. She showed an image of a crowd outside the building where people would be picking up their badges. While waiting in line, she met interesting persons, including a woman from Finland who was active in the international organization of physicians working to prevent nuclear war.

She showed a photo of the U.N.’s Trusteeship Council room, which was huge. She explained that the Trusteeship Council has completed its work, so it no longer operates. She said when the U.N. was created after World War II, the Trusteeship Council was created to take care of the areas that had been dominated by the nations that had lost World War II – and guide them into whatever futures those areas chose.

However, she said, some of those trust areas were abused by the victors of World War II when those big nations developed nuclear weapons and used those areas as places to test their nuclear weapons. The U.S., the U.K. and France did that. Now people from the nations that emerged from those areas participated in 2MSP with voices opposing nuclear weapons.

Glen said one example is the Marshall Islands, where the U.S. tested dozens of nuclear weapons in the 1950s and 1960s and seriously hurt ecosystems and local people. He said instead of protecting the Marshall Island, we tested nuclear weapons there.

Glen’s August 2021 TV program interviewed two Marshall Islanders who explained this. You can watch the TV interview with them and/or read a thorough summary of what we said at this link: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/marshall-islanders-still-suffer-from-u-s-nuclear-weapons-testing-1946-1958**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/marshall-islanders-still-suffer-from-u-s-nuclear-weapons-testing-1946-1958)

Joanne showed a photo of the huge meeting room with the central seating for representatives from 59 of the 69 ratifying nations. (Ten could not attend for various reasons.) Other chairs were for the observing nations and some of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) with permanent status.

She and other people could see this from an elevated gallery area. Some of the people in that area had seats with translation audio links available; other people heard only each speaker’s own language.

She showed a photo of the big meeting room, which had a big screen in front. Appearing on the screen were the images of the persons who were chosen to speak.

The president of this 2MSP global conference was the U.N. ambassador from Mexico. Mexico had long supported efforts to abolish nuclear weapons. Joanne expressed great appreciation for his warm, welcoming, diplomatic way of interacting with everyone. Joanne showed his photo, as it had appeared on the meeting room’s big screen.

She said that – after the introductory matters – the first person invited to speak was the new President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The previous President of the ICRC had been a very, very strong promoter of the TPNW.

Joanne said that a good number of years ago when ICAN was working with many of the world’s nations to consider developing the Treaty that has now gone into effect, the previous head of the ICRC worked long and hard to emphasize to the world community that – if a nuclear war were to occur – the Red Cross could NOT help the people suffering, because the suffering would be so massive and most of the Red Cross’s people would be dead. Therefore, creating the TPNW was absolutely necessary to PREVENT nuclear war instead of merely hoping to help people after the bombings.

Joanne said the next invited speaker was Melissa Parke, the woman who replaced Beatrice Fihn as the head of ICAN. Beatrice Fihn had accepted the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for ICAN in December 2017. Recently she retired, and Melissa Parke now is the new Executive Director of ICAN.

Joanne said that our local members of the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (OCANW) had met some of the speakers and other leaders in this movement because we have read their books, or we have been in Zoom meetings with them. Some of them have taken our online course about nuclear weapons.

She showed a photo of Catholic Archbishop Wester, who has been a strong voice opposing nuclear weapons. He comes from New Mexico, a state heavily involved in nuclear weapons, and he has spoken and written boldly for abolishing them. He has strongly supported Pope Francis’ strong support for the TPNW in the past several years. The pope boldly and bluntly denounced nuclear weapons as immoral.

Joanne said a great number of young people participated in the 2MSP. She showed the image of a young woman who has been volunteering with and representing an organization that helps young people from the Marshall Islands strengthen their voices about the horrible damage the U.S.’s nuclear weapons testing has caused to the people and ecosystems of the Marshall Islands.

[The Marshall Islands are near the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line. Although the United Nations designated the U.S. as the “trustee” to protect them after Japan lost them in World War II, the U.S. seriously hurt the people and ecosystems by testing 67 nuclear weapons there from the 1950s to 1960s.]

The factual knowledge has been suppressed, so this young woman’s organization is working with young Marshallese people to re-discover the knowledge and to publicize it.

Joanne also showed a photo of Dr. Ira Helfand, who had accepted the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize for the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). Dr. Helen Caldicott is a famous leader in IPPNW. Joanne knows Dr. Helfand through a Rotary group that works for peace.

She showed on the screen a list of the various kinds of participants. These include ambassadors from nations that have ratified the TPNW, official representatives from 35 observer nations that have not yet signed or ratified the TPNW but are very much interested in it, representatives from 700 civil society organizations (including labor unions, groups of scientists, etc.), a huge number of young people, including high school and college students (including some from nations where nuclear weapons had been tested), and a great many victims of nuclear weapons tests and the organizations representing them. She added that some of the students were expert presenters, not merely observers. She said that altogether, about one thousand persons were at the 2MSP.

