The background of the cover is a photograph of a natural landscape. A vibrant rainbow arches across the sky from the left side towards the center. Below the rainbow is a calm, blue lake that reflects the colors of the sky and the rainbow. In the distance, there are dark, rugged mountains with some snow patches. The overall color palette is dominated by blues and purples, with the bright colors of the rainbow providing a focal point.

THE CHOICES OF MIND

Extinction or Evolution?

THE LAST OF FIVE BOOKS IN THE GIFT OF MIND SERIES
INTRODUCING *THE METAMORPHOSIS OF MIND* AND
THE AGE OF SOPHIA-NOUS

WILLIAM JOHN COX



THE EXTINCTION PAPERS

Presents evidence of the multiple threats to humanity

Caused by:

Crimes committed against the environment,
A casino economy addicted to gambling,
Governments that are corrupt and unrepresentative,
Corporate militarization and its endless wars, and
Intolerance, an inherited, latent disease of Mankind.

THE EVOLUTION PAPERS

Prescribes a series of remedies

Resulting from an awareness of mind.

By unleashing the evolutionary and
Exponential power of tolerance through
Compassion, collaboration, concentration,
Compromise, and cooperation,

Our collective minds will have the power

To resolve these deadly threats, and

To ensure our grandchildren
Have their chance to visit places
Beyond our imagination.

THE CHOICES
OF MIND

WILLIAM JOHN COX

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DEDICATION

This book is written for the young people of the world, of every race, in every country, speaking every language, and practicing every religion. You are the only force capable of learning the truth and quickly taking the essential steps required to avoid the extinction of humanity and the termination of human society—*within your lifetime*.¹

It is unfair that this burden is being dumped on you, as we—your parents and grandparents—are the ones who have caused the problem. We created a worldwide economy energized by the reckless burning of fossil fuels and sustained by profligate consumerism and continual war. We are the ones who have almost doubled the amount of atmospheric carbon dioxide, causing the earth's temperature to rise to a level not

¹ Were there to be only one person I could talk to about *The Choices of Mind*, it would be Greta Thunberg, whose photograph sitting on the sidewalk in front of the Swedish Parliament Building with her “School Strike for the Climate” sign is the current default image on my computer screens. It helps sustain my belief that these brave children of the new millennium have what it takes to survive the deadliest threats ever posed to human existence.

seen for millions of years. You are, however, the ones who will have to live with the consequences of our thoughtless neglect.

We may be finally forced to accept responsibility, and we may be able to help you design effective remedies, but ultimately, it is up to you to make the most of your legacy—for better or for worse. We remain entrenched in our familiar existence and are resistant to change, but you have the courage and vision of youth to create an alternative and exciting future for yourself and your children.

As you educate yourselves and prepare to earn a living for the next 30 to 40 years and to save for your retirement, you must acknowledge and accept this reality: Irrespective of how hard you work, how much money you accumulate, and how much recognition and personal power you achieve, you will not be allowed to enjoy your retirement, or your grandchildren—if there is no fresh air to breathe, clean water to drink, nutritious food to eat, or a community to help you care for your needs.

You will either act together, or you will all die together. As the average annual global temperature of the atmosphere and oceans rise by only another degree or so, Earth's delicate balance will tilt, and its environment will rapidly become too hot for the habitat

of most forms of life. Adaptation will be impossible, civilization will collapse, and you will experience pain, depression, destruction, and death. There will be no refuge, and there will be no escape—even for the rich and powerful, no matter how many guns and how much gold they have hoarded.

The deadly consequences of unabated, extreme heating this century—drought, crop diseases, wildfires in the summer, bitter winters and flooding springs, hurricanes, pandemics, mass starvation and forced migration and violence, and everywhere, the agonizing thirst for water—is real and undeniable, but *it is not yet unavoidable*. Immediate and effective action is required, however, as you are racing toward the tipping point in physics, when the release of greenhouse gases and the melting of the polar ice shields will become irreversible.

Once that moment arrives, millions of years will have to pass before our Mother Earth recovers from the damage we have wrought, and she can once again give birth to intelligent life. The rubble of our skyscrapers, bridges, and freeways will be buried beneath the land and oceans, and the fossilized evidence of our existence will offer few clues about who we were and why we failed to thrive and to fly from our nest.

We have abused the gift of fire, and our leaders have ignored the clear and convincing evidence of fatal greenhouse warming for more than 40 years. We have been denied the truth of the evidence they held then and much of what has been learned since. *There is no reasonable doubt. The continuing release of greenhouse gases will result in the extinction of humanity within the lifetimes of people who are living today.*

You now have only five years to replace our denial with effective action. You must immediately quarantine and cure the latent destructive disease of war, that continues to infect your essential existence as a caring and sharing worldwide human society, as the cost of militarization diverts the very means of your survival.

It is within your power to create a happy ending to the story of our species—if you collectively put your minds to creatively solving critical problems, instead of fighting destructive wars.

Over the past 15,000 years, our minds have evolved to suppress the instinctive intolerance of the brainstem and its destructive behaviors of deception, hatred, and violence, in the creation of our caring, sharing, and thinking species of mind, rather than physical bodies. This is who you are. You must continue to expand your minds—quickly—if you are to

ever free yourselves from the shackles of gravity, oppression, and ignorance.

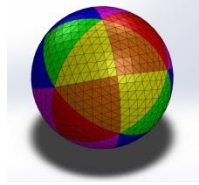
Unified, your minds can achieve the ability to soar beyond our solar system, moving quickly outward beyond our spiraling Milky Way, zooming more rapidly past clusters of galaxies, and, as the speed limit of light is increased to its fourth power, you will soon be far enough away to gaze back in wonder at nothing but pure blackness, and behold there in the distance, the rainbow colors of our brilliant Universe of Light.²

Witness the birth of our universe in the remote depths of this bottomless pool of black negative energy, which sparkles occasionally, as a positive particle of matter randomly appears and is instantly annihilated by its negative anti-particle, releasing a photon of light in the darkness. Rarely, however, there occurs a magnificent ignition of pure light: a sudden and simultaneous discharge of positive photons too numerous

² Imagine the universe looking like a soft, round, colorful Pi Ball balloon, and with the tips of your two forefingers, depress the opposing vertices at the center of the yellow and gold triangles on both sides of the ball until your fingers touch in the middle, creating a torus, or donut. Move your fingers in and out, creating surface waves between the sphere and a torus. Seal the tiny center point at the tips of your fingers, withdraw, and carefully pierce the center seal with a fine needle. Then, begin to smoothly expand the opening. The sphere of the universe becomes a torus, having the same volume and surface area tiled by the same Pi triangles.

to be counted mathematically and too brilliant to be described, which momentarily overwhelms the matter/anti-matter annihilation barrier.

The spherical spray of photons instantly dissolves into bits of positively charged proto matter, which quickly inflates as it is surrounded



by swarms of orbiting negative electrons, shielding the vulnerable protons and neutrons from annihilation. The detritus of the quantum torch of energy is ultimately organized into the matter of life, and finally, minds evolve in the surrounding negative space to everlastingly perceive our origin, actions, and destiny in the positive environment.

Our universe exists as a fragile positive, physical waveform, pulsating ever outward without resistance, most likely as a sphere-torus, with accelerating expansion, eternally drawn to and drained by the capacitor of negative energy—which occasionally overloads and discharges a quantum spark, we call a universe.

Time is meaningless in the negative space, where the random movement of mass is noted only by the existence and curiosity of mind. As our minds evolve from the physical dimensions of mass, life, and intelligence, they extend outward from our brains into the surrounding Mind Field of negative space that envel-

ops the positive matter of our brains, and all physical existence.

Once unshackled from gravity, and transcending time, we can foresee a happy, just, and joyful future, as our children and grandchildren make the brave leap from our garden of earth and water, fire and ice, to seek other planetary nurseries, using robots beyond our current imagination, unidentified, flying, or otherwise.

Let us imagine a tomorrow of expanding peace that has lasted so long that war is only a footnote of an ancient practice long forgotten. Watch the sun warm our Garden of Earth, which flourishes in fertile soils and clean waters. Envision a healthy, just, and joyful place to thrive and to raise children, who are destined to fly from their earthly nest and to seek other gardens where minds can create, and happy children can play.

If you share this dream, then, let us make it a reality.

Those of you coming of voting age today, have the present ability to entirely redirect the human, technological, and material resources—presently being criminally wasted on militarization—to the elimination and replacement of fossil fuel energy, and to reduce the levels of carbon dioxide and methane in our atmosphere.

Within the next five years, you have the collective power to rebuild our transportation infrastructure and to energize our highways with solar energy collected in outer space and transmitted by microwaves to remote collectors on Earth, *and* you can entirely replace our fossil fuel power stations, worldwide, with small, safe, replicable, modular nuclear reactors, solar panels, and wind turbines—worldwide.

Your first step is to take control of your own governments, that are presently corrupted by soulless corporations and a wealthy elite. They believe it is in their best interest to lie about and to delay the reality of imminent human extinction—for the sake of year-end profits and executive bonuses. They are wrong, but their deceptions have convinced many of us that they are right.

You've had your lessons, and your final examination is tomorrow. The test only has one question, with two choices: Extinction or Evolution? There are two grades: Fail or pass?

PREFACE

DECEPTION AND CHOICES

The effective utilization of human, material, and natural resources and the successful allocation of goods and services in a free and fair enterprise economic system require that all decisions be based on accurate and truthful information. While purchasing choices are often swayed by paid advertising that routinely exaggerates the value of products and services, fraudulent misrepresentations are criminal because the lies are a theft of essential trust. Similarly, the political judgments made by voters, and their representatives, in a free and democratic society require an educated and well-informed populace.

When the electorate is deliberately misled by a sophisticated and comprehensive campaign of lies and distortion regarding a critical issue, to sustain corporate profits, the consequences can be deadly—to freedom and to life itself. We now have conclusive evidence that conspiracies of deception have been engaged in to protect the profits of the tobacco and fossil fuel industries.

It was scientifically demonstrated in the 1930s that smoking was a primary cause of cancer, and it was conclusively proven by the early 1950s. The tobacco industry launched a massive advertising campaign in a fraudulent effort to discredit the alarming science. Over the next half century, the industry continued to addict millions of young people, infecting them with deadly diseases, while peddling both tobacco and doubt as a product. Relying on unqualified scientists who had done little or no original research, the goal of the campaign was to create doubt that tobacco was a killer.

In 2006, the industry was criminally convicted under the RICO act (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) for having “devised and executed a scheme to defraud consumers and potential consumers” about the dangers of smoking cigarettes.

The atmosphere is composed of 78 percent nitrogen and 21 percent oxygen. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) makes up only 0.04 percentage of Earth’s atmosphere; however, it is critical to life on Earth. As CO₂ is absorbed by green plants in the photosynthesis process using sunlight, water, and CO₂ to produce food, it generates oxygen as a byproduct. More than 150 years ago, it was established that carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that traps heat and keeps it from radiating

into outer space. It was also proven that the burning of fossil fuels was increasing the levels of CO₂.

Carbon dioxide has a disproportionate effect on the average annual temperature because of its powerful ability to prevent heat from being emitted from the planet into space. Acting much like the glass in a greenhouse prevents the escape of heat in the winter, carbon dioxide and methane absorb the heat instead of allowing it to pass through.

The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere at the commencement of widespread industrialization in 1750 was 280 parts per million (ppm). When measured scientifically two centuries later, in 1958, by instruments placed in the observatory at the top of Mauna Loa in Hawaii, the level was 315 ppm. Accurate measurements have been obtained every year since 1965, when the level was 320 ppm. For many environmental scientists, a level of 400 ppm became a red line beyond which they did not believe the climate could survive or ever be able to recover.

In 1965, the President's Science Advisory Committee produced a paper that predicted a 25% increase in carbon dioxide, "will modify the heat balance of the atmosphere" In his annual address to Congress, President Johnson said, "This generation has altered the composition of the atmosphere on a global scale

through . . . a steady increase in carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels.”

A study conducted by the Stanford Research Institute in 1968 for the American Petroleum Institute demonstrated that the burning of fossil fuels would result in “significant temperature changes” by the year 2000.

A National Petroleum Council report in 1972 thought that climate changes resulting from fossil fuel consumption would probably not be apparent “until at least the turn of the century.”

In 1977, the National Research Council warned, “It has become increasingly apparent in recent years that human capacity to perturb inadvertently the global environment has outstripped our ability to anticipate the nature and extent of the impact.” Another report the same year commissioned by the Energy Research and Development Administration warned that continued burning of fossil fuels would lead to “intolerable” and “irreversible” disasters.

In July 1977, James Black, a senior scientist at Exxon informed the senior management, “In the first place, there is general scientific agreement that the most likely manner in which mankind is influencing the global climate is through carbon dioxide released from the burning of fossil fuels.” The next year, he

warned that doubling atmospheric carbon dioxide would increase its temperature by two or three degrees.” By 1982, Exxon projected that CO₂ levels to reach 560 ppm by 2060. Even so, Exxon spent tens of millions of dollars supporting climate change denial and advocacy groups disputing the impact of global warming. ExxonMobil acknowledged climate change risk in April 2014; however, it continued to assert that the reality of supply and demand would ultimately result in lower greenhouse gas emissions, without the need for regulation.

President Jimmy Carter signed the Energy Security Act of 1980 which directed the National Academy of Sciences to analyze the social and economic consequences of climate change and to prepare a comprehensive report. Its 495-page report, *Changing Climate*, was issued in 1983, recommending an accelerated transition to renewable fuels and warned that it would take thousands of years for the earth to recover from the damage already inflicted on it. Although its preface argued that action had to be taken immediately, before everything about climate change was learned, some of the committee members argued that there was no urgent need for action and that it was better to continue research and to wait for future technology to save the day.

Computerized climate modelling successfully demonstrated the relationship of CO₂ levels and the average global temperature. A doubling of the pre-industrial level will produce a warming of approximately 3°C; however, once people can personally witness undeniable changes in the climate, it may be too late to do anything. The last time the world was warmer by three degrees was three million years ago during the Pliocene Epoch, when conifer trees were growing near the South Pole in Antarctica, horses romped along the shores of the Arctic Ocean, and the sea level was 80 feet higher.

Testifying in 1987, James E. Hansen, director of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies, warned Congress, to a 99 percent certainty, that global warming was being caused by the greenhouse effect. Even as economists began to identify the risk caused to the environment by free-market economics, the government policy was to conduct further research before taking action to reduce emissions.

By the late 1980s, it appeared that comprehensive federal legislation regulating the emission of carbon dioxide was imminent. Denying any responsibility, however, the fossil fuel industry took a page from the playbook of the tobacco industry and recruited some of the very same unqualified scientists for its team of

deniers. The industry began to spend billions of dollars to convince people that the threat of “global warming” is only a normal change in the weather, and that the continued use of fossil fuel is essential to human survival.

Much like the tobacco industry that earlier sold the public on the advantages of smoking tobacco, the petroleum and coal companies have poured massive funds into advertising and political campaigns to mislead people around the world—and their governments—about the real danger of human extinction within the lifetime of the current generation of young people. In just the period between 2000 and 2016, the industry spent more than \$2 billion to defeat climate change legislation.

Industry efforts were greatly aided by the election of President Ronald Reagan in 1980. His plans were to close the Energy Department, deregulate the surface mining of coal, and to increase its mining on federal property. As Secretary of the Interior, Reagan appointed the attorney who had been fighting to open public land to the exploitation of fossil fuels. He did, however, issue a joint statement with Mikhail Gorbachev, the last leader of the Soviet Union, “pledging” to cooperate on global warming.

Through campaign contributions and outright bribery, international corporations have been able to suborn governments around the world in avoiding taxation to help pay for the environmental and economic destruction they cause and to escape all regulation that might interfere with their drive for profits. Although representative democracies have become the standard organization for most governments, the officials of many of these countries do not represent the best interests of the voters who elect them, and they ignore the well-being of their constituents in favor of their corporate masters.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted and became effective in 1992. Parties to the Convention negotiated the Kyoto Treaty in 1997, in which the industrialized nations promised to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, by seven percent, or below 1990 levels, by 2012. President Bill Clinton signed the protocols on behalf of the United States, and it was later ratified by 192 countries.

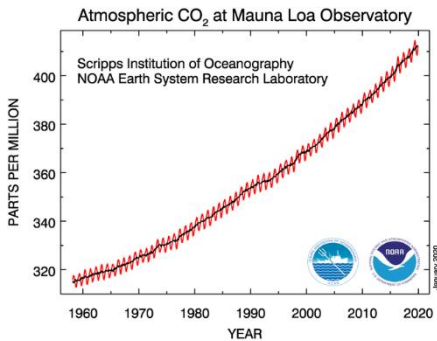
Following the flawed presidential election in 2000, President George W. Bush, a former oil developer, withdrew the U.S. from the Kyoto agreement saying, "We do not know how much our climate could or will change in the future. We do not know

how fast change will occur, or even how some of our actions could impact it.”

One of the reservations about the Kyoto agreement was that it exempted developing nations, such as India and China, from its mandatory protocols. To address these complaints, the Kyoto Treaty was replaced in 2015 by the Paris Agreement in which all signatories agreed to limit global warming to “well below” two degrees centigrade and to below 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels if feasible.³

On April 18, 2017, the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere measured at the Mauna Loa Observatory surpassed 400 parts per million “redline” for the first time. In December 2019, instruments maintained by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Earth System Research Laboratory at the summit recorded a level of 411.76 ppm.

³ U.S. President Donald Trump notified the United Nations on November 4, 2019 that he intended to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement because of its disadvantage to the U.S. economy in lost jobs and production.



The violent criminal assault on our Mother Earth is taking place—seemingly without public awareness or concern—as 200 species of life die off every day and extreme weather patterns of drought, fires, flooding, and freezing winters in the northern hemisphere have become the accepted norm. The enormous environmental fraud that has been perpetrated on humanity was made possible by a worldwide capitalistic economy that has converted free markets into an international gambling casino.

As we finally confront the deadly dangers caused by the burning of fossil fuels, we must obtain the most accurate information possible if we are to make the correct choices to ensure the survival of humanity. Moreover, we must learn how environmental issues are intertwined with those of the economy, politics, war, and intolerance if we are to survive on Earth long

enough to learn to fly from our nest before we peck each other to death.⁴

⁴ The five Extinction Papers which follow are disturbing, and the reader may want to flip forward to the five corresponding Evolution Papers, as needed, to lighten the despair of having to face the deadly reality of today and to explore a different and joyful tomorrow.

THE EXTINCTION PAPERS

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Crimes committed against the environment,

A casino economy addicted to gambling,

Governments that are corrupt and unrepresentative,

Corporate militarization and its endless wars, and

Intolerance, an inherited, latent disease of Mankind.

AN INQUEST INTO THE CRIMINAL ASSAULT ON MOTHER EARTH

About 4.5 billion years ago, when the solar system was still quite young, an event occurred which helped create the conditions required for the evolution of life. In a violent collision, Earth merged with a planetary object the size of Mars, forming a ring around the earth that ultimately coalesced into the moon. The collision provided a tilt to Earth's axis that varies between 22.1 and 24.5 degrees over a 40,000-year cycle.

As the earth and moon waltz around the sun in a gravitational swing dance every year, the moon attracts the surface of the seas and creates the tides that helps circulate the water of the oceans around the continents and erodes their shores. Warmed by the sun, the oceans provide the moisture for the rains and snows that water the plants and animals, as they wash away and absorb the waste.

Using innovative processes rivaling those employed on CSI (crime scene investigation) television shows, scientists are now able to accurately determine the state of the earth and its environment going back billions of years. They learned that—while the planet's orbit is in the "Goldilocks Zone" around the sun—the earth's average annual temperature has varied over the eons from being too hot to too cold, and

only rarely is it “just right.” Around 75 percent of the time, the earth is like a heated greenhouse, without ice even at high latitudes.

There have been times, however, when Earth was a snowball completely covered with ice. Even as single-cell life was first struggling to gain a foothold around 2.3 billion years ago, the earth was glaciated as far as the equator, and the oceans were frozen over. After millions of years, the earth suddenly warmed, and the evolution of life continued. Complete glaciation returned about 710 million years ago, and 635 million years ago, glaciation covered the earth with ice for six to 12 million years.

The evolution of life established elementary life forms, such as algae and zooplankton, throughout the oceans where they lived, died, and settled to the ocean floor for billions of years. As their remains became buried under sedimentary rock and subjected to intense heat and pressure, vast pools of petroleum were formed. During these same eons, the land masses came to be covered, from time to time, with extensive swampy forests consisting of giant ferns, reeds, and mosses, which were submerged in the water after they died. As the plant matter decomposed into peat, it was covered by layers of soil and rock over millions of years and subjected to heat and great

pressure. As the oxygen was expelled from the layers of vegetation, deposits of coal remained having carbon as more than 50 percent of its weight, combined with other chemicals and compounds.

THE ICE AGE CYCLE

Over the past several million years, the earth's climate has settled into a consistent cycle consisting of mostly warm weather, occasionally interrupted by a reversal caused in part by the reduction of carbon dioxide through the weathering process. As the level of CO₂ lowers, the earth begins to slowly cool, and an ice age ultimately sets in.

The combined effects of several astronomical phenomena, including the tilt of the Earth's axis, its axial precession, and the eccentricity of its elliptical orbit around the sun, increases or decreases the distance between the earth and the sun and the magnitude of seasonal changes. These factors have differing periods, but in combination, they have produced a period of approximately 100,000 years for the current cycles of glaciation.

The earth entered the last ice age more than 100,000 years ago and reached its maximum extent about 20,000 years ago. Primarily because the north-

ern hemisphere has most of the land mass, the Ice Age was concentrated there, with glaciers extending down across Canada into northern United States and across northern Europe and Russia. With so much water locked up in ice, the weather was dry, with arid conditions in Alaska allowing it to remain ice free, at the same time the sea level was much lower. This exposed a land bridge between Siberia and Alaska.⁵

While it takes 80,000 years for the earth to slowly cool into maximum glaciation, the ice ages end quite rapidly. Commencing about 20,000 years ago, the earth suddenly began to warm, and it approached current temperature levels around 10,800 BCE. There was a sudden unexplained cooling that lasted for 1,000 years, after which temperatures began to rise to modern levels. For the last 8,000 years or so, average annual temperatures have remained remarkably stable, as the earth began to slowly cool once again into another ice age, normally expected in about 23,000 years.

⁵ Modern humans left Africa about 60,000 years ago, quickly spreading across Europe and Asia. Migration into the Americas commenced at least 16,000 years ago.

EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION

The cooling of the earth has been slow enough to allow us to adapt to its gradually changing conditions; however, the Industrial Revolution that began around 1750 has reversed the cycle. Industrialists began to rely on the use of steam power fueled by the burning of coal to advance from hand production to machine and chemical manufacturing, and the forging of iron. The invention of machine tools produced mechanical factories, including those used to loom textiles. Initially, the revolution started with water-power, but the invention of the coal-burning steam engine allowed for enormous increases in production.

The burning of coal to produce the energy required for industrialization and the introduction of petroleum-fueled motor vehicles began to release increasing amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, as the revolution spread around the globe. Inasmuch as CO₂ constitutes less than one percent of the atmosphere, the pumping of billions of tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere has rapidly increased its effectiveness as a greenhouse gas. We are currently dumping more than 40 billion tons of extra CO₂ in the atmosphere every year.

Without its atmosphere, the temperature of Earth would be near -18°C, as cold as the dark side of

the moon. While the earth continues to radiate the heat from its molten core, its atmosphere provides the unique warming mechanism that encourages life to flourish. Carbon dioxide and the other greenhouse gases allow the sun's energetic short-wave radiation to penetrate and reach Earth; however, the gases very effectively absorb some of the long-wave radiation that is emitted or reflected from the surface. This natural greenhouse effect has allowed Earth's average temperature to settle around 15°C; however, as the amount of CO₂ dumped into the atmosphere increases, the temperature also rises—inexorably.

By analyzing the carbon dioxide content of air bubbles in cores of ancient ice, it was proven that the post-Ice Age level of CO₂ was 280 parts per million (ppm). The natural baseline ranges between 180-280 ppm, depending on the extent of glaciation. With industrialization, this baseline began to quickly increase in the eighteenth century, and it has now risen to beyond 400 ppm, a 43 percent increase.

Analysis of the air bubbles also proved that the methane (CH₄) baseline of 700-800 ppm has more than doubled to 1,800 ppm. Although it only lasts seven or eight years in the atmosphere before degrading, methane is far more efficient than CO₂, absorbing between 23 times and 100-200 times as

much per molecule, depending on the length of the period measured.

The oceans act as a vast sump absorbing heat, as the oceans slowly circulate and mix water of varying temperatures at different depths. Even if the excessive emission of greenhouse gases were to cease, the ocean would continue to radiate this heat into a cooler atmosphere. Starting in 1860, we find that the average temperature of the earth, overall, has risen by 0.8°C; however, the temperature in the Arctic has risen by 2.4°C. Referred to as “Arctic amplification,” the warming of the Arctic and the melting of its ice amplifies global warming.

THE MELTING OF THE SEA ICE

The melting of Arctic ice is occurring in two directions. First, the retreat of the sea ice from the shores of the land that surrounds the Arctic Ocean allows for open water and wave action around the sea ice. Second, the ice is thawing in the center and is becoming thinner with each passing year, becoming 43 percent thinner in just 20 years between the 1970s and the 1990s. The increased shrinking and thinning of the Arctic ice will, ultimately, lead to ice-free summers in the Arctic Ocean. The ice has been declining by 13 percent each decade since first measured

by satellite in 1979. Most conservative modelers of climate change predict an ice-free summer between 2050 and 2080, but others fear the loss could occur within just a few years.

Sea ice albedo measures the reflectivity of the surface to the rays of the sun. As ice melts, more of the ocean's surface, which is darker and less reflective, is exposed and the sea water is heated, leading to increased ice melt and higher atmospheric temperatures. Ultimately a tipping point is reached when enough ice is not generated in the winter, and a new state becomes permanent. At that point, all the ice will be only one year old and will melt each summer.

As conditions worsen and the ice-free conditions continues deeper into winter, new and unpredictable circulation patterns and thermal cycles will evolve. These conditions will become irreversible—even if the release of greenhouse gases is reduced.

In addition to ice-albedo, there are other feedback mechanisms that act to increase the rate of warming. These include increased water vapor, which acts as a greenhouse gas, and the loss of snow cover over land areas; however, it is the melting of the vast sheets of ice located on Greenland and in Antarctica that poses the greatest threat of global sea level rise.

All glaciers, everywhere, are in retreat; however, the ones on Greenland and Antarctica, which have remained frozen year-round, are now rapidly melting, flowing faster, and threatening to break free of the land and slide into the ocean. It is estimated that the Greenland Ice Sheet is now losing 300 square kilometers of water per year, while the Antarctic Ice Sheet is losing 84 km³ per year. The melting of the Greenland sheet would increase the sea level by 20 feet, and the Antarctic sheet would raise it by 200 feet. Conservative estimates are for a three-foot increase by 2100, while there is a strong likelihood it will be much greater.

