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***WWFOR** seeks to replace violence, war, racism and economic injustice with nonviolence, equality, peace and justice. It links and strengthens FOR members and chapters throughout Western Washington in promoting activities consistent with the national FOR statement of purpose. WWFOR helps members and chapters accomplish together what we could not accomplish alone.*

2024 Spring Assembly

by David Lambert

While experiencing a deep emotional response listening to Holly Gwinn Graham’s song leading up to the official beginning of this annual event, I found myself wanting to savor the moment listening to the music, but I had to focus on preparing myself to give the upcoming welcome to the Assembly participants. The Assembly planners decided to honor Holly during this year’s event, for her songs and even more as a person and advocate for justice and peace. It didn’t take long into the program to experience another emotional pull as Larry Kerschner, during his introduction of Kathy Kelly, read the poem, Blessed Are the Peacemakers, from his experience in Iraq. Larry had spent time with Kathy and WWFOR member, Bert Sacks, during the Iraq war, providing humanitarian goods to Iraqi people at a time when the U.S. government had sanctions against such actions. Larry’s poem was to me a stark depiction of the horror, the folly, the doublespeak, and the evils of war. His introduction of Kathy was heartfelt and genuine.

Kathy Kelly began her slide presentation with a short segment of Leonard Cohen’s song Anthem from which the lyrics “Ring the Bells That Still Can Ring” came which was the first part of her talk. The full title was: “Ring the Bells That Still Can Ring. Supporting Movements Worldwide, to End the Scourge of War.” Her presentation was acutely informative, powerful, personal, and I loved her “out of the box” thinking when she spoke of a vision that each of the 500+ U.S. military bases around the planet be transformed into health, education, and humanitarian service entities. She told of a project she was involved in after spending time with young Afghan people in Leiria, Portugal, working in an Afghan resettlement project of InPulsar ([InPulsar](#) is accepting donations (checks) to the A. J. Muste Foundation and sent to [AJ Muste Foundation](#), 55 Exchange Place, suite 405, NY, NY 10005. Donations can also be made online designating [InPulsar](#) when you specify “in honor.”)

Kathy described how 17 young Afghan youth were involved in occupational, educational, social, gardening, group discussions and other activities where they could share with one another, helping each other to find a greater sense of inner stability and peace. She presented this project in the greater context of a worldwide movement of people fleeing their own countries.

She spent time discussing the current student campus protests and one very poignant part was a slide featuring a Columbia University building the students had renamed Hind Hall; named after the little Palestinian girl, Hind, who, just before dying, had called the Palestinian Red Cross saying: “I am so scared, come take me. Please will you come.” Kathy shared a number of slides on the campus protest movement against the Israeli government and military’s war against Hamas and the Palestinian people and included a trailer of the movie “Disturbing the Peace.” This film featured both Israeli and Palestinian citizens talking, working, and sharing together in a [Combatants for Peace](#) program (cfpeace.org) dedicated to nonviolence and opposing the Israeli occupation. Kathy’s presentation displayed a very personal and human side of people, particularly young people in war situations the United States has been involved in and what is being done to help heal the injured, emotionally, mentally, and physically. Several slides also depicted the amount of monies companies like Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, and Raytheon Technologies Corporation gouge from our national

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economy for deadly purposes, including making various weapons that are sent to the Israeli military to use in the war in Gaza. The Spring Assembly planners wanted a keynote speaker who could discuss social movements and instill hope and Kathy proved to be such an individual in her presentation.

Following Kathy’s presentation, breakout rooms were available for small groups of participants. There the participants hashed out issues on their mind related to issues activated by the presentation. Kathy spent several minutes in a number of these groups and significantly enriched the group I was in. A couple things she mentioned: 1) Just that day, Ralph Nader’s letter to Joe Biden had been published; and 2) In reference to our discussion about it being ok to be maladjusted considering the oftentimes felt insanity about the world situation; she used the term “Compassionately Maladjusted.” These group discussions were followed by a Question and Answer period.

After the break, Dwija Amadala, recent MYPF graduate, introduced the several current MYPF activists who each shared about their social justice projects: Justin Yang; his project was working to help Washington State declare a climate emergency (WADE) which included meeting with two state legislators. These were Larry Springer, Deputy Majority Leader of the House and Democratic Representative Davina Duerr. Vindhya Amadala who studied racial equity and in particular, has been working on designing a racial equity program for middle school aged youth. Vindhya expressed that she learned how responsive and aware the youth are from her role as a member of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council of Washington State; that so many young people are strongly committed to making social change. Anoova Sattar shared her social justice work focusing on eating disorders, particularly regarding people living in South Asia and her project and ongoing desire is to help create a safe and non-judgemental space on the internet for people of that region of the world to communicate about eating disorders to help overcome cultural barriers of being open about this condition. Mary Lou Finley, one of the coordinators of the MYPF program, mentioned that there are still openings to this coming year’s program

which begins in July, and that the deadline is June 10th for getting applications in. Mary Lou also mentioned that this coming year’s program will be over in late January 2025.

The final part of the formal Assembly included several songs by the Raging Grannies, and they were a delight. And then the conference officially ended with a fitting tribute to Holly Graham with her song: Peaceful Revolution.

Here is the Chorus:

Can we all come together at this time of evolution?

