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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.*

**WESTERN WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION
 SPRING ASSEMBLY on ZOOM
 CONFRONTING MILITARISM AT HOME AND ABROAD
 SATURDAY MAY 30, 2026, 8:45 am to 12:30 pm (tentative times)
[see wwfor.org](http://wwfor.org) on how to register and get the zoom link**

The Illegal War Against Iran

by John M Repp 3/22/2026

On Saturday February 28, 2026, the United States and Israel attacked Iran. Iran’s Supreme Leader was killed right away as were many of the leading group around him. At the time, the U.S. and Iran were in negotiations set up by Jared Kushner and others. After opening statements from each side, there was a proposal to consider. The Iranian group met to talk among themselves about the proposal. It was then that a bomb hit the group which wiped out many of Iran’s leaders including a number of possible candidates for the next Supreme Leader. Will Iran trust the United States again?

The same day a guided missile strike on Minab hit a girl’s school killing over 168 people including over a hundred girls. It was later learned the mistake was made **by our military** using AI targeting with an old Google map of the area which did not show the current use of the building for a girl’s school. At first Trump tried to say it was Iran who did it.

Here is a report from the third week from BBC.

The Constitution says clearly that **only Congress can declare war. But Trump ignores the Constitution. This war is also violating international law, which says aggression is illegal. There was no imminent threat from Iran. It was war of choice.**

Trump should be impeached and convicted.

Decapitation seems to be Trump’s idea of how to wage war. That is what he did in Venezuela with its leader Maduro, who was captured and brought to the United States. Furthermore, Trump prefers to conduct war by bombing rather than putting “boots on the ground.” Over, 11,000 bombs have been dropped so far. That prevents American soldiers from getting killed. He may think that helps prevent the American public from opposing the war. Now we hear, 2,500

Marines are headed to the area.

But after just a week after the start of the war, 59% of the American people oppose it. **Trump promised many times during his campaigns for the presidency that he would not engage in “forever wars” like Iraq and Afghanistan.** On March 11, 2026, he said he wanted complete capitulation by Iran. He simply does not know that Iran, like most countries who are being bombed, will unite in the face of attack. Yes, the Iranian regime is a theocratic republic that just killed thousands of protesters. But bombing will probably not provoke an uprising.

We are at the beginning of the third week of the war. So far 13 American service members have been killed and at least 140 have been wounded. The Iranian envoy to the United Nations said on March 6, 2026, that 1,332 civilians have been killed. Israel is going after groups in Lebanon that resist Israeli aggression and have killed hundreds of civilians.

It is a truth about modern warfare that Bertrand Russell wrote in 1970 just before he died: a bombing campaign alone will not force a population to surrender; it will increase their desire for resistance. We tried precision bombing in Vietnam, Iraq and Kosovo. We did not win those wars.

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One commentator said Israel will probably not stop its aggression until the United States stops sending **offensive weapons** to Israel. **We need to demand** that we stop sending offensive weapons and aid to Israel until it stops its aggression against Iran and Lebanon and its gross violations of international law in Gaza.

[Rick Steves visited Iran seventeen years ago. His engaging travelogue includes some history of the conflict between USA and Iran. He found the people of Iran “wonderful and welcoming of Americans”.](#)



Red is bombing by Iran, marked by an O, which were U.S. military bases.

Blue is bombing by Israel and the U.S., marked by an X: nuclear facilities (Natanz, Fordow), missile and drone production sites, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) bases, oil and gas infrastructure, and high-ranking military leadership Sources for the map:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_Iran_war

Lying is an art, and Trump is an artist. But he is an artist of diminishing capacity; and he has now chosen to apply his art to war, a subject he finds appealing but about which he knows nothing except that he likes it.

[Timothy Snyder, March 2, 2026](#)

[A review of William D. Hartung and Ben Freeman’s The Trillion Dollar War Machine: How Runaway Military Spending Drives America into Foreign Wars and Bankrupts Us At Home \(2025\)](#)

by John M Repp

President Eisenhower warned us in 1961 in his farewell address about **“the military-industrial complex” (MIC)**. This book brings the subject up-to-date.