THE METHANE BOMB

Over the eons, as the sea level has fallen with ice ages, land has been exposed, covered with vegetation, and then frozen. Taking the form of (permanently frozen) permafrost on land near the North Pole and under the shallow seas of the continental shelves, the permafrost is now being melted by the shrinking of surface ice and warming of the ocean and atmosphere. The Arctic Ocean seabed also contains massive amounts of frozen methane in the form of solid and ice-like hydrates. As the temperature of the seabed and land permafrost rises above freezing, methane, a

powerful greenhouse gas caused by the decomposition of vegetation, is released, causing a rise in temperatures and the release of even more methane. This feedback mechanism may be the most critical of all, as it is estimated that hydrates on the Arctic Ocean floor hold 400 gigatons of methane.

If the current level of warming continues, there is a great likelihood that as much as 50 gigatons of methane could be released very quickly within a decade. A pulse of methane of this magnitude would bomb the atmosphere, causing global temperatures to more quickly reach the point, perhaps by as few as 10-15 years, where recovery will become impossible. There is a 50 percent chance this pulse will occur.

Compounding this risk, continuing warming over the next 20 years will force the land permafrost to release carbon dioxide and methane in an amount equal to 30 times the methane pulse alone. The combination of these events makes the release of greenhouse gases from the permafrost and Arctic Ocean floor one of the greatest and most immediate threats to the environment and humanity.

IF THE EARTH IS WARMING, WHY ARE THE NORTHERN WINTERS SO COLD?

American president Donald Trump, who believes “climate change was a hoax invented by the Chinese to make the US manufacturing less competitive,” and who withdrew the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement, commented on a record-setting cold wave in the Midwest in January 2019 by asking, “What the hell is going on with Global Warming? Please come back fast, we need you!” Earlier, he stated, “Wouldn’t be bad to have a little of the good old fashioned Global Warming right now!” More recently, he said, “We must reject the perennial prophets of doom and their predictions of the apocalypse,” calling them “the heirs of yesterday’s foolish fortune tellers.”

Frequent air travelers are familiar with the “jet stream” in the northern hemisphere which can provide a tailwind of up to two hundred miles an hour when flying from the west to the east, or an equal headwind if traveling in the opposite direction. Created by the difference between the cold air mass over the polar ice and the warm tropical air mass at lower latitudes, jet streams exist at both poles, but they are more apparent in the north because of the greater land masses and the number of people affected. Exist-

ing in a narrow layer at an altitude of approximately 30,000 feet, the northern jet stream is strongest in the winter when the temperature differences are the greatest.

The jet stream is not consistent in speed or its path, as it loops up and down the latitudes, strengthening and weakening, depending upon atmospheric conditions. The stream can have a dramatic effect on the weather in North America, Europe, and Asia, as a “polar vortex” delivers cold air to the south and draws warm air up toward the North Pole.

A connection between the reduction of the polar ice shield and local weather conditions can be observed as the sea ice disappears in the Barents and Kara seas. This strengthens the persistent high-pressure area in Siberia, which forces cold air to flow down into eastern Asia. The unusual extreme cold weather experienced in the United States may result from rising temperatures in the Greenland Sea, which forces the jet stream to dip down and threaten food crops as far as the agricultural Southeast.

THE WARMING AND ACIDIFICATION OF THE OCEANS

The acidification of the oceans is the co-conspirator of atmospheric warming in the threatened murder of all life on Earth. As the oceans have absorbed about 525 billion tons of carbon dioxide since the commencement of industrialization, they have also experienced a 26-30 percent increase in acidity and a consequential reduction in the carbonate ions required for corals, phytoplankton, clams, crabs, mussels, and other sea life to grow their shells from calcium carbonate in order to survive. This is the highest level of acidity in 300 million years.

Evidence of the crime can be observed at the dead coral reefs that are appearing around the world, where 19 percent of the coral reefs have already been killed. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that 99 percent of the warm water coral reefs could disappear, if the global average temperature rises by just one additional degree above the pre-industrial baseline. Coral reefs will likely be the first major ecosystem to become ecologically extinct in our lifetime, along with the millions of species of marine life that depend on reefs for survival, and upon which we rely for food.

As the oceans absorb carbon dioxide and become warmer, they are less capable of absorbing oxygen—as it becomes less soluble—and producing oxygen from oceanic photosynthesis, such as by phytoplankton, a microscopic alga that contains chlorophyll. As the phytoplankton feeds on the excess nitrogen and phosphorus, the algae grow into large blooms. While the phytoplankton lifecycle produces oxygen, it also contributes massive amounts of waste and dead bodies that fall to the ocean floor, where it is consumed by bacteria in a process that consumes oxygen. Warmer water also increases the metabolism of other marine life, which further reduces the level of oxygen to hypoxic and anoxic levels. Essentially, marine life begins to suffocate, and the larger species we rely upon for food are the most vulnerable, because of their greater need for oxygen. Dead zones are appearing in oceans around the world, where oxygen levels can no longer support life.

From the time when research began in the 1960s, there are now more than four times the number of oceanic dead zones around the world where oxygen is effectively absent. A report of these findings to the United Nations climate conference in Madrid in December 2019, found there to have been an increase from 45 identified areas, where oxygen levels are dangerously low, to more than 700.

Some of the largest dead zones occur where industrial processes and heavy agricultural fertilizer use, combined with animal waste runoff, dumps nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorous, into the water. The largest dead zone covers almost the entire 63,700 square mile Gulf of Oman, and another smothers almost 7,000 square miles in the Gulf of Mexico where the Mississippi River empties; however, dead zones are found around the world wherever these industrial and agricultural wastes are discharged into the oceans.

Low oxygen levels interfere with spawning and result in low egg counts and other reproductive problems for fish. It also interferes with the ability of fish to gather in protective schools and forces them to more shallow water where they are more vulnerable to predation. When combined with high acidity, adult fish die at higher levels of oxygen, where they might otherwise be able to survive. The combination of stressors is deadly.

THE EYE-WITNESS EVIDENCE: ONE YEAR OF EXTREME WEATHER—2019

Our modern fast-paced lives are dominated by a 24-hour news cycle that spends as much time reveling in the antics of reality TV stars as it does on report-

ing the most devastating extreme weather events in human history. Consumed as we are by earning enough money to purchase the products and lifestyles promoted by the media, the frequency and severity of droughts, floods, fires, blizzards, tornados, and hurricanes can be easily overlooked or ignored by working people and their families.

Most people no longer read newspapers and magazines and instead depend on the video snippets provided by corporate media outlets, whose advertisers have an economic interest in the distortion and misrepresentation of the facts. These tragic events are easily overlooked, forgotten, or ignored—unless one is personally affected by the devastation, or finds it important enough to responsibly consider.

The United Nations' World Meteorological Organization reports that the mean temperature from January through October 2019 was 1.1 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial levels, and that the last decade was the hottest in recorded history. As atmospheric carbon dioxide reached 412 parts per million—its highest level in 800,000 years—the last year has been the second hottest year ever recorded.⁶

⁶ The warmest year was 2016, with 16 of the warmest years in history having occurred since 2000, and ten of the hottest Julys on record having occurred since 2005.

The heat content of the oceans, which absorb more than 90 percent of the heat trapped by rising concentrations of greenhouse gases, reached record heights in 2019, continuing the rise of sea levels worldwide.

In the summer of 2019, the Arctic sea ice shrank to what has become its smallest size set in 2007 and 2016, and the Antarctic sea ice reached its lowest June coverage on record. With the housing of more than 22 million people affected, worldwide, the suffering and damage resulting from the release of greenhouse gases in just the last year, and its enormity is difficult to comprehend. These are some of the extreme weather events occurring during just one year:

- The costliest natural disaster in the world in 2018, a deadly and destructive firestorm destroyed the city of Paradise, California in November, killing 85 residents, burning 18,804 structures, and causing \$16.5 billion in damage—a quarter of which was uninsured.
- In late January 2019, a polar vortex caused the jet stream to weaken and to flow down through the Midwestern United States and Eastern Canada. The jet stream delivered Arctic conditions through February and into March, as its meander slowly shifted to

the east. Record low temperatures were set, and 22 people died in the bitter cold and deep snow.

- The cold wave was followed by above-average temperatures, melting of the snow-pack, heavy rains, and widespread flooding in the Central United States. During the wettest year in history, the Great Flood of 2019 submerged more than a million acres of Midwestern farmland and caused catastrophic and mostly uninsured losses of stored crops and delayed plantings.
- Extreme flooding also occurred in Bolivia in February to April, and widespread flash flooding killed 77 people in Iran in March and April.
- In March, Cyclone Idai swept into East Africa causing extreme flooding, the evacuation of 4 million people, and the deaths of 1,300 people.
- Cyclone Fani struck India and Bangladesh in May, killing 89 people and causing \$8.1 billion in damage.
- A heat wave in June-July pushed hot, dry air from Northern Africa up into Europe,

setting all-time high records. Back-to-back heat waves in France killed 868 people.

- Beginning in July, massive wildfires swept across Siberia burning more than 6.4 million acres in poorly accessible areas. The Forest Protection Service was actively fighting 161 fires by August, while most of the wilderness fires burned unchecked.
- Wildfires burned over 2.5 million acres in Alaska in 2019, and more than 100 “intense and long-lived wildfires” were burning above the Arctic Circle in June, including a large fire in the mossy wetlands of Greenland.
- A mass of warm air flowed across Greenland into August causing a record melting of the Greenland Ice Sheet, peaking at 12.5 billion tons of ice in one day on August 1st. With a total loss of 230 gigatons for the melt season, this level of melting had not been expected until 2070.
- Starting in July, more than 7,000 wildfires swept through New South Wales in Australia killing six people and destroying more than 2,000 structures and blanketing Sydney in smoke. By December, with the drought

continuing, more than a hundred out-of-control bushfires continue to burn, as a heatwave raised temperatures to 48°C (118°F). Fire warnings were issued for the area of greater Sydney, and every road but two were blocked by fires. Tens of thousands of people in Victoria and New South Wales have been ordered to evacuate, as more than 1,000 homes have been destroyed, and 30 people killed, along with a billion animals. More than 10 million hectares have burned.

- In 2019, more than 183,000 fires in the Amazon jungle burned more than 906,000 hectares or 9,969 square kilometers of forest. Many of the fires were intentionally set by loggers and farmers to clear the jungle
- At the end of August, Hurricane Dorian arose in the Atlantic Ocean near the Cape Verde Islands. The strongest hurricane to ever strike the Bahamas, Dorian reached Category Five by the time it made landfall on September 1 with maximum sustained winds of 185 mph. The eye of Dorian stalled for two days as it destroyed thousands of homes, leaving 70,000 homeless and killing

at least 65 people. Estimated losses exceed \$7 billion, with only \$1 billion insured. Dorian tied the record for the strongest Atlantic hurricane ever, before moving on to cause considerable damage to the Eastern Seaboard of the United States.

- Torrential rains swept across northern Bangladesh in July and August damaging 580,000 homes, forcing more than 307,000 people to evacuate, and killing 119 people.
- Two cataclysmic cyclones struck Southern Africa in March and April with flooding destroying grain and staple crops, followed by a severe drought with high temperatures and low rainfall that continued throughout 2019, as 45 million people in the region experienced hunger and thirst.
- In October 2019, it was reported that the East Siberian Sea was boiling from the massive release of methane from the thawing seafloor.
- In November, Venice, Italy experienced the highest flooding in 50 years, with six feet of water covering the city.

- Heavy rains caused by rising temperatures in the Indian Ocean, brought flooding and landslides to central and eastern Africa in November killing dozens of people and leaving more than 180,000 in dire need of humanitarian assistance.
- A severe, rapidly developing drought caused by low rainfall and high temperatures “flashed” across the Southeast United States in the Fall creating conditions that are too dry for Spring planting in the agricultural region.
- Spawned by the northern Jetstream and striking just before the Thanksgiving holiday, a massive meteorological bomb cyclone hit the West Coast of Oregon and California with winds in excess of 100 mph and set new records for the lowest sea-level air pressure ever recorded in California. As the storm moved across the country over the next four days, it drove strong winds and produced some of the heaviest snowfalls in a decade in the Southwest, across the Midwest, and into the Northeast.

The frequency and intensity of these extreme weather conditions provide convincing evidence that the heating of Earth's atmosphere by two degrees Centigrade beyond pre-industrial levels will likely reach a tipping point where the impacts of global warming will become unstoppable. Having now recorded an increase of more than one degree, and with further increases already ensured by past emissions of carbon dioxide and methane, the earth may have already reached the point of no return—where nothing can be done about irreversible changes in the climate system. Whether that point has been reached, or when, is still debatable; however, the evidence of this one year of extreme weather provides proof beyond a reasonable doubt that a state of planetary emergency presently exists, which poses a dire threat to human civilization.

The journal *BioScience* published an article in November 2019 endorsed by more than 11,000 scientists from 153 nations that says, “The climate crisis has arrived and is accelerating faster than most scientists expected. It is more severe than anticipated, threatening natural ecosystems and the fate of humanity.” They predict “untold suffering due to the climate crisis . . . unless we change how we live.” We must make “major transformations in the ways our

global society functions and interacts with natural ecosystems.”

Speaking on December 2, 2019, António Guterrez, Secretary General of the United Nations, called upon the young people of the world to confront the climate emergency *and* the lack of action by governments. He said:

The technologies that are necessary to make this possible are already available. Signals of hope are multiplying. Public opinion is waking up everywhere. Young people are showing remarkable leadership and mobilization. [But we need] political will to put a price on carbon, political will to stop subsidies on fossil fuels [and start] taxing pollution instead of people.

THE SIXTH MASS EXTINCTION OF ALL SPECIES ON EARTH

Homo sapiens (Latin: *wise man*) is the name of our species of humans in the nomenclature of life. Having now multiplied and migrated over the past 200,000 years to occupy every habitable space on the earth’s surface, we are one of the 1.3 million species of life presently identified, and 8.7 million species be-

lieved to exist together on Earth today. Species evolve, and species die off. Such is the nature of life. What is rare is that from time to time mass extinctions of life have occurred on Earth because of its harsh climatic conditions.

Prior to the eighteenth century, there was little or no recognition, even among scientists, that there was a history of prior life of species other than those which were extant, including humans. With the discovery and identification of the fossil bones of giant amphibians, mammoths, and dinosaurs encased in ancient stone, geologists, biologists, and other scientists began to identify and to reconstruct the natural history of survival and evolution.

It has now been established that there were five times in the evolution of life when it was almost extinguished by naturally occurring events—most often by rapid climate change. Following mass extinctions 444 and 375 million years ago, the “great dying” at the boundary of the Permian-Triassic geological epoch between 299 and 252 million years ago killed off 96 percent of all species. The exact originating cause is unknown, but the result was a drastic rise in global temperatures caused by a massive release of greenhouse gases. As the atmospheric temperatures soared, the oceans warmed, became acidified, and the

amount of dissolved oxygen fell to low levels that suffocated marine life. One possible cause was the cataclysmic volcanic eruption that created the seven-million-square-mile “Siberian Traps” and released gigantic amounts of carbon dioxide. Another phenomenon of the era was the excessive expelling of methane by methanogenic bacteria as a byproduct of their survival in hypoxic (low oxygen) conditions of the oceans.

*Most alarming is the determination that the average rate of carbon dioxide released during the Permian extinction was slightly **below** the rate presently being pumped into the atmosphere by the industrial burning of fossil fuels in the past two centuries!*

Following the mysterious ending of the Triassic period 200 million years ago, the dinosaurs came to dominate the earth for millions of years during the Cretaceous period until they were destroyed along with 75 percent of all other plant and animal species by the impact of a massive comet or asteroid on the Gulf Coast of Mexico 65 million years ago. This fifth mass extinction, however, provided the opportunity for the explosive evolution of many new species, particularly mammals, who were able to diversify into new niches. Among these was the order of primates, from which we humans evolved.

Commencing about 11,650 years ago, the current geological epoch is known as the Holocene—the moderately warm and stable interglacial period we have been enjoying. This pleasant environment has produced the greatest number of coexisting species in the planet’s history. The actions of humanity to transform the earth to meet our needs, and the impact of our efforts upon it and its ecosystems, dominate this period. Inasmuch as the consequences of our activity can now be identified in the geologic, atmospheric, and hydrologic systems of the earth, scientists are considering naming this emerging epoch the Anthropocene (human epoch). It is evidenced by a unique “biostratigraphical signal” in the data resulting from our destruction and redistribution of life.

Since we began burning fossil fuels in the eighteenth century, industrialization has added more than 365 billion metric tons of carbon to the atmosphere, and our destruction of the forests has added another 180 billion tons. We continue to pump out nine billion tons of carbon every year, which is increasing by six percent per year.

The 2019 concentration of 411.76 parts per million of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is higher than at any point in the past few million years, and our current activities will take us past 500 ppm by

2050. This level will correspond to a devastating rise in global temperatures, as the oceans continue to absorb 2.5 billion tons of carbon each year, raising its acidity to levels that destroy marine life and curtail the supply of seafood for humans.

According to Dr. Edward O. Wilson, prior to the evolution of humans, roughly one species of every million went extinct each year. Overall, the current rate is 100 to 1,000 times greater than the background rate of extinction due to human activity. More than 200 species are going extinct every day, primarily due to loss of habitat. Biological diversity is being reduced to its lowest extent since the asteroid destroyed the dinosaurs and other life at the end of the Cretaceous Period. The ability of clever humans to conform the environment to meet our needs is one way to define us; another is that we are an invasive species which is destroying the ability of all other lifeforms to survive.

A HELLISH WAY TO DIE

As we have learned, the United States government recognized as early as 1965 that increasing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will “modify the heat balance of the atmosphere”; by 1968, the American Petroleum Institute reported the burning of fossil

fuels would result in “significant temperature changes” by 2000; the United Nations established the Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992; and the first protocols to reduce carbon emissions were adopted by the Kyoto Treaty in 1997. Since that time, little or nothing of substance has been accomplished by the elected officials of any of the world governments—all of whom are sworn to represent the best interests of their voters.

The level of carbon being pumped into the atmosphere and absorbed by the oceans has continued to rise with each passing year of this century, and the inevitability of extinction becomes more certain as the sun continues to set on fruitless day after day of denial and avoidance.

We humans have been aware of the criticality of global warming for more than four decades, and since that time, we have pumped more deadly carbon into the atmosphere than we did in all the previous centuries of our existence, and we continue to increase, rather than to reduce the amount we contribute every day.

Unabated, the level of carbon in our atmosphere and oceans will continue to rise, inexorably. The latest position taken by the United Nations—which is more conservative than the views of many scientists—is that: global warming is accelerating the

melting of glaciers and ice sheets from Greenland to Antarctica; the sea levels are rising more rapidly than previously thought; and the fisheries that feed millions of people are shrinking. In September 2019, 100 scientists from 36 countries stated in a “Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate” that we may have only ten years to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Centigrade.

Other scientists believe that the time left for abatement is even shorter, and the most alarmist, Dr. Guy McPherson, professor emeritus of conservation biology, is convinced it is already too late because of the inability of people to change and the absence of political will to take timely and effective action. He cites an inability to produce and store grains at large scale due to a loss of habitat to extreme weather events as leading to worldwide starvation in the near term.

The current human population is 7.7 billion people. The World Bank has estimated that climate refugees from sub-Saharan Africa, South America, and South Asia could amount to 140 million people by 2050. The United Nations is even more pessimistic in predicting 200 million refugees by the same year and worries that as many as one billion may be forced to migrate for water, food, and shelter to sur-

vive. In a most unjust result, these Third World victims will have contributed the least to global warming, but they will suffer the most.

Even if every signatory nation immediately implemented all their commitments in the Paris Agreement to keep the global temperature increase below two degrees Centigrade, that degree of warmth will still increase sea levels enough to flood a hundred of the major cities of the world.

We have seen with our own eyes the evidence of extreme weather events in the last year, as we experienced the destruction caused by an increase of just 1.1°C of global warming. The United Nations IPCC released a report last year which confirms the likelihood that 1.5°C of warming may be reached in as little as ten years. Higher levels can be avoided only by reducing fossil fuel burning by half in 15 years and eliminating its use to produce energy within 30 years. If the political, philosophical, and social will to accomplish these objectives cannot be found, the consequences are almost unimaginable. Temperatures can easily and quickly rise two, three, and four degrees above the baseline of the Industrial Revolution, as feedback mechanisms become more and more intense.

As natural disasters multiply, losses will become uninsurable for individuals, and governments will become incapable of assisting their citizens to recover. Imagine if the extreme weather conditions experienced in the past year were doubled or tripled, and everyone was forced to face the danger alone. Governments, their militaries, and the corporations that control them will become increasingly dangerous to the people, as they waste and exhaust the resources they have seized. The marvelous human society we have struggled for 200,000 years to build will cease to exist, and we will all die lonely and agonizing deaths.

As painful as it is, you must imagine a world in which millions of people quickly lose access to drinkable water, suffer from famines, and become the victims of violence and disorder. Absent effective action, this is the most likely future:

- Blistering summer heat waves, extended droughts, uncontrollable wildfires, massive dust storms, freezing winter blizzards, devastating spring floods and tornados, and more powerful and numerous hurricanes and storm surges destroy the habitat and the ability of billions of people to eke out a basic living.

- The snowpacks and glaciers of the great mountainous “water towers” that supply the rivers of Pakistan, India, China and Afghanistan dry up and millions are without water.
- Equatorial and shoreline cities will become uninhabitable, and plagues and diseases will sweep through weakened populations without immunity or access to health care.
- The money economy will collapse, and governments and all other collective endeavors will fail.
- As the burning forests release their stored carbon back into the overloaded atmosphere and no longer produce oxygen, the farmland is hardened into infertile clay incapable of producing food crops and barren deserts spread across the land: there will be nothing to eat, nor water to drink—nothing to barter, nor better place to go.

We will become incapable of feeding and educating our children, and as the great dying nears its climax, we will no longer bury or remember our dead. We will become extinct. The grand experiment of humanity will have failed, our discoveries will be forgotten, and our creations will be buried among the

ruins. Mother Earth will survive the assault, but it will take millions of years for her to recover from the collateral damage we inflicted by our collective suicide.

IS THERE AN ALTERNATIVE FUTURE?

Books are already being published about accepting the inevitability of extinction and how to die with dignity; however, humans have demonstrated an amazing ability to evolve in adapting to changing conditions, and the collective wisdom and creativity of humanity may be greater than imagined. The time, however, for effective action is very short, and, even if we are able to solve the immediate environmental crisis, we may not survive unless we also resolve the related economic, political, war, and intolerance issues that interfere with our successful evolution.

These additional threats will next be dealt with, in turn, before considering the remedies that could be applied to each in the Evolution Papers. There, in inverse order, the last of these remedies to be considered is for the environment, because it is essential the other issues be resolved in order to generate the resources required to restore the harmony of the earth's climate.

An Inquest Into the Criminal Assault on Mother Earth

DEFRAUDING EARTH'S CHILDREN OF THEIR ECONOMIC INHERITANCE

As the human population has increased, its economic output has continued to grow; however, in the past century, expanding productivity and the increase in per capita income has allowed the world economy to expand tremendously beyond the increase in population, and the economy is on track to quadruple by 2050. This bounty has not been shared equally, with half of the world population living in poverty and hunger. While the efforts of the poor to grow food contributes to deforestation and the deterioration of arable land, the most threatening economic impacts on the environment results from the shared prosperity of the other half of the people, who consume vast environmental resources and discharge massive amounts of waste products into the environment.

Some totalitarian governments continue to exist, as in China; however, most world governments are freely elected by democratic societies; however, all countries, except for a few with a command economy, such as North Korea and Cuba, now operate some form of a capitalistic economic system—including China. Basic capitalism relies on the mechanism of supply and demand to establish competitive markets and prices, and to distribute goods and ser-

vices. Capitalists use money to purchase the means of production and to employ workers to produce the goods and services that are sold by the capitalists for profit on their investment.

In the global materialistic consumer society that has matured in the past century, large corporations have come to dominate both the economies and the governments having the duty to regulate the harmful activities of corporations. Conceptually, corporations are organized under the laws of the People to support the public good, and their charters can be revoked for harmful activities; however, corporations have acquired the constitutional rights of persons, particularly in the United States.

Corporations have become increasingly powerful, as they act without the restraint of human conscience or lifetimes in subverting the governments that created them, and, much like out-of-control robots they are mindlessly destroying the habitat of humanity and all other forms of life on Earth.

From as few as 7,000 transnational corporations in 1970, it was estimated several years ago that there were more than 63,000 international parent corporations, operating 690,000 subsidiaries around the world. The annual revenue of each of the most massive of these corporations exceeds the economies of

all but the largest industrialized countries. Without any allegiance to nation or empathy for people, these artificial corporations can locate their headquarters wherever they are best able to corrupt governments and to escape regulation of their harmful activities and taxation of their excessive profits.

One measure of an economy is the extent of its growth, but in addition, it is evaluated by the speed it is growing. An economy based upon consumer spending requires constant expansion in order to produce the additional incomes require to sustain the increased growth. In some respects, an expanding economy takes on aspects of a cancerous growth, as it must continually consume increasing amounts of resources to avoid an economic recession or depression.

The environmental and economic consequences of unchecked corporate exploitation will continue to multiply, exponentially, until the ability of the earth, and the economy of its people, to recover is overcome. The international economy grew at a rate of 3.7 percent in 2018; at that rate, the size of the economy will double in less than 20 years, adding an equivalent additional stress on the environment and those struggling to earn a living.

The collateral damage to the environment is not included as a cost of production in calculating busi-

ness profits, but it is passed on to consumers as an invisible cost that will ultimately be repaid by human suffering. Moreover, government subsidies reducing the cost of water, property, and other natural resources for industrial processes, and government encouragement of the reckless production and misuse of fossil fuels, shift the cost of environmental damage from corporations to the People, whose taxes must ultimately pay for these gifts to corporations.

The existing corporate-controlled capitalist economy is the greatest threat to the environment today, and it is primarily responsible for the state of its distress. Efforts to reverse the damage already caused by robotic corporations must include the redefinition of a free and fair enterprise economic system that balances labor and capital, one which will contribute to the freedom of humanity, and will better ensure the successful livelihoods of our children, and theirs.

A CENTURY OF ECONOMIC CORRUPTION AND INSANITY

Looking back one hundred years at the economic conditions in the early twentieth century following the First World War that killed 16 million people and a deadly influenza epidemic that killed 50 mil-

lion, we find a situation frightfully like the one we are experiencing today.

As the post-war economy of the “Roaring Twenties” boomed, the Federal Reserve banking system—established by the United States in 1913 to avoid financial panics—failed to avoid an uncontrollable financial expansion that started during the war and continued in the fragile peace.

New inventions and rapid industrial growth drove a housing bubble that peaked in 1925 and a bull stock market that seemed unlimited in its potential, as more and more working people borrowed money to buy stocks. Extravagant wealth was spent on new automobiles, clothes, dancing, and bootleg alcohol—which had become enticingly illegal in January 1920.

Gullible and financially ignorant people were encouraged to purchase wildly inflated stocks on 9-1 margins, gambling that stocks prices would continue to rise. Limited by law from issuing more money than could be backed by gold, the Federal Reserve was forced to the redeem gold certificates held by foreign investors, reducing the amount of available credit and causing a downward spiral in the money supply.