Can we lift our hearts together in a peaceful revolution?

Can we bravely sing out for what is true?

And are we strong enough to live it, once we do?

Afterward, there was an informal discussion with plenty of stimulating and thoughtful comments and responses.



Kathy Kelly with a refugee

Applications for our youth training program, the Mike Yarrow Peace Fellowship, are being accepted through June 10, 2024. The **2024-25 MYPF program** will include online training this summer in Kingian Nonviolence. Participants will then plan and carry out a project in their school or community from September 2024 until January 31, 2025. They will receive a stipend of \$500. See information and a link to the application **here** [<https://wwfor.org/mike-yarrow-peace-fellowship-4/>].

Moving Back from the Brink:

Pacific Northwest organizers join a global campaign to abolish all nukes and push for a city council resolution to start. Written April 4, 2024

[by Gene Marx, Veterans for Peace, chapter 111](#)

“This world really is impossible to manage so long as we have nuclear weapons,” President Kennedy confided to a friend a day before his blockade speech: *“It is really a terrible way to have to live in this world.”*

At 5:30 a.m. on July 16, 1945, a flash *“brighter than a thousand suns”* lit the Alamogordo desert in New Mexico. General Leslie Groves, the overseer of the Manhattan Project estimated the explosive force of Trinity, the first full scale test of the implosion-type atomic fission bomb, *“in excess of the equivalent of 15,000 to 20,000 tons of TNT.”*

Grove’s report continued to describe *“a fireball brighter than several midday suns;”* a stratospheric mushroom cloud over 41,000 feet; and an explosive force resulting in a crater 1,200 feet in diameter and shattering windows 125 miles away.

According to War Secretary Henry Stimson, President Truman was giddy, *“tremendously pepped up,”* confident and invigorated enough to call the annihilation of Hiroshima three weeks later to the sailors on the [USS Augusta](#) while returning from Potsdam *“the greatest thing in history.”*

Today, a mere lifetime and thousands of Trinities later, nine nuclear nations control the futures of billions of global inhabitants. The cataclysmic potential of more than 13,000 nuclear weapons in 2024, each with unimaginable destructive power, are but a single miscalculation, false flag attack or accident away from ravaging the planet.

Recently, longtime antinuclear activist, Dr. Helen Caldicott described the medical effects of a single 20-megaton bomb dropped on an American city, New York or maybe Boston:

A Russian 20-megaton bomb would enter at 20 times the speed of sound exploding with the heat of the sun, digging a hole three-quarters of a mile wide and 88 feet deep, converting all buildings, people and earth shot up into the air as a mushroom cloud. Twenty miles from the epicenter, all humans would be killed or lethally injured, some converted to charcoal statues. Winds of 500 mph turn people into missiles traveling at 100 mph. A massive conflagration would follow covering 300 square miles and the fires would coalesce across the nation.

As cities burn across the world, a massive cloud of toxic black smoke will elevate into the stratosphere blocking out the sun for ten years inducing a short ice age nuclear winter when all humans and most plants and animals will perish.

Closer to home, the Pacific Northwest is a major nuclear, strategically targeted region in any war, if only to include the [1,300 nuclear warheads](#) at Kitsap Bangor Naval Base and submarine communications base, Naval Radio Station [Jim Creek](#), near Oso, both within 73 and 58 miles, as eagles fly, from Bellingham, both listed as [primary U.S. ground zeros](#) for Russia’s crosshairs. Doing the cataclysmic math for a strike on Oso, the [City of Subdued Excitement](#) and most of Skagit County would be consumed in less than fifteen minutes in a mega-inferno, and finished off by shockwaves and Carl Sagan’s “witches brew of radioactive particles” raining down as fallout.

Those “lucky” enough to have survived will realize within minutes they are entirely on their own. No 911. No FEMA. Just struggling to self-survive.

While individual and cultural psychic-numbing provides most of the post-Cold War populace with a much-needed coping mechanism to keep from being overwhelmed. Many of the rest of us remember all too well nuclear annihilation threats from U.S. presidents and Soviet leaders, the inefficacies of civil defense exercises and the Cuban Missile crisis, and most refuse to check out, just yet.

They know that nuclear weapons matter to people at the local level and campaign organizers hope our City Council will join this global effort to abolish every nuclear warhead by passing a resolution in support of the goals and provisions of the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, in effect a lasting legacy for Bellingham, to take the nuclear option off the table, for generations and billions of futures to come.

The author of [Nuclear War: A Scenario](#), Annie Jacobsen, likely said it best,

With time, after a nuclear war, all present-day knowledge will be gone. Including the knowledge that the enemy was not North Korea, Russia, America, China, Iran, or anyone else vilified as a nation or group.

It was the nuclear weapons that were the enemy of us all. All along.

Ultimately, avoiding a nuclear war depends on the judgement of national leadership controlling the arsenals. Let’s hope a changemaker is listening.

Project 2025 and other Plans for a Trump Dictatorship

by John M Repp

In 1980, the [Heritage Foundation](#) wrote up a plan that Ronald Reagan asked his cabinet members to read and study. The plan helped the Reagan Administration implement its policies of increased defense spending, cutting regulations implemented by executive agencies and departments, and lowering the top tax rate from 73% to just 28% in eight years.