She said parliamentarians from various parts of the world participated. She attended a meeting of parliamentarians – most of whom came from nations that have not yet signed on to the TPNW.

She pointed out that some people who are experts in the world of investments participated and encouraged divesting from all businesses that provide any kind of financial support for nuclear weapons.

Joanne has a decades-long history of involvement with the United Nations – including first-hand participation there in New York City decades ago. Glen said that when he has heard Joanne talk about her activities, he has appreciated her appreciation for the diversity of people there. This goes beyond the diversity of nationalities and includes people from a wide variety of non-profit organizations and other volunteers from what is often called “civil society.” She replicated some of that enthusiasm and first-hand knowledge when discussing the people she interacted with at the recent 2MSP.

**Some events and discussions at 2MSP:**

Joanne said about 60 off-site events occurred, and more than 40 on-site events occurred. She showed a photo of an on-site conference room with participants working to strengthen the Nuclear-Free Pacific. Participants included people from French Polynesia, the Marshall Islands, Australia, and other nations. They were discussing how to support and implement the TPNW.

She showed a photo and expressed great appreciation for a scientist named Zia Mian, a professor from Princeton University who co-chairs the Science Advisory Group. His great expertise and outspokenness inspired many people to quote him and support his efforts. She said that when the MSP held their first meeting a year ago in Vienna, the participants recognized the need to get strong scientific participation, so they created the Science Advisory Group, which Dr. Mian co-chairs. Science is directly relevant to many aspects of nuclear weapons, including the technical aspects of the weapons themselves, the scientific/medical damage to people and environments, and the scientific aspects of abolishing nuclear weapons. He and his co-chair, Dr. Diana Lewis from a British university, convened a group of approximately twenty scientists from around the world. Joanne showed on the TV screen her copy of their 50-page report.

Nuclear weapons are a complex issue. Many sub-issues need to be discussed and dealt with in order to achieve our overall goal of abolishing nuclear weapons. Joanne showed on the screen a list of topics of some of the discussions that occurred. **These included:**

* Making clear decisions about some aspects of the TPNW that were not quite clear enough (*e.g*., how to verify if a country is actually removing weapons).
* Creating ways to make progress between the Meetings of the States Parties. Work must go on, so they need to devise strategies and procedures for continual progress between the MSP sessions.
* Joanne said the TPNW is the very first treaty about nuclear weapons that actually mentions how they affect human beings. Articles 6 and 7 deal with reporting on that – and also on how nuclear weapons have already affected the environment.
* Setting up an international trust fund to deal with that damage to persons and the environment.
* Dealing with security concerns that other nations that still have nuclear weapons endanger the nations that have ratified the Treaty.
* Implementing the recommendations of the Science Advisory Group.
* Dealing seriously with other human effects (*e.g*., on women and children).
* Planning who will do what to continue making more progress related to the TPNW

**More participants:**

Joanne said that her official participation in 2MSP was through a Rotary group, which is an NGO there. She said Rotary groups exist in every country, and two Rotary groups work worldwide to support this Treaty and urge every country to ratify it.

Fourteen Rotary members met together there to promote this. She showed a photo of some of them, including her, a woman from India, and a woman from Japan.

She showed a photo of Ward Wilson, a university professor who had written a book titled, ***It Is Possible: A World Without Nuclear Weapons***. He presented to the 2MSP his smart strategies about how to persuade nations that have nuclear weapons to get rid of them. Participants knew his message would be compelling and practical, so the room was full of people learning from him how to build the abolition movement within nations that have nuclear weapons. His book has been widely praised by a very wide variety of experts, including retired military generals.

**Outcomes:**

It is important for people to meet together. It’s even more important for their meetings to actually produce good results.

Joanne showed on the TV screen a list of some of the outcomes from the 2MSP. **They included these:**

1. A very strong debunking of nuclear “deterrence” as a myth that is not at all valid and is a core problem. She said nuclear weapons did not stop any of the 200 wars that have occurred since World War II. Indeed, two nuclear-armed nations (Russia and Israel) are waging aggressive wars now, but no other nations’ nuclear weapons have stopped their wars.
2. The release of the Scientific Advisory Group Report
3. Consensus on humanitarian aspects and creation of a trust fund to help the human and environmental victims of testing and bombing. She said that every one of the dozens of paragraphs was approved unanimously.
4. Voluntary reporting on Articles 6 and 7 (see page 6)
5. Appreciation for the efforts of NGOs, civil society groups, young people, and so forth.
6. Pledges to “universalize” the message – to bring the anti-nuclear message and movement to many different kinds of audiences and build the movement.