Banks themselves became speculators, as they bought and sold risky stocks to the public and made unsound loans to companies in which they invested. Then, on "Black Thursday," October 29, 1929, the bubble burst and worried depositors began to withdraw their savings from the banks. Stock prices fell through July 8, 1932, when the bottom was hit. The market did not return to its pre-1919 levels until 1954.

Although the League of Nations had recommended in 1927 that "the time has come to put an end to tariffs and to move in the opposite direction," President Herbert Hoover signed the Tariff Act of 1930 that raised tariffs on more than 20,000 imported goods, and American's trading partners imposed retaliatory tariffs. The "Tariff Wars" reduced American exports and imports by half and greatly exacerbated the world-wide economic downturn which followed.

The "Great Depression" spread around the world causing international trade to fall by half to two-thirds, reducing prices, profits, personal incomes, and tax revenues in every national economy. New building ceased, manufacturing fell by half, and farmers were faced with harvesting crops that were worth half of what they were when they planted. More than 25 percent of all workers were unemployed in the

United States, and in other countries more than one-third could not find work. With substantially reduced tax revenues, governments were unable or unwilling to provide relief to workers or their hungry and homeless families.

Even though the interest rate fell, people were unwilling to take on new debt, and a deflationary spiral commenced in 1930 that led to ever lower wages and prices. This increased the burden of existing debts, which retained their inflated contractual conditions of repayment. Banks began to fail as loans could not be repaid, and savings and checking deposits amounting to billions of dollars, disappeared.

Fascist and nationalist governments seized power in Germany, Italy, Spain, China, and Japan. They were followed by others, including Austria, Brazil, Chile, Greece, Hungary, Portugal, Romania, and Yugoslavia, and fascist organizations gained strength in other major democratic countries such as Canada, Australia, England, and The Netherlands.

The United States experienced widespread xenophobia with the "America First" movement, and tens of thousands of Ku Klux Klan members openly paraded in white sheets and hoods down Pennsylvania

Avenue in Washington, DC in 1925 and 1926.⁷ On February 20, 1939, more than 20,000 “patriots” attended a pro-Hitler, “Americanism” rally in Madison Square Garden, in New York City, which was decorated with American flags and Nazi swastikas.

Communism had been established in Russia by revolution in 1917, and it was extended to captive neighboring nations with the organization of the Soviet Union in 1923. Around the world, communists and leftwing socialists began to battle the fascists and rightwing conservatives for control of governments and economies, and once they seized control, they began to fight each other. Soon, the world was engaged in a war in which as many as 100 million people died.

Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt defeated Republican President Hoover in the 1932 election. Roosevelt was elected by a combination of southern democrats and northern workers, millions of whom were organized under the American Federation of Labor (AFL) and the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO).

⁷ Fred Trump, the father of President Donald Trump, wearing the robes of the Ku Klux Klan was arrested, but not charged, on May 31, 1927 at a New York City Klan rally for “refusing to disperse.”

A political centralist, Roosevelt represented the austerity views of his upper-class capitalist roots in opposing tax revenue deficits and unbalanced budgets. Confronted, however, by the powerful demands of those with more socialist views who voted for him, Roosevelt and his administration convinced the wealthy and corporate leaders that it was in their best interests to accept increased regulation and taxation to meet the social welfare demands of labor and socialists.

Roosevelt's democratic-controlled Congress imposed regulations on financial institutions that corralled their reckless gambling and increased their responsibility to the public. The Glass-Steagall Act and other controls not only protected the public from predatory bankers, but also inoculated bankers against the disease of their own greed. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) was created to insure commercial bank deposits.

The "New Deal" constructed a social democracy and limited welfare state in the United States; it provided Social Security pensions for disabled and elderly workers and wage compensation for the unemployed; it provided tax-funded government jobs for more than 12 million people; and its budget deficits stimulated the economy, resulting in higher

levels of consumer spending. The economy slowly improved, but it was the U.S. entry into the Second World War at the end of 1941 that brought full employment and economic prosperity.

Although the war resulted in the deaths of as many as 100 million people, consumed 40 percent of the Gross Domestic Product in the United States and cost more than \$4 trillion dollars (adjusted for inflation), World War II created the conditions that encouraged development of an international consumer economy.

In the United States, the demand by workers and small business owners for a good life was based on a healthy self-confidence, supported by the New Deal programs, and fueled by accumulated personal savings, consumer demand, the GI Bill of Rights, and a vigorous and healthy labor movement.

Roosevelt did not survive the war or his fourth term in office, but for almost eight years between 1945 and 1953, his successor, Democratic President Harry Truman presided over an economic boom in which many, if not most, American families came to enjoy a comfortable and secure life style primarily paid for by the husband's single income. The "American Dream" allowed the purchase of new homes in the suburbs; mothers were able to stay at home and

manage the households; and children could attend newly constructed neighborhood schools, safely walk home, and play unmolested in neighborhood parks. The prosperity was financed by high taxes on corporations and the wealthy, and by withholding taxes from the paychecks of well-paid unionized workers.

There was enough surplus in the U.S. economy to support the recovery of other nations, whose economies and industrial capacities had been destroyed in the war. The Marshall Plan gave more than \$15 billion (\$100 billion in today's dollars) to help rebuild the Western European economies, and other foreign aid amounting to many billions of dollars was granted to vulnerable nations during the Cold War to oppose the extension of communism, and its economic system.

The national and international financial industry was unrelenting in its resistance to the statutory and regulatory oversight of its activities imposed as a part of the New Deal contract between the People and their government, and between businesses and their workers. Deploying an army of lawyers and lobbyists, provisioned by bundles of cash to pervert justice and purchase legislators, the bankers assaulted the citadel of reasonable regulation and reduced it to rubble.

Congressional legislation in 1980 and 1982 allowed Savings & Loan (S&L) companies to expand their lending authority to include commercial, as well as home loans, the issuance of credit cards, and to relax accounting standards. Deposits were guaranteed by the government, and when the real estate market contracted five years later, the government had to bail out the S&Ls which began to fail. The net cost to the American taxpayers was more than \$125 billion.

As the banking, insurance, and brokerage industries combined forces and spent millions of dollars to influence the representatives of both major political parties, they were able to obtain reversal of some of the provisions of the Glass-Steagall Act which had protected consumers and investors from predatory banking practices.

President Carter had appointed Paul Volcker as the chair of the Federal Reserve Bank in 1979. Inflation was the primary economic problem of the 1970s, peaking at 14.8 percent in 1980. Volcker acted aggressively to contain inflation by raising the federal funds rate by which banks borrow money from each other overnight, to 20 percent in 1981, and he raised the prime rate by which the Fed lends money to banks to 21.5 percent in 1981. Although he was widely crit-

icized for the slowing of construction and manufacturing, a high unemployment rate, and the recession in 1980-1982, Volcker's policies reduced inflation from 11.83 percent in 1980 to 3.71 percent in 1983.

Republican President Ronald Reagan renominated Volcker for a second term as the Fed chair in 1983, but he fired Volcker in 1987 for failing to support the deregulation of the financial institutions. Alan Greenspan, a disciple of author Ayn Rand and her philosophy of selfishness and *laissez-faire* capitalism, was nominated by Reagan, and Greenspan chaired the Fed until 2006. In support of Reagan's tax cuts and deficit spending to stimulate the economy, Greenspan initiated a loose monetary policy and lowered the Fed rates, which ultimately led to inflation, a weak dollar, higher consumer prices, and increased corporate profits.

The Financial Services Modernization Act of 1999, which was passed by a Republican-controlled congress and signed by the "New Democrat" President Bill Clinton, effectively repealed the Glass-Steagall Act and the Bank Holding Act of 1968. Commercial banks were allowed to merge with major insurance companies and brokerage firms. The stock market boomed, as it was increasingly turned into an economic casino encouraging the gambling

fever of financial institutions and the wealthy, particularly concerning the newly developing Internet and technology companies.

With the inauguration of Republican President George W. Bush in 2000, the “dot.com” stock market—which had relied on venture capital and stock sales—crashed and eliminated more than \$5 trillion in market value by 2002.

Encouraged by deregulation and backed with government guarantees, banks began to make highly speculative, or subprime, high-interest real estate mortgage loans to weak or unqualified borrowers, and a new financial bubble began to expand. Homeowners were encouraged to refinance and to use their equity to purchase consumer goods.

Banks began to issue mortgage-based securities, which were purchased by foreign investors and sovereign-wealth funds of China and other exporting countries, who were selling “stuff” to American consumers. As much as \$2 billion a day flowed into the U.S. economy from abroad. Even though the entire domestic product of the world economy was only \$55 trillion in 2008, speculative lending (gambling) that year amounted to \$525-550 trillion.

A clear warning bell that unregulated financial gambling was dangerously out of control was sound-

ed by the near failure in 1998 of Long-Term Capital Management. The private firm was a highly leveraged management and hedge fund, that used computerized models to produce extraordinary “absolute” profits by gambling on the value of currencies and bonds. Considered “too big to fail,” the firm’s collapse, and default on \$126 billion in managed assets, was avoided by a \$3.65 billion bailout arranged by the Federal Reserve and its member banks.

Rather than reduce the gambling fever by increased regulation, the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000 was passed by a Republican majority in Congress and signed by President George W. Bush. It exempted energy trading by companies, such as Enron, from regulation; it protected “financial institutions from overregulation” and positioned the U.S. “financial institutions to be world leaders into the new century.”

Financial institutions and savvy investors were able to “hedge” their gambling bets by purchasing a wide range of “derivatives,” including credit default swaps, and by engaging in short selling to manage their risks. Essentially, insurance was purchased to offset gambling losses.

More warning bells began to sound. Permits to build new homes fell by 28 percent in 2006, which

began to trigger defaults on subprime mortgages. The Fed determined that member banks did not have enough liquidity to operate, and it began to buy the risky subprime mortgages to bail out the banks. Concern about the widespread gambling using collateralized debt obligations and other derivatives grew.

In March 2008, Bear Stearns, which carried \$2.5 trillion of credit default swaps on its books, failed. Since, as an investment bank, deposits in Bear Stearns were not covered by FDIC, the Federal Reserve created a buyout scheme in which it loaned \$25 billion to Bear Stearns and loaned \$30 billion to JPMorganChase to finance its purchase of Bear Stearns, which ceased to exist. JPMorgan pocketed the entire bailout in order to avoid its own insolvency.

With the housing market dropping, the government had to bailout the government-sponsored agencies of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in July 2008 by guaranteeing their loans and purchasing their stock. Lehman Brothers declared bankruptcy on September 15, 2008, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average began to drop. The next day, the Fed made an \$85 billion (later raised to \$150 billion) loan to the bankrupt insurance giant, American International Group, Inc. which was liable for credit default swaps

it had issued to insure the now-failing mortgage-backed securities.

On Saturday, September 20, in an example of “the privatization of profit and the socialization of risk,” the Secretary of Treasury and the Fed sent a \$700 billion bailout bill to Congress to save the “too big to fail” banks. When the Senate voted against the bailout bill, the Dow went into freefall, causing President Bush to say, “If money isn’t loosened up, this sucker could go down.”

The absolute risk of unregulated financial gambling finally caught up with the arrogance of the schemers on September 29, 2008 when the Dow fell 777 points in one day, the largest point drop in history (until 2018).

The resulting “Great Recession” adversely affected financial markets around the world, and the Fed increased its currency swaps with foreign central banks to \$620 billion. When \$500 billion was withdrawn from prime money markets, the Fed was forced to loan \$540 billion to the money market funds to meet redemption demands. In December, the Fed reduced the fed funds rate to zero, as the economy lost more than a quarter million jobs.

Democrat Barack Obama was inaugurated as president on January 20, 2009, as the world banking

system faced total collapse. President Obama signed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 on February 17, 2009, and he appointed Paul Volcker to chair his Council of Economic Advisory Board to help oversee its implementation. The Act invested \$831 billion into the economy, as it slowly began to recover, setting higher records throughout the Obama administration.

History shows the Western Allies won World War II largely through the industrial might of the United States, and that the recovery of Europe was financed by the surplus capacity and profits from that industrial base. An objective analysis of the recovery from the collapse of the financial markets in 2008 would likely reveal that, this time, all of the economies around the world, including the European Union and that of the United States, were saved by the industrial output of China—by its investment of billions of dollars in excess profits in the bonds of the United States used to pay for the bailouts. Now, China's economy, along with that of other nations, is under attack in a new economic world war being waged by way of tariffs, trade restrictions, domestic

subsidies, and tweets by the President of the United States.⁸

TWEETING THREATS OF ECONOMIC WARFARE

On June 16, 2015, the privileged, narcissistic, son of wealth, who had avoided military service because of “bone spurs,” who became a confidence game builder, whose failed business ventures included casinos, airline, bottled water, board game, magazine, mortgage company, steaks, travel, university, vodka, cologne, menswear, and a professional football team, who became a tax avoiding, income exaggerating, women molesting adulterer, over-the-hill reality television star (where he played a wealthy and ruthless boss who enjoyed bullying and firing people), and who finally succeeded by pandering his fake success and fame of his name as a “brand” around the world to people—who dream about becoming rich and famous, as an escape from the drudgery of life of having to work for a living, instead of living on undeserved and inherited wealth—Donald J. Trump descended from the penthouse of his highly leveraged Trump Tower down a golden escalator to music lifted from the *Phantom of the Opera*. He launched his

⁸ Economic warfare is a zero-sum game for losers, while economic cooperation is a win-win game for everyone.

campaign for the presidential nomination of the Republican Party on a nationalist, isolationist, protectionist, racist, and xenophobic “America First” political platform.

Although he had knowingly and continually employed and exploited undocumented foreign workers in his various “deals,” and his current trophy wife had immigrated unlawfully,” Trump blamed the majority of the nation’s woes on illegal immigrants, and he promised to deport all undocumented migrants and to build a great and “beautiful” wall to keep them out, which he would make the Mexicans pay for.

Wearing and peddling his trademarked “Make America Great Again, MAGA”™ golf caps, “The Donald” set out to increase the value of his “TRUMP brand” by running for president. A flamboyant showman, Trump flew around the country in his aged passenger jet, pitching his lines to adoring fans at personal-appearance rallies, and through directed advertising on AM talk radio and social media.

His message was targeted at the tired, disaffected, and angry working people who feel betrayed by their government. Playing his bullying boss persona, Trump labelled his opponents with nasty nicknames and proclaimed that he was the only one who could

negotiate a better deal for the American People in Washington, DC, and around the world.

Incapable of reading more than a paragraph of written text, and addicted to Twitter, with its 140-character limit, the “realDonaldTrump” tweeted his stream of consciousness during the lonely nighttime hours throughout the campaign, typing whatever popped into his head, as he watched late night cable.⁹

Trump lost the popular vote of most of the People of the United States, but having received the able assistance of some of the best Internet propaganda experts in the world, Donald J. Trump succeeded in conning enough people in the smaller Middle-America states, providing a majority of the votes cast by the states in the Electoral College.

President Trump was inaugurated on January 20, 2017. He was the favored dark horse candidate of Russian President Vladimir Putin, who hated Hillary Clinton, and the willing beneficiary of a substantial, surreptitious Internet and social media campaign conducted by Russia’s intelligence services.

⁹ @realDonaldTrump presently has 67.8M followers, or one in five adult Twitter users in the U.S., as he tweets more than 100 times on some days. Kim Kardashian West, another public personality known for outrageous behavior and whose brand is based on her media fame, has 62.6M followers.

President Trump immediately commenced an uninformed, unwise, undisciplined, and unprincipled attack on the U.S. and world economic systems and political relationships that continues to this date. Although he had promised to “drain the swamp,” President Trump appointed almost 300 former lobbyists to positions of power in the government to regulate their former clients—one of every 14 appointments. Among them were the heads of the Department of Defense, the Environmental Protection Agency, Health and Human Services, and the Department of Interior.

On January 23, 2017, three days after being sworn in, President Trump tweeted his withdrawal from the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a 12-nation free-trade pact negotiated and signed by President Obama in 2016.

President Trump signed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 on December 20, 2017, which reduced the top individual tax rate paid by the wealthy to 37 percent and the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent. The individual tax rate was also cut; however, the loss of exemptions reduced the net benefit to the working and middle class.

In May 24, 2018, President Trump signed the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consum-

er Protection Act which reduced the protections enacted in the Dodd-Frank Act passed after the 2008 financial crisis. The number of “too large to fail” banks required to undergo regular “stress tests” was reduced from 5,670 to just 12, and additional lenders were exempted from mortgage underwriting standards. In a cruel mockery of its title, many lending institutions were exempted from consumer protection reporting requirements. The law made it easier for banks to engage in risky gambles, and the reduced regulations increased the systemic risk of the entire financial sector.

The Bankruptcy Reform Act of 2005 and the Dodd-Frank Act grants a priority of repayment to derivative counterparties, providing the gamblers with a greater claim to a bank’s assets than its own depositors. The FDIC has officially recognized that under certain conditions, a customer’s bank deposits can be seized by the bank, and changes to international banking rules endorsed by President Obama, allow bank deposits to be considered as assets of a bank during bankruptcy proceedings. Customer’s cash deposits will be replaced with difficult-to-sell bank stock certificates.

The Student Loan Debt reached an all-time high in 2019 at \$1.41 trillion dollars, which is the second

largest amount of debt behind mortgages. The debt is set to exceed \$2 trillion by 2024, as more and more students are forced to borrow money to obtain a higher education, and repayment is demanded of millennial graduates whose average net worth is just \$10,500. There is no collateral to be surrendered in case of default, as repayment is required from future earnings, a form of involuntary servitude.

Student loan debts are almost impossible to discharge in bankruptcy, and they constitute a massive drag on the economy. In another example of the socialization of risk to financial institutions, the loans are largely guaranteed by the government. During their most productive years, the money earned by young borrowers must be paid toward the profits of private lenders, instead of for goods and services that would lift the economy.

For most workers, access to a car is a requirement for daily living and to get to work, as public transportation is largely inadequate or unavailable for most commuters. By the summer of 2018, borrowers owed \$1.26 trillion on their motor vehicles, an increase of 75 percent since 2009. More than 25 percent of these loans are fundamentally predatory, high interest, made to borrowers with poor credit scores, enabling them to buy more expensive cars and bigger

trucks than they can afford. More than seven million people are at least three months behind on their car loan payments, as cars equipped with chip technology and GPS locators make repossession easier than ever.

In April 2018, the Trump administration rolled back consumer protections enacted by President Obama to keep minorities from being charged higher interest rates on loans.

More than 200 million people now possess a credit card providing revolving credit on short-term borrowing. The number of debtors more than 90 days past due on accounts is approaching two percent, the highest rate since 2010, following the 2008 crash. The rate of new borrowers failing to meet minimum payments within the first year of borrowing has risen to more than five percent, as the interest rate increases on the unpaid balances mount to as much as 25 to 30 percent.

Many auto loans are “secularized,” packaged, and resold as marketable securities to other financial institutions, such as pension funds, just as home mortgages were gambled prior to 2008. The auto loan market is less than ten percent the size of the mortgage loan market, and the consequences of a car loan market meltdown may be less severe than the home

mortgage crisis. Combined, however, with the student loan burden and the credit card debt, the question is not if, but when the next financial crisis involving these debt sectors will occur, how severe will it be, how long will it last, and what can be done to heal the mortally wounded worldwide economy?

On February 5, 2018, fears of inflation and higher interest rates forced stocks into a free fall in which the Dow plunged almost 1,600 points, setting a record for the biggest point decline in history on one trading day. The potential collapse of U.S. financial markets spread chaos around the globe as other stock markets dropped.

Immediately thereafter—distracting attention from the threatened failure of the U.S. economy under his administration—President Trump relied on cold-war laws enacted by Congress authorizing presidential powers in the case of a foreign attack, to assert “national security threats” and to declare a trade war on both our allies and perceived economic enemies. We can track the skirmishes and battles, as tweeted by the president, on a timeline prepared by Reuters:

- In March 2018, President Trump imposed a tariff on all imported washing machines and solar panels from all countries. He later

tweeted, “Our Country was built on Tariffs, and Tariffs are now leading us to great new Trade Deals—as opposed to the horrible and unfair Trade Deals that I inherited as your President.”

- In April 2018, he ordered a 25 percent tariff on all steel imports and a 10 percent tariff on imported aluminum from all countries.
- China retaliated with a 25 percent tariff on a list of 128 U.S. products, including soybeans, fruits, nuts, pork, steel piping, airplanes, and automobiles.
- President Trump threatened a 25 percent tariff on \$50 billion of Chinese imports.
- China threatened a retaliatory tariff on \$50 billion in U.S. imports.
- In July 2018, President Trump said the European Union was a greater foe of the U.S. than Russian and China.
- In August 2018, the U.S. announced plans for a ten percent tariff on \$200 billion of Chinese Imports, which President Trump ordered increased to 25 percent.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture instituted a \$28 billion bailout of (primarily)

corporate farmers affected by the Chinese tariffs. Farm bankruptcies rose by 25 percent and farm debt reached a new high.

- In September 2018, 25 percent tariffs on \$16 billion of goods became effective on both sides.
- In December 2018, the U.S. implemented a ten percent tariff on an additional \$200 billion of Chinese imports, and President Trump tweeted a threat to increase it to 25 percent on January 1, 2019.
- China responded with tariffs on \$60 billion of U.S. goods.
- On December 30, 2018, the 11 nations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership remaining after the U.S. withdrawal, signed a new Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, which excluded the United States.
- In February 2019, the parties agreed to a 90-day armistice on additional tariffs allowing for negotiations, leaving in place the April 2018 tariffs.
- In May 2019, President Trump tweeted that he intended to raise the tariff on Chi-

nese goods to 25 percent, and China backed out of a draft trade pact.

- In August 2019, the parties agreed to re-start trade negotiations, but after two days, President Trump accused China of failing to keep a promise to purchase more farm products and announced tariffs on an additional \$300 billion of Chinese products. China ceases its purchase of U.S. agricultural products.
- The Chinese currency, the yuan, dropped past the seven per dollar level, and the U.S. accused China of manipulating its currency, driving the dollar sharply lower.
- On August 23, 2019, the president tweeted, “My only question is, who is our biggest enemy, Jay Powel [his own nominated chair of the Federal Reserve] or Chairman Xi?”
- In September 2019, U.S. tariffs on \$125 billion of Chinese goods, including smart speakers, Bluetooth headphones, and many types of footwear took effect in time to raise prices for holiday shoppers.
- China announced additional retaliatory tariffs against \$75 billion of U.S. goods in September.

- Although trade talks continued, with a few interim agreements, the U.S. Commerce Department placed 28 Chinese companies on its “entity list,” banning U.S. firms from selling to them because of alleged involvement in human rights abuses against Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang.
- On September 18, 2019, President Trump tweeted a criticism of Fed chair Powell, who reduced interest rates by a quarter point instead of to zero as demanded by Trump: “Jay Powell and the Federal Reserve Fail Again. No ‘guts,’ no sense, no vision! A terrible communicator!”
- On October 2, 2019 President Putin praised Donald Trump’s economic policies that have “propped up the economic growth in the U.S.” and the Russia and the U.S. “Now have steady, confidence-based, as I see it, relationship. . . .”
- The Dow averages whipsawed up and down throughout November and December, driven by the on-off tweets of President Trump leaking his latest threats and promises about a trade agreement with China.

- President Trump set a new daily Twitter record as he tweeted and retweeted 115 times on December 12, 2019, proclaiming his innocence in the impeachment investigation being conducted by the U.S. House of Representatives. Regarding trade, he tweeted, “VERY close to a BIG DEAL with China. They want it, and so do we!”
- On December 13, 2019, President Trump tweeted that China and the U.S. announced a first phase agreement for the Chinese to purchase of U.S. agricultural products; however, the existing tariffs would remain in place, with the “penalty” tariffs suspended during negotiations.
- On December 13, 2019, the House Judiciary Committee voted along party lines to approve an impeachment charge of abuse of power for President Trump compelling Ukraine to investigate his 2020 political rival Joe Biden, while holding military aid approved by Congress as leverage, and a charge of obstruction of Congress for blocking the House’s efforts to investigation his misconduct.

- On January 16, 2020, the United States and China signed a “phase one” agreement that left existing tariffs in place, but delayed implementation of others threatened by both sides. China agreed to purchase an additional \$16 billion in agricultural products in the next two years. The Trump administration paid out more than \$28 billion in aid in 2018 and 2019 to farmers who suffered losses due to the tariffs. The \$12 billion lost on the “deal” will be paid for by American taxpayers.

In September 2019, *Microsoft News* conducted a poll in cooperation with Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity asking about financial worries. Almost two-thirds of all Americans say they “live from paycheck to paycheck,” are not “saving enough for retirement,” do not have enough savings to cover a month’s expenses,” and do not “have enough savings to send children to college without taking out student loans.” Almost 12 percent, or more than 38 million people live in poverty in America, an extreme level of destitution.

Given the leaderless economic chaos under which ordinary people are presently struggling to earn a living and to pay debts, it is difficult for any-

one to predict with any certainty what the future holds. Most working people cannot short sell their financial livelihoods or hedge their bets on jobs or purchases; however, people who think for themselves can only try to ascertain the truth as best it can be determined and to make the best decisions possible under the circumstances. Even so, it is virtually certain that one or more of the critical economic issues just discussed will not be adequately addressed, and soon enough, there will be another recession or depression. The odds are that it will be deep and long, that it will be President Trump's "base" who will suffer the most, that he will blame others for the failure, and that he will continue to peddle his "brand" so long as there are those gullible enough to pay for it.

Last year in July 2018, Alan Greenspan, the former chair of the Federal Reserve warned, "There are two bubbles: stock market bubble and a bond market bubble." He fears the collapse of the bond market because investors now consider the ten-year treasury bond to be riskier than the two-year bond in a situation known as an inverted yield curve, an infallible predictor of a recession. The "smart money" is saying the economy will be really bad ten years from now, and we can only look forward one year at a time.

More recently, Paul Volcker, who was nominated to chair the Federal Reserve by both Democratic and Republican presidents, completed his autobiography just before his death on December 8, 2019. Commenting on President Trump's accusation that Fed Chairman Jerome Powell (President Trump's own nominee) was an "enemy" of the United States, comparable to China, Volker's last words were:

Not since just after the Second World War have we seen a president to openly seek to dictate policy to the Fed. That is a matter of great concern, given that the central bank is one of our key governmental institutions, carefully designed to be free of purely partisan attacks.

Increasingly, by design or not, there appears to be a movement to undermine American's faith in our government and its policies and institutions. We've moved well beyond former president Ronald Reagan's credo that "government is the problem," with its aim of reversing decades of federal expansion.

Today we see something very different and far more sinister. Nihilistic forces are dismantling policies to protect our air, water, and climate. And they seek to discredit the

pillars of our democracy: voting rights and fair elections, the rule of law, the free press, the separation of powers, the belief in science, and the concept of truth itself.

THE INSATIABLE MONSTER OF GLOBAL CORPORATE CAPITALISM

This paper on the economy began with the image of corporate robots mindlessly destroying the habitat of humanity, along with all other forms of life, and we will now briefly revisit that premise, as we try to imagine how it will be, if and when the computer brains of corporate automatons become better programmed with artificial intelligence designed to maximize monetary profits and to minimize the cost of human labor. The progeny will be an ever increasingly powerful, conscienceless, corporate behemoth, with an insatiable appetite for monetary profits, with no comprehension of good and evil, and legally endowed with an eternal life.