Starting in 2022, Heritage began working on Project 2025, a plan for the next Republican Administration. The plan wants to bypass civil service in the hiring of the employees of the executive agencies and departments. They have been gathering a list of “conservative” employees. They will be tested and trained before starting work. In short, the new Republican president will not have to answer to the 1871 law the Congress passed to set up the civil service. It will massively increase the power of a president.

Normally, a new president appoints about 4000 persons to run the agencies and departments of the executive branch. They are the executives, and the employees are civil servants. Project 2025 hopes to change that so the new President can appoint as many as 50,000 new employees, directly responsible to the President. This change would in effect return us to the “spoils system” that was abolished with the development of civil service. As President, Trump tried to do the same thing with the “Schedule F” executive order, but it did not work the way he wanted. Agency and department heads stood in the way of his wishes. He wants dictatorial power.

Project 2025 proposes to dismantle efforts to reduce the greenhouse gases that cause global warming, an existential threat to our species. It will gut the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration! Project 2025 advocates repealing the Inflation Reduction Act which offers \$370 billion for clean technology. On abortion, it proposes to start enforcing the Comstock Act of the 1870’s that makes it illegal to send contraceptives and abortion inducing medicine through the U.S. mail.

The scariest part of the whole plan was revealed by The Washington Post. I quote from the article on [Project 2025 in Wikipedia](#): “Citing an anonymous source, *The*

Washington Post reported in November 2023, prior to the project’s release, that Project 2025 includes immediately invoking the [Insurrection Act of 1807](#) to deploy the military for domestic law enforcement and directing the DOJ to pursue Trump adversaries.”

Plan 2025 executives denied that *Washington Post* report. [But Trump has said he would be a “dictator” only on day one.](#) But do dictators usually give up power willfully once they have achieved it? And this project 2025 tells us that Trump has plenty of allies in his desire to set up a dictatorship that changes policy. Remember, each of the executive agencies and departments was set up by laws passed by Congress to deal with problems such as climate change.

Trump has said more than once that climate change is a hoax, despite more and more people fearing for our collective future as they see the ever more volatile weather.

[In April of 2024, Trump invited more than 20 oil company executives to Mar-a-Lago for a dinner. When Trump talked to them, he asked them to give him a billion dollars, and in exchange he would gut any of the environmental regulations that Biden has been able to pass.](#)

The Biden Administration has taken more than 300 actions to deal with the climate crisis. Yes, it may be too little too late, but it is a start.

[The story of Trump asking for a bribe has shocked much of the establishment press by its boldness.](#) Other people are saying actions like this that Trump takes, blow the cover off of how our government really works. In the past, corrupt politicians would use a wink and a nod when talking with wealthy donors who wanted something. Trump said it out loud in this case. The loyal followers of the Trump cult like this kind of “honesty”.

[According to the Supreme Court’s Citizens United case, what Trump did was legal.](#)



NO! NO! NO!

by Cindy Cole, from a suggestion by Bruce Radtke

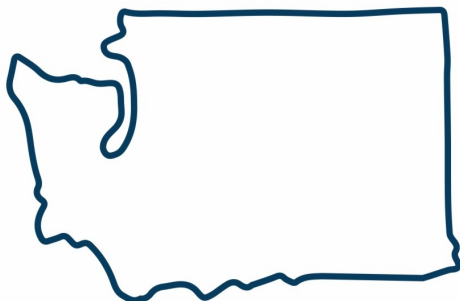
Vote No on these three initiatives this November.

We need a fairer tax code that will benefit Washington families and small businesses.

Keep the Capital Gains Tax. **Defeat Initiative-1209** This measure will repeal the tax on those making over \$250,000 a year in profit on capital gains. Real estate, retirement accounts and farms are exempt. I-1209 will cut more than \$5 billion over 6 years for education, childcare, and early learning. I-1209 will put more pressure on the rest of us to make up the difference in sales and property taxes. Vote NO. For more information: <https://www.investwanow.org/>

Protect our environment. **Defeat Initiative-2117.** This initiative will roll back air and water, forest and farmland protections and take a big chunk out of our transportation investments. I-2117 will slash money for wildfire, forest health and land management. Those who produce the pollution will shift more of the burden back on all of us to keep our water and air clean. I-2117 cuts billions in investments in ferries, transit services and road projects. Vote NO. For more information: <https://no2117.com/>

Keep long term benefits for Washingtonians. **Defeat Initiative-2124.** If passed this measure would take away long term benefits from 85% of Washington citizens. People with pre-existing conditions would not be able to access long term care. It would put a \$8.1 billion hole in our long term benefits program causing hikes in premiums and most likely bankrupting the program. Doctors, Nurses, and Health organizations urge you to Vote NO. For more information: <https://www.noon2124.org/>



LETTERS TO MAINSTREAM PAPERS

To the Editor of Cascadia Daily News, April 12, 2024

Nuclear weapons are a local issue. In the next 30 years, the United States plans to spend \$1.7 trillion on modernizing and adding to our nuclear arsenal. In the \$900 billion military budget proposed for 2025, a portion of that is for nuclear weapons. We need to transition away from nuclear weapons and this bloated military budget in general. We need this money for human needs, mitigating climate change, etc.