Today, more than half of the soon-to-be-trillion dollar a year military budget goes to five private companies i.e. **Lockheed Martin, RTX (formerly Raytheon), Boeing, General Dynamics, and Northrop Grumman**, making hardware for the Pentagon. And there is a [new, more dynamic group of private companies](#) like **Anduril and Palantir** that is trying to get contracts from the government for newer high-tech weapons, like **swarms of drones and cyberwarfare tools** that is changing warfare. Artificial intelligence is a big part of these new weapons. This new group seems to be preparing for a high-tech war with China. Drones are much cheaper than ballistic missiles, but most experts think [“boots on the ground” are necessary for a victory.](#)

Hartung and Freeman tell us the shocking fact that **the \$8 trillion spent on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan was enough money to make our electric grid fossil-fuel free, pay off every student loan in our country, and fund real health-care for all.** (p. 4) The military contractors have **945 lobbyists** working for them and they also give **lots of money to key politicians campaigns**. This is political [bribery made legal by the Supreme Court with the Citizen’s United decision](#) where they confused people with corporations, and money with free speech. The Supreme Court didn’t have its facts straight when it made that decision.

There is also a group of “think tanks” working in this sector. The reach of this sprawling monster is wide. For example, when Hollywood wants to make a movie with scenes of war in it, the Pentagon will loan hardware for the shooting of the movie in exchange for an advanced look at the script and the chance to do some editing. The very large computer-gaming industry also plays a role in keeping the ideas of and **glorification of war** in the minds of our young people, especially young boys. Billions of dollars of “surplus” war machinery has been given to American city’s police departments to help them “keep law and order”.

Why don’t we in the United States, **alone among all the wealthy countries**, have a health care for all system?

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Our health care industry, dominated by private insurance companies that have an incentive to deny care, is over 20% of our economy, while in other countries with health care for all systems, paid completely by their government, medical care is closer to 10% or 12 % of those economies. Hartung and Freeman tell us that the massive military spending in the U.S. is **a key reason** we don't have such a "Medicare for All" system.

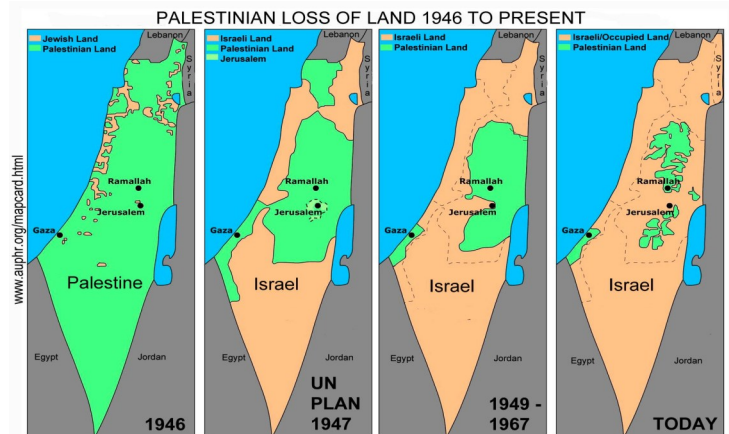
worse than that because the massive spending on military hardware has been itself **a cause of the wars in which we have been involved since the end of World War II.** Those wars have killed hundreds of thousands of people in other countries as well as many of our own young men and women. And now with Ukraine and Israel involved in war and needing weapons, the U.S. does not need to send it's troops into war itself for the MIC companies to profit. Is that an improvement? Not, if you consider the fate of the Ukrainians and the Palestinians.

The proponents of that huge military spending claim that the spending is necessary for our defense. They say it makes us safe. They put factories producing military equipment in every Congressional district in the country to further their reach, then talk about all the jobs created to get more political support. But, **we could create many more jobs by spending for health care, education, and eliminating fossil-fuel burning to create our electricity.** And those actions would do more to make our country safe. It would make our domestic politics more just and help Americans live better lives.