As a preview of the corporate monster in action, we can travel back in time to the summer of 1944 during World War II in occupied Poland at a remote junction of several railroads. There, Germany constructed a gigantic collection of concentration camps known as Auschwitz-Buchenwald to imprison the

masses of Jews, Gypsies, and Soviet Union prisoners of war they had captured during the war, *and* to supply them as slave labor to massive chemical and synthetic-rubber and other industrial facilities constructed at the same location, which were operated and supplied by a number of major German corporations including: I.G. Farben, Siemens, Krupp, Metall Union, BMW, Opique Iena, Rheinmetall Borsig AG, Schneider, Erla, Heinkel, Junker, Vistra, Zeitz, and the German subsidiary of the Ford Motor Company.

As prisoners arrived at Auschwitz in cattle cars on railways operated by the Deutsche Reichsbahn, a medical doctor conducted a "selection" on the platform, as the prisoners disembarked with their belongings. The most able bodied and skilled were selected for work by the corporations, and the remainder—the elderly, most women, and all the little children and babies—were discarded as waste. All personal property, including jewelry, watches, eyeglasses, and clothing was seized, as the helpless victims were forced to undress, before their head hair was shorn with electric clippers to be processed into felt used for insulation in German submarines.

The victims were finally herded, naked and tightly packed, into a large concrete, windowless, room equipped with fake shower heads in the ceiling. In-

stead of water, however, a hydrogen cyanide gas manufactured and sold by a subsidiary of IG Farben was poured down upon them. As they inhaled the cyanide—which instantly prevented red blood cells from carrying oxygen to their bodies—the packed elderly, women, children, and babies began to suffocate, panic, scream, vomit, urinate, defecate, and die in wretched agony.

Processing as many as 6,000 bodies a day, prisoners pulled the dead bodies from the gas chamber into an adjoining large room where body cavities were searched for concealed valuables, and any gold teeth were pulled. The commercially worthless bodies were cremated in rows of massive ovens built and maintained by the major engineering corporation, Topf & Söhne.

Healthy prisoners selected for labor were issued one thin all-weather uniform, fed dry bread and watery soup containing minimal calories, and slept huddled together on bare wooden shelves in rows of barracks without sanitary facilities or adequate heating. Slaves were literally worked to death, as their bodies burned their fat reserves—simply another resource in the corporate ledger of materials and profit. When all fat was consumed, the emaciated and skeletal bodies were burned and replaced by healthy slaves

medically selected at the Auschwitz rail platform, having arrived “just in time,” according to the finely tuned corporate plan.

It is difficult to comprehend the enormity and horror of the slave labor camps operated at Auschwitz and other industrial locations throughout Germany where hundreds of thousands of slave bodies were consumed by corporations; however, we can see firsthand how such processes get started. We need only to witness the tens of thousands of undocumented migrants—many of whom are children forcibly separated from their parents—presently confined by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in camps constructed and operated by corporations. These include GEO Group and Core-Civic, formerly the Corrections Corporation of America (which earned nearly a billion dollars from INS contracts in 2017). Corporate financing for the INS operations and other corporate jails and prisons being operated for a profit around the United States, is provided by Wells Fargo, JP Morgan Chase, and Bank of America.

Modern corporations—nonhuman economic entities established by operation of law and empowered to make and enforce contracts—started in the seventeenth century with the East India Company and

other corporations chartered by the English Parliament to establish and operate colonies in America and elsewhere. It was the revolution against these corporations, as well as the British monarchy, that led to the establishment of the United States.

Initially, at least in principle, corporations were chartered with a limited lifetime and purpose, and they were required to serve the public good—or else they would lose their charter. In the United States, corporations received the rights of personhood, not by the Constitution, or by any act of Congress, but by an erroneous headnote added by a Supreme Court clerk in 1886 that seemed to apply the equal protection and due process of the laws granted to Persons under the Fourteenth Amendment to corporations.

Today, U.S. corporations, including those owned by the citizens of other countries, or even by the governments of other countries, have the same constitutional protection as natural born U.S. citizens. Corporations have the rights of free speech, to contribute to the campaigns of candidates for public office, to purchase advertisements on behalf of candidates and causes, to pay money to influence the votes and corrupt the official acts of elected officials, and to exploit human labor and environmental resources in the production of excessive profits. It is not possible,

however, to put a corporation in jail for the crimes it commits in its insane pursuit of excess profits.

Corporations have no concept of fair play and good citizenship, as they are programmed to avoid taxes and other public and social responsibilities, in obtaining the maximum profit possible. The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy examined the 2018 financial filings of Fortune 500 companies and identified 60 of the largest U.S. corporations that paid zero taxes in 2018 on a collective \$79 billion in profits. Instead of paying \$16.4 billion in federal income taxes (according to the new lower tax rate), they collectively managed to receive \$4.3 billion in rebates. Among the corporations that paid no taxes were Netflix, Amazon, Chevron, Delta Airlines, Eli Lilly, General Motors, Gannett, Goodyear Tire and Rubber, Halliburton, IBM, JetBlue Airways, Principal Financial, Salesforce.com, US Steel, and Whirlpool. Of the corporations that did pay taxes, it was at an effective tax rate of 11.3 percent, half the 21 percent corporate tax rate to which it was already lowered from 35 percent by President Trump.

The unrestrained economic and political power of corporations has allowed them to gobble up other corporations in growing into economic monsters, whose tentacles reach around the globe into the

wealth and prosperity of every nation. The greedy and insatiable appetite of corporations for growth and profit, and their unrestrained activities in their mindless pursuit of profit, constitutes a deadly danger to the continued existence of humanity.

It is enough, at this point, to recognize the factual reality of the peril, as we will consider remedies to the economic crisis in the Evolution Papers. For now, we need to look at the governments we have created to politically organize our social and economic lives, and we will investigate their corruption, including that caused by corporations, which are treated better by governments, than their own people.

CORRUPT AND UNREPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENTS

The colonial delegates who gathered in Philadelphia in 1776 to declare their independence from England were educated with the principles of the Reformation and the Enlightenment, and they were well read in the works of Bacon, Hobbes, Locke, Adam Smith, and Kant. They sought to end the rule of monarchs and to institute self-government. In doing so, they ultimately drafted a written constitution in which "We the People" defined the limited powers of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of a republican form of government, in which the People vote for representatives to act on their behalf, while the People retained their Rights of Liberty.

Initially, only men who owned property could vote, but the franchise was slowly extended, first to laboring men without property, then to former male slaves, and finally to women. Since the universal franchise was obtained around 100 years ago, at least in principle, the government could be described as a representative democracy.

The written constitution of the United States was widely copied as the peoples of other nations freed themselves of monarchical and colonial rule and

achieved independence. Most of these nations also attempted to emulate the capitalist economic system that was believed to best serve the needs of a free and independent people.

To survive the Great Depression, the People of the United States, laborers, small business owners, self-employed professionals, civil servants, and even corporate managers, made a “New Deal” in 1933, a social contract with their government. The New Deal government was reoriented to serve the needs of the People, and it imposed regulations on dangerous corporations and financial institutions, protected the environment, and empowered working people to negotiate for their share of the economic pie and for their children to inherit and live the “American Dream.”

The contract continued to produce the dream through the administration of Republican President Richard Nixon, which imposed additional taxes on the wealthy and created Supplemental Security Income for family assistance and improved Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. President Nixon signed the Clean Air Act of 1970, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and other laws establishing the Environmental Protection Agency, the Occupational Safety and Health Admin-

istration, and ensuring Consumer Product Safety. President Nixon supported the constitutional amendment reducing the voting age to 18, which was ratified, and the Equal Rights Amendment (for women), which has not yet been ratified.

THE FRAUDULENT CANCELLATION OF THE NEW DEAL CONTRACT

Alarmed by the economic and environmental laws that interfered with their profits, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a private organization that represents the interests of “Big Business,” decided to break the contract the American People made with their government in the New Deal. One of America’s preeminent corporate lawyers, whose primary clients were in the tobacco industry, Lewis F. Powell, Jr., was tasked by the Chamber to draft a plan of action.

In a memorandum that became a blueprint for the corporate takeover of the U.S. government, Powell urged a joint effort leading to “political power available only through united action and national organizations.” The “Powell Memo” laid out a program of public education about the essential role of business, and instructed the business community to learn the “lessons that political power is necessary, that such power must be assiduously cultivated; and that when necessary, it

must be used aggressively and with determination—without embarrassment and without . . . reluctance.”

Implementation of the Powell plan was financed by generous contributions from corporations, and it included assembling a professional staff “of the great skill in advertising and working with the media, speakers, lawyers, and other specialists.” Shortly thereafter, President Nixon appointed Lewis Powell to the U.S. Supreme Court, where his vote could be counted on to further his plan.

Nixon had appealed to the “Silent Majority” of Americans, including working-class Democrats who did not agree with the Democratic Party positions on racial and cultural issues, such as opposing prayer in public schools, and favoring women’s rights to contraception and abortion.

Following Nixon’s resignation, and the defeat of succeeding President Gerald Ford for reelection, President Jimmy Carter, a southern, fiscally conservative, Democrat signed several significant laws protecting the environment, regulating strip mining, and establishing the Superfund program to clean up contaminated mining and factory sites. At the same time, President Carter also signed laws deregulating the airline, trucking and rail industries, and reducing the regulation of savings and commercial banks. Re-

sponding to the power of Big Business, Carter signed “tax reform” laws that benefitted corporations and the wealthy, laws easing corporate bankruptcy and providing banks with the top priority for repayment in bankruptcy, and laws allowing corporations to eliminate retirement systems.

Ronald Reagan was the Republican candidate in the presidential election of 1980. An affable, charismatic, and smooth-talking former motion picture actor, Reagan had become a spokesman for corporate America in its drive to reverse the economic and environmental laws and regulations that reduced their profits. Corporations and wealthy individuals financed a political publicity campaign supporting Reagan’s message that government, not business, was the problem.

The Republicans launched a culture war over matters such as school integration, support of the military, sexual freedom, abortion, and homosexuality to distract voters from the harm their “representatives” were inflicting upon them and their endangerment of future generations. The campaign successfully appealed to primarily white, blue-collar workers, including members of labor unions, and convinced them to vote contrary to their economic and political interests. By gaining control of their

vote through the successful use of targeted political propaganda, the corporations created unwitting electoral slaves to do their bidding at the polls.

The Reagan administration increased military spending, reduced domestic spending, and enacted a major tax cut, all of which primarily benefitted corporations and the wealthy, while dramatically increasing budget deficits to be paid for by future taxpayers. Under President Reagan and his vice president, George H.W. Bush, who succeeded him, the New Deal protection of the People was substantially reduced. The People were sold the notion that it was really in their best interests to concentrate wealth at the top, because the money would trickle down to workers, the self-employed, and small business owners at the bottom.

President Reagan vastly expanded presidential power by unilaterally, secretly, and illegally selling arms to Iran, and by using the profits to supply arms to “contras” in the Nicaragua civil war, even though Congress had banned such involvement. He used executive power to secretly intervene in Afghanistan against the Soviet Union, and he supported Saddam Hussein in Iraq’s war with Iran, while secretly and simultaneously selling weapons to Iran.

Following the Reagan Era, the nation was governed for eight years by the “New Democrat” President Bill Clinton. The political and social positions of the New Democrats were much like those of previously moderate Republicans, in that they support both social *and* economic liberalism. As both parties moved substantially to the right, the government—increasingly under corporate control—began to blatantly default on its New Deal contract with the American People.

President Clinton adopted a Republican welfare reform plan, which terminated Aid to Families with Dependent Children. He raised taxes on the working and middle classes in order to balance the budget, and he deregulated the banking industry and its market for derivatives.

Following his impeachment by the Republican-controlled House of Representatives for lying about his sexual affair with a young White House intern, President Clinton was acquitted by the Republican-controlled Senate. During the impeachment proceedings, President Clinton unilaterally ordered air strikes by the U.S. military against Serbian forces, which destroyed the center of the capital city of Belgrade and killed as many as 1,500 Serbs.

President Clinton's vice president, Al Gore, was defeated in the 2000 election, even though he won the popular vote. George W. Bush was awarded the presidency by a majority vote of the Republican-controlled Supreme Court, which would not allow a recount of the challenged election in Florida. President Bush inherited a budget surplus, but he immediately pushed through several tax cuts to stimulate economic growth, thereby reducing government revenue and producing record deficits.

After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, President Bush claimed a vast expansion of presidential powers that substantially reduced the abilities of the legislative and judicial branches to check and balance the executive powers. His Justice Department ruled that decisions regarding the response to terrorist attacks are "for the President alone to make," and that "customary international law has no binding legal effect on either the President or the military."

President Bush authorized the National Security Agency to eavesdrop on overseas calls and emails without court orders; he claimed the power to detain people indefinitely and to deny them access to courts and legal counsel, and he signed executive orders re-

fusing to comply with more than 750 provisions of law passed by Congress.

New Democrat Barack Obama was elected to replace President Bush, and he inherited the expanded presidential powers Bush had aggregated. During his two terms, President Obama finalized more than 560 major regulations having particularly significant economic or social impacts, which was almost 50 percent more than the prior Bush administration.

President Obama continued to exercise unchecked executive powers (outside of any emergency context) to unilaterally order military strikes against Libya and the ISIS in Syria and to order the assassination of individuals on a “kill list,” which was submitted by the military for his approval on a weekly basis.

The election of Donald Trump to succeed President Obama demonstrates the fallibility of executive action, in that President Trump’s primary political goal seems to be the reversal of as many of President Obama’s executive actions as possible, including those protecting the environment and consumers, expanding access to health care, enhancing women’s reproductive choices, and restricting gun ownership. Moreover, President Trump has taken executive arrogance to new heights by obstructing the

congressional investigation in his impeachment proceedings by ordering his aides and government departments to refuse to comply with lawful subpoenas.

THE TYRANNY OF THE MINORITY

Following the end of the Revolutionary War, the new nation of the United States was governed pursuant to the Articles of Confederacy, and it quickly became apparent that there were major problems. The President of the Congress served as a weak executive; a vote by nine of the 13 states was required to pass significant legislation; and all tax measures required unanimous consent of the states. There was a shortage of money in circulation, and debts weighed heavily on workers and farmers.

In 1786, four thousand poor and hungry people—many of whom were veteran patriots who had fought for independence—marched on the Springfield Arsenal in Massachusetts, where four were killed by cannons fired by a state militia funded by 125 merchants. Legislators in some states, many of whom were elected for one-year terms, responded to the widespread suffering and disorder with laws that provided debt relief for their impoverished constitu-

ents. This exercise of democracy made it more difficult for money lenders to collect debts.

Fearing an “excess of democracy” or “democratic tyranny,” which interfered with the collection of debts, members of Congress favorable to financial interests called for a convention to revise the Articles of the Confederacy to be held in Philadelphia in May 1787. George Washington was elected to preside over the convention, and Alexander Hamilton, his former military aide, and James Madison, a fellow Virginian, played major roles in the decision to create a new government, rather than to revise the old one.

Primary issues included the way the president, vice president, and senators were to be elected and how representatives were to be allocated by population. Following a compromise that counted slaves as three-fifths of a “person,” a constitution was drafted that established a republic operated by elected officials as representatives of the People. Political power was to be balanced by a stronger executive, a congress consisting of a senate and house of representatives, and an independent judiciary. The Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787 and submitted to the states for ratification.

Unresolved differences of opinion about the proposed constitution resulted in factions, the pre-

cursor of political parties. The Federalists, led by Hamilton, strongly supported a strong central government, and the Anti-Federalists, led by Madison and Thomas Jefferson, objected to excessive executive power in the president and the absence of an individual bill of rights. Primarily written by Hamilton and Madison, 85 essays debating the issues were widely published in newspapers and became known as *The Federalist Papers*.

With ratification, the new government came into existence on March 4, 1789. The “republic” was ultimately responsible to the people who created it, but it also protected the private minority business and financial interests against the power of a democratic majority. George Washington was elected as its first president, and among the first acts of the new congress was the enactment of the Bill of Rights containing 10 constitutional amendments that better balanced the individual rights of the governed with the power of the government established by their consent.

Under their new constitution, the People were represented indirectly, as the president was elected by the states in the Electoral College, and U.S. senators and most state officials were selected or appointed by the state legislators, rather than by direct elections.

The manner of voting and qualifications of voters were left up to the individual states to define. The right to vote was neither included in the Constitution, nor in the Bill of Rights. That omission has never been corrected; however, most people, by constitutional amendment, or by law, have gained a right to vote, although there are many who believe it is a privilege, which can be denied for cause. The absence of a constitutional right to vote was clearly and bluntly expressed by the Supreme Court in *Bush v. Gore*, which awarded the presidency to George W. Bush in 2000:

The individual citizen has no federal constitutional right to vote for electors for the President of the United States unless and until the state legislature chooses a statewide election as the means to implement its power to appoint members of the Electoral College.

In the 2016 presidential election, Democrat Hillary Clinton received 2.87 million more votes than Republican Donald Trump; however, he received 304 votes in the Electoral College, compared to 227 for Clinton. Two “faithless electors” defected from Trump and five defected from Clinton.

Of a voting age population of 250.6 million, just 138.8 million, or 55 percent, voted in the 2016 general election for president. Fewer than 63 million, or 45.65 percent, voted for Trump, while 65.9 million voted for Clinton. Thus, Donald Trump was elected president by approximately one-quarter of the potential voters.

It is within this 25 percent of potential voters that President Trump's political "base" can be identified among those who actually voted for him: 54 percent of white people; nearly four in five of those whites professing evangelical (born-again Christian) beliefs; 60 percent of non-college whites; 60 percent of voters over 50 years of age; and 56 percent of white males.

Trump's incendiary AMERICA FIRST populism appeals to this base, many of whom fear and resent the federal government and its influence in their lives and beliefs, and who fail to perceive a practical benefit from their government, equal to the taxes they are forced to pay. They fear that the former "greatness" of a white America has been lost forever, and it is easy for them to blame their losses on others who are different in some way, such as race, religion, language, or country of origin—particularly if the outsider is perceived as having an

easier life. These whites demand retention of the power of being in the majority—as they are quickly becoming a minority. Within their own static and unchanging lives, the rapidity of change around the world can be overwhelming, leaving them emotionally spinning between the reality of their existence and the fantasy world they view on their cable television.

The TRUMP brand political base fantasizes President Trump as a successful real estate conman and wily negotiator, someone who can make great deals for their benefit—if only given the chance. They imagine him as their avatar, a strong man whose arrogant self-confidence makes them feel important and more powerful. Their trust in him and their demonstrated support of him gives these often-powerless supporters a sense of control over their destiny, a feeling of accomplishment in an otherwise deprived or reduced economic and social existence.

As President Trump proclaims himself to be the “chosen one,” the faith of his base in his ability to save them, approaches that they profess in Jesus Christ as their personal savior, and they have equated the fairness of the President’s impeachment with the death penalty trial conducted by Pontius Pilate. President Trump’s personal, in-house, preacher, Paula White-Cain, prays about his impeachment:

Tonight, we lift up President Trump in prayer against all wickedness and demonic schemes against him and his purpose in the name of Jesus. Surround him with your angels and let them encamp around about him. Let all demonic stirrings and manipulations be overturned.

How is all of this possible, when the truth of President Trump's con-game real estate deals with foreign criminals, numerous business failures, multiple adulterous marriages, and notably unchristian, bullying, belittling character, and cheating lifestyle is relatively undisputed, especially when he revels in his antics and slick deals in his own ghost-written books, and brags that his base will forgive him of anything, even shooting someone in public?

How can there be such forgiveness, when President Trump willingly accepted and encouraged the propaganda assistance of the Russian intelligence services, allowing his narrow victory in the election? Is it okay that he has fawned over Russian President Putin at every opportunity, supported Russia in its war against the Ukraine, and Putin's military interventions in Turkey and Syria?

How is it that the TRUMP base continues to gather in screaming adoration at his reelection rallies,

as President Trump turns our best friends into his enemies, and our enemies into his best friends? Unlike his personal staff and cabinet who must loyally endure his tantrums (and the turnover of which has exceeded all previous administrations), the TRUMP base can sit in front of their televisions and imagine that their favorite reality television star is still the big boss in charge. Many of his fans formed an emotional bond with Trump while watching “The Apprentice” for 15 seasons. They loved it when the rude boss yelled, “Your Fired!” Why would the TRUMP base be offended when he acts the same way as president? There are, however, growing numbers of supporters who are becoming increasingly uncomfortable with having to constantly defend their hero to others who question his mental stability and leadership.

One need not be a psychiatrist to reliably identify President Trump as a narcissist, at least. Most people who work for a living in the real world have seen or suffered the harm caused by self-absorbed, know-it-all, bragging, and lying bullies, particularly those who become bosses. These “stable geniuses” stand out because they are always the absolute best at everything they have ever done, and they never—ever admit that they have done anything wrong. They are incapable of making a mistake. President Trump said, “I think apologizing’s a great thing, but you have to

be wrong. I will absolutely apologize, sometime in the hopefully distant future, if I'm ever wrong." Or, how about, "Sorry losers and haters, but my I.Q. is one of the highest—and you all know it! Please don't feel so stupid or insecure, it's not your fault."

Narcissists can be charming and charismatic, as they adroitly manipulate and coerce others to do their bidding. When they are protected by inherited wealth, attack-dog lawyers, and shielded by politically powerful people, it can be difficult to dislodge them from power. A narcissist needs continual admiration—like a junkie needs a fix—and for the most insecure, there is nothing so alluring as an in-person political rally in a stadium full of cheering and adoring fans. The TRUMP base basks in the reflected glory of such a wonderful and dynamic, bigger-than-life figure; they are honored to hold signs and to serve as wallpaper behind his speaking podium, and they revel in his daily antics on Twitter, social media, AM talk radio, and Fox entertainment.

Everything read or heard by the TRUMP base that contradicts their faith in their avatar is "fake news," the truth of which is immaterial. It is easier for his disciples to identify their own sense of victimhood with that of the "witch hunt" claimed by their president. He was impeached for having such

little regard for the responsibilities imposed by his oath of office, as to peddle its power in securing the assistance of another foreign country to ensure that his reelection would be as fraudulent as his first.

Narcissists get mad and nasty when insulted or challenged, as President Trump brags about being a “counter-puncher,” who always fights back when attacked. Narcissists can get to be bosses, particularly if they inherit wealth and power, but they make incompetent and unethical leaders, as they are incapable of learning from their mistakes, or from others not so gifted as they are.

More worrying than simple narcissism—and the hours President Trump spends in front of the mirror each morning fixing his hair and applying his face makeup—is his actual state of mind, as he looks at himself. Does he see an old, saggy, obese body—as he tweets images of his head superimposed on the body of “Rocky” to his base?

What does he think about, as he holds the launch codes for nuclear war in one hand and he gazes at the twitter feed on his smart phone in the other? Which worries him the most, war or his ratings, peace or his impeachment, reelection or the market value of the TRUMP brand?

Even if these are only the wild exaggerations of a reality-show conman, how secure are we in the quality of the life and death decisions that President Trump is making on our behalf, every day, and how likely is it that the quality of those decisions will improve or decline in the future? An answer to these questions can be found in the words he speaks, as well as the actions he directs.

On December 22, 2019, President Trump took a break from his two-week Christmas celebration at Mar-a-Lago to address the far-right Turning Point USA Student Action Summit in West Palm Beach, Florida. AM talk radio shock jock Rush Limbaugh warmed up the high school students, “I just want to tell you climate change is a hoax. Please don’t believe it, whatever you do!” Introducing the President, Limbaugh said, “We really have one shot at this, and the shot that we have at preserving this country as founded is Donald Trump, President of the United States.”

What follows are just a few of the words that issued from the mouth of the President of the United States, a self-professed “really smart” “stable genius”, as he addressed the young students:

I’ve studied it better than anybody I know. I never understood wind. You know, I know

windmills very much. They're noisy. They kill the birds. You want to see a bird graveyard? Go under a windmill someday. You'll see more birds than you've ever seen in your life.

You know what they don't tell you about windmills? After 10 years they look like hell. They start to get tired, old.

They're made in China and Germany mostly, but they're manufactured tremendous if you're into this, tremendous fumes. Gases are spewing into the atmosphere. You know we have a world, right? So, the world is tiny compared to the universe. So tremendous, tremendous amount of fumes and everything.

You talk about the carbon footprint, fumes are spewing into the air, right? Spewing. Whether it's in China, Germany, it's going into the air. It's our air, their air, everything, right?

You see all those [windmills]. They're all different shades of color. They're like sort of white, but one is like an orange white. It's my favorite color, orange.

President Trump's rambling, nonsensical remarks about climate change to these impressionable young people whose lives may embrace the extinction of humanity, was greeted with applause, rather than laughter. Why? What magical transparent garments does this obscenely politically-naked "chosen one" drape himself in, this has been reality television star who now dictates the course of the American Empire? Where does the craziness lie, with the babler, or with those who applaud his inanity?

As the tempo of the personnel turnover in the cabinet and personal staff of President Trump increases, and more and more of his appointees quit, are fired, get thrown under the bus, or convicted of crimes, his base may come to realize that they've been had, and that they had best think long and hard before voting for another four years of chaos. Voting is a responsibility, as well as a right; it is a duty not to be taken lightly; and voting offers a last chance for a peaceful outcome, one not to be wasted.

The political risk is no longer one of an excess of democracy or the tyranny of the majority; the most dangerous thing about the pandering of President Trump to his supporters is the extraordinary power it provides to a small, angry, and vocal minority. To keep his angry TRUMP base from threatening the

power of those to whom he is beholden, and to maintain the constant adulation of his fan club, he must give them what they demand, even if most people in the United States disagree.

A strong majority of Americans believe in equal rights and opportunities for all, the freedom of reproductive choice for women, that there is great and grave danger in ignoring the reality of global warming, that a “beautiful” border wall is a waste of precious resources, that guns should be reasonably regulated, and that neo-Nazism is the same fascist bullshit that ended up killing as many as 100 million people last century when the Germans, Italians, and Japanese tried it as a form of government. This misfeasance of political power allows the tyranny of the minority to prevail over the majority.¹⁰

¹⁰ This paper has primarily concerned political affairs in the United States, but the last few years has seen the rise in nationalism and right-wing movements as they have gained political power across Europe, in Australia, Brazil, India, Italy, Japan, and Russia. Even so, it is the United States that, among all nations, is refusing to participate in the Paris Agreement, while it is the greatest contributor to global warming. America is also where the political evolution of the rights of liberty first came to fruition, and where democratic self-government was first achieved. This is where it can continue to flourish, if nourished, instead of starved.

POLITICAL WILL TO HEAL THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY

In the Preface of *Storms of my Grandchildren: The Truth About the Coming Climate Catastrophe and Our Last Chance to Save Humanity*, climate scientist and congressional whistle-blower, James Hansen wrote ten years ago about the dangers of political inaction that “contributes equally to the crisis.” He lamented, “Greenwashing, expressing concern about global warming and the environment, while taking no actions to actually stabilize climate or preserve the environment, is prevalent in the United States and other countries, even those presumed to be the ‘greenest.’” He feared that “the biggest obstacle to solving global warming is the role of money in politics, the undue sway of special interests.” Stopping that influence requires, “the public, and young people in particular, . . . to get involved in a major way.”