In addition, 58 miles from Bellingham as the crow flies is the Jim Creek Naval Radio Station for the Bangor Naval Submarine Bases. (The antenna can communicate with submarines in the seas all over the Pacific.) It is a prime nuclear target for weapons hundreds of times larger than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. A group of citizens has submitted a resolution to the Bellingham City Council to join 80 other cities and municipalities across the U.S. to bring us “Back from the Brink” of nuclear war. The council needs to sign this resolution.

Cindy Cole, Bellingham

To the Editor of the Seattle Times, May 22, 2024

Re: [“Protesters clear UW encampment by deadline”](#) [May 21, A1]:

Thank you for covering the Gaza encampment at the University of Washington. I’m sorry to see it close, but we all knew it would not be forever.

As I walked through the well-organized, welcoming tents and clean byways, I felt so proud of the students, staff and faculty who collectively made this happen.

They did not directly stop the suffering in Gaza and the West Bank, but they have kept the Israeli atrocities in our consciousness and revealed the universities and Boeing’s callous disregard of participating in genocide.

They also have shown it’s possible to build a community of abundance where everyone is welcomed, fed, sheltered and respected. Muslims, Jews, Christians and atheists lived in harmony and showed the possible future of Palestine as a secular, socialist inclusive state.

The organizing for an end to the suffering of the Palestinian people will continue until they are free.

Henry Noble, Seattle

Gaza and U.S. Student Protests

by John M Repp May 24, 2024.

On October 7, 2023, the military wing of Hamas, attacked some units of the Israeli Defense Force or IDF, some Israeli settlements and a music festival inside Israel. They caused the worst military setback in the history of the State of Israel. The attack caught the Israelis off guard. On that day, a concentration of IDF was active up around the West Bank supporting Israeli settlers who were harassing Palestinians, taking farms and villages.

Hamas is a political movement that won an election against Fatah in Gaza in 2006. It took control of Gaza in 2007 with the support of Netanyahu, the prime minister of Israel, whose main goal has been to keep the Palestinians divided so they could not form a nation-state of their own.

Tragically, President Biden has been supporting Israel by sending armaments to Israel as they fight Hamas in what is essentially an urban guerilla war. In this fight, Israel is not recognizing **“proportionality and the distinction between active military and civilians”** in their campaign, key concepts in the international law concerning warfare.

At least 35,500 Gazans have been killed while Hamas killed about 1200 in its attack. Of that 35,500, **most have been women and children.** The dropping of 2000 pound bombs on apartment buildings will result in indiscriminate killing. **The “war” is more like a massacre.** It appears Israel wants to push all the Palestinians out of Gaza into Egypt. Or maybe, the Israelis think if the people of Gaza are punished enough, they won’t harbor more terrorists like Hamas. Actions like Israel is conducting usually causes more resistance over time. We know the deep truth of the phrase: **“No Justice, No Peace.”** In addition, the Israeli bombing and invasion of Gaza is fostering more antisemitism around the world.

Israel has been blocking most of the supplies coming into Gaza by truck from Egypt. Palestinians are starving in Gaza. Mothers are having to watch their children starve to death. On April 1, 2024, Israelis attacked three times, three different cars marked as belonging to World Central Kitchen, a group trying to feed Gazans. The group told the IDF who they were and exactly where they would be before they set off. [Chef Jose’ Andres, the leader of World Central Kitchen believes the attacks were](#)

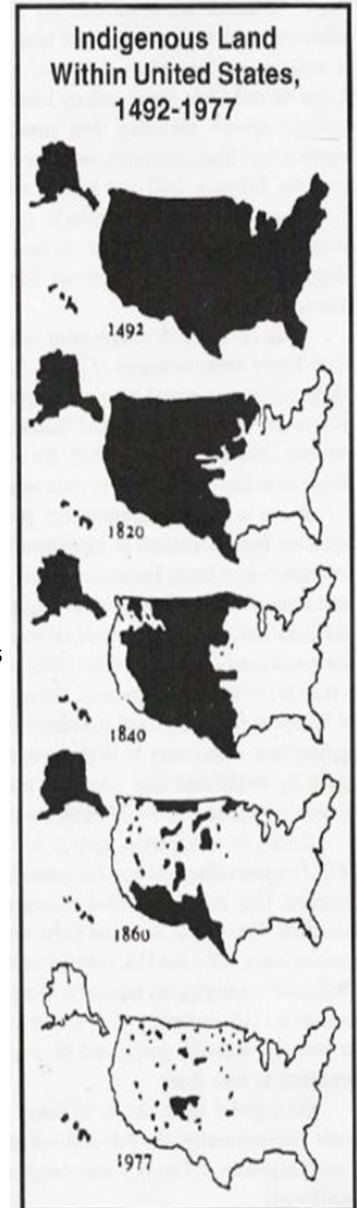
[intentional.](#)

Most observers believe Israel could not have done what they did without US military and diplomatic support. Our corporate media keep telling us over and over that Israel was attacked on October 7, 2023 by Hamas and they repeated many times the phrase: “Israel has the right to defend itself!” **As if history started on October 7, 2023!**

Looking at **the whole history from 1948** to the present, we see something different. Sadly, few Americans know much about this 76 year-history. We see a regime that has taken villages and land from Palestinians over and over again.