President Trump is now saying that we should have a \$1.5 trillion dollar Department of War budget for 2026. All the while Trump has been claiming he has ended eight wars, and says he should get the Nobel Peace prize. But in the year 2025, he has bombed seven countries: Venezuela, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Nigeria, Yemen and Somalia. Bombing is an act of war. Trump should not get any peace prize.

The last chapter of the book tells us we need **a larger and younger peace network:** "the traditional peace movement is on its back foot" (p.258) Most younger activists are concerned about issues like climate change, higher education costs, immigration reform, and Gaza among others. If these groups understand that all the lack of resources used to deal with their issues because of the military-industrial complex, they will see that they must **band together with peace activists.** With the "authoritarianism" of the

Trump administration, they will also need to **defend each other** in order to maintain their basic constitutional rights of free speech and freedom of assembly.



The above four stage map, which *Pacific Call* has printed before, shows that it is the nation-state of Israel that has been in the long term **the expansive, imperialist power** in the Middle East. Yes, Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023 and killed many civilians. Yes, that was an act of violence and brutality that surprised the Israelis. But the Palestinians have tried many organized acts of nonviolent resistance like the First Intifada (1987-1991), and the Israeli police shot at the demonstrators. The key issue is **the theft of Palestinian land** by the state of Israel.

History did not begin on October 7, 2023.

Too many people in the United States do not know that most of the people in living in Gaza are people or descendants of people who were **pushed off their land by the Israelis in 1948, a period called the Nakba which is Arabic for catastrophe.** Many more were pushed off their land in 1967 in the course of the **six-day war won by Israel.** There is a powerful film entitled **"All That is Left of You"** that tells the story of three generations of a Palestinian family.

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And now, in the last two years the world has witnessed **the first live-streamed genocide**. To us peace activist's horror, **the United States government has supported this genocide by sending bombs and other military equipment to Israel, a total of at least \$22 billions worth (measured from September 2025), despite U.S. laws obligating our country to prevent and refrain from supporting genocide.**

And now people, mostly young people, in the United States have been arrested for protesting this genocide, just exercising their right of free speech and assembly. Many think the Democratic Party's position on this issue led to the loss of the Presidential election in 2024 because fewer young people voted, as a kind of protest to the policy of Biden-Harris.

Bernie Sanders in January 2024, and again in July 2025, tried to get the U.S. Senate to pass a resolution to block U.S. arms sales to Israel. It did not pass.

There has been a lot of popular organizing around the country by many groups including Jewish Voice for Peace that understand the injustice of the Israeli massive bombing of Gaza, killing whole families. Over 20,000 children have been killed. As of Jan 29, 2026, 71,667 Gazans have been killed. Thousands more are missing under all the rubble.

The world attempted to set up system of international law to prevent the slaughter that happened during World War II, with organizations like the United Nations and the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The leaders of South Africa, who experienced apartheid, have taken the case of Gaza to the ICJ and it has been accepted. The case, formally known as *the Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)*, was filed by South Africa in December 2023. The ICJ has not yet made a final ruling on the merits of whether genocide has occurred, which could take years.

A good book on the long-view history of Israel-Palestine is A Very Short History of the Israel-Palestine Conflict (2024) by Ilan Pappé. Another movie is "The Voice of Hind Rajab"(2025) about a little girl who is in a car where all her family members are killed. She uses a cell phone to call Palestinian authorities in the hope of being saved.



