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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.



**Some of you may recognize the young teenager on the left. That is Greta Thunberg, the youth activist from Sweden who has been speaking to world leaders about the climate catastrophe. Here she is testifying before the U.S. Congress on September 18, 2019. Next to her, also testifying, is Jamie Margolin, a 2017 Mike Yarrow Peace Fellow (MYPF), who founded “This is Zero Hour!”, a youth movement on climate, after being inspired during our MYPF Intensive Training in 2017.**

### **We Can Reverse Global Warming**

by John M Repp (article abridged for print edition)

Because of the ExxonMobil disinformation campaign to create doubt about the science of climate change, many climate activists have been doubling down on efforts to convince their fellow citizens of the reality of it. We cannot seem to get to talking about what we must do to stop and even reverse climate change. And we are on a deadline. The international team of climate scientists, the IPCC, told us late last year that we have just a dozen years to accomplish the task. So, we better start talking about what we can do. Here are just a few things.

The fossil fuel companies receive subsidies to produce coal and oil. Worldwide, according to the IMF (International Monetary Fund) the fossil fuel sector receives 85% of all subsidies and the total amount is almost 6% of global GDP (gross domestic product). *Rolling Stone* reported that fossil fuel subsidies in the United States are larger than the Pentagon budget! In the United States these subsidies are embedded in tax law. Reducing or eliminating these subsidies would lower our global carbon emissions and increase government revenue. The corporate media is mostly silent about this, despite the fact that these subsidies contradict the concept of a free market. Removing the fossil fuel subsidies will speed up the transformation of the energy sector to wind and solar.

There is a new report from scientists stating that the planting of one trillion trees all over the world could remove two-thirds of all the emissions that cause the warming. *The Guardian Weekly* in the July 12, 2019 issue summarized the report. The scientists estimate that there are now 3 trillion trees in the world. Before the rise of civilization they estimate there were 6 trillion. The new trees would not be planted on urban or agricultural land; just a few would be planted on grazing land. There they would help the sheep and cattle. The cost would be \$300 billion. The report says that forest restoration at that scale is the most effective and least expensive strategy to deal with the climate crisis. All the trees planted would be ecologically appropriate to the area where they will be planted.

Project Drawdown is a nonprofit organization dedicated to reversing global warming. They published the book [Project Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming](#) in 2017. The project is ongoing. The term “drawdown” refers to the moment in time when global greenhouse gas emissions start going down. A large team of researchers, writers and scientists worked almost three years, calculating the cost of each solution and the amount of greenhouse gases that would be drawn down or not emitted. Surprisingly, their number one solution has to do with refrigerants, the gases used in air conditioners and refrigerators. A few years back, the world banned one type of refrigerant because it was destroying the ozone layer. The problem with the refrigerant used now is that it is a very, very potent greenhouse gas. We can replace it with more natural refrigerants like propane or ammonia. The global cooperation in saving the ozone layer can be a model for what we need to do now to deal with the much bigger problem of the climate crisis.

Project Drawdown lists a hundred solutions, eighty of which could be deployed now. Twenty are called “coming attractions” where the cost and amount of greenhouse gases removed or not emitted has not been calculated. One of the twenty coming attractions is “industrial hemp”. Ellen Brown, who usually writes about the financial system and public banking, recently wrote an article about industrial hemp. Brown says rightly that the full potential of planting one trillion trees would not be realized for fifty years or more. But industrial hemp can grow to thirteen feet in one hundred days. Hemp is very versatile product and could replace petrochemicals in the production of plastic, wood in the production of paper, and cotton in the production of cloth.

Eliminating fossil fuel subsidies and changing refrigerant regulations will require changes in law. Planting one trillion trees and lots of hemp would be part of a Green New Deal, a proposed government project. The fossil fuel companies want to blame global warming on all of us equally and limit solutions to individual actions like changing light bulbs and eating less meat. To be sure, individual actions matter. However, to reverse climate change and achieve drawdown, we need our governments to help us. We can’t do it alone.

**Another Boeing Is Possible**

(remarks made by John M Repp for the Sunday, September 29, 2019 People’s Town Hall on Nuclear Weapons, Seattle)

Boeing is a key part of the U. S. military industrial complex, making and maintaining nuclear weapon delivery vehicles and guidance systems. Boeing will maintain the Minuteman III nuclear weapon carrying intercontinental ballistic missiles until 2030. Boeing also produces the guided tail kit for the new B61 -12 nuclear gravity bomb. Boeing makes key components for US and UK Trident II (D5) nuclear weapons.