I quote: “During the foundational events of [the Nakba in 1948, dozens of massacres targeting Arabs](#) were conducted and over [500 Arab-majority towns and villages were depopulated,^{\[8\]}](#) with many of these being either completely destroyed or repopulated by Jews and [given new Hebrew names.](#)” The Gaza strip was where many thousands of Palestinian people fled after they were pushed out of their land and villages as Israel was established. In short, Israel is a **settler colonial state** now committing more genocide against the original inhabitants of Palestine.

We should know what a **settler colonial state** is. The USA is one. Our settlement took place over 500 years and the armed resistance to it has sputtered out. But Israel’s conquest and Palestinian resistance since October 7 has been **broadcast on television and the Internet around the world for all to see.** (cont. page 7)



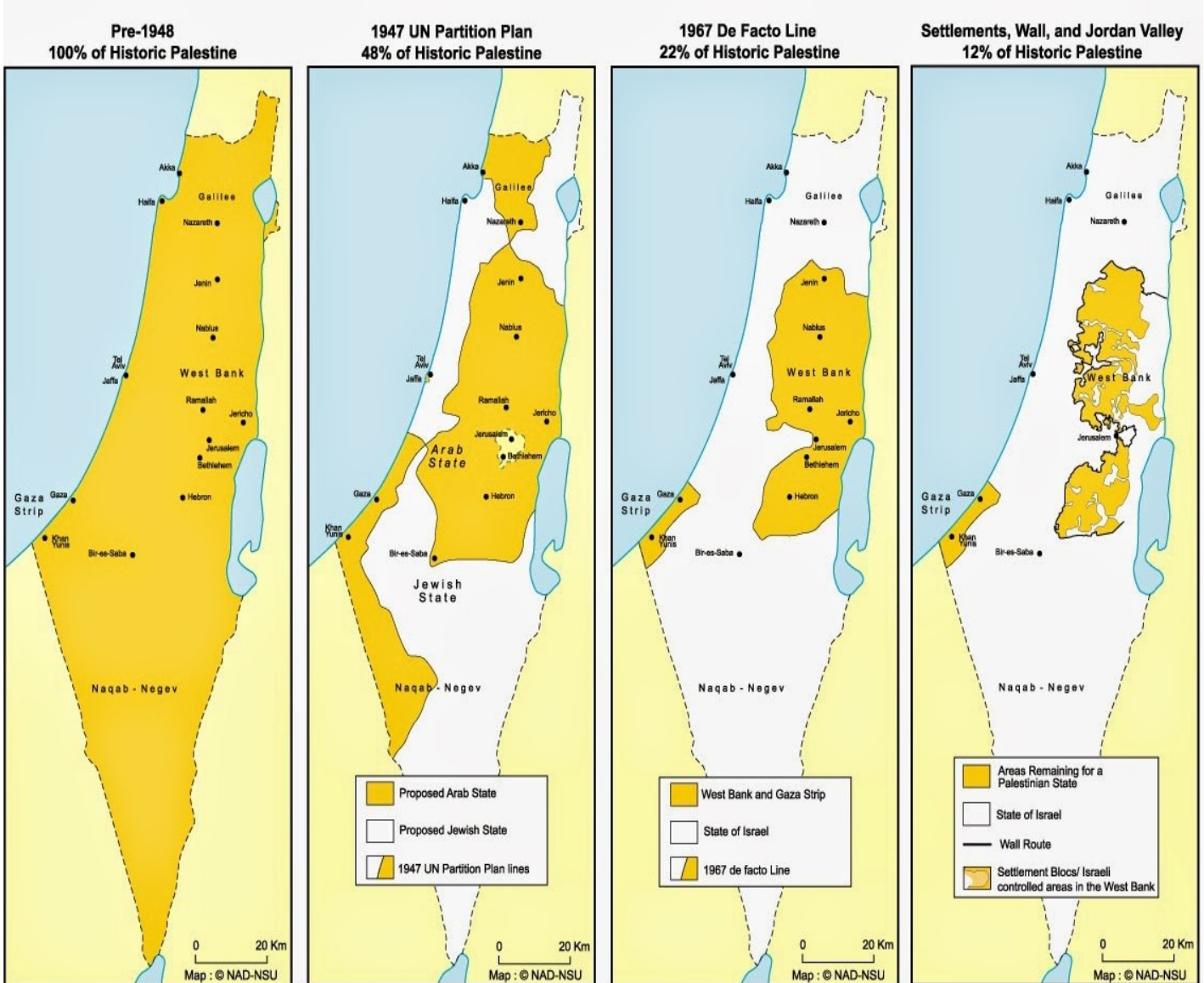
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American college and university students are protesting the genocide in Gaza. **Pitching tents** and occupying central areas of a campus is a new tactic learned from the Occupy Wallstreet movement. The students demands focus on any role their school endowment fund has in supporting Israel.

University and college endowments are large pools of money, invested for the future use of the institution. The profits of the endowments are used to help the university or college function. Harvard's endowment is \$50 billion, the largest endowment of any American university. Students are wise to focus on endowments as it gives them a local focus for their demonstrations.