Minneapolis

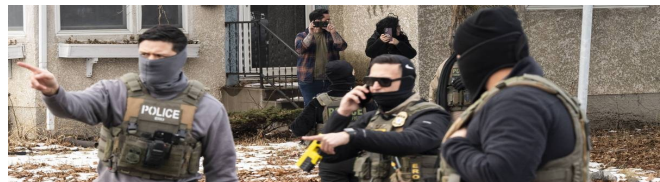
by John M Repp 2/19/2026

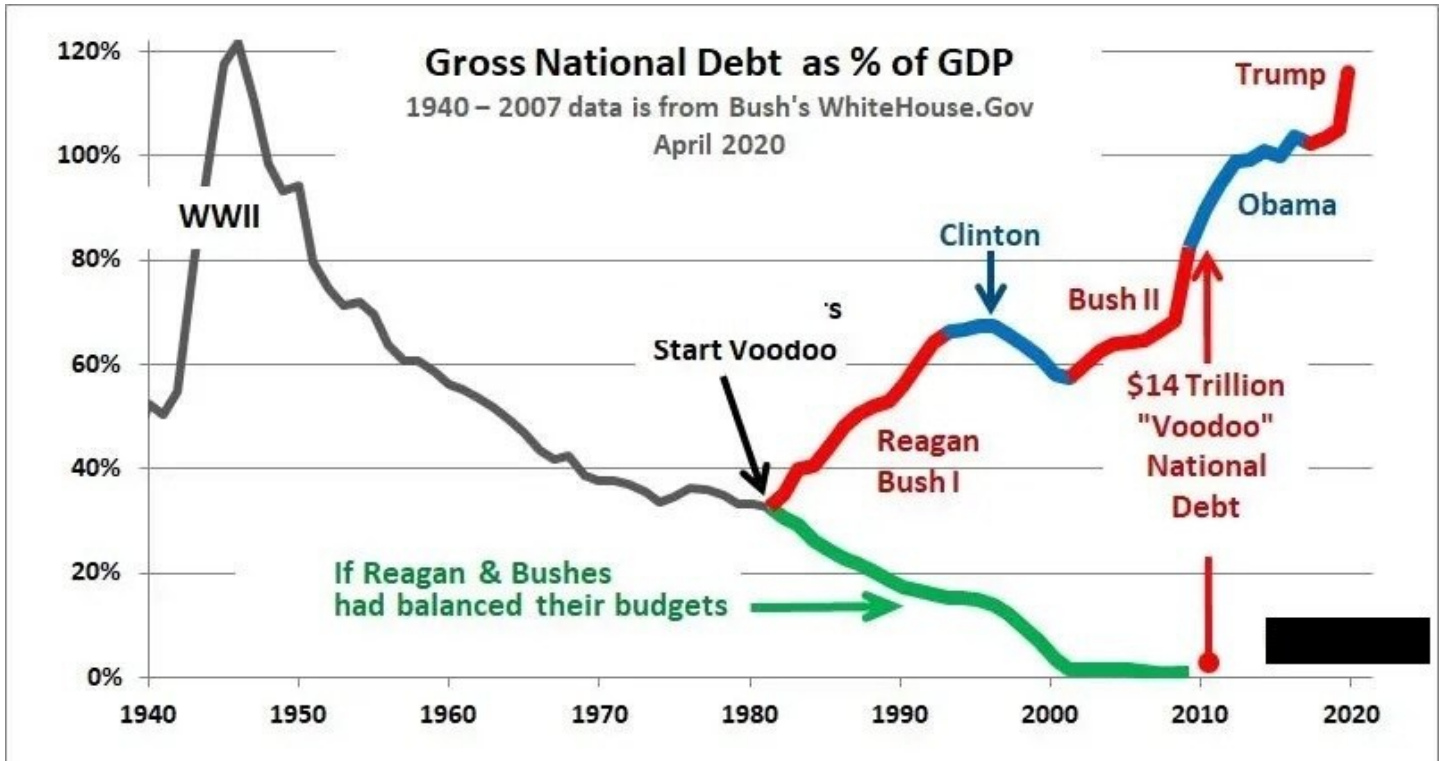
After United States Customs and Border Patrol (CPB) agents killed Renee Good (Jan. 7) and Alex Pretti (Jan. 24) in Minneapolis, Kristi Noem, then Secretary of Homeland Security, called Good and Pretti "domestic terrorists." Noem said this in spite of visible evidence from bystanders who filmed the killings.