Dr. Hansen warned:

Politicians think that if matters look difficult, compromise is a good approach. Unfortunately, nature and the laws of physics cannot compromise—they are what they are.

Policy decisions on climate change are being deliberated every day by those without full knowledge of the science, and often with intentional misinformation spawned by special interests. . . . Citizens with a special interest—in their loved ones—need to become familiar with the science, exercise their democratic rights, and pay attention to politicians' decisions. Otherwise, it seems, short-term special interests will hold sway in capitals around the world—and we are running out of time.

Only through a mass movement of the People, organized and led by young people and directed by women, can the social and political power be generated to evolve our governments into ones that represent and care for those who elect it, as we personally and collectively evolve, and discover the marvelous exponential power of combined minds in creating happy futures for our children.

Only a peaceful evolution of political and social organization can achieve the willpower to do what is essential if we are to survive the next 30 years. Peace must replace war within the next five years. This is the simple truth, about which there can be no rea-

sonable doubt. We can survive, but only if we evolve and make wise use of the gift of our minds.

Writing in *A Farewell to Ice: A Report from the Arctic*, Dr. Peter Wadhams concludes with “A Call to Arms”:

The threat is greater than ever. A nuclear war would now probably start because of a bilateral issue, and climate change is bringing a host of new stresses which could create such an issue, from resource and water depletion to collapses in food production with the looming potential for starvation.

In a “Time for Battle,” Dr. Wadhams lists what can be done to save the world:

First, counter with all the powers at your disposal the sewage-flow of lies and deceit emitted by climate change deniers and others who wish us to do nothing and hope that it all goes away. It will not go away. Be especially vigilant of the sinuous misrepresentations of politicians, from prime ministers downwards, and look out for glaring anomalies between what they say and what they do.

Among the stacks of books on my credenza contributing to these papers are at least three on climate wars, predicting the battles to come over diminishing resources. In the following paper, we will evaluate the dangers of industrialized war and the glorification of militarization to the survival of our children. Government's biggest waste of resources are those expended on the militaries and their suppliers, and the wars they require for survival.

WAR AND MILITARIZATION

When we examine the evidence at the earliest sites of human habitation, we find little or no evidence of war at the lowest levels of occupation. The most ancient objects of art and adoration depict healthy pregnant women giving birth to life, as we made and used stone tools to gather plants and to kill animals for food to feed our children. Stone tools used for hunting and cultivation also served to defend families and tribal food reserves against violence, but, mostly, we survived by cooperating and migrating to locate resources, rather than by hoarding and killing to steal the supplies of others.

As the Aswan High Dam was being constructed by Egypt in the late 1950s, a rescue archeological dig was conducted at a cemetery known as Jebel Sahaba on the east bank of the Nile River in northern Sudan. The dig revealed evidence of the earliest human conflict between groups. Sixty-one skeletons were recovered, and almost half of the remains exhibited cut marks and other signs of violent wounds, and pointed stone projectiles were recovered from 21 bodies. The massacre can be dated to the Younger Dryas period around 12,900 to 11,700 years ago when a temporary reversal of the warming cycle following the end of last ice age caused a lengthy drought and a great famine in the areas of Egypt and Palestine. As

water sources dried up, family and tribal groups were forced together at the Nile River for water, and conflicts led to the first documented climate war.

It is during this same period of drought that we find the earliest evidence of walls being built to protect a water source. The most ancient walls constructed on Earth have been identified at the Palestinian city of Jericho above the West Bank of the Jordan River. The walls were built by hunter-gathers who camped there more than 12,000 years ago to defend the abundant spring that continues to flow at Jericho to this day. The drought ended when global warming resumed; agriculture became organized; and a permanent settlement was constructed at Jericho by 9400 BCE.

The earliest cave paintings honor the hunted animals, but the Iberian cave art in Spain painted during the Mesolithic Europe period around 10,000 years ago clearly show a series of battle scenes between groups of archers. This is our first evidence of organized warfare. Earlier fighting using hand axes, stone clubs, and spears required killing to be up close and personal, but the physics of using a taut bow string to launch arrows at high speeds over greater distances provided the ability to remotely kill opponents. With less risk of retaliation, innovations such as the bow

and arrow and crossbow created the science of war, and the first art that glorified warriors, instead of mothers.

The current geological era known as the Holocene began approximately 11,650 years ago. The mild and predictable climate of the era encouraged the development of organized agricultural cultures along the Indus River in India, the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in Iraq, and the Nile River in Egypt. Which came first, and which influenced the others remains an open question, but by about 5500 BCE, flourishing agricultural civilizations can be identified in these garden locations, with the likelihood of economic exchanges between the cultures.

The first heroic images of kings on thrones—replacing women—as having tamed the lions, and being waited on by fawning attendants, appeared about 5,000 years ago. This is also when we find the first evidence of organized war, burning, and destruction, remotely directed by leaders shielded from danger. Kings could organize the resources necessary for the construction of swords, compound bows, metal-tipped arrows, spears, and chariots, and generals could be appointed to recruit, train, and mobilize soldiers to fight the king's war. Stored food resources could be captured, and additional subjects compelled

to work, pay taxes, build walls, and perform military services.

Heroic art began to appear in which the king is larger than life and often associated with the gods. He dominates all those conquered, and his privileged progeny inherit his power, without having to fight for it. From then, until now, thousands of years of human history has been a chronology of wars fought, and much of our cultural art has glorified wars, the leaders who started them, the merchants who profited from them, the lenders who financed them, and the warriors who fought and died in them.

THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF WAR

With the invention of gunpowder, cannons, rifles, and other firearms, war became increasingly impersonal, as warriors could no longer see into the eyes of those they killed, and generals had to find high ground to survey with telescopes the battles they fought with increasing numbers of soldiers and weapons.

The American Revolutionary War was largely fought by disciplined formations of soldiers standing shoulder to shoulder, facing similar masses of enemy soldiers within rifle range. Lines of soldiers were trained to fire volleys of shots on command, reload as another line fired, and to stand firm as adjacent soldiers were shot down by riflemen in the opposing formation. The winner was the side with the most soldiers left standing and shooting, when the other side was shot down or retreated. In the European wars that followed, Napoleon advanced the art and science of war by strategically placing cannons to devastate formations of riflemen.

Less than one hundred years after uniting, the southern states attempted to withdraw from the United States to preserve their investment in agricultural slavery, which was equal in value to the northern investment in the industrial revolution.

The southern export of cotton was worth more than all other exports combined, and it supplied two-thirds of the world market.

The Civil War, or the War for Southern Independence, was fought over the constitutional right of the southern states to dissolve their economic and political union to protect their capital investment in slavery. For four long years, between 1861 and 1865, the divided nation fought the first large-scale economic and industrial war in human history.

The greater industrial might of the north prevailed during the war, as it produced the arms, materials, telegraphy, and railroads needed to overwhelm the industrial capacity of the South, to win the war, and to become a world-class economic power. Without southern opposition in Congress during the war, laws favoring the North provided for the rapid westward expansion into the free states, which were opened to immigrant homesteaders. Non-English-speaking immigrants filled the ranks of the northern army, and with the induction of freed slaves, the vast number of northern troops overwhelmed the limited population of available white southern soldiers.

The new northern states were endowed with Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges funded by the

federal government, and they were connected to both coasts by railroads heavily subsidized by the government. The private rail system was supplemented by the new military railroads constructed to supply and move the northern army, which became the largest rail system in the world by the end of the war.

The leaders and generals on both sides of the Civil War were educated in Western philosophy and science, and they shared a military heritage in the arts of war learned by their officers at West Point and in the Revolutionary, Indian, and Mexican Wars. The American Civil War was the first war fought with massive amounts of the tools of war produced by industrial machinery. Cannons and Parrot rifles were more numerous, larger and deadlier, at greater distances; and armed with cannister shot, howitzers were leveled to mow down wave, after wave of attacking riflemen with fixed bayonets. The Gatling machine gun was invented during the war, but it was not widely deployed, because each machine gun required more ammunition than hundreds of riflemen. Both sides began to dig massive defensive trenches, as the firepower became more deadly against massed formations, and the defeat of the South became inevitable.

The war introduced industrial-machined repeating rifles, with rifled gun barrels, that fired spin-stabilized Minié balls that ripped off arms and legs—even among those who survived the blazing gun battles involving thousands of rifles. The war also launched ironclad and steam-powered ships, submarines, and mine-torpedoes, but it was the great land battles that were fought, season after season, general after general, year after year, in which the mechanized Civil War took the lives of 620,000 combatants. The rate of death was six times that of American soldiers in the Second World War, as disease took twice as many lives as the battlefield, and thousands of bodies were buried in mass graves without identification. Military deaths alone were almost as many as all other military deaths in all other wars ever fought by the United States of America.

One in five southern men died in their war for independence, and, as the war raged across the South, civilian deaths from starvation, epidemic disease, and guerrilla warfare numbered in the tens of thousands, with an overall mortality rate that exceeded any nation in the First World War, which followed 50 years later.

The horribly violent war was won, not by the bravery of its warriors, nor by the accuracy of their aim, but by the massive materials of war, delivered by the railroads built to supply the army, choreographed by telegraphy, and organized as a complex machine to kill enemy soldiers, as efficiently as possible, until one side ran out of soldiers or arms, or both.

As noted, most of the bodies of soldiers were never identified following the bloody battles, and they were buried in mass graves far from home. Families denied the rituals of mourning coped with their losses by adopting a spiritual belief that soldiers who died a “Good Death” in battle achieved Christian salvation and eternal life in Heaven. National cemeteries were created at the battlefields, and Memorial Day continues to be observed as a national holiday at the end of May to place American flags on the graves of fallen warriors.

Such became the nature of modern warfare, and it is how wars have been fought ever since. Mechanized warfare also gave rise to the corporate promotion of militarization, which corrupts the bravery of patriotic warriors who defend their homes and their Rights of Liberty by transforming their service into glorified images of war and warri-

ors peddled by corporations, seeking profits and power. There is nothing glorious about the reality of violent death, no matter how glamorous the movie stars appearing in idealized performances, and nothing good can be said about causing little children to dream about killing or being killed, or to find pleasure in computer games that glamorize killing as the solution to every problem.

Only military strategy and tactics—nothing about the futility, corruption, destruction, and waste of war—was learned from the American Civil War. The advanced military science of the next two worldwide industrial wars in the twentieth century slaughtered more than 100 million people, before unleashing the horror of nuclear weapons upon humanity.

Once again, it seems, nothing was learned, and over the past 70 years, wars have continued to be fought around the world, and millions more people, including untold babies and children, have died horrible deaths for the profits and power of industrialized corporations—who proudly claim fraudulent patriotism and phony warriorhood as their deceptive trademark and advertising gimmicks.

Business continues to boom in the large arms industry in 2018, with the United States exporting

the most weapons valued at \$10.5 billion, followed by Russia at \$6.4 billion, France at \$1.76 billion, Germany at \$1.27 billion, Spain at \$1.18 billion, South Korea at \$1.08 billion, China at \$1.04 billion, United Kingdom at \$741 million, Israel at \$707 million, and Italy at \$611 million.

What more can be said about the horror of mechanized war, except that matters could get much more violent, really fast, as the earth keeps getting hotter.

CLIMATE WARS

Perhaps all wars have always been fought over scarce resources, but as the reality of global warming has become undeniable, the professional militaries of all the industrialized nations are presently engaged in planning to fight wars in the future resulting from climate change. There is this incongruity: while political leaders deny the reality of global warming caused by their industrial sponsors, their professional military officers acknowledge the reality and address the threat. They are worried about how to fight the wars that will undoubtedly result from conflicts over diminishing resources. Unfortunately, military officers rely on the same corporate industries that created the problem, to

help solve the problem. Ultimately, the lessons will be learned that the human problems in the twenty-first century caused by climate change, no matter how threatening or violent, can never be solved by the military use of deadly force.

There is a potential reality here, one that is almost impossible to deny: there may not be enough political will to immediately redirect all resources presently spent on militarization—worldwide—to restore the environmental balance. Should that failure occur, we can try to imagine how it may be in just 20 or 30 years if increased warming and extreme weather conditions continue.

Vast areas of the tropics on both sides of the equator will become too hot to sustain life, and, as there will be no food and water, millions, if not billions will be forced to migrate or die. Large regions of India and China will be devastated by drought and famine, as the glacier-fed rivers of the Himalayans dry up. The Middle East will not be able to pump and sell enough oil to purchase food for its people, as its water sources run dry. Russia may adapt the warming Siberia to produce food for consumption and barter with a weakened Europe. Canada and the United States will struggle to feed its populations, and they will become separated

from Mexico and Central America by the expanding southwestern deserts. South America, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand will be on their own. The worldwide economic and communication systems will cease to exist.

How soon could the first climate war occur? A conflict between the United States-Canada and China, over food and natural resources, trade disputes, or defaulted sovereign debts, is easily foreseeable in the not so distant future. It is not difficult to imagine an American president deploying the mighty aircraft carrier armada of the U.S. Navy against the modernized defenses built by China's industrial corporations, using the profits of their trade with America.

Under any reasonable scenario, it is highly unlikely any U.S. capital ships would survive sailing within the long range of the new generations of hypersonic missiles launched by China from land and forward-deployed small craft. Flying at five times the speed of sound, the missile system is designed to overwhelm naval defenses and to remotely destroy advancing carriers at long distances, before approaching enemies can launch their aircraft.

Is there any doubt but that an American president foolish enough to launch a naval attack on

China, would also respond to the destruction of his carrier armada by launching nuclear intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs)? China would retaliate; Russia could join in, and human extinction would become inevitable.

THE COST OF WARS

The industrial military machine of the Civil War not only consumed the human bodies of 620,000 combatants and 50,000 civilians, but in compensation for its efforts in preserving the economy of the United States, its corporate owners were paid more than 82 billion (2019) dollars.

Wars became much more expensive in the twentieth century, as the corporate industrial machine operating in the First World War consumed the bodies of nine million combatants and five million civilians at a cost of 6.2 trillion (2019) dollars.

Learning from experience, the corporate war machine was far more efficient during the Second World War in which it consumed as many as 100 million human bodies at a cost of only 4.1 trillion (2019) dollars.

Not counting all the other dirty little wars being fought around the world equipped by the

military output of the global corporate industrial machine, the United States, alone, paid out almost \$12 trillion between 2000 and 2018 in its War Against Terrorism. President Trump just signed a \$738 billion defense bill—a \$105 billion increase over the 2018 military budget—that includes the creation of a Space Force, the purchase of 78 more F-35 fighters (\$100 million each) that are incapable of performing assigned tasks, development of the “Raider,” a new, already outdated stealth bomber; new, outdated destroyers and a frigate to protect America’s outdated armada of 11 aircraft carriers.¹¹

Worldwide, military spending reached \$1.4 trillion in 2018, with the United States, China, Saudi

¹¹ “July 24, 2019 — The US Army unveiled its new rifle that employs Artificial Intelligence algorithms. This next-generation rifle and machine gun will be fitted with cutting-edge fire control technologies, including digital weapon camera and Artificial Intelligence. The Squad Weapon is expected to be equipped with a rifle-mounted advanced fire control optic system.

“According to new data from the Joint Service Small Arms Program, this new weapon system combines the firepower, effective range of a machine gun with the precision, and ergonomics of a rifle, yielding capability improvements in accuracy, range, and lethality. Artificial Intelligence algorithms will be used for threat recognition and prioritization.” (GlobeNews-Wire.com)

Arabia, India, France, Russia, UK, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Brazil, and Italy as the major contributors. At \$649 billion, the U.S. spent as much as the next eight countries combined, including second-place China at \$250 billion. Russia only spent \$61.4 billion, which included the cost of its military intelligence unit whose propaganda effort successfully delegitimized the 2016 U.S. elections and secured the cooperation of the new United States president in Russia's war with Ukraine.

It is from these military budgets that the money to restore the environmental balance must be seized. Not in addition to, not equal to, but the entire resources presently devoted to war and militarization, must be completely redirected to developing alternative sources of energy and to exploring the cosmos. Anything less will be insufficient, and any military spending will be wasted, as there is no war where our children want to go.

For some remedies on making better use of our defense spending, you can skip ahead to "Beating the Explosive Swords of War Into the High Tech Plowshares of Peace," but next, we must come to understand that intolerance is just as deadly as the other threats we have considered, if not more so.

INTOLERANCE: RACIAL, CULTURAL, AND RELIGIOUS

In the Peace of Augsburg in 1555 that ended the war between German Lutheran Protestants and Catholics, the Holy Roman Empire guaranteed that the rulers of the 224 German states could chose the religion of their realm, and their subjects could either conform or emigrate.

The religious peace did not extend into neighboring France, where bloody battles between Catholics and the Huguenot Calvinist Protestants were fought between 1562 and 1598 in the French Wars of Religion that slaughtered three million people.

Within two decades, another religious “world war” exploded in Central Europe that engulfed most European states. The Thirty Years’ War started in 1619 when Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II tried to impose Roman Catholicism on all the people in his Empire in violation of the Peace of Augsburg. In opposition, the northern Protestant states formed the Protestant Union of Sweden, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, and allied with Catholic, but anti-Habsburg, France. Led by the Emperor and the Pope, the Catholic League included Austria, Bohemia, Spain, Portugal, and Italy. Before ending in

1648, the war killed eight million people, including 20 percent of the German population.

The Thirty Years' War officially ended with the Peace of Westphalia, in which there was a legal division of Christianity within the Holy Roman Empire, allowing individual rulers to choose either Lutheranism or Roman Catholicism as the state religion. The outcome was a newly independent Dutch Republic, a strengthened Sweden and Bourbon France, and a reduction in Austrian Habsburg power. By exposing the dangers of a divided Germany, the war also resulted in the Pan-Germanism movement, and ultimately a unified Germany.

Thus, the last major war fought primarily over differing religious beliefs ended with a compromise of religious freedom and toleration; however, the intolerance of differing religion, race, and culture has continued to inflame violence and wars everywhere that it has been given expression.

THE ORIGIN AND EFFECTS OF INTOLERANCE

Violence, either between two chimpanzees, two humans, or between world nations, can be traced to the deadly brainstem latent disease of intolerance. It is there that deception, hatred, and violence lurks—until we cure these latent diseases with the self-awareness of our minds. Once we understand we are

personally responsible for the destructive behaviors caused by our brainstem diseases, we can choose to, or not to, allow these latent disabilities to influence or control our decisions, actions, and happiness.

Intolerance, “an unwillingness to accept views, beliefs, or behavior that differ from one’s own,” is an expression of the self-preservation instincts hard-wired into our brainstem that cause us to feel uncomfortable around someone who practices a different religion, is of a different race, speaks a different language, or comes from a different culture. These ancient impulses cause us to distrust people who are unlike us, because these are the same categories by which we define ourselves. Who do we see when we look in the mirror, or who do we hear when we wonder about secret thoughts, and who do we trust when the going gets tough? Who is most likely to help us, someone like us, or someone different?

When we are challenged in life, when our sense of self, our race, our culture, or our religion is threatened or attacked, we experience actual pain deep inside of us, as though we were punched in the gut. We respond with anger—as the fight or flight instinct kicks in—and we are primed to retaliate.

It hurts when we are deprived of our sense of self or our self-image is diminished through the intoler-

ance of others. The pain of hurt feelings is real, and we mourn the loss of self-confidence, as though we have died. We seek the comfort of religion to help us understand and accept the death of a loved one, and we appreciate the safety, support, and society of our friends and family in the culture in which we are born and raised, and within the neighborhoods, cities, and states in which we choose to live and work.

COEXISTENCE AND THE UNIVERSAL RIGHTS OF LIBERTY

As we evolved our community of minds into the greater world of humanity, with its multitude of groups and identities, we learned to translate the beneficial social norms of our various cultures, races, and religions into generalized laws for everyone, that encourage positive conduct and help to curtail the negative behavior of the mentally and emotionally immature.

When we come to coexist with other cultures, races, and religions, we expand our own range of experience and education. We increase our opportunities and the number of available choices, and we improve the quality of our decision making. Learning from others, we absorb the wisdom of their cultures, and our lives are enriched and made whole. We begin to appreciate just how many marvelous

people there are to be found in other races, religions, and cultures, once we start looking.

Every person born upon the earth has a universal Right of Liberty to either practice a religion, or not, as a matter of personal choice, without suffering the mark of intolerance or penalty of law.

Everyone has a Right of Liberty to define one's own self-identity—sexual, matrimonial, cultural, racial, religious, or national—and to be free of the intolerance of others, and everyone has an equivalent duty to tolerate the rights of everyone else to define their own self-identity. We must recognize that the toleration of differences in others does not negate one's own identity or sense of self; to the contrary, the toleration of others improves our self-worth.

A crazy act of intolerance—done in a spiritual belief that it is divinely sanctioned—may be caused by a dysfunctional mind, but the consequences of intolerant words or deeds are suffered by everyone, not just the immediate victims. Intolerance is forever destructive—it is never constructive, while tolerance encourages collaboration and compromise. The amazing product of toleration is an exponential increase in creativity, far greater than can ever be imagined without the power boost of tolerance. Upon this difference, rests the fate of our species.

As a humanity, documenting our history and learning from our errors, we must open our eyes to what we have done to ourselves in the 75 years since the horrendous Second World War ended. In the next paper, we will briefly review the history of these years, focusing on the actions of the United States of America in just one region of the earth that has exacerbated racial, cultural, and religious hatred and intolerance that threatens the existence of humanity today.

THE AMERICAN EMPIRE AND THE MIDDLE EAST WARS OF INTOLERANCE

America became an economic and military empire during and after World War II, and it has built hundreds of military bases around the world to ensure its dominance. In doing so, it has actively interfered with the governments of other nations—apparently unhindered by law or morality—for the benefit of the corporate industrial machine, which requires continual warfare, and the threat of war, to survive.

From 1945 to 2001, the American Empire sought to dominate the governments that controlled access to the mineral resources of the Middle East, and which had military and political power over the peo-

ple who lived there. Preferring easily corruptible strong military men over democratically elected, socially oriented governments, the United States freely interfered with elections and caused governments to be overturned around the globe.

As the Second World War ended in 1945, the newly emerging nations of the Middle East—from Egypt to India and Pakistan—had an expectation of national freedom. After centuries of colonial rule by the Turkish Ottoman Empire, and decades of English and French “protection,” the people longed for freedom, self-expression, and prosperity.

Today, after 75 years of civil wars, foreign invasions, and corporate exploitation, the people of the Middle East war zone still yearn for self-government, but increasingly their wars for freedom have turned into vicious fights over racial and cultural domination and isolation, and the religious intolerance of Jewish, Christian, Islamic, Hindu, and even Buddhist fundamentalism.

The deaths, injuries, and diseases suffered in the war zone from these expressions of intolerance, number into the millions of screaming children, desperate mothers, and the crying babies they held in their arms, as they died horrible, technologically-violent, bloody, mangling, and burning deaths in the

name of the same God, or Allah—worshipped by both the attacker and the attacked.

Israel. The U.S. recognized the establishment of the State of Israel in the land of Palestine after its terrorist campaign against the United Nations protectorate and its “War of Independence” in 1948, resulting in the violent expulsion of half of the indigenous Palestinian people to Jordan and Lebanon. Subsequent administrations have supported Israel’s apartheid, theocratic, martial law government ever since, and America supplied the arms Israel used to defeat its neighbors in the wars of 1967 and 1973.

United States support continued, even though Israel deliberately attacked and attempted to sink a U.S. Navy spy ship displaying the American flag and stationed in international waters off the Sinai coast during the 1967 war. Repeated attacks by Israeli Navy motor torpedo boats and Israeli Air Force jet fighters almost sank the ship and did kill 34 American crew members. The United States took no action to defend the ship or its crew, and it has also acquiesced to Israel’s continued illegal occupation of the Palestinian land it conquered in the 1967 war.

Using the military arms and financial aid supplied by America, along with the special nuclear material that allowed Israel to quickly construct

atomic weapons, Israel has been encouraged to dominate the region militarily. Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 to attack the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), and again in 2006 to attack Hezbollah forces. Israel bombed a nuclear reactor in Iraq in 1981, and it bombed a suspected nuclear reactor in Syria in 2007. Israel continues to rely on the terrorism of targeted assassinations and tactical aerial bombing, without regard for national boundaries or international law, in maintaining military dominance and nuclear superiority over its neighboring countries.

In late 2003, President George W. Bush poured gasoline on the flames of endless war in the Middle East by giving Israel 100 Harpoon cruise missiles, which Israel immediately equipped with nuclear weapons and installed aboard three submarines purchased from Germany. These missiles provide Israel with the ability to strike any of its enemies in the Middle East—including all sites where Iran may be working on nuclear weapons—and as far around the oceans as the submarines may range and refuel.

Relying upon President Bush's doctrine of preemptive war, a spokesman for Israel's foreign ministry insisted, "Israel views every state that is harboring terrorist organizations and the leaders of those

terrorist organizations who are attacking innocent citizens of the state of Israel as legitimate targets of self-defense.”

Iran. Following World War II, Iran, a constitutional monarchy, with the Shah as head of state, began to develop its agriculture and manufacturing resources and increasingly looked to the sale of its oil reserves for finance. In 1951, the Iranian parliament voted to nationalize the oil industry, and England imposed an embargo on the purchase of Iranian oil in retaliation.

Friction arose between the Shah and his popular and nationalistic prime minister, who demanded increased power over the production of oil and the expenditure of its proceeds. Urged on by British intelligence, the CIA arranged strategic bombings and political harassments of religious leaders leading to the overthrow of the elected government.

The Shah's plans for internal development and land reform, paid for by oil revenues, were met with opposition from clerical leaders, including Ayatollah Khomeini. There were violent riots when Khomeini was arrested, and protests to the passage of a law granting diplomatic immunity to U.S. military personnel, and their staff and families, resulted in the exile of Khomeini.

After the prime minister was assassinated by members of a radical Islamic group associated with Khomeini, the Shah appointed Amir Hoveyda as prime minister, who presided over a 12-year period of economic growth and political stability. He revised the tax law, created a new civil service code and appointed highly qualified civil administrators. Hoveyda created a new Ministry of Higher Education and greatly increased the number of colleges and universities.

With the support of the Nixon Administration, the Shah used oil revenues to purchase vast stores of military weapons and law enforcement materiel from the U.S. corporate industrial machine, equipping it to serve as a surrogate police force in the Persian Gulf. President Nixon allowed Iran to purchase any conventional weapon in the United States arsenal.

Commencing in 1957, Iran signed a series of agreements with the United States to receive uranium and technical assistance in the development of an Iranian nuclear power program, and in 1967 Iran received both weapons-grade uranium and plutonium. Iran signed the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, and its scientists were trained in the United States, including the skills required to extract plutonium from spent uranium fuel.