Some universities have agreed to take a look at their endowments and the students have taken down their encampments. At other universities, local police forces have been called to campus and have broken up the encampments. In several cases, there have been outside pro-Zionist thugs who have come on to campus and used violence against the students. The repression against some students involved in protesting the genocide in Gaza has been very harsh. This is just helping to create a new generation of peace and justice activists.

Finally, the International Criminal Court's (ICC) prosecutor said on Monday, May 20, 2024, that he is seeking arrest warrants for three Hamas leaders as well as for Netanyahu and the Israeli Defense minister.



These maps are for illustrative purposes only. Boundary representations are not authoritative.

**USA IS NOT THE HAPPIEST PLACE IN THE WORLD
AND OUR PRESS IS NOT THAT FREE**

How to Know

America: Compare It to Others

by John M Repp

In Stephen Bezručka’s book, Inequality Kills Us All: Covid-19’s Health Lessons for the World (Routledge: New York, 2023), he writes: “A person who knows only one country knows no country.” (p.49) He reminds us that we humans learn by comparing one thing to another. He was able to live ten years in Nepal as a physician.

Yes, one of the very best ways to learn about your own country is to live and work in another country for a considerable time. Learning the language and living and hanging out with the locals in another country makes comparisons with own’s own country possible. Sadly, too many Americans have not been able to have that experience. I will never forget, before the war in Iraq started, a few people were gathering signatures for a petition to our government not to invade Iraq. I asked the signers why they signed. Most had spent at least a year in another country with the Peace Corps.

To the right is a chart rating the happiness of the people in various countries. The American people are not the happiest.

What is it about the northern European countries like Norway and Finland that makes them so successful and happy?

They give a year of financial support for a new baby to the mother or father. Daycare and schools are free and high quality. All labor unions in a sector like carpentry, electrical work, or machining are nation-wide and the union movement is strong. There is very progressive taxation system. The taxes are high, but they get something for their taxes. They are not paying for a huge military budget and 800 military bases all over the world.

Another ranking of the USA in a chart made by Reporters Without Borders is the World Press Freedom Index. [The United States is rated 55th in the World Press Freedom Index.](#) Big media outlets prioritize profits, local news has declined, and partisan media is growing. The level of distrust in American media is unprecedented.

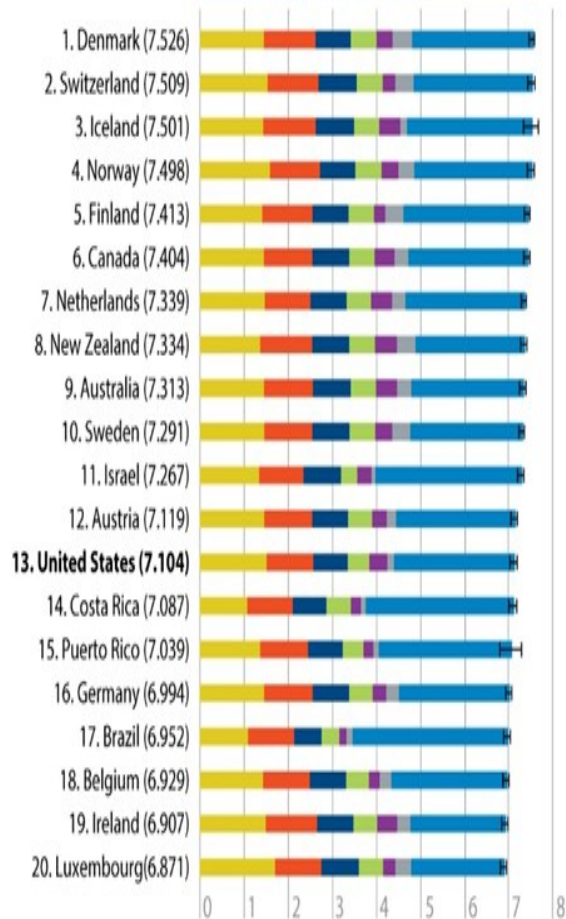
WORLD HAPPINESS INDEX

The index shows six key variables that contribute to the total score, relative to a hypothetical country called “Dystopia” representing the worst scores from the 2013-2015 index.

- Explained by: GDP per capita
- Explained by: Social support
- Explained by: Healthy life expectancy
- Explained by: Freedom to make life choices
- Explained by: Generosity
- Explained by: Perceptions of corruption
- Dystopia (2.33) + residual
- 95 percent confidence interval

Dystopia is an imaginary country with the world’s least-happy people. Dystopia would have the lowest incomes, lowest life expectancy, lowest generosity, most corruption, least freedom and least social support.

TOP 20 HAPPIEST



2024 Pacific Northwest Voyage: Veterans For Peace Sails the Golden Rule

by Helen Jaccard

For a Nuclear-Free World and a Peaceful, Sustainable Future!! In 1958 four Quaker peace activists sailed the Golden Rule toward the Marshall Islands in an attempt to halt nuclear weapons testing. The US Coast Guard boarded her in Honolulu and arrested her crew, causing an international outcry. Arrest of the crew and rising awareness of the dangers of radiation led to worldwide demands to stop nuclear testing. This spurred the U.S. to sign the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963 with the U.S.S.R. and the U.K.

She became a recreational boat in 1958 and in 2010 she sank in a gale in Humboldt Bay, Northern California. For five years, Veterans For Peace, Quakers and other volunteers restored her with love and hope for her future.