They were not "domestic terrorists", they were American citizens who were trying to protect the rights of immigrants who were under attack by CBP(Customs and Border Patrol) and ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement). Trump sent 3000 CPB and ICE agents into Minneapolis to arrest immigrants, saying he is going after "the worst of the worst." But this campaign against immigrants and anybody who tries to protect them is actually a public demonization. The ICE and CPB agents are poorly trained, wear masks and combat uniforms that look like what an army in war would wear. **They have entered homes without a warrants from a court of law** which other law enforcement officers in the United States must have, **based on the Fourth Amendment's** requirement of probable cause. Both Obama and Biden deported millions of illegal immigrants but did it according to the law and without the bombast.

Cell phones have changed our lives. Many of us are now carrying a video camera with us. We can record what we experience. And, with the killing of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, the Trump Administration is asking us to not believe what at least 80% of us saw. The result of this and other bad policy is why Trump's popularity has gone down. On February 14, 2026, Trump was approved by 38%, disapproved by 56%, with 6% not sure. If the election were held today, he would lose in a landslide, that is, if the election is fair.

The day before Pretti was killed, Minnesota had a "general strike" with over 100,000 people not showing up for work. Seven hundred businesses closed in support of the strike. The strike was organized by labor unions, faith leaders, and community members. At the time, the temperatures in the state were below zero Fahrenheit.





The National Debt of the United States

by John M Repp

Our national debt stands at \$38.4 trillion. If you look at the graph above, it shows the national debt compared to the Gross National Product (GDP). The GDP is the value of the total output of the U.S. economy in a year. The graph has **two peaks** of each side and a dip in the middle, making it U-shaped. The peak on the left is the national debt just after the end of World War II. We spent more than we took in from taxes during the war in order to manufacture all the materials needed for the war. The government sold war bonds to make up the difference, in effect borrowing from its own citizens.

The peak on the right of the graph is also **the result of not receiving enough from taxes. To make up the difference, we issue and sell bonds.** We now owe the bondholders, \$38.4 trillion. Each year we pay to all bondholders the interest payment promised to them. These payment go to the already wealthy that buy the bonds. **That amount is more money than we spend on national security!**

One step towards a solution would be to reform the tax system. The Trump Administration tried to cut the debt the first year of his second term by cutting benefits to Medicaid which will hurt the poorest amongst us. Instead, **we need to get back to a more progressive tax. It was 91% for the top bracket in 1970.**

Today the very rich billionaires and wealthiest corporations pay **much less taxes percentage-wise** than they did in the 1950's and 1960's. And much less percentage-wise than the average working person pays now. The richest .001 percent pay 1 or 2% of their income. Trump did not pay taxes for decades and bragged about it.

We are playing with fire. If you study the history of civilizations, you learn that they all collapse, in many ways, from war, class struggle and climate change. Few civilizations last a long time. Our country will be celebrating 250 years this summer.

What will happen sometime in the future when people from here and around the world no longer trust U.S. Bonds as a good investment and stop buying them? We would expect a serious inflation and **higher payroll taxes, up to 10%, for everyone,** in a few years.

Thom Hartmann wrote that during recent Republican presidencies deficit spending was large. Trump deficit spent by **\$2.6 trillion in his first year back in office second term.** But recent Democrats have done it too, just by less. However, as recently as Clinton, Democrats balanced the budget and started to pay down the debt; notice the little dip on the graph during Clinton's presidency.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS OF A
MAINSTREAM PAPER (published or not)

Dear ICE Agents,

You ICE Agents might get the wrong impression from a recent Seattle Times article [The cosplay cops of Trump’s ICE leave chaos in their wake, Jan 13]. Please don’t think Seattle is unfriendly. The “Seattle Freeze” is just a rumor, even though it has its own Wikipedia page.

I want your stay here to be successful. Most important: leave your weapons at home. Seattle has a long history of nonviolent protest. You won’t need any guns or tear gas. Also, those uniforms make you look a tad unfriendly. Maybe you should get one of those nice “Seattle Rain Festival” t-shirts to wear while you are here.