A few years after the 1973 energy crisis in the U.S. when there were shortages of oil and huge waiting lines at gas stations, Boeing won a contract from the Federal Government to design, build and test large wind turbines. I worked at Boeing during that time, and I watched the fabrication of a huge windmill in the building next to the machine shop in Seattle where I worked. It was the same building where thousands of B-17 bombers were built during World War II. About the same time Boeing engineers developed and the company patented more efficient solar cells that generated electricity from the infrared as well as the visible spectrum. After the energy crisis was over, Boeing sold the patent on those efficient solar cells. And Boeing got out of the wind turbine business in the late 1980’s.

The example from the energy crisis of the 1970’s shows us that if Congress decides to fund a Green New Deal and commits to the transition to wind and solar on the scale needed to deal with our climate catastrophe, much of the military-industrial complex can be converted into a green industrial complex. It is up to Congress. Boeing will work on whatever it can make a profit on.

Finally and most important, if history is any guide, a massive movement of nonviolent direct action will be needed to push Congress to commit to meeting most of the electrical power demand in the United States through clean, renewable, and zero-emission energy sources.

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**Deep Cooperation Made Us Human**

by John M Repp (abridged for the print edition, see [wwwfor.org/deep-cooperation-made-us-human/](http://wwwfor.org/deep-cooperation-made-us-human/) for whole article)

Most mammals form hierarchical ranking systems. Our hominid ancestors were primates and we think they formed male-dominant hierarchies. An example of such a male-dominant hierarchy is a troop of chimpanzees where dominant male chimps use force or threats of force to obtain whatever food and sex they desire. There is an alpha male and his coalition male partner or partners who dominate the troop. There is a ranking of all the members, from top to bottom, understood by all the members of the troop.

The bonobos are another species closely related to the chimpanzees, sometimes called the gracile chimpanzee. They have a female dominant system where females can form coalitions more easily than males and they will discipline an unruly male. It is thought that because bonobos evolved in a part of the African rainforest where gorillas are not present, their favored foods were more readily available. This allowed bonobos to be able to live in larger groups than chimps and this enabled female bonobos to make coalitions with other females to protect themselves from males who wanted to dominate. The

result was the selection of less dominant males.

Our hominid ancestors evolved in the rich and abundant ecosystems in the African Rift Valley. This niche allowed our ancestral societies to be relatively large for big-bodied primates and encouraged a vibrant sociality. This is one reason our brains were larger than primates who evolved in smaller societies. This was the niche in which egalitarian human societies developed.

Homo sapiens, our species, continues to have a propensity to learn the behaviors at the root of hierarchy formation, called by psychologists the dominance behavioral system or DBS. DBS has three parts. 1) Each individual wants to achieve the highest rank possible for the benefits that rank accrues. 2) Consciously or unconsciously, in facing others, there is a calculation of relative power of each. 3) Then a decision is made to dominate or submit. In every group, different individuals will carry a range of domineering tendencies and political abilities running along a spectrum from strong to weak. That seems to make a ranked hierarchy inevitable.

Instead, our species learned to form band-wide coalitions to prevent alpha types from becoming tyrants over the band and to keep competition in check. Band is the name given to small hunter-gatherer societies. The band members cooperated deeply, working together to stop the formation of hierarchical ranking. Collective action to prevent alpha domination was an evolutionary breakthrough that made possible the evolution of Homo sapiens with the ability to feel shame, to blush, and to have a conscience. It is difficult to imagine morality functioning in a hierarchical ranking society where the alpha males do what they want.

Anthropologists, observing the few forager bands still around, describe a set of behaviors such as gossiping, joking, talking directly to an alpha, cold greeting, shunning, banishing, and even assassination in order to enforce the rules of “no dominance” and to keep competition at a minimum. The band members created an egalitarian ethos. For a significant example that has been seen on every continent where our species settled, big game hunting parties elaborated rules to ensure that every individual in the band, not just allies of the hunting party, or family of the hunting party, gets a portion of the big game meat that is brought back to the home base. Humans are the only meat-eating mammal that does this. Other social carnivores distribute the catch to keep their dominance coalition together.