Joanne said the next global meeting will occur from March 3 to 7, 2025, at the United Nations in New York. That meeting will be chaired by the U.N. ambassador from Kazakhstan. The Soviet Union had tested and deployed nuclear weapons in Kazakhstan. When the USSR broke up, Kazakhstan told Russia to take the weapons back, and Kazakhstan has been working vigorously to abolish nuclear weapons worldwide.

She said the 3MSP will include a gathering of all five of the “Nuclear Free Zones” from all over the world, involving dozens of nations. Several parts of the world have created “Nuclear Free Zones” to exclude anything related to nuclear weapons from happening there. Mexico was one of the first. It spread throughout Latin America in 1967.

**U.S. politicians and mainstream media FAIL TO REPORT truthfully about nuclear weapons, so we ourselves must inform the public:**

Glen thanked Joanne for providing such solid and powerful information. He said we need this kind of information and encouragement so we can deal with the daunting problems of nuclear weapons. He expressed great appreciation for Joanne and the other people she mentioned who have been working vigorously on this. We need this kind of positive approach so people don’t simply bog down with the lament, “Ain’t it awful.” People really are organizing to solve the problems.

Glen encouraged us to move ahead with our organizing efforts. He said that since the 1940s, American politicians and American news media have grossly failed to inform the American people about the honest facts about nuclear weapons. During the Cold War, the official pronouncements were one-sided to frighten the public about the Soviet Union while supporting the U.S.’s repeated provocations for escalating the nuclear arms race. He said that starting in the 1940s, the U.S. did escalate each new step in the nuclear arms race. Each of the U.S.’s provocations frightened the Soviet Union into trying to catch up because they were afraid that the U.S. was threatening their national security.

Even after the Cold War, the propaganda has been promoting fear of Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran (even though Iran does NOT have nuclear weapons). U.S. propaganda fails to report that Israel has nuclear weapons. The U.S. is currently lavishly funding Israel’s war against Palestinian people, even though that war violates international law in many ways.

All of this long pattern is very much one-sided.

Even when the rest of the world reported on the United Nations General Assembly’s overwhelming approval of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in July 2017 (122 “yes” votes from 193 nations), **U.S. politicians and mainstream media refused to report on this historically important news**.

Therefore – since the U.S. government and mainstream media have failed to inform the public about it – ordinary people like Joanne and the rest of us and our peace organizations are working hard to provide the necessary information to prevent the nine nuclear nations from destroying the world.

The TV program you are watching now is one way to inform the public about the problems and solutions.

Many organizations around the world – including in the U.S. – and here in Olympia and other parts of Washington State – are working to inform the public and to organize a grassroots movement to pressure the government to abolish nuclear weapons. (See page 10.)

**You can help!** Please connect with peace organizations. Please share information with your network of friends and family. Please push the government to start acting responsibly. See more information at the end of this document.

**How could people support the Treaty and promote nuclear disarmament?**

**Glen said nuclear weapons and other problems came from the top down, so the solutions must come from the bottom up! Only a nonviolent GRASSROOTS PEACE MOVEMENT can change to a peaceful foreign policy and abolish nuclear weapons! He showed this photo on the TV screen:**



Joanne added that the movement for the TPNW is growing worldwide. She said a recent letter supporting the TPNW was signed by 154 nations, even though many of those have not formally signed on to the Treaty itself. Also, she said this morning she heard a statement from the Costa Rican ambassador who had written the TPNW. That woman said she was impressed by the determination of the nations’ participants in 2MSP who are vigorously raising their voices. The 69 ratifiers and the 93 signatories are building a global movement and they are NOT letting the 9 nuclear nations get away with holding the rest of the world hostage. The global determination of the 1,000 persons at 2MSP was so very warm and enthusiastic that it was a truly powerful force.

**Glen showed the photo again on the screen and said that on a great many issues, the public is far, far ahead of what governments are willing to do.**

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

1. He said we need to overcome a systemic/political/cultural constraint. He said our political culture shows us only a VERY LIMITED range of choices. You can vote for the Republican Party, which supports nuclear weapons – or the Democratic Party, which supports nuclear weapons. Both parties support a militaristic foreign policy and lots of war. The two big pro-war parties have created a system that won’t let us choose third parties – and won’t let us choose other ways to interact with nations. Both parties have ordained that the U.S. is allowed to dominate the world – and they prohibit serious challenges to that foreign policy.