I’m trying to help you here – leave off any clothing labeled “Police.” I think it’s illegal to impersonate a police officer. I don’t want you to get into trouble. In case you have any information about murderers, rapists, and human traffickers, please give that information to the police or the City Attorney. Dealing with criminals is their job.

I hope these little tips will help you have an enjoyable visit. Seattle has a lot to offer: beautiful parks, restaurants, music, sports teams, and more.

Jean Buskin, Seattle

Dear Seattle Times,

Donald Trump is doing a great job.

He said he was going to find the “worst of the worst,” the murderers. Only problem is, instead of putting them into prisons, he is putting them into ICE and Border Patrol uniforms.

Jean Buskin, Seattle

Dear Cascadia Daily News,(week of January 28, 2026)

My wife, Cindy Cole, and I just watched an hour-long livestream video of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists. It was their announcement that the world is now **85 seconds to midnight**. Midnight is the extinction of the human race. The 85 seconds is the closest we have come to extinction. The dangers we face are all human-made: nuclear weapons, climate change, “artificial intelligence”, and the global loss of freedom and the spread of dictatorships, including here in the United States.

One of the most eloquent of the speakers was Maria Ressa, a winner of the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize. She is a journalist from the Philippines. She focused on the need for **agreed-upon-facts** so we can have **truth** which will increase **trust** in our world. We need information integrity because we are facing an information Armageddon. Papers like the Cascadia Daily News, dedicated to real journalism, is working on that.

In less than a week, the last remaining nuclear-arms control treaty, New Start, between the United States and Russia will expire. We need to restart negotiations between the nine nuclear weapons possessing countries, instead of Trump’s call for new nuclear weapons testing. We face a new nuclear arms race with ever changing ways to deliver those weapons.

We need more international meetings to deal with climate change. The last three annual meetings (Council of Parties) were not able to make progress on limiting emissions of green house gases, instead they focused on mitigation. It is important but we need to deal with the cause i.e. emissions.

Remember: all these problems have been caused by human beings; therefore they can all be solved by human beings if we cooperate across classes, nations, and peoples.

I recommend people take a look at this presentation.

[2026 Doomsday Clock Announcement: Complete Livestream](#)

Sincerely, John M Repp

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Ancient Civilizations of North America