Nuclear Abolition Mission Restored!

From 2015 - 2022 the Golden Rule sailed the West Coast between British Columbia and San Diego and to Hawaii and back. In 2022-23 she sailed the "Great Loop" around the entire eastern half of the US. Tens of thousands of people along the route discussed about what they can do to stop the possibility of nuclear annihilation.

The Golden Rule is a weapon of mass education. During nine years, Golden Rule speakers have given over 500 presentations at 150 ports-of-call. They reached tens of thousands of people in person and hundreds of thousands through press coverage. Indigenous tribes, city and county councils and state legislatures welcome the Golden Rule and her message of hope through action.

This year, with a plan similar to the Golden Rule's 2016 voyage, there will be dozens of educational panel presentations with local organizers. In addition, the schedule includes protests with kayaktivists and other boaters against Trident Nuclear-Armed Submarines (July 27 on Hood Canal), the Parade of War Ships (Elliott Bay in Seattle on July 30), Fleet Week in Seattle on July 31 - August 1, Air & Sea Shows (August 3 - 4 on Lake Washington in Seattle) and the Indian Island Munitions Facility (near Port Townsend in early September).

Every year the Golden Rule team commemorates

the anniversary of the horrific bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

This year, Golden Rule representatives will commemorate with the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in Poulsbo on August 3 - 5 and From Hiroshima to Hope at Green Lake in Seattle on August 6.

They also know how to have fun with Peace Picnics and Concerts in the Park (near the dock so you can visit!) Look for a party at Log Boom Park in Lake Forest Park on 8/5, then at the Peace Park near the Tacoma Maritime Museum on Sun 8/11. Golden Rule Ambassadors will talk with mariners at the Friday Harbor Yacht Club on 8/27, the Victoria (BC) Classic Boat Show 8/29 - 9/2 and the Vancouver (WA) Wooden Boat Festival 9/6 - 8. Veterans For Peace and Golden Rule crew members work with peace, justice, nuclear disarmament, environmental and climate change organizations. They will be at the Vancouver (WA) Peace Fair on 9/14 and participate in local vigils.

They especially encourage Indigenous leaders, Japanese Americans, Marshall Islanders, down-winders, Atomic Veterans and others affected by nuclear weapons to speak at their events!

The crew enjoys company! One-day transits, day sails and boat tours are scheduled throughout the summer. If you would like to be aboard for a protest, transit, or day sail, please contact Helen Jaccard (see below).

For further information or to find out how you can get involved, please visit <https://vfpgoldenruleproject.org/> or contact Project Manager Helen Jaccard at 206-992-6364 or vfpgoldenruleproject@gmail.com



The Evergreen Gaza Solidarity Encampment

— a first-person account by Alex Marshall

The encampment was established on Tuesday, April 23 following a walk-out and rally for Palestine that began at 10:30am. It was established by students autonomously without prior planning. The encampment's demands were drafted through a consensus-based process, and they included divestment from companies profiting off of occupation and genocide, rejection of grant funding from Zionist organizations, police oversight and a non-law enforcement crisis response model on campus, no study abroad to occupied Palestine, and an official statement calling for a ceasefire. Negotiations with administration began on Wednesday, April 24 and concluded on Tuesday, April 30 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Evergreen and the Evergreen Gaza Solidarity Encampment. As per the terms of the agreement, the encampment was taken down on May 1, with all leftover supplies being distributed to community organizations.

Evergreen is the alma mater of Rachel Corrie, a peace activist who was crushed to death by an Israeli military bulldozer while protecting the home of a Palestinian family from demolition in Rafah. Rachel was killed in 2003, but her memory lives on within Evergreen as well as the broader Olympia community. Olympia has become a hub for Palestinian solidarity work, and Evergreen students and faculty have been involved in all sorts of social movements since the school's founding. I believe this was one factor that contributed to the Evergreen administration's willingness to come to the table.

Additionally, Evergreen has a significant interest in maintaining a positive image in the press. It's a small school that has been through a lot over the past several years. In this situation, the administration knew that bringing in police would have serious repercussions on Evergreen's image as a college that values social justice, student activism, diversity, and equity.

We've made some links with students involved in the University of Washington's encampment, which came to an agreement with its own administration on May 17. As we continue to organize, we look forward to connecting and working with students from other schools to keep the pressure up on our institutions and continue fighting for a free Palestine.

The faculty who participated in the negotiations were Savvina Chowdhury (Political Economy), Zoltán Grossman (Geography & Native Studies), and Alice Nelson (Latin American Studies). These faculty have been nothing short of foundational to my own education at Evergreen, along with several other students on the bargaining team and many of the students and alumni who participated in the encampment. They were supportive of our efforts from the beginning, notably being some of the individuals to draft a letter in support of the encampment for Evergreen faculty and staff to sign onto.

<https://www.passoly.org/evergreen-college/>

During the last round of negotiations, their knowledge and experience supported us in working out the specific language of the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) to ensure that the agreement would be as strong as possible. I am immensely grateful to them for their contributions and continued support as we begin the next stages of this process.