In 1975, the United States and Iran signed an agreement in which the U.S. was to build eight nuclear power plants and to provide the fuel. It was subsequently agreed that Iran would be permitted to reprocess the spent fuels into plutonium and to invest in the U.S. enrichment facilities. Iran also signed contracts with France and Germany for the construction of nuclear power plants, as the Shah was planning to construct as many as 23 plants by 1994.

Writing in exile, Ayatollah Khomeini declared that a monarchy was abhorrent to Islam. He proposed a theocracy in which the leadership belonged to the Islamic jurists. More and more younger Iranians joined underground groups committed to violent revolution. After the Shah established a one-party state in 1975, concern over his suppression of basic freedoms attracted international attention, including that of the Carter Administration, which brought pressure.

The Shah replaced the prime minister and attempted to conciliate the clerics; however, the riots expanded until the Shah imposed martial law in Tehran and other cities in 1978. The strikes and riots continued, as Khomeini called for the removal of the Shah and the establishment of a democratic and Is-

lamic government. On January 16, 1979, the Shah left on a “holiday” from which he never returned.

Khomeini returned to Iran on January 26, 1979 and established a government with power shared between revolutionary committees and religious authorities. Ayatollah Khomeini became the “Supreme Leader” of Iran; however, there was no central government. Semi-independent revolutionary committees were formed in the towns and cities, and various religious clerics formed competing political parties. Revolutionary courts condemned hundreds to death, including Hoveyda himself, who had presided over 12 years of progress.

The religious clerics began to deploy armed groups of *Hezbollah* (partisans of the party of God) against moderate and secular political opponents. The Revolutionary Council nationalized and appropriated much of the private sector, including insurance companies, major industries, banks, and urban land. A national referendum approved a new government in which the only choice was an Islamic Republic, which was established on April 1, 1979.

When President Carter authorized the admission of the seriously ill Shah into the United States for medical treatment, all hope of restoring friendly relations with the United States dissolved. On

November 4, 1979, as thousands marched in Tehran demanding the Shah's extradition, students supporting the Iranian Revolution occupied the United States embassy and detained the diplomats and employees.

President Carter made himself a "hostage" in the White House, as he searched for a solution. He authorized a scheme for Saddam Hussein to invade Iran in response to a purported call for assistance from rebelling officers of the Iranian army; however, the Russians informed Khomeini about the conspiracy and the Iranian officers were arrested. Despite his military and diplomatic efforts, the U.S. hostages were held for 444 days, until the morning of January 20, 1981, when Ronald Reagan was inaugurated as president instead of Jimmy Carter.

Ayatollah Khomeini brought a new vision to his concept of a radical Islamist government, in that the vitality of the Iranian revolution was to be exported beyond the borders of Iran as an extension of Allah's plan. Therein were the seeds planted for the growing problems Iran was to have with its neighbors and other nations, including the United States, that came to be characterized as the Great Satan in the rhetoric of Iran.

Looking west, Iran saw the majority Shia population of Iraq as a fertile field for planting its version of radical Islamism and began to diligently till the soil using the tools of subversion and propaganda. In Syria, *Hezbollah* units began to support the Alawite Shia government of Hafez al-Assad.

Lebanon. Israel invaded South Lebanon in 1978, following a PLO-led invasion on Israeli beaches that led to the hijacking of a bus and the massacre of 38 Israelis, including 13 children. An armed conflict in Lebanon between pro-government and pro-Syrian forces continued into the early 1980s, and it was exacerbated by the presence of hundreds of thousands of exiled Palestinians in camps and the PLO revolt against Israeli occupation. A U.S.-brokered cease fire deployed a four-nation Multinational Force (MNF) to oversee the peaceful withdrawal of the PLO, Syrian forces, and other combatants. The ceasefire did not hold, and the civil war resumed in 1982.

On June 6, 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon to attack the PLO in their refugee camps in and around Beirut. Israel occupied much of southern Lebanon and laid siege to the camps, encouraging the militia of a Christian Lebanese right-wing party to massacre as many as 3,500 primarily Palestinian civilians in September.

The MNF was increasingly opposed by both sides, and on October 23, 1983, two suicide truck bombs detonated at two MNF barrack buildings in Lebanon killed 241 U.S. and 58 French military personnel. Credit was claimed by the Islamic Jihad, and the attack may have been sponsored by Iran.

Iraq - Iran War. Coincident with the U.S. CIA overthrow of the Shah of Iran in 1979, Saddam Hussein, a paid CIA asset and assassin, seized power as the dictator of Iraq. Hussein was a Sunni Muslim, but most Iraqis (and Iranians) profess to be Shite followers of Ali. Hussein's dictatorial powers in Iraq derived from the Arab Socialist Ba'ath party, which also empowered Hafez al-Assad, of the Alawite Shite religious sect, to seize and hold governmental power in Syria, whose people are primarily Sunni.

Encouraged by President Carter's national security advisor, Saddam invaded Iran on September 22, 1980, claiming that Iran had attempted to assassinate his foreign minister. A practical goal was regaining control of the waterway to the Persian Gulf that marks their national boundary.

Once President Reagan was inaugurated, he increased U.S. support of Iraq in its bloody war against Iran. As it appeared that Iran might defeat Saddam Hussein, the U.S. supplied advanced military wea-

ponry and top-secret satellite intelligence to Hussein. The U.S. also approved the secret sale of poisonous chemicals and biological viruses, including anthrax and bubonic plague, to Hussein. Records document that Iraq dropped more than 13,000 chemical bombs during the war.

In an extraordinarily audacious act of Machiavelian double-dealing—after first securing the cooperation of Iran to delay releasing the American hostages held in the U.S. embassy in Tehran until the day Ronald Reagan was inaugurated as president—the Reagan administration began to sell military weapons to Iran, using Israel as a conduit, to avoid the law imposing an embargo on the sale of arms to Iran, *and* the Reagan administration used the proceeds from the unlawful sale of weapons to Iran to unlawfully fund the Contras in Nicaragua, in violation of the laws prohibiting such funding.

In 1984, President Reagan's special envoy, Donald Rumsfeld, informed Hussein that the U.S. "recognizes Iraq's current disadvantage in a war of attrition since Iran has access to the gulf while Iraq does not [and that the U.S.] would regard any major reversal of Iraq's fortunes as a strategic defeat for the West." Significant military and intelligence aid flowed to Iraq, as Hussein narrowly avoided defeat

and signed an agreement in 1988 ending the war. It had consumed one million lives.

The Gulf War. The United States provided Iraq with one billion dollars in economic and military aid in 1989; however, Iraq's economy was in shambles. Oil prices were falling, and Hussein blamed the adjoining oil-producing country of Kuwait for his loss of income. On July 25, 1990, Hussein met with U.S. Ambassador April Glaspie to discuss Hussein's claim that Kuwait was historically a part of Iraq. She informed Hussein that she was under direct instructions of President George H.W. Bush to improve U.S. relations with Iraq, and that President Bush was sympathetic to Iraq's dispute with Kuwait. Hussein was diplomatically informed that the U.S. had no opinion regarding the dispute, and that "the Kuwait issue is not associated with America."

Higher oil prices resulting from the conflict would benefit the profits of American oil companies, and on August 3, 1990, CIA agent Saddam Hussein ordered the invasion, seemingly encouraged by the U.S. president.

Iraq invaded and quickly occupied all of Kuwait, up to its border with Saudi Arabia. The United Nations condemned the invasion and imposed sanctions, cutting off 70 percent of Iraq's food supply.

Acting pursuant to a United Nations resolution, an international coalition of military forces led by the United States (which was shocked, shocked by Iraq's aggression against defenseless Kuwait and its threat to the Saudi Arabia oil fields) deployed 400,000 troops in the region. The oil-producing nations of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia agreed to pay for more than half of the \$62 billion cost of the war.

On January 14, 1991, following an ignored ultimatum, the coalition launched a bombing blitz against Iraq that lasted for 42 days. The air assault had five basic targets, one of which was "population will." The Iraqi civilian infrastructure, including electricity, water, and sanitation, was almost entirely wiped out to "degrade the will of the civilian population" to fight. Denied basic needs and services, hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children died as collateral damage during the war and in the years that followed.

When Saddam refused to leave Kuwait, a ground invasion commenced on February 23, 1991; three days later Saddam abandoned Kuwait after setting fire to more than 600 oil wells, fire trenches, and lakes of oil. Iraq agreed to a cease-fire on February 28, 1991.

During the three-day invasion, thousands of Iraqi soldiers, most of them conscripts and reserves armed

with rifles, had been deployed in World War I style trenches dug in the desert along Iraq's border. Although some of the soldiers were able to surrender before the mechanized invasion swept around and over them, thousands were buried alive as Abrams battle tanks, equipped with huge front plows, swept along both flanks of approximately 70 miles of trenches, pouring avalanches of sand down upon the Iraqi soldiers. The tanks were followed by combat earthmovers that filled in and smoothed over the trenches, creating a massive unmarked grave site.

The Geneva Convention prohibits "denial of quarter," that is, refusing to accept an enemy's offer of surrender. Following the war, then Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney justified the live mass burials in his report to Congress as being "a gap in the law of war in defining precisely when surrender takes effect or how it may be accomplished. . . . Because of these uncertainties and the need to minimize loss of U.S. lives, military necessity required that the assault . . . be conducted with maximum speed and violence."

To end the Gulf War, Saddam agreed to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction and to allow verification inspections by the United Nations. In the meantime, the UN economic sanctions were to continue. Because of the sanctions, and certainly be-

cause of the priorities set by Saddam, there were significant delays in obtaining spare parts to repair Iraq's infrastructure, including its power grid, water treatment plants and sanitation systems, much of which was destroyed in the air attacks. Moreover, the population was denied access to adequate food supplies and essential medicines. UNICEF has estimated that as many as a million Iraqis died as a result of the sanctions, and that 500,000 of them were children.

Between the end of the war in 1992 and 1998, the United Nations conducted intensive and intrusive inspections throughout Iraq and was able to verify that Iraq had destroyed virtually all its mass destruction capability, including all factories used to produce nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and all long-range missiles. What Iraq did not destroy; the inspection teams did. Given the fact that chemicals and biologicals used in weapons degrade with time and become harmless within five years, and without factories to replace the materials, it is relatively certain that Iraq ceased to have weapons of mass destruction and the capability to produce them.

Matters came to a head in 1998 when Richard Butler, the UN's chief inspector was encouraged by the U.S. to "carry out very sensitive inspections that had nothing to do with disarmament but had every-

thing to do with provoking the Iraqis.” Iraq agreed to a set of “Modalities for Sensitive Site Inspections;” however, Butler insisted on unrestricted access to the Ba’ath Party headquarters in violation of the Modalities. When Saddam balked, Butler ordered the UN inspectors to leave the country to clear the way for a U.S. bombing attack. The Iraqis did not order the inspectors to leave.

On December 16, 1998, on the eve of his impeachment trial, President Clinton announced “Operation Desert Fox” by U.S. and British forces to “attack Iraq’s nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs.” Over the next four days, there were repeated air strikes in central Iraq. However, none ever targeted weapons of mass destruction, because no such weapons could be identified. Instead, Iraq’s conventional military assets were targeted, along with its industrial infrastructure. The inspectors did not return to Iraq, and over the next three years, U.S. and British forces continued to fly at will in the no-fly zones and to bomb radar targets.

Meanwhile, back in the United States, President Clinton was acquitted in his impeachment trial; Vice President Gore received the Democratic nomination; and the American People voted to elect him as their next president. The Supreme Court, however,

awarded the presidency to the losing candidate, George W. Bush, who came to office determined to make up for his father's failure to completely conquer Iraq, and to extend and consolidate U.S. dominance over the Middle East and Central Asia.

Afghanistan. Historically serving as a buffer state between the imperial ambitions of England (India-Pakistan) and Russia, and having remained neutral in World War II, fiercely independent Afghanistan established a constitutional monarchy with a parliament in 1964. Following a military coup d'état in 1973, the king abdicated, and a socialist government was established with close relations with the USSR.

The conservative Afghan people rebelled, and although more than 27,000 political prisoners were executed, the socialist government was unable to suppress the Mujahidin rebels. The government called upon Soviet assistance, and by the end of 1979, entire regiments and divisions of Soviet troops were being deployed in the civil war.

On December 27, 1979, the USSR announced to the Afghans that they had been "liberated" and that their corrupt prime minister had been executed for his crimes. The nation was to be governed by the Afghan Revolutionary Central Committee, and 100,000

Soviet troops invaded and attempted to occupy the nation. The invasion was condemned by the Islamic nations and the United Nations General Assembly, and western military supplies began to flow into Afghanistan to supply the Mujahidin.

In a classic cold war set piece, the Mujahidin rebels were supported by the United States, the United Kingdom, Egypt, Pakistan, China, and Saudi Arabia. The grand objective was not to preserve the independence of the Afghan people, but to make the military cost of occupying Afghanistan too expensive for the Soviet Union to sustain in its economic and military competition with the United States.

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency supplied billions of dollars in weapons, which were routed through the Pakistani security services. At least 4,000 Mujahidin units were supplied by the CIA, including that of a young volunteer named Osama bin Laden, the son of a wealthy Saudi builder, who had come to fight the Russian infidels as an “Afghan Arab” warrior.

Between 1980 and 1985, the USSR launched multiple offenses into rebel-held regions, including adjoining Pakistan, without success. Beginning in 1985, the Soviet Union began beefing up the Afghanistan national army to replace withdrawing Soviet

forces by mid-1987. The exit was completed by February 1989, after 15,000 Soviet soldiers died during the occupation.

The departing Soviet army left in place a communist government headed by the former chief of the Afghan secret police. More than two million Afghans died during the occupation; millions more were maimed and disabled; and more than five million Afghans were refugees in other countries. The civil war continued into the 1990s with hundreds of thousands of Afghan civilians losing their lives.

The Russian-installed government fell in 1992, and the civil war continued over the next three years, with the largest Mujahideen groups and the Taliban¹² fighting for control. In September 1996, the Taliban seized control of Kabul and most of Afghanistan, and they instituted a harsh Islamic fundamentalist rule in which 400,000 Afghans died by 2001.

Al Qaida Strikes Back at the America Empire. Osama bin Laden, and his organization known as al Qaida (The Base or Foundation), continued to be welcomed by the Taliban in Afghanistan, as bin Lad-

¹² The Taliban movement was born in the madrassa religious schools conducted by the severe form of Sunni fundamentalism known as Wahhabism. The Saudi Arabian monarchy generously provides financial support of Wahhabism and its schools by their tithe of a percentage of petroleum profits.

en's list of grievances against the American Empire grew. He was appalled by the presence of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, U.S. support of Israel, and U.S. support of attacks on Muslims in Somalia, Chechnya, Kashmir, and Lebanon.

After al-Qaeda attacked U.S. embassies in Africa and the USS *Cole* in Yemen, sealed indictments were issued against Osama bin Laden in the U.S. federal courts. On August 20, 1998, as Congress was commencing his impeachment investigation, President Clinton tried to kill bin Laden—instead of arresting him—by launching about 70 cruise missiles from naval ships against three training camps in Afghanistan on the chance bin Laden might be at one of them. He wasn't, but 24 unlucky people were killed.

Following the political disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991—and the virtual disappearance of communism as a national economic system (everywhere but in Cuba and North Korea)—the American Empire became the sole superpower on Earth. With the election of George W. Bush in 2000, and with both the New Democratic and Republican parties securely corrupted by the political contributions and the lobbying power of the capitalist military-industrial machine, the oil fields of Iraq and Iran were targeted for consolidation along with those of

Saudi Arabia, as sources of low-cost energy to be exploited by the corporate machine.

Osama bin Laden played into these plans when 19 (including 15 subjects of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) of his al Qaeda warriors, armed only with cheap knives and box-cutters launched four coordinated, well-planned attacks on September 11, 2001. The suicide fighters took down three of the World Trade Towers in New York City, wiped out a wing of the Pentagon, and (but for the bravery of airline passengers who died saving it) either the Capitol building or the White House. Almost 3,000 people died that day, plus the hijackers, and the consequences in terms of airport security has cost Americans billions of wasted dollars, uncountable hours lost standing without shoes in security lines, and their innocence and freedoms.

On December 7, 1941, the United States violently learned in a surprise attack that its fleet of expensive battleships was obsolete. Battleships were of little evident military value in fighting the new aircraft carriers used by Japan far from their own harbors to bomb Pearl Harbor and sink the lined-up battleships. Quickly learning from experience, the U.S. build enough carriers to win the Pacific War, and to threaten other nations during the Cold War.

Today, fully prepared to fight World War II all over again, and ignoring the new threat of asymmetric warfare fought with terror, America currently deploys eleven nuclear-powered fleet carrier task forces around the world in support of its corporate industrial empire.

On September 11, 2001, America once again learned a violent lesson of war when it suffered another sneak attack. Its mighty armada of aircraft carriers and nuclear armed and powered submarines, and its Air Force equipped with spy satellites, stealth bombers, and nuclear armed intercontinental ballistic missiles, its legions of marines, Deltas, SEALs, and other special force warriors, and its massive National Security Administration that listens and records much of the world's electronic communication, could not defend the American People against the creative stratagems of terrorism. An imaginative, never-used-before, low-budget tactic, effectively executed by a weak, ideologically motivated party of Islamic fighters struck a massive blow against the military power and prestige of an overwhelming superior national enemy.

The Islamic warriors who hijacked the passenger airplanes and committed suicide by flying the fuel-laden aircraft into tremendously symbolic targets,

exposed the vulnerability of imperial arrogance to the focused attacks of warriors who dedicate their lives to expressing the intolerance of their religion, culture, or race, having been indoctrinated to it themselves.

The United States commenced airstrikes in its invasion of Afghanistan to capture Osama bin Laden on October 7, 2001, and two months later, the American-appointed Afghan leader, Hamid Karzai, negotiated the surrender of all remaining Taliban forces around Kandahar.

The final battle was fought in the Tora Bora region of the White Mountains in December, as bin Laden was allowed to escape into Pakistan, where, after a 10-year manhunt, he was located and executed by U.S. special forces in Abbottabad, Pakistan on May 2, 2011, and his body was dumped into the Mediterranean Sea.

Operation Enduring Freedom continues to this day, as President Trump has authorized military commanders on the ground in Afghanistan to determine troop levels and strategy. More than 2,400 Americans have died since the invasion of Afghanistan, and approximately 14,000 U.S. troops remain there. The U.S. continues to negotiate with the Taliban for their complete withdrawal; however, the

Afghan government in Kabul is not a party to these discussions.

The Iraq War. In October 1998, the U.S. enacted the Iraq Liberation Act, which was aimed at establishing a democracy in Iraq. As soon as he took office in January 2001, President George W. Bush made the removal of Saddam Hussein an immediate priority. The subject was discussed at his very first National Security Council meeting, and a memorandum was circulated that outlined a “Plan for post Saddam Iraq.” President George W. Bush and his neoconservative supporters faulted his father, President George H.W. Bush for too quickly declaring a cease-fire in the Gulf War in 1991 without forcing a regime change upon Hussein and his government.

Following the al Qaeda attacks on September 11, 2001, Secretary of State Powell spoke against starting a war with Iraq. He argued that since America wasn’t going after Iraq before 9/11 and there was no evidence that Iraq was responsible for the attack, the coalition he was building would “view it as a bait and switch—it’s not what they signed up to do.” Richard Clarke, Bush’s National Coordinator for Security, thanked Powell for his position saying, “Having been attacked by al Qaeda, for us now to go bombing Iraq

in response would be like our invading Mexico after the Japanese attacked us at Pearl Harbor.”

In his State of the Union address to Congress on January 29, 2002, Bush said that terrorist camps exist in “at least a dozen countries.” He said, “The United States of America will not permit the world’s most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world’s most destructive weapons.” First mentioning North Korea and Iran, Bush said that Iraq had “agreed to international inspection—then kicked out the inspectors. This is a regime that has something to hide from the civilized world. States like these, and their terrorist allies, constitute an axis of evil, aiming to threaten the peace of the world. By seeking weapons of mass destruction, these regimes pose a grave and growing danger.”

Following an eight-month campaign of propaganda and deception, Bush made a speech in New York City on September 11, 2002, with the Statue of Liberty in the background; the next day he requested the United Nations Security Council to authorize his march to war, and a week later he asked Congress to back him in his invasion of Iraq.

On October 10, the House of Representatives voted 296 to 133 to grant Bush the authority to attack Iraq, and the Senate approved 77 to 23 the next

day. Although a few members of both parties crossed over the aisles to vote, the resolution was largely supported by the Republicans and opposed by the Democrats. Senior Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia attempted to mount a filibuster but was cut off. He said, "This is the Tonkin Gulf resolution all over again. . . . Let us stop, look and listen. Let us not give this president or any president unchecked power. Remember the Constitution."

On January 27, 2003, Dr. Hans Blix reported to the United Nations:

Iraq has on the whole cooperated rather well so far with UNMOVIC in this field. The most important point to make is that access has been provided to all sites we have wanted to inspect and with one exception it has been prompt. We have further had great help in building up the infrastructure of our office in Baghdad and the field office in Mosul. Arrangements and services for our planes and our helicopters have been good. The environment has been workable.

On February 14, 2003, Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General of the IAEA, informed the United Nations Security Council that "Iraq has continued to

provide immediate access to all locations.” The IAEA completed a detailed review of the 2,000 pages of documents found at the private residence of an Iraqi scientist and found nothing that was not already known to the IAEA, nor anything to alter “the conclusions previously drawn by the IAEA concerning the extent of Iraq’s laser enrichment programme.” The report reiterated “by December 1998, that it had neutralized Iraq’s past nuclear programme and that, therefore, there were no unresolved disarmament issues left at that time.” It concluded: “We have to date found no evidence of ongoing prohibited nuclear or nuclear-related activities in Iraq.”

President George W. Bush refused to accept the observations and conclusions of the United Nations and IAEA inspectors and continued to push for a new Security Council resolution mandating an end to inspections and immediate military action; however, on February 24, 2003, France, Germany and Russia joined together to issue a memorandum in which they concluded:

Full and effective disarmament in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions remains the imperative objective of the international community. Our priority should be to achieve this peacefully through the in-

spection regime. The military option should only be a last resort. So far, the conditions for using force against Iraq are not fulfilled. While suspicions remain, no evidence has been given that Iraq still possesses weapons of mass destruction or capabilities in this field; inspections have just reached their full pace; they are functioning without hindrance; they have already produced results.

With the threat of a veto in the Security Council by either Russia or France, or both, President Bush decided to ignore the United Nations. He created a new "Transatlantic Alliance," consisting of the United States, England and Spain to "face and overcome together the twin threats of the 21st century: terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction."

On March 17, 2003, President Bush addressed the American People and laid down a 48-hour ultimatum for Saddam Hussein and his two sons to leave Iraq; otherwise, "Their refusal to do so will result in military conflict, commenced at a time of our choosing." As he launched an unnecessary and illegal, and horribly violent "preventative war" in their name, President Bush consciously lied in saying, "The American people can know that every measure has been taken to avoid war." In fact, the Iraq War was

legally and morally equivalent to Germany's invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, that launched World War II based upon a knowingly false premise.

On March 19, 2003, President Bush announced that, on his orders, military operations had commenced "to disarm Iraq, to free its people and to defend the world from grave danger." He did so because we "will not live at the mercy of an outlaw regime that threatens the peace with weapons of mass murder."

Who was threatening the peace? According to a *TIME EUROPE* opinion poll, 86.9 percent of more than 700,000 respondents in Europe considered the United States to pose the greatest danger to world peace. Only 6.3 percent thought Iraq was the most serious threat.

As millions and millions of people around the world engaged in public protests against the invasion, the United States launched a "shock and awe" aerial bombing campaign in a new kind of "preemptive war" to defeat the spurious threat to the American People posed by the falsely alleged possession of atomic, biological, and chemical weapons by Saddam Hussein—who uttered no threats toward the U.S. or any other nation. The following invasion of ground

troops quickly secured all of Iraq, as Hussein went into hiding, and his army was quick to surrender.

The military occupation was governed by the Coalition Provisional Authority, which was created and administered by Bush's Presidential Envoy, career foreign service officer Paul Bremer. Instead of assuming command of the surrendered Iraq army, and identifying reliable officers to maintain internal order, Bremer immediately dismissed all military officers, forfeiting their commissions and pensions, and disbanded the army. To replace them, government contractors and U.S. military trainers were brought in to recruit and train new, ideologically pure, police and military forces loyal to the American occupiers. Bremer also removed Ba'ath party leaders from the civil service, and assumed control over the production, sale, and spending of Iraq's oil revenue.

Billions of cash dollars (pallet loads of shrink-wrapped bundles of \$100 bills) flowed through the provisional government, to jumpstart the economy and to pay contractors. Much of the deluge of cash was not subject to standard financial reconciliations and audits, and billions of dollars were never accounted for. Corruption was endemic, as corporate contractors bid for the opportunity to show the Iraqis how the Americans got things done.

On May 1, 2003, President George W. Bush, outfitted in a new, form fitting, military flight suit, was flown offshore of San Diego to the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, where he announced the defeat of Iraq's military and declared the "Mission Accomplished."

An Iraqi (primarily Shia) government was later elected, which executed Saddam Hussein after he was captured in December 2003. Hussein was tried and convicted by an Iraqi court of crimes against humanity, for the Dujail Massacre in 1982, in which 140 Iraqi Shias were killed in revenge for a failed assassination attempt on Hussein. He was hanged to death on December 30, 2006.

As 68 percent of the Iraqi people are Shia and are religiously affiliated with the neighboring Iranians, most Iraqis did not mourn the removal of Saddam Hussein and his mostly Sunni government and army. The dismissed and unemployed Sunnis were not happy, however, and they switched their loyalties from the government to its opposition. Making good use of their organizational and leadership skills, the former military and government leaders began to build an insurgency that quickly posed a significant military challenge to the American occupation and the Shia dominated government that was elected.

Although no evidence of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons was ever found, despite an extensive search, vast stores of artillery shells and other conventional Iraqi arms were poorly guarded. Using a variety of guerrilla tactics, including roadside improvised explosive devices (IEDs), the insurgents made good use of the abandoned and neglected conventional weapons to kill and injure troops and contractors, whenever they left the protection of their defended bases.

The insurgency rapidly increased in size and began to target the newly trained and equipped Iraqi Security Forces, as they were deployed by the Shia government. The insurgency gained strength from its defeats of government forces, and the American-supplied equipment abandoned by Iraqi army officers and troops as they fled the battles.

In the heaviest urban fighting experienced by the U.S. military since the battle of Hue City in Vietnam, the recapture of the city of Fallujah in March and April 2004 took six weeks and cost the lives of almost a hundred Americans. Most civilians had fled the city before it was levelled by artillery and bombs (in order to be saved) but more than a thousand civilians died, many of them in burned to death by white

phosphorus bombs—although its use is internationally banned as a chemical weapon.

The Iraqis were able to form a government and ratify a permanent constitution in 2005 and 2006, however, fighting continued as the Sunni insurgents mounted large coordinated attacks on U.S. bases, and launched suicide bombings of Shia gatherings. The Iraqi Sunnis insurgents were joined by other Arabs from Syria and Saudi Arabia, as they began to bomb Shia mosques, including their holiest sites.