This idea of how an egalitarian society was created is called “reverse dominance” or “counter-dominance” and was described by anthropologist Christopher Boehm in the 1990s based on work done by many anthropologists. Collective behavior stopped hierarchies from forming and allowed society-wide cooperation to function. With that in place, our species thrived.

There is evidence that females began what later became the band-wide coalitions, making counter-dominance possible. Females needed the support of mothers and sisters in taking care of their big-brained, slow-developing babies. By way of contrast, chimps and bonobos do not allow other females to even touch their babies.

The first thing a group of humans do when someone has a new baby is pass the baby around for everyone to hold. “Cooperative breeding,” a term a social scientist would use for babysitting by an individual unrelated to the child, is most probably the source of the deeply cooperative behavior that was later manifested society-wide in our species.

Counter-dominance used to create equality was so much easier to achieve in a small society such as the hunter-gather bands where everyone knew each other, and many individuals were related.

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**Warheads to Windmills:**

Over millennia, horticulture, agriculture, and herding allowed human societies to get larger, and warfare gave selective advantage to larger societies. Few people know that organized war large enough to leave an archaeological record originated relatively late in prehistory. But the archaeological evidence and a close look at the ethnological evidence does not support that belief that war has been with us forever. Separate human bands generally avoided each other, except when they had big seasonal celebrations, often in the fall. They moved away from each other when there was conflict. The low density of human population made that possible and conflict rare. The “first generally accepted evidence of war in the Near East and the world” was 10,000 to 12,000 years ago at a site called Nubian site 117.

As war developed, so did a male warrior culture, and that helped male-dominant hierarchies become reestablished. Slaves were originally people who had been captured in a war. War made class societies possible, with hierarchy and wealth produced by the lower classes and controlled by the upper classes. We call this new kind of society “civilization.”

We appear to be adapted to life in hierarchical societies, but there is evidence that we are not. It has been proven empirically that the more equal the society the better the health as measured by life expectancy and infant mortality. The more unequal the society, the more stress there is. Other good social outcomes also occur with lower income inequality: a higher level of trust between people, less mental illness, less drug use, lower rates of obesity, higher literacy, higher educational achievement, lower crime rates, lower rates of violence, lower rates of incarceration, higher status of women, and even lower teen pregnancy.

More evidence of maladaptation to ranked society and hierarchy appears when big natural disasters strike. Today that might mean electrical power is off, cell phones are off, ATMs don't work, and police are nowhere to be found. To our surprise, small ad hoc communities arise that are egalitarian with altruistically behaving individuals who find great joy in sharing and caring for each other. This happened in the aftermath of Katrina. Such happenings are not usually reported in corporate news. It is as if egalitarian band level societies reappear.

We now live in a ranked and hierarchical society. And our history books start their narratives after this form of human society made an appearance. Many think a ranked and hierarchical society is the only “structure” large human social groups can take.

Despite the return of male dominant societies in late prehistory and throughout much of written history, most of the time even today when people come face to face, they do not act like chimps or baboons. If they do try to take by force a bit of food or take by force sex, it is a crime. It is even less the case that when good friends are hanging out together, open dominance behavior is accepted. Instead people are relaxed, and they talk with lots of laughter. We did become human.



3 ways eliminating nuclear weapons will help us solve the climate emergency (a leaflet from Seattle Anti-War Coalition)

NuclearBan.US (<http://www.nuclearban.us/w2w/>) issued a report recently showing how eliminating nuclear weapons can help us achieve a Green New Deal. There are three ways. This analysis applies to other nuclear armed nations as well.

- 1) **MONEY** The Federal Government spends a staggering amount of money on the production, maintenance and “modernization” of nuclear weapons, estimated in 2019 to be \$54.8 billion.
- 2) **SCIENTIFIC AND ENGINEERING TALENT** In 2016, in the United States, 5 out of 10 STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) graduates went to work for companies that design, build and maintain nuclear weapons. We need that talent to solve the problems of our climate catastrophe.
- 3) **DEADLY COMPETITION versus INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION** Solving the problems of the climate catastrophe will require unprecedented cooperation between all nations. The nine nuclear armed nations account for three quarters of all the world’s greenhouse gases. Instead, the nuclear armed nations should come together at a International Conference and eliminate nuclear weapons. The non-nuclear nations have already negotiated a nuclear ban treaty.