2. In order to make real progress WE OURSELVES must CREATE A MUCH WIDER RANGE of choices, including VERY BOLD SOLUTIONS – and also ENCOURAGE AND EMPOWER OTHER PEOPLE to join with us to build ever-growing grassroots movements with smart strategies and activities. **This is what Joanne has been enthusiastically telling us about during this hour.**

3. We need to seriously debunk the propaganda and political/economic abuses that have allowed nuclear weapons to exist. We must seriously challenge their existence – and say WE REALLY CAN ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS! We must propose a bold, new peaceful foreign policy that would make us TRULY SECURE by ABOLISHING nuclear weapons altogether! Joanne added that the 2MSP at the U.N. coined the word “UNIVERSALIZE” to urge spreading this message far and wide.

4. We really can do this! Glen said that he started reading Gene Sharp’s writings in 1976, and in 1978 he went to Seattle to hear Gene Sharp speak. Gene Sharp was the world’s best researcher on the power of active nonviolence and how to build strategically savvy nonviolent grassroots movements to achieve political and social goals. He said, **“Dictators are never as strong as they tell you they are,”** AND HE SAID, **“People are never as weak as they think they are.”** See much excellent information at his non-profit organization [**www.aeinstein.org**](http://www.aeinstein.org). You can download and print out some of it for free.

5. Our problems – nuclear weapons, political corruption, economic injustice, the environment and climate, and so forth – are gigantic problems, so they require bold, gigantic solutions. Therefore, we must organize to accomplish **SOLUTIONS THAT ARE VERY BOLD, SWEEPING AND COMPREHENSIVE**. Too often, people limit themselves to asking what is “politically feasible,” so they ask for small changes that merely tinker with details and fit within the current mind-set and ideology that have been constrained by the political and economic elites. But, in order to make real progress, we must organize nonviolent grassroots movements to accomplish TRULY BOLD goals – such as changing to a truly peaceful foreign policy and abolishing nuclear weapons.

6. **Instead of limiting ourselves to what the elites tell us is “politically feasible,” we need to EXPAND OUR VISION to make TRULY BOLD goals become “politically feasible! We need to MOVE THE GOALPOSTS!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reason #4. We are stuck because Congress and the Supreme Court keep allowing “Big Money” to corrupt election campaigns – and they allow “secret money” to finance the corrupt election campaigns.

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

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

**The peace movement – in the U.S. and worldwide – must organize a bigger, more strategically savvy grassroots movement to ABOLISH nuclear weapons worldwide, change to a peaceful foreign policy, and solve other big systemic problems!**

**Sources of information:**

You are reading the thorough summary Glen typed up about what he and Joanne said on TV. (The blog post containing this document (in the “TV Programs” category of [**https://parallaxperspectives.org**](https://parallaxperspectives.org)) also includes a link for people to watch this TV video.)

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a smart strategy. See information at the website of ICAN, the worldwide organization promoting it: [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)

My blog’s category dealing with nuclear weapons contains much information and many fresh insights. Here is the link to my blog’s nuclear weapons category: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/nuclear-weapons**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/nuclear-weapons)

A great many excellent sources of information exist. These include books, non-profit organizations, websites, and so forth. I compiled a good, long list and posted it to my blog. Here is that link: **<https://parallaxperspectives.org/list-of-many-excellent-sources-of-information-about-nuclear-weapons>**

I have produced a number of TV programs about nuclear weapons. You can visit this link to my blog’s list of TV programs since January 2018 and scroll through the pages to see several programs about nuclear weapons. Here is the link to the past six years of my TV programs: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/tv-programs-parallax-perspectives-series**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/tv-programs-parallax-perspectives-series)

I urge everyone to connect with organizations working to abolish nuclear weapons. Many exist at the national level – and also at the local level. Here in Olympia, Washington, the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons has been organizing strategically smart activities since 2017. I’m the primary contact person for our local group. Please contact me at (360) 491-9093 or [**glen@parallaxperspectives.org**](mailto:glen@parallaxperspectives.org)

You can contact our Washington statewide coalition at [**www.wanwcoalition.org**](http://www.wanwcoalition.org) and find a local group near where you live.

**Glen’s closing encouragement:**

Glen thanked Joanne Dufour for sharing her powerful information and wise insights.

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

An old saying wisely says that if you don’t change direction, you will end up where you are heading. We are heading toward nuclear war and the destruction of Planet Earth.

The “conventional wisdom” wants us to believe that nuclear weapons make us safe and secure. Actually, nuclear weapons are a hair-trigger away from destroying life on earth.

If we REALLY want to be safe and secure, we must ABOLISH nuclear weapons and change to a nonviolent foreign policy that is grounded in honest diplomacy and cooperation. Peace is possible, but only if we choose to change to a peaceful direction. Let’s choose peace instead of global suicide.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a smart strategy. See information at the website of the worldwide organization promoting it: [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)

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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!**