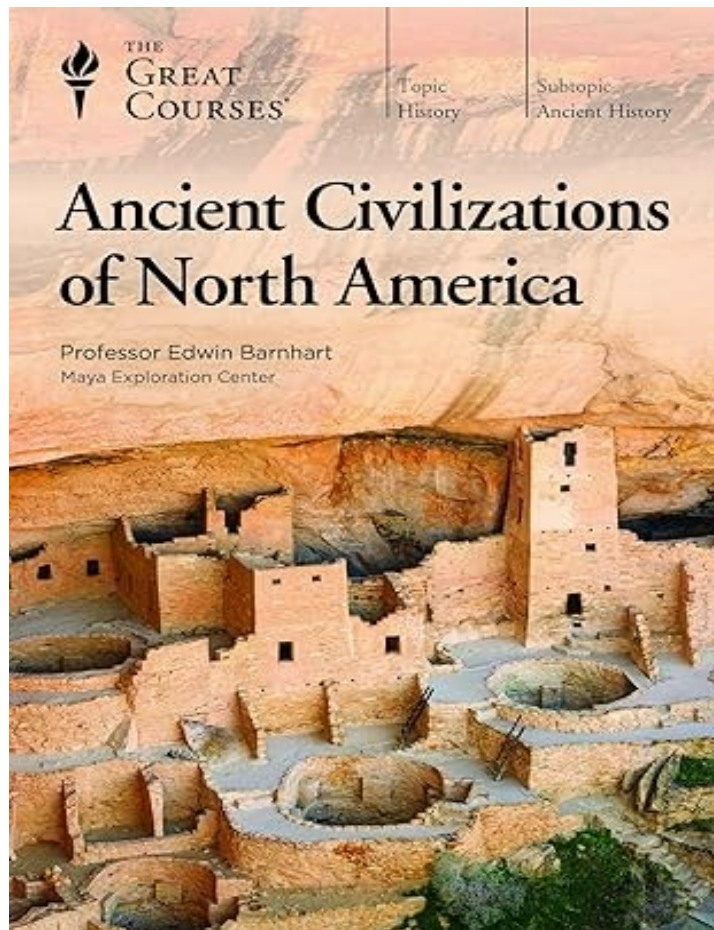
by John M Repp

The Great Courses have given us 24 lectures on 4 DVD's "[Ancient Civilizations of North America](#)" by Edwin Barnhart, a director of the [Maya Exploration Center](#), gives the lectures. They opened up a whole new world for me! For the past several centuries, we in USA have been taught about native societies by conquerors and colonizers, or by Hollywood with "cowboy and Indian" movies. Those sources were lacking a full understanding of the natives.

But these lectures, with some visuals, are delivered by an archaeologist. They give us a new and different perspective: the peoples of North America built **thriving cities and villages, well-built family houses, extensive trade routes, irrigation canals in some places, fields for playing sports, and earthwork pyramids.** Most of the ruins of these peoples were destroyed by European settlers since the mound pyramids or high points of the cities were built of earth, not stone like in Mexico. Later their cities had palisades surrounding their cities which were made of tree trunks which rotted away. The palisades came after warfare became more common.

The whole time period covered by the lectures is **many millennia.** The first migrants came from Asia via Beringia, now the Bering Sea. The sea level was much lower before the ice age ended and there was a land bridge.

When the ice age ended, mastodons, mammoths, and the giant bison became extinct. [There is a 14,000 fossilized giant bison skull in the Orcas Island museum with markings from stone tools made by natives when they butchered it.](#)



One summer between my junior and senior year of high school, I worked for the archeology department at Indiana University. I had to learn all the bones of a human skull and then I was given a big box of dried mud that contained a broken human skull. I was to clean all the bones of the skull and paste it back together. The skull came from one of the prehistoric native mounds in a village in Illinois.

During this long, long period, there was technological progress. The natives used baskets before they mastered pottery. They used spears and spear-throwers before they got the bow-and-arrow. There were many civilizations that rose and fell over the long period covered in this lecture series. One thing missing was a writing system, but they had art and symbols that they used to tell stories. Many different languages were spoken.

In later periods, most of these civilizations based their diet on the "three sisters": corn, beans and squash. Farming corn came after it was brought up from Mexico about 4000 years ago. In some of the later civilizations, they grew cotton. In California, they learned to eat acorns which required hours of leaching out the tannin to make them edible. In the northwest, they preserved and ate salmon. Some of these later cultures had astronomers that lined up their monuments to solar and lunar movements so they knew the beginning of summer and winter. [Cahokia](#), the ruins of which are just east of St. Louis, was the largest city, but there were many others like [Poverty Point](#).

As the centuries went on, class-conflict developed as did some human sacrifice and warfare, but overall they did not have the advanced technology i.e. guns and cannons that have made modern wars so deadly.

WWFOR's Office is Moving

by Brenda Collier

It's time for a change. After decades in our current office, WWFOR is moving in August. In the years since we moved here and got one of our first computers, things have changed, and the technical changes mean that almost everything we do does not need a physical office anymore. We can continue with all our activities such as Peace Activist training, email updates, and of course, the Pacific Call.

But first we must deal with all the things in the office; an amazing amount of stuff can accumulate when you have had an office for a long time. Already we have had two work parties and have made good progress with the disposal of books (around 300) and video tapes (around 200), and we are thinking of having a sale. If you would like to help with this project, please let the office know, at 206-789-5565)

A bit nearer to the time, we will tell people more details, including our new postal address.

“Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C., should be states. Fifty-two is a nice number: about the number of weeks in a year, the exact number of cards in a deck, and precisely four times the number of original colonies. For each stripe there could be four stars. It would be an elegant flag.” (Timothy Snyder. On Freedom 2025, pp.238-239)



ATTACKS ON THE USA

**TRUMP
IS GUILTY
OF
TREASON**



Illustration: Steve Per Steve Bennett