Overall, I believe this is a solid agreement that succeeded in creating the framework for divestment to occur. Divestment is a lengthy process, and there is added complexity due to Evergreen's investments being linked with the University of Washington's endowment. The Investment Policy DTF (Disappearing Task Force), set to convene by the end of this quarter, will be responsible for revising Evergreen's investment policy to address divestment from "companies that profit from gross human rights violations and/or the occupation of Palestinian territories." The implementation of this policy will begin in Spring 2025 and will be completed by Spring 2026.

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The three other DTFs address Evergreen's grant acceptance policy, the creation of a new Police Services Community Review Board, and the creation of a non-law enforcement 24-hour crisis response model on campus. All of the DTFs will have three students and two faculty (appointed by the Geoduck Student Union and the Faculty Agenda Committee respectively), and they all have implementation timelines to ensure that the college continues to prioritize this work. Administration will publish quarterly updates on the progress of the DTFs.

As part of the agreement, President John Carmichael released a statement on May 8 that acknowledged the International Court of Justice's genocide investigation and called for respect for the March 25 UN Resolution, which itself calls for a ceasefire. Additionally, Evergreen will not approve any study abroad programs to regions where Palestinian or Jewish students are denied entry. This means that until Palestinians have freedom of travel, there will be no study abroad to occupied Palestine. We fought for this demand as part of the academic boycott movement, which you can read more about here: <https://bdsmovement.net/academic-boycott>

Although MoUs are not always binding documents, we have confirmed with a lawyer that our agreement does have all of the elements of a legally enforceable contract. Evergreen has also publicly committed to following through on the agreement. Still, we are keenly aware of the risk of administration dragging its feet or attempting to water down the work of the DTFs; we are also aware of the cyclical loss of organizational capacity, motivation, and institutional memory that can be so harmful to student movements when upperclassmen graduate. We are committed to seeing this work through, and as such, we are thinking strategically about how we can build momentum and keep the pressure up on Evergreen's administration. One important step will be the creation of a registered student organization to monitor and support the work of the DTFs, host educational events for the community, and get more of the student body involved in this process, as well as Palestine solidarity work more broadly.

Alex Marshall (they/them) is a 3rd -year student at Evergreen and was on the student negotiating team.

The MOU and other documents related to Evergreen Gaza Solidarity can be accessed here: <https://www.evergreen.edu/student-life/student-activities/student-governance/gazasolidarity>



Calm is a Form of Resistance

by John M Repp

One of the memorable ideas that Naomi Klein gives us in her new book [Doppelganger: a Trip into the Mirror World \(New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2023\)](#) is: **“calm is a form of resistance”**. (p.226) The book examines what has happened to us during the COVID-19 pandemic. The opposite of calm is fear, and fear is contagious. But the key point is that fear helps to create an environment where conspiracy theories spread.

Today too many of us live in a world of disconnected facts. And many of us are in a **state of shock**, after such events as the election of Trump in November 2016 (and the fact that Trump is running again and leading in some opinion polls), the massive spontaneous uprising after the killing of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, the attempted coup of Jan 6, 2021, and the Covid-19 pandemic starting in late January 2020. Add the fact that much of the [new national and international battleground of ideas occurs on social media and the Internet](#) where all kinds of **disinformation and misinformation** are found. No wonder conspiracies fly around like moths in front of a streetlight on a hot summer night. That is why we need calm. We need to be able to think clearly in this age of multiple existential crises.

Klein is saying that as the U.S. government took actions to try to control the Covid-19 pandemic, such as asking people to wear masks, get vaccinations, and not gather together in large crowds, **the government was not engaging in a conspiracy to repress us**. Too many people thought pandemic control measures were politically repressive. On the contrary, Klein says wearing a mask during a pandemic and getting vaccinated are **acts of solidarity**.

That does not mean she thinks we live in a well-functioning democracy. She thinks that there are “events

and situations – financial crises, energy shortages, wars - that are indeed ‘manipulated behind the scenes by powerful sources’”. (p.228) Klein also thinks we should stop thinking of “power as residing in individuals and groups rather than **structures**.” (p. 230) Power she says does **not** really reside in **individuals** like Gates or Bezos.

What does she mean by “structures”?

I will cite another writer, economist Michael Hudson. “The US is so heavily **debt-laden**, its **housing prices** are so high, and its **medical care** is so extremely high (18% of GDP) (that it) cannot compete in the world market. **It cannot re-industrialize without taking radical steps to write down debts, to de-privatize health care and education, to break up monopolies and restore progressive taxation.** [The vested Financial, Insurance and Real Estate \(FIRE sector\) interests are too powerful to permit these reforms.](#)”

Hudson’s point is that **the reindustrialization of the United States**, as a way to get back to a better functioning society, with an expanding rather than shrinking middle class, and being able to compete in the industrial world market with China will **not** be possible if we cannot solve the problems of our economy, he calls **financial capitalism**.

We know now that the “globalization” project announced in 1999 in Seattle at the WTO meetings has been very harmful to our domestic manufacturing and to our industrial workers, and a failure for the nation as a whole. There were thousands who came to Seattle

from all over to protest the implementation of WTO. They were right to do so. We disrupted the meeting but did not change American policy.

So, the FIRE sector (Financial, Insurance, and Real Estate) is the “bundle of the structures” that we need to reform to make our country successful in the contemporary world. It will not be easy. **But better to do that and deal with the climate crisis than have a war with China.**