**The new Seattle Anti-War Coalition  
at the Federal building from 11 to 1 pm,  
the first Tuesday of every month**

**“those who do not move, do not notice their chains”**

**Rosa Luxemburg**



## Chaos and Choice

by Weldon D. Nisly for September 2019 Hospitality,  
published by the Open Door Community in Atlanta  
(thanks to Elaine Hickman for finding this poem)

One man consumes us/US.  
Consumes our attention-energy-emotion.  
Disordering creation with obsessive compulsive chaos.  
Noxious character casts blinding spell over us/US.  
We let him mire us/US in chaos.  
We let him manipulate us/US with fear.  
We let him sacrifice vulnerable humanity on the altar of  
vitriolic inhumanity.  
We let him demonize and dehumanize the Holy Other/  
Wholly Other.  
We let him scorn decency and dignity on the altar of  
demeaning tweets.

Who are we? What have we become? What do we  
choose?  
Personal self is embroiled in cauldron of toxic hate.  
Not True Self or Spiritual Truth.  
National psyche is hung on the cross of sacrificial enmity.  
Not true democracy-of-the-people, by-the-people, for-the-  
people.

Fostered by one who consumes us/US with obsessive  
chaos.  
Focused on one who is compulsive disorder.  
Obsessed with chaotic attention rather than no attention.  
Master of misdirection-manipulation-meanness-madness.  
Casting spell on us/US. On loyalists. On opponents. On  
allies. On enemies.  
Being chaotic answer to self-created chaos.  
Making us/US crazy.

Virulent hate. Self-hate. Other hate.  
Dominating destroying hate. Hurting harming hate.  
Wreaking havoc on God's people and disordering  
creation.  
Model-mirror-manifestation of America. White Christ  
America.  
Worst angels of our nature.

Struggle for words to speak into chaos.  
Adding words to countless words spoken and written.  
Will words become chaos or confront chaos?  
Yet to be silent is to become paralyzing chaos.  
Write out of chaos about chaos to break spell of chaos.  
To confront chaos of disordered creation.  
In me. In you. In country. In church-synagogue-mosque-  
temple.

In the name of God stop the chaos.  
Stop the misdirection. Stop the manipulation.  
Stop the meanness. Stop the madness.  
Within you. Within us/US. Within the one who is chaos.

God's Incarnate Jesus – Gospel Jesus – Palestinian Jesus –  
Black Jesus.  
Is Love.  
Love God-Self-Neighbor-Enemy-Cosmos.

Who am I? Who are we? What do we choose?

*E Pluribus Unum* – Out of many, one.  
“America: love it or leave it.”

*Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me:  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door* – Emma Lazarus &  
Lady Liberty  
“Go back where you came from.”

Choose each day whom you serve.  
God of love or god of hate.  
Christ or chaos.  
Black Jesus or white christ.  
Welcoming America or walled america.  
Hospitality or hostility.  
Cannot serve both.  
Choose this day whom you serve.  
God have mercy.

### Why are Central Americans seeking asylum in the U.S.?

Why are Central Americans seeking asylum in the U.S.?  
Yes, there is a crisis at our southern border, as hundreds of  
thousands of migrants have made the arduous, treacherous, and  
very long journey from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and  
several other countries to seek asylum in the United States. There  
is a certain irony here — the U.S., to which they make their asylum  
appeals, is the very country whose interference in the internal  
affairs of their home countries over the last 65 years, has left  
behind a legacy of right wing, often military governments, many  
imposed upon the people by CIA funded and directed over-  
throws of officials elected by the people. Their priority then  
becomes the protection of U.S. business interests and their own  
wealthy elite, and the suppression of any movements or ideas for  
improvements in the standard of living for the vast majority of  
people they are supposed to serve.

These are the root causes of the current migrations, which are  
never presented by our mainstream media. The conditions of  
widespread unemployment and thus poverty on a massive scale,  
along with drug dealing and violent gang activity, have convinced  
people that their only hope for a safer and better life is to flee  
toward the North, to the wealthiest country in the world.

(the text above is from a leaflet from:  
Seattle Anti-War Coalition: [seattleantiwarcoalition.blogspot.com](http://seattleantiwarcoalition.blogspot.com)  
[facebook.com/SeattleAntiWarCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/SeattleAntiWarCoalition) )