The U.S. war became increasingly technological, as the ground troops hunkered down in defended bases, or ventured out in convoys of armored vehicles, overseen by attack helicopters. The war was coming to be fought with missiles fired from drones, operated via satellite, by “pilots” sitting in a padded chair in front of computer monitors in an air-conditioned building on a base in the United States. The battleground is viewed by cameras, as life and death decisions are made. A gathering of armed insurgents, or a wedding in the desert? Push the button and watch the explosion in real time. All too often, a military programmed to kill, will kill, when it should not have killed.

Attacks were averaging about 960 per week by December 2006, and President Bush responded with a

“surge” of another 20,000 U.S. troops to defeat the insurgency, plus a billion-dollar jobs and reconstruction program to aid the country’s recovery. The Iraqi Parliament enacted legislation limiting the introduction of any additional troops into the country and demanding that the U.S. set a timetable to withdraw all combat forces.

Coalition partners Denmark and England withdrew troops in 2007, and the U.S. announced a withdrawal of the “surge” troops by July 2008. Violence continued with 800 people killed by suicide bombs in one day in August 2007, as Sunni-Shia violence escalated. Responsibility for the bombing execution of a major U.S. ally in Ramadi in September 2007, was claimed on the Internet by a new entity known as the Islamic State of Iraq. Ethnic cleansing occurred throughout Baghdad, as neighborhoods became either entirely Sunni or Shia.

Iraq’s existence as a nation was tested by Iranian incursions in the east supporting Iraq’s Shia population with weapons, by Turkish incursions in the north in its operations against Kurdish cross-border militants, and by an increasingly organized attack in the west coming from Syria. There, the Islamic State of Iraq merged with fundamentalist Sunni forces from Syria in declaring the Islamic State of Iraq and

the Levant (ISIL), or more commonly known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Its Arabic-language derogatory acronym is Daesh.

The Iraqi national army was heavily engaged in fighting Shia militias in Basra, after the British withdrew, and in Sadr City district of Baghdad. When control of the Sunni “Awakening” militias, that had been organized by the U.S. military outside of Baghdad, was transferred to the government, the Iraqi army launched an attack on Mosul in the north to clear it of the last al Qaeda holdouts.

The U.S. corporate industrial military machine began to sell billions of dollars in modern military equipment to equip the new Iraqi army and air force, which the government could pay for through the sale of oil.

A Status of Forces Agreement was reached between President Bush and Iraq in December 2008, which required the withdrawal of all U.S. combat forces from Iraqi cities to base camps by the end of June 2009, and for the U.S. military to clear out of Iraq by the end of 2011.

In February 2009, newly inaugurated President Barack Obama announced that U.S. combat operations would end in August 2010, and that a transitional force of 50,000 “Advise and Assist” bri-

gades would remain until the end of 2011 for the training of Iraqi Security Forces and for conducting counterterrorism operations. The United Kingdom and Australia withdrew the remainder of their combat forces, and the U.S. military left Baghdad and turned over 38 bases to the Iraqis in June. By August, the last convoy of combat brigades crossed the border into Kuwait.

Although not engaged in combat, American troops continued to die throughout 2011 as they prepared for their military retreat from Iraq, with the last soldier being killed by a roadside bomb in November. The last combat troops left on December 18, 2011.

The eight long years of President Bush's shock and awe "preventative" war—criminally launched on the knowingly false allegation that Iraq possessed nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons that threatened the United States—killed 4,496 Americans. As collateral damage, between one-half and one million Iraqis gave their lives to feed the insatiable corporate machines of war, at a total cost of \$3 to \$6 trillion, borrowed at interest and yet to be paid by future generations.

Syria. The people of Syria have a proud and ancient ancestry dating back thousands of years during

which they created some of the most significant civilizations in the Middle East. Syria became a Roman province in 64 B.C., and its trade-route city of Palmyra became one of the wealthiest and most beautiful cities in the region. Absorbed into the Byzantine Empire, Syria was later conquered by the Muslims and ultimately became a part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire—which ruled it for more than 300 years.

The Ottoman Empire fought on the side of Germany and lost most of its colonial land in the Middle East following its defeat in the First World War. France received the mandate of the League of Nations in 1920 and maintained military protection of Syria until 1936 when the nation achieved independence and became a republic.

The Vichy French occupied Syria at the beginning of the Second World War, but they were defeated by England and the Free French in July 1941. Syria was essentially a colony of France, and French troops did not leave the country until forced to do so by England in 1946. The Syrian republic was reestablished.

Following its invasion of Palestine during Israel's war of independence, its defeat, and a series of military coups, Syria aligned itself with the Soviet Union.

In 1958, Syria joined with Egypt and North Yemen in creating the United Arab Republic under the leadership of Gamal Nasser. Concerned with its loss of independence, Syrian military officers and members of the Arab Socialist Ba'ath ("renaissance" or "resurrection") Party formed a new Syrian government in 1961, and the party began to achieve political power in neighboring Iraq.

After Israel attacked Egypt in the 1967 Six Day War, Syria invaded Israel. Turning on Syria, Israel quickly conquered two-thirds of the Golan Heights overlooking Damascus—which it continues to illegally occupy to this day. The defeat caused disputes within the Ba'ath Party, which ultimately led to another military coup that installed Hafez al-Assad, an Alawite Shia, as the leader of a nation primarily composed of Sunni Muslims.

Syria suffered further losses of land during the Yom Kippur War in 1973. In 1976, to control Lebanon, Syria invaded the country and occupied it for the next 30 years, although it ultimately lost control over parts of Southern Lebanon to Israeli domination.

Syria joined the U.S. led coalition against Iraq during the Gulf War in 1990 and attempted to make peace with Israel following the war. These attempts

were unsuccessful, and Israel continues to illegally occupy Syrian land in the Golan Heights, and a state of conflict continues to this day.

Following the death of Hafez al-Assad in 2000, his son, Bashar al-Assad became the president of Syria and the Ba'ath party retained its political and security powers. Ba'athism is an Arabic socialist movement that strives for equality and a secular society under the leadership of the Ba'ath party. The Party sought to modernize Syria, educate its people, and to coexist with the revolutionary tenets of the Muslim faith in a nation in which all religions are deemed to be equal. Women were a strong part of the Ba'athist movement and achieved equal rights to education and professional careers. Even so, the Syrian government was dominated by members of the Alawite Shia sect of Islam, who were personally loyal to al-Assad.

The Arab Spring movement gave rise to a series of peaceful protests against the Syrian government in 2011, which were suppressed by the Syrian military. Army defectors, primarily Sunni Muslims, began to organize an armed resistance, which led to the present civil war, and the involvement of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). It is estimated that more than 470,000 Syrians, many of them noncombatants, have died in the civil war. Almost five million refu-

gees have fled Syria to escape the violence, 6.5 million are displaced within the nation, and 13.5 million desperately require humanitarian assistance to survive.

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Arising from the post-war ruins of western and northwestern Iraq and the adjacent northeast region of Syria devastated by civil war, ISIS is a self-proclaimed theocratic proto state. Its adherents believe in a radical, strict, and puritanical expression of Sunni Islam as taught by Wahhabism (the state religion of Saudi Arabia) in the madrassas religious schools established by the Wahhabis throughout the Islamic world. The primary spiritual purpose of ISIS is to return Islam to the purity of its origins.

ISIS preaches that the arrival of the Imam Mahdi is imminent, that the final day of God's judgment is close, and that an apocalyptic battle will soon take place in which ISIS will defeat the armies of the Western infidels. The resulting Islamic state will be led by religious leaders under a supreme Caliph, who will be the successor to the Prophet Muhammad. The ISIS ideology and propaganda has a great appeal to foreign followers, both male and female, who travel to the war zone to participate in the battles that continue in Syria and Iraq. As many as 30,000 foreign

fighters joined ISIS, including 3,400 from Western nations.

The ISIS movement has been financed by the Saudi monarchy as a buffer between the kingdom and the heretical influence of Shia Islam in Iran, Iraq, and the government of Syria. The ISIS judicial system is overseen by 12 Saudi judges, and its schools use religious textbooks from Saudi Arabia. ISIS views other Muslims who do not adopt the purity of their ultra-fundamentalist Salafist doctrine, as deviates and heretics. It condemns other Sunnis, such as Palestinian members of Hamas, as apostates, and Muslims who obey secular law as disbelievers.

The ISIS founders were former military and intelligence officers who were well educated by western standards and were adept at the use of modern military weaponry and technology, the Internet, social media, and the printing press. For shock value, ISIS specialized in posting video footage on the Internet featuring executions by beheading with swords and burning captives alive. Spies would infiltrate targeted regions and would identify all potential leaders or opponents, who were targeted for execution and kidnapping. Magnifying the military shock of captured modern weaponry, ISIS relied on hatred, violence,

fear, and intimidation to control the eight million people in the areas it captured.

Seizing the most modern equipment and weapons from the Western equipped and trained Iraqi army, ISIS rapidly became a highly-effective, mobile military force on the ground in Syria and Iraq in the manner of the Mongol hords, as the proto state rose above the land as a theoretical theocracy existing on a digital cloud. ISIS printed and published a slick magazine, and it coined and printed its own money. Several media foundations were established to produce web-related propaganda, including CDs and DVDs, and to broadcast in more than 20 languages. Taking control of conquered oil fields in Syria, ISIS began to operate convoys of tanker trucks to deliver and sell the oil in Turkey.

By 2014, ISIS dominated 39,000 square miles in Iraq and Syria, including Mosul and other urban areas. Attacks by the Iraqi army in the east and by a consortium of organizations in Syria, reduced the area controlled by ISIS, year by year, until December 2019 when it retained only a small area in eastern Syria and a few other pockets.

While it still claims control of territory in Afghanistan, Libya, Egypt, and Nigeria, and sponsors affiliates in a dozen other countries, the influence and

domination of ISIS as a proto state has diminished in significance. No single nation or group wants to take custody of the more than 10,000 ISIS prisoners, 2,000 of whom, men and women, are volunteers from other countries, which are refusing to accept them back.

Saudi Arabia. Consisting primarily of arid deserts and volcanic mountains, the geological features of Saudi Arabia float on a massive sea of petrochemicals deposited more than 400 million years ago. Fourteen hundred years ago, the land was desolate and largely uninhabited except for areas along the coasts of the Red Sea on the west and the Persian Gulf on the east, and at scattered oases in the interior. At that time, Arabia shared long borders with Syria on the northwest and Iraq on the northeast. Yemen was situated in the southwest corner of the peninsula across the Red Sea from the land of Abyssinia (Ethiopia). The two cities now known as Mecca and Medina are located inland and approximately halfway along the east coast of the Red Sea.

The prophet Muhammad was born in Mecca in 570 CE to a prominent clan that served water to the Arab visitors to the ancient Kaaba during pilgrimages known as the *hajj*. Muhammad was orphaned and raised by his uncle, the clan leader, and he began to lead trading caravans into Syria and Iraq. Muhammad

married an older, wealthy widow and became a successful and respected merchant of Mecca. He was, however, a righteous man who dressed simply and shared what he had with those less fortunate.

Each year during the month of Ramadan, Muhammad would retreat to a cave in the mountains for spiritual reflection and prayer. In 610, he experienced a revelation from the angel Gabriel, commanding him to “recite,” which he did, first to his wife and family members; then to other Arabs. Through his prophecies collected in the Noble Quran, Muhammad created the religion of Islam, and through his leadership of the converted, he conquered all of Saudi Arabia before his death in 632. His followers expanded Muslim rule, ultimately conquering an arc of territory ranging from Spain to India and Pakistan in creating the largest and most learned empire in the world.

Over the centuries, major Islamic empires were based in Baghdad, Cairo, or Istanbul, but Saudi Arabia largely reverted to traditional tribal rule. While Mecca remained as a religious focus for pilgrims performing the Islamic duty of *hajj*, the rest of the Saudi Arabian desert returned to insignificance. That began to change in 1744 with the alliance between a puritanical Muslim preacher

named Abd al-Wahhab and an ambitious Arabian sheikh named Muhammad bin Saud, who controlled the area around a desert oasis. The result was the establishment of the most fundamental and regressive form of Islam ever practiced on a major scale. The agreement by which Saud became the political leader of the Muslim community in Saudi Arabia and al-Wahhab became its religious leader allowed the two to expand their power from the desert oasis to encompass all Saudi Arabia.

The uncompromising and austere practice of Islam which Saud and al-Wahhab imposed on Saudi Arabia has prevailed for more than 250 years. All the tombs of Muhammad, his family, and his companions were destroyed, and their veneration was outlawed along with the celebration of Muhammad's birthday. Under Wahhabism men must grow beards and women must be secluded. Women who appear in public must wear veils or burkas and be accompanied by a male relative. Women only recently achieved the right to vote and to drive. Hands are chopped off for theft, and people are publicly beheaded for murder and other offenses, such as political protest, blasphemy, sorcery, and witchcraft, at the rate of more than three executions per week.

With the establishment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as an absolute monarchy in 1932, the discovery of the massive petroleum resources beneath its surface, and the establishment of the Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO) to extract and sell the oil, the Saudi royal family became extraordinarily wealthy.

Saudi Arabia had a close business relationship with both President Bushes, having financed and bailed them out of their various oil deals in Texas and the Gulf of Mexico. The Saudi Arabian ambassador to the U.S. enjoyed unrestricted access to the White House during the Reagan and Bush administrations, and President Clinton relied on Saudi Arabian support in arranging the Arab-Israel peace talks and in his ongoing conflict with Iraq. Saudi Arabia has been of great value to the American administrations, and the corporate industrial machine, in regulating worldwide oil prices.

Saudi Arabia is the largest purchasers of U.S. weaponry and equipment, awarding billions of dollars in contracts to American defense contractors. Saudi Arabia uses this weaponry in representing the interests of the United States in its opposition to the regional ambitions of Iran. Saudi Arabia also finances

proxies in Lebanon and Syria to work against Iran's support of dissident Shias.

President Obama sought good relations with Saudi Arabia, by offering to sell it \$136 billion in weapons and by supporting the Kingdom in its aerial war against Yemen rebels. It was, however, his agreement with Iran to limit its production of nuclear material that earned him the opposition of the Saudis—along with President Obama's support of democracy movements against some of Saudi Arabia's dictatorial allies. President Obama said that Iran and Saudi Arabia had “to find an effective way to share the neighborhood and institute some sort of cold peace.”

The Saudis probably preferred the election of Hillary Clinton in 2016, as they had enjoyed good relations with her husband. Moreover, candidate Donald Trump had labeled the Saudis as “freeloaders” who were taking advantage of America, and he promised to stop buying oil from them. Once elected; however, President Trump's first visit was to Saudi Arabia. He was easily seduced by being awarded the Kingdom's highest civilian award, a huge solid gold medal on a massive gold chain, a showering of expensive gifts upon his family members, and entertainment by warrior sword dances. President Trump

bragged about the “\$110 billion arms deal” he made during the trip, and he became a salesman for the benefits to America ranging from improved corporate profits to good jobs for workers.

President Trump appointed his 38-year-old son-in-law, and senior advisor, Jared Kushner as his personal representative to Saudi Arabia and 34-year-old Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the leading power and public face of the Saudi monarchy since his father became king in 2015.

In May 2017, Kushner met privately with Saudi and United Arab Emirates leaders about their dispute with Qatar over its support of democracy movements and its hosting of the al-Jazeera television news channel, and they conspired to impose an economic and military blockade. Qatar is a relatively neutral Gulf state, which maintains good relations with Iran and hosts a major U.S. military presence.

Secretary of State Tillerson was unaware of these negotiations, and he was surprised when Saudi Arabia and three of its allies severed diplomatic and economic relations with Qatar in June 2017. They imposed a blockade on Qatar, restricting air and sea travel, and threatening access to the 10,000 U.S. military personnel stationed at Al Udeid Air Base. The facility includes the U.S. Central Command, which controls

U.S. military action in the Middle East. As the U.S. Defense and State Departments attempted to remain neutral in the dispute, President Trump tweeted his support of the Saudi action.

Kushner's father, Charles, had earlier appealed to the Qatari finance minister for a loan from the nation's sovereign wealth fund to bailout his family's office tower in Manhattan; however, his plea was rejected as a bad business deal. Once the blockade of Qatar was in place, Brookfield Asset Management—using Qatar sovereign funds—rescued the Kushners in August 2018 by agreeing to a 99-year lease on the building and by paying nearly a century's worth of rent upfront.

In a potential violation of laws against nuclear proliferation, Kushner has also encouraged U.S. plans to sell nuclear power plants to Saudi Arabia. In another conflict of interest, Kushner became financially obligated to Brookfield Asset Management when the fund bailed out Kushner and his family from its \$1.8 billion bad investment. Westinghouse Electric, a Brookfield subsidiary, is a leading competitor to build nuclear power plants in the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia has been involved in an ongoing war with the Houthi rebels of the Shia Zaidi sect in Yemen since March 2015. The Houthi, a moderate

movement that taught tolerance, opposed the massive financial corruption of the Yemen government. They rebelled, militarily, after their leader was murdered by the Yemen army, which was financed by Saudi Arabia. After the Iran-backed rebels defeated the army, Saudi Arabia and a coalition of eight partners (principally including the United Arab Emirates) launched an air war and naval blockade against the rebels. The United States supported the coalition, supplying weapons, intelligence, planning expertise, and refueling attack jets.

Within days of President Trump's inauguration, he personally approved an American raid by the Joint Special Operations Command in Yemen that resulted in the deaths of 30 civilians, including an eight-year-old American girl. Trump blamed the failure on his generals and the Obama administration, while claiming unfounded successes.

The ongoing war is being fought with technologically sophisticated weapons supplied by the U.S., and it has killed thousands of civilians and pushed much of Yemen to the brink of starvation. In April 2019, the U.S. Congress passed a bipartisan resolution to end U.S. involvement in Yemen. It was vetoed by President Trump who called it an “unnecessary, dangerous attempt to weaken my

constitutional authorities.” In November 2019, the United Nations documented that 6,872 civilians had been killed and 10,768 injured since the start of the Saudi campaign in March 2015. The majority were caused by Saudi-led coalition airstrikes, including bombing a school bus in August 2018 that killed 41 children. Since that time, another thousand children have been killed in the war.

In May 2019, President Trump pushed through an \$8.1 billion emergency Saudi Arabian arms deal without congressional approval. The administration claims that Iran poses an urgent and imminent threat to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Jordan. The deal not only introduces some of the world’s most sophisticated weapons into the region, but it also allows a top U.S. weapons manufacturer to build high-tech bomb parts in Saudi Arabia, and to share closely guarded technology. When Congress passed bills disavowing the emergency and blocking the sales, President Trump issued another veto, which could not be overridden in Congress.

Jamal Khashoggi was a Saudi journalist who edited government newspapers and served as a media advisor to the royal family; however, when he criticized newly elected President Trump in 2016, the Saudi government banned Khashoggi from writing

and speaking publicly. Khashoggi accepted exile in Virginia, where he wrote opinion columns for the *Washington Post* newspaper which were critical of Saudi Arabia and its crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman. As Khashoggi's columns were also published in Arabic, he became well known as a reformer throughout the Arab world, and he attracted the enmity of bin Salman by demanding a settlement with the Houthis rebels, "The crown prince must bring an end to the violence and restore the dignity of the birthplace of Islam."

Learning that Khashoggi was due to arrive at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul to obtain documentation allowing his marriage, the Saudi government dispatched a team of intelligence officers to kill Khashoggi inside the consulate building and a medical pathologist to cut up his body for easy disposal. The exercise went as planned, but unfortunately for Saudi Arabia, the brutal murder and dismemberment was overheard by listening devices and taped by the Turkish intelligence service.

Saudi denials were quickly overcome by the Turkish evidence, and after a review of intelligence intercepts and other evidence, the CIA determined with "high confidence" that bin Salman had ordered Khashoggi's murder. President Trump denied the as-

assessment by his own intelligence agency, writing in a press release, “it could very well be that the Crown Prince had knowledge of this tragic event—maybe he did and maybe he didn’t!” President Trump said, “The United States intends to remain a steadfast partner of Saudi Arabia to ensure the interests of our country, Israel and all other partners in the region.” Regarding Saudi Arabia’s murder of Khashoggi and cancellation of its purchase of U.S. weapons, President Trump stated, “We don’t like it even a little bit. But whether or not we should stop \$110 billion from being spent in this country That would not be acceptable to me.” President Trump continued to praise Saudi Arabia and bin Salman at every opportunity.

When President Trump’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner, arrived in Riyadh in March 2019 to discuss the murder with Saudi officials, he refused to allow the embassy and State Department officials to accompany him to the meetings he held with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The government ultimately charged eleven Saudi officials with Khashoggi’s murder. Five were convicted in a secret trial that excluded the public and journalists, but charges were dismissed against bin Salman’s senior advisor.

The Saudis increased their paid lobbying in America to more than \$38 million in 2018, using more than 200 registered agents, including a broad selection of Republican and Democratic lobbyists. Overall, Saudi Arabia has spent about \$60 million to secure support for the interests of Saudi Arabia in Congress and the White House since President Trump was inaugurated.

Did the Imperious and Incurious Emperor of the American Empire Attempt to Start a War to Avoid Impeachment? What is one to make of all of this? Several dozens of pages were required just now to barely begin to outline the postwar economic, industrial, military, and intelligence American Empire's meddling in just the Middle East region of the world, and the wars it caused. Other regions were not spared the Empire's intolerance, as nations in Africa, South and Central America, Asia, and Europe found themselves the subject of political, diplomatic, military, and intelligence manipulations in achieving the best interests of the corporate industrial military machine.

While lavishly and glamorously welcoming in the New Year with friends and family at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida in December 2019, President Trump took a few minutes—without consulting

Congress, and without any evidence of imminent danger of attack upon American interests—to assassinate one of the top military and intelligence officials of Iran, and he tried to kill another. He ordered the execution of a plan drawn up at least six months earlier to kill Iranian leaders outside of Iran, as soon as Iranian aggression resulted in the death of at least one American. In other words, there was a plan in need of an excuse, and it mattered not that Iran, a sovereign nation, was not at war with the United States or its People.

After a rocket attack in Iraq on December 27, 2019 by an Iranian-backed Shite militia killed an Iraqi-born, naturalized American citizen, contractor-interpreter outside of Kirkuk, the United States attacked multiple positions of the militia group in both Iraq and Syria, killing more than 25 people and wounding 51. Thousands of protesters stormed the compound of the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, broke in, and burned the entry area. The U.S. ordered more troops to defend its embassy and set in motion the existing plan to kill the Iranian leaders.

Major General Qassem Soleimani was killed on January 2, 2020 when a missile was fired from a drone launched from a U.S. base in Iraq struck a vehicle he was riding in on his way to the airport in

Baghdad. The other official of Iran's Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, Abdul Reza Shahlai, was visiting in Yemen when a similar attack on the same day apparently failed.

Neither Iraq or Yemen, both sovereign nations, were at war with the United States or its People. In the first case, killing an Iranian general in Iraq served the national interest of Israel more than that of the United States, and in the second, killing an Iranian official in Yemen served the national interest of Saudi Arabia more than that of the United States.

President Trump's written justification to Congress was classified top secret, but statements of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and other officials cited an "imminent" threat of a "significant campaign of violence" against the U.S. in the future; however, no one has been able to identify a single significant target.

Iran retaliated on January 7, 2020 by firing a dozen missiles from Iran into Iraq, striking two U.S. bases. The missiles were carefully aimed to avoid killing any Americans but were sufficiently powerful enough to demonstrate the vulnerability of U.S. troops.

In the hours following the Iranian missile attack, and fearing U.S. retaliation, a Ukraine International

Airlines flight to the Ukraine was accidentally shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft missile batteries, minutes after taking off from Tehran, killing all 170 persons aboard, including 82 Iranians and 66 Canadians.

Both sides are “standing down” for now, and the impeachment trial of President Trump is proceeding in the U.S. Senate.

This paper has documented the intolerance of America, as it has arrogantly attempted to impose its form of government and economic system on the rest of the world. And, the paper reveals the intolerance it has engendered. What lessons can be learned from this reality?

Seventy-five years of officious intermeddling by the American Empire in the economic and governmental affairs of the Middle East has produced no lasting benefit for either the United States or the nations it contrived to “free.” The only consequence of America’s interference with other nations, peoples, and cultures was the deep hatred it engendered; the same result achieved by the Roman Empire 2,000 years ago.

Even after closing bases in Iraq and Afghanistan, the United States continues to operate almost 800 military bases in more than 70 countries around the

world. Should America continue to inflame wars of intolerance around the earth, or should the American People close their military bases and let the people of other cultures and nationalities make their own choices about how they live their lives and raise their children? Which will make the world a safer place for people to raise their children?

AMERICA: A NATION AT WAR WITH ITSELF

There are few living today who can remember how life was in the United States during the Great Depression. With one quarter of all workers unemployed, and without any meaningful assistance from the federal, state, or local governments, most people barely survived with help from their family, friends, churches, and society. Even so, across the great expanse of the United States, doors remained unlocked, and homeless “hobos” could find handouts at the backdoors of many homes, where matters were only marginally better.

The entire criminal code of most states could be contained in a paperback book; everyone knew what constituted criminal conduct, and although justice could be swift, prison terms were short, and people could get on with their lives after they “did the time” for their crime. There were criminal gangs in the ma-

major cities; but the overall crime rate was low, and most people felt safe from criminal assault or theft.

There were very few federal crimes, and the federal government played little part in the lives of most people, except to deliver the mail, construct the national highways, and maintain a small defensive army and navy. Most people remained law-abiding and generally respected their government without resorting to the massive riots and civil wars that racked other societies and nations at the time.

With the inauguration of Franklin D. Roosevelt as president of the United States in March 1933, the People of the United States regained faith in themselves, and they revised their covenant with their government. Although it was not the product of a constitutional amendment, the “New Deal” promised the People that, if they would refrain from violently adopting communism or fascism as a government-economic system, the U.S. government would play a more responsible role in regulating the capitalist economy and ensuring good jobs for people to earn a living. A wide range of New Deal programs did, in fact, help people to survive the economic depression, but it was the corporate-industrial-military mobilization to fight World War II that finally brought full

employment and economic well-being to most people.

After supplying the extraordinary output of human effort that built and drove the mighty industrial and military machine that defeated the fascist powers, the People of the United States were poised to reap the benefits of their bargain with their government. Throughout the postwar years of the 50s and 60s, the “American Dream” continued to prevail in the United States, as families bought new homes in the suburbs, mothers stayed at home to manage the household, children attended newly constructed neighborhood schools and walked home to play outside on safe streets. People enjoyed the latest gadgets, especially television, and society was orderly.

The federal government was financed by high rates of taxation on the income of corporations and the wealthy, who benefitted the most from the productive society. The strong labor union movement resulting from New Deal legislation compelled corporations to share their profits in providing a living wage and health and retirement benefits to their employees, many of whom spent their entire working life loyally laboring for one employer. The hard-won product of organized labor, the 40-hour work week and paid sick days, holidays, and vacations became

the employment standard and social norm for everyone, workers, bosses, professionals, civil servants, and their families.

Responding to forceful demands, particularly by the young people, to end the Vietnam War and to secure racial equality and political change, the federal government under both Democratic and Republican administrations enacted legislation and regulations to provide equal access to schools, public facilities, and the ballot boxes, and to protect the environment and the economy. The American People were the most productive on earth, and they generally respected their government that helped ensure that they would receive a fair share of the economy, and a good deal from their government for the taxes deducted from their paychecks.

Promoting Intolerance as a Political Weapon. All of this changed when the corporate industrial machine decided that American workers were receiving too much from the economy and that profits were insufficient. One of the most successful strategies of the Powell plan in 1971 to end the New Deal, was the campaign to politically convert primarily white, blue-collar workers and their families—who were conservative in their support of the military and in their opposition to racial integration and school

busing—from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party.

Referred to by President Nixon as the Silent Majority and by Christian evangelists as the Moral Majority, working people were encouraged by the language of free enterprise, populism, religion, and family values to be intolerant of racial, sexual, social, and *economic* equality. The Republican campaign successfully convinced millions of working people and small business owners to act and vote against their own economic interests.

The Reagan campaign of intolerance in 1980 concentrated on attracting the votes of white socially conservative blue-collar workers in the Northeast, who normally voted Democratic in line with their unions, but who were attracted to Republican positions on school prayer and busing, and on contraception and abortion. Moreover, the Republican “Southern Strategy” directly appealed to the cultural racism of southern white voters who feared the civil rights movement and the dismantling of the Jim Crow laws. The election of 1980 saw many southern Democrats permanently change their party registration to Republican. The “solid south” which had voted Democratic since the Civil War, quickly realigned with the Republican Party.

The employment of the out-of-work film actor Ronald Reagan to play the role of the presidential spokesman for the corporate industrial machine was inspired. The likeable professional actor was able to flawlessly deliver the lines written for him on his cue cards with almost perfect reliability, including these: “In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem, government is the problem.” and “The most terrifying words in the English language are, I’m from the government and I’m here to help.”

The extraordinary rise of corporate industrial power, and the corresponding weakening of the economic and political power of workers and small business owners, over the past 40 years can be almost directly traced to this change of attitude about government. From being the trusted representative of the People in helping to make their lives easier, government became an instrument of injury and repression of the People, and the objectification of their derision and hatred. In destroying the reputation and protection of the People’s own government and by making a mockery of everything Americans fought and died for more than two centuries, this became the Republican’s favorite quote: “I’m not in favor of abolishing the government. I just want to shrink it down to the size where we can drown it in the bathtub.”

By encouraging racial and cultural hatred by southern and working whites, and by destroying the faith of the People in their own government, President Reagan and the Republican Party deliberately infected the body politic of America with a deadly strain of social and political intolerance. They encouraged a toxic subculture within the society of most Americans, who believe in equal rights and protection of the law for everyone. Relying on this minority voting block to divert votes from the Democrats and to swing elections in favor of Republicans, the populist base was encouraged to impose its minority views of matters such as integration, women's freedom of choice, separation of church and state, and gun control, upon the majority through the bullying power of overt intolerance.

These consumers of right-wing political multimedia propaganda were made to feel like victims of their own government, causing them to identify with the corporate industrial machine, which also claimed to be "victimized" by the People's government. The corporations objected to having to pay any portion of their profits toward taxes as a price of doing business, and to governmental interference in labor relations, working conditions, product safety, and other regulatory inconveniences that reduced profits.

It was far cheaper to bribe low-paid politicians with campaign contributions, flattery, inside financial tips, and exposure to the perks of the elite, than to pay for using the People's courts to enforce their contracts and to collect their debts, or for using the People's highways to transport their goods, without paying for the upkeep, and to consume the labor of the People, without paying a fair share of the profits, or to use the collective knowledge of the People's culture, and the minds and creativity of workers, without contributing to their care and education.

Those targeted to become voting slaves are hardworking people who sell their labor for wages, farmers, civil servants, and self-employed, mostly white folks forced by life to work instead of going to college, to support families instead of pursuing careers, and who watch cable TV instead of going to theaters. These folks have been encouraged by their fundamentalist preachers and ultraconservative politicians to hate the government and all who benefit from it.

The political goal was to redirect the helpless anger of the People from the corporate industrial machine that corrupted their government, to the government itself. The outrage is righteous about the absolute lack of realistic opportunity, and the devas-

tating knowledge that people have little or no control over their own lives. These poor people are being forced to live from paycheck to paycheck, without health care, without compassion or care, a victim of their own government, acting on behalf of its corporate bosses.

Armed by the corporate industrial machine that sold and equipped them a disproportionate number of a personal firearms—enraged with a focused hatred of others who are different, and believing their actions to be justified by God—these targets of economic and political propaganda are being egged on by their fantastic political hero, a fellow, self-professed victim of “fake news,” “deep government,” and “witch hunts.”

These angry Americans must be heard, and their needs recognized, or else their intolerance will continue to pose a deadly threat to the continuance of representative democracy in the United States, and to negatively influence the policies and principles of the American Empire, and its impact on the environment and economy.

Americans Attacking Americans. Since the al Qaeda attacks on September 11, 2001, there have been very few foreign-based terrorist attacks in the U.S. Most terrorist acts have been Americans attack-

ing other Americans in a continuing cultural war that exploded into public consciousness on April 19, 1995. On that day, Timothy McVeigh—a veteran of the Gulf War who acted in retribution for the earlier killings by federal agents at Ruby Ridge, Idaho and Waco, Texas—detonated a huge chemical bomb destroying the federal building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people, including 19 children, and injured 684 others.

West Point's Combating Terrorism Center documents that, since 9-11, 50 people have been killed in the United States by Islamic extremists, while 254 people have been murdered by right-wing or sovereign-citizen extremists—five times as many. Mostly disrupted, there have been only six terrorism-related plots by Islamic extremists in the United States each year since 9-11, while there has been an average of 337 planned attacks each year by right-wing extremists—more than 56 times as many.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has determined that the current economic and political climate is fueling a resurgence in radicalization and recruitment of domestic right-wing terrorists. The Department warns that returning military veterans (facing difficulties reintegrating into a worsening economy) "possess combat skills and experience that

are attractive to rightwing extremists. DHS . . . is concerned that rightwing extremists will attempt to recruit and radicalize returning veterans in order to boost their violent capabilities."

In an environment of unrestrained speech, there is a danger that politically hostile hate language will not be sufficiently moderated by voices of reason and caution, and that political dialogue will continue to move in a direction that is harmful to freedom. It is not difficult to reflect upon the circumstances in Germany that gave rise to the Nazi movement and the dictatorship of Adolf Hitler. It is easy to make comparisons to the gaggle of Republican candidates, each seeking to outdo the other in proclaiming that he or she is tough enough to confront the immigration problem and to reassert the military might of the United States to defeat Islamic terrorism.

With the advent of the Internet and social media, domestic hate groups have extended the range and ferocity of their attacks. The radical right-wing organizations now have colorful and dynamic web pages to attract visitors and new members.

Right-wing "lone wolf" terrorist attacks by single individuals are now the greatest terrorist threat to the People of the United States. The Southern Poverty Law Center, which monitors Nazi and white su-

premacist websites, such as Stormfront, has documented that more than 100 people have been killed by individuals actively involved with Stormfront in the past five years.

Internet websites and social media are now in the news following most mass shootings. On social media, Chris Harper-Mercer, a college student, described himself as a conservative Republican with a disdain of organized religion. He expressed an admiration of the on-air murderer of two television employees in Virginia, and he posted a photograph of himself with a rifle on Facebook. Regarding the Virginia shooter, Harper-Mercer wrote, "Seems the more people you kill the more you're in the limelight." His gmail address was IronCross, a seeming reference to Nazi Germany, and he was found to have shared Nazi videos on the Internet.

On October 1, 2015, Harper-Mercer, clad in body armor, carried six guns onto a college campus in Southern Oregon, where he confronted students and faculty in classrooms. Forcing students to state their religion, he killed those who responded "Christian," saying "you're going to see God in just about one second." Eight students and their professor were murdered and nine wounded before Harper-Mercer committed suicide.

Hoping to start a "race war," Dylann Roof, massacred nine African Americans as they attended services in a historic black church in South Carolina in June 2015. The twenty-one-year-old had created a website, the "Last Rhodesian," on which he promoted racial apartheid. He researched his views on the website of the Council of Conservative Citizens (CCC)—formerly known as the White Citizen's Council—the Nation's largest white nationalist group. He also posted comments on the neo-Nazi website, Daily Stormer. Roof was indoctrinated to believe that "Niggers are stupid and violent," and "someone has to have the bravery to take it to the real world." Roof demonstrated his bravery by firing (and repeatedly reloading) his semi-automatic handgun into his helpless victims as they were praying.

Another racist predator, John Russell Houser, randomly sprayed patrons with bullets in a Louisiana movie theatre in July 2015, murdering two people and wounding nine—before killing himself. Houser had adopted the Nazi flag as a symbol of his resistance to the government, and he supported former KKK Grand Wizard David Duke. Writing on a neo-Nazi political website, Houser emphasized the "power of the lone wolf." On other websites, he expressed anti-Semitic thoughts and supported white power. He wrote that "Hitler is loved for the results of his

pragmatism" and discussed the "role of Blacks in building and maintaining this alliance of evil that literally grips the globe." On another, he commented, "It is a shame Tim McVeigh is not going to be with us to enjoy the hilarity of turning the tables with an IRON HAND."

Following a Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia on August 12, 2017, James Alex Fields, Jr., who had driven from Ohio to attend the rally, deliberately drove his car into the crowd of counter-protestors, killing one and injuring 28. Fields had been "deeply into Adolf Hitler and white supremacy" in high school and he had failed "to meet training standards" as an Army recruit after graduating. An unemployed security guard, Fields spent his time playing video games, and admiring President Trump's racial views and border wall proposal. When he left for the rally in Virginia, Fields told his mother that he was going to attend a Trump rally.

Several days after the murder of the counter-protestor, President Trump said, "I think there is blame on both sides. You look at, you look at both sides. I think there's blame on both sides, and I have no doubt about it . . . you also had people that were very fine people on both sides."

In the two years since President Trump declared equivalence between those who promote hatred and violence, and those who protest intolerance and bigotry, mass shootings have continued unabated, and they are increasingly in frequency.

After two shootings in 2019 set new records for the number of victims, President Trump promised to give law enforcement “whatever they need” to investigate and prosecute hate crimes and domestic terrorism. Although every extremist killing in the United States in the past year has involved a follower of far-right-wing hate groups or ideology, the Department of Homeland Security continues to place a low priority on the investigation of anti-government, right-wing and white supremacist groups. Instead, 85 percent of the “countering violent extremism” funds awarded by DHS has targeted Muslims and other minority groups, including immigrants.

One-third of the People of the United States now own 393 million firearms, more than one for every person in the country. Every day, these guns are used to intentionally shoot 310 people, 100 of whom die. Sixty-one people use firearms to commit suicide, and 10 survive. Unintentionally, 90 people are shot, one of whom dies. Every day 21 children and teenagers are shot, and four die. For 2018, the

Gun Violence Archive documented 55,275 firearms-related incidents, resulting in 14,803 deaths and 28,238 injuries. There were 1,894 cases of defensive use of a firearm and 1,679 cases of unintentional shooting.

Firearms were used in America during 2019 to establish another record for mass murder, even as the total number of homicides dropped. The nation registered 41 mass killings (four or more victims), 33 done with firearms, for a total of 211 deaths. Following is a one-year summary of mass shootings—each a manifestation of deadly intolerance:

- On October 27, 2018, Robert Gregory Bowers, age 46, entered the Tree of Life Jewish center in Pittsburgh armed with a semi-automatic assault rifle and three semi-automatic handguns, with which he killed 11 people and wounded six. Bowers had earlier posted anti-Semitic and anti-immigrant comments on social media, saying, “I can’t sit by and watch my people get slaughtered. Screw your optics, I’m going in.”
- On November 2, 2018, Scott Paul Beierle, a self-professed misogynist, entered a yoga studio in Tallahassee, Florida armed with a semi-automatic pistol and killed a student

and instructor. In a series of videos uploaded to YouTube, Beierle ranted about women and interracial dating. He complained about being an involuntarily celibate, sexual and romantic outcast victim of feminism.

- On November 7, 2019, Ian David Long, age 28, dressed in black, entered a country-western bar, frequented by college students, armed with .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol, with laser targeting, and seven high-capacity magazines. Long, a Marine Corps veteran with mental health issues, shot the security guard at the door and killed 12 people, including a responding police officer, and wounded ten others before killing himself.
- On January 23, 2019, Zephen Allen Xaver, age 21, a resigned trainee prison guard, who had dreamed about killing people and expressed a desire to kill or harm people, entered a bank in Sebring, Florida armed with a firearm and wearing a bullet-proof vest. He ordered five women employees to lie on the floor and he shot them in their heads and backs, killing all five, before calling the police to report what he had done.

The police broke in with an armored vehicle after Xaver refused to come out of the bank.

- On January 26, 2019, Dakota Michael Theriot, age 21, who had been involuntarily committed for mental treatment and arrested for spousal abuse, shot and killed three people who had taken him into their home in Livingston Parish in Louisiana, before returning to Ascension Parish where he killed his parents. He waved the gun to get police officers to kill him before being arrested.

- On February 15, 2019, Gary Montez Martin, age 45, a former employee, who had threatened that “If I get fired, I’m going to kill every motherfucker in here,” arrived at his employment termination meeting at the Henry Platt plant in Aurora, Illinois armed with a firearm that it was illegal for him to own because of a felony conviction. Martin killed the human resources manager, the plant manager, and four other workers before being shot and killed by police officers.

- On April 27, 2019, John Timothy Earnest, age 19, wearing a tactical vest with five 10-round magazines and armed with semi-automatic assault rifle, entered a synagogue

in Poway, California and killed one woman and wounded three others, including the rabbi. Just before the shooting, Earnest posted a manifesto on social media blaming Jews for the “meticulously planned genocide of the European race.” He referred to an event in *The Turner Diaries*, and he justified his actions with quotes from the Bible. Earnest also claimed that he had set an arson fire at a nearby mosque in Escondido.

- On April 30, 2019, Trystan Andrew Terrell, age 22, an “oddly angry” student dropped out of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Autistic and panicking over student loan debts, Terrell began to research mass shootings, obtained a semi-automatic firearm and multiple magazines, planned an attack, returned to the school, and killed two students and wounded four others before surrendering.

- On May 31, 2019, DeWayne Antonio Craddock, age 40, a disgruntled engineer quit his job in the city’s public utilities department in Virginia Beach, Virginia and began shooting with two semi-automatic .45 caliber pistols, one equipped with a sound

suppressor. The former National Guard specialist killed 12 people and wounded four others in the municipal building, before being killed by police officers.

- On July 28, 2019, Santino William Legan, age 19, was wearing a bullet-proof vest when he opened fire with a semi-automatic assault rifle with a 75-round magazine at a garlic festival in Gilroy, California. Saying, “Because I’m really angry,” Legan killed three people and wounded 17 others before killing himself. A social media posting just before the shooting complained about “hordes of mestizos and Silicon Valley white twats” attending the festival and told people to read a white supremacist manifesto that promotes racial violence and anti-Semitism.

- On August 3, 2019 Patrick Crusius, age 21, armed with a semi-automatic assault rifle shot and killed 22 people at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas. Shortly before the attack, Crusius wrote and posted a manifesto with white nationalist and anti-immigrant statements. Worrying that the “invasion” of Hispanics would create a voting block of migrants allowing the Democrats to control

the United States, Crusius drove to the border city of El Paso to specifically target Hispanics as an “incentive” for Hispanics to flee the country.

- The next day, on August 4, 2019, in downtown Dayton, Ohio, Connor Stephen Betts, age 24, killed nine people and wounded 17 others with bullets from a semi-automatic pistol with a 100-bullet magazine. Betts described himself online as a leftist, and he “liked” a tweet that referred to Crusius, the El Paso shooter, as a terrorist and “white supremacist.” Betts had a history of compiling hit lists in high school, experienced hallucinations and psychosis, was obsessed with violence, and talked about committing a mass shooting.

- On August 31, 2019, Seth Aaron Ator, age 36, was fired from his job and went on a shooting spree in the West Texas cities of Midland and Odessa, killing seven people with a semi-automatic assault rifle and injuring 25 before being shot and killed by police officers. Ator lived in a shack without furniture or utilities and failed a national criminal background check, when he tried to pur-

chase a gun, because a court had determined he was mentally unfit. He was able to buy his gun in a private sale.

- On November 14, 2019, Nathaniel Tenno-suke Berhow, age 16, entered the high school in Saugus, California, where he was a student, armed with a semi-automatic pistol he constructed from a kit. He killed two fellow students and wounded three before killing himself. Although he was skilled with firearms and planned the attack, a motive has not yet been determined.

Sociologists have identified a phenomenon of social conduct in which the violent act of one person influences violent behavior in a group. For example, a riot might start when one person throws a trashcan through a window and removes a television. The first perpetrator is followed by others who wouldn't break a window on their own, but who would enter and steal a television, once someone else did it. As the riot continues, newly arriving people are even more likely to participate in the mass burglaries, because everyone is doing it.

Less violently, you can see the same result if one person in a crowd of people waiting at a red crosswalk signal, seeing an absence of vehicular traffic,

walks across against the light. Most, if not all the other pedestrians, will follow, if for no other reason than not to feel foolish for standing there as everyone else is walking away.

More pertinent in cases of group behavior in firearms violence, the initial perpetrator may be a psychopath with a history of extreme violence, but once the really insane person acts out the horrible live drama he created in his diseased brain (such as killing one's parents and then going to school and killing teachers and other students), other young men, equally feeling disassociated with or rejected by the society in which he lives, watches the crazy act on social media or television, and he begins to experience and improve upon the crazy scenario.

The subsequent actors may not be psychotic at all; it's just that when the initial inhibition against committing horrible violence is overcome, daydreaming about its reenactment encourages others to also make it a reality. Without intending to kill one's parents, or murder fellow students, a young person may start wearing the costumes, adopting the mannerisms, and voicing the biases and prejudices of earlier shooters, in the ever-evolving, increasingly violent, reality-show-genre of competitive social media.

An analysis of the rash of school shootings following the one at the Columbine, Colorado high school in 1999 (in which two students killed one teacher and 12 fellow students) has caused an expansion of a search for meaning and motivation from the acts of each individual shooter, to an examination of the entire group. Beyond simple copycat behavior, and more like a continuing riot, subsequent shooters have a less difficult emotional and social threshold to cross before inflicting terrible violence on others. In other words, overcoming inhibitions to violence and acting out dreams of socially abhorrent violent behavior became easier for each successive shooter, as he admired and critiqued the actions of the earlier shooters.

We can see from the frequency and severity of mass shootings in which Americans are killing other Americans, that matters are getting worse, and we need to wonder why. Perhaps, it has something to do with the prejudicial information and intolerant opinions we are exposed to and how that affects our judgment and the decisions we make.

THE PORNOGRAPHY OF INTOLERANCE.

Protected by the First Amendment guarantee of free speech and press, a vast and nasty literature of

intolerance began to be published in the 1970s for sale to people with unhealthy views of race, religion, or culture. Leading the publishers was Willis Carto, the creator of the Populist Party and America's foremost anti-Semite and anti-black racist. Carto was an early associate of William Luther Pierce, a leader of the American Nazi Party and the author of *The Turner Diaries*. *The New York Times* called Carto "a reclusive behind-the-scenes wizard of the far-right fringe of American politics who used lobbying and publishing to denigrate Jews and other minorities and galvanize the movement to deny the Holocaust. . . ."

In 1975, Carto's parent organization, the Liberty Lobby commenced publication of *The Spotlight* newspaper. *The Turner Diaries* and *The Spotlight* had a significant influence on domestic terrorist Timothy McVeigh, who bombed the federal building in Oklahoma City.

Carto's publishing empire consisted of a conglomerate of radical right-wing organizations that marketed individualized packages of hatred to anybody with similar proclivities. Carto established the Institute for Historical Review (IHR) in a plan to move onto college campuses by circulating a slick "scholarly journal" that offered pseudoscientific theories denying the existence of the Nazi genocide of

European Jewry. Carto's college campaign was blunted by a public interest lawsuit; however, 35 years later, these and similar organizations—now making full use of the Internet—continue to promulgate lies for profit. The danger of these lies threatens everyone; not just those targeted by the propaganda of violent hatred.

With the advent of the Internet and social media, hate groups have extended the range and ferocity of their attacks. The radical right-wing organizations now have colorful and dynamic web pages to attract visitors and new members. The Institute for Historical Review maintains a website and page on Facebook, but it is just one of 53 such entities now designated as hate groups by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Organizations that make no pretense of equality and blatantly appeal to white neo-Nazism, anti-Semites, and homophobes include the Atomwaffen Division (which presents an image of being a heavily-armed militia, poised to attack public water systems, nuclear power plants, and power transmission grids) and Hammerskin Nation (which produces violent white power rock music).

The Daily Stormer, a neo-Nazi news site criticized by other white supremacists as overly promoting

Nazism, endorsed Donald Trump for president saying he is "willing to say what most Americans think." Other groups, with more subtle messages, espouse neo-nationalism which seeks to highlight the distinctiveness, rather than the superiority, of the white race, claiming that white identity is under attack by minorities and immigrants.

One does not have to visit the websites of these organizations, or to become a member, in order to hear more mainstream messages promoting intolerance. It is easy enough to tune into the hundreds of AM-talk radio stations broadcasting across the nation, or to click on Fox television entertainment news, to hear a one-sided discussion of issues such as immigration, women's freedom of choice, racial equality, and gun control. On the other hand, one can get the news with a more left-wing slant from Cable News Network.

In an environment of unrestrained speech, there is a danger that politically hostile hate language will not be sufficiently moderated by voices of reason and caution, and that political dialogue will be moved in a direction that is harmful to freedom. It is not difficult to reflect upon the circumstances in Germany that gave rise to the Nazi movement and the dictatorship of Adolf Hitler. It is easy to make comparisons to the

gaggle of Republican candidates, each seeking to outdo the other in proclaiming that he or she is strong enough to confront the immigration problem and to reassert the military might of the United States in defeating Islamic terrorism.

THE VIOLENT CONFINEMENT OF LAW VIOLATORS

Over the past 75 years, U.S. politicians have penalized crime, rather than to address its causes, and when that didn't work, they simply increased the length of confinement, until today when many offenses are penalized by long terms that are equivalent to life imprisonment.

One of every seven prisoners is serving an actual life sentence, two-thirds of whom are people of color. Although the United States has only four percent of the world population, it accounts for more than one-third of world prisoners serving life terms.

Although prison populations have been slowly declining due to reforms in six states, almost one and one half million people were locked in prisons at the end of 2017; three-quarter million prisoners were locked in local jails. The United States confines 655 of every 100,000 inhabitants, with Russia a distant second with 550 prisoners per 100,000 inhabitants.

Today, 22 percent, or almost one quarter, of all prisoners in the world are confined in American jails and prisons. The United States imprisons its citizens at a rate that is five to ten times that of Western European democracies.

Americans have largely eliminated official racial prejudice in most of its institutions; however, there is wide disparity of sentencing according to race. Nearly 60 percent of all jail and prison inmates are racial or ethnic minorities. On any given day, fewer than two percent of young white men, aged 22 to 30 are in jail or prison. At the same time, 13.5 percent of all young African American men are confined. Almost one-quarter of blacks who have never attended college, and one-third of high school dropouts are locked up. Overall, African Americans are seven to eight times more likely to be incarcerated than whites.

The rate of women in prison has been rising at a rate 50 percent greater than men since the 1980s. More than 231,000 women and girls are incarcerated in the United States; almost half are in jails, rather than prisons. Eighty percent of these jailed women are mothers, and most are the primary caregivers of their children.

Sixty percent of women held in jails have not been convicted of any crime, but they are unable to make money bail. Many women prisoners have histories of suffering sexual assault and violence, and they struggle with drug abuse, mental health problems, and homelessness.

The Trump administration's family separation policy is prohibited by international law agreed to by the United States 30 years ago, becoming "the law of the land." The estimated 100,000 children being held in migration-related detention is in addition to the half million brought each year to U.S. juvenile detention facilities for the commission of crimes or because of their status. There are between 50 to 60 thousand young people incarcerated in the United States every day, many of whom are as young as 12 years old. This is a rate far higher than any other nation on Earth.

The United States also forces juveniles, as young as 14 years, to be tried and sentenced to prisons as adults at a rate greater than any other nation. These young people commit suicide at a rate 36 times greater than those in youth facilities. Black young people are 8.6 times more likely than white peers to receive an adult sentence, and the chances of a Hispanic

youth being sentenced to adult prison is 40 percent greater than white peers.¹³

THE INTOLERABILITY OF INTOLERANCE

The evidence establishes that intolerance is not only tolerated and admired in America, but that it is being deliberately encouraged by its leaders for political purposes. The fact is that intolerance is just as great a threat to human survival as that of war and militarization, corrupt government, the corporate economy, and the warming environment. Intolerance of others because they are of a different religion, race, or culture is harmful enough, but an intolerance of knowledge, science, and reality is toxic to human survival.

All the Extinction Papers, including this one, were painful to write and must be difficult to read. They document, however, a reality we must accept, if we are to make wise decisions about what to do.

We have no choice. We are all born with the brainstem “fight or flight” instinct, which manifests itself in the latent intolerant diseases of deception, hatred, and violence. Each of us, however, has the

¹³ There are also thousands of foster children being housed in juvenile delinquency facilities, for lack of home placements.

choice to practice tolerance and to discipline our minds to seek the truth. This we must do if we are to make correct decisions affecting the future of our children. Of all the lessons each generation must learn, this one is crucial: *The exercise of intolerance is inherently regressive and destructive, while a society's creative potential improves exponentially with universal tolerance.*

Having completed the Extinction Papers, we can now transition to the first of the Evolution Papers, where we make use of our knowledge and understanding of these deadly threats. As we've learned to diagnose the pathology of aberrant behavior and the mindset that causes it, we are better equipped to understand the physiology of our own brains and the minds they engender.

Once freed from the burden of intolerance, we can achieve the freedom of self-awareness. With knowledge, we can then unite our minds to resolve the remaining deadly threats of war and militarization, corrupt governments, casino economy, and a severely unbalanced environment. Failure is certain, without the collaborative power of everyone thinking together to first imagine alternative futures and to make good choices, and second, to work together in

generating the cooperative power required to make the fantasy future a reality.

THE EVOLUTION PAPERS

Prescribes a series of remedies
Resulting from an awareness of mind.
By unleashing the evolutionary and
Exponential power of tolerance through
Collaboration, compromise, and cooperation,
Our collective minds will have the power
To resolve these deadly threats, and
To ensure our grandchildren
Have their chance to visit places
Beyond our imagination.

THE METAMORPHOSIS OF MIND

What would it take for everyone on Earth to forget the hateful words and hurt feelings of the past, to forgo revenge for past violence, and to forgive those who have ever harmed us? If it is true that the only way humanity is going to survive the multiple threats of certain extinction is through collaboration, compromise, and cooperation, then first we must cure the latent human instinctive disease of intolerance that is genetically hardwired into the brainstem of every human infant, and all other mammals. Intolerance divides and drives us to extinction; just as surely, our survival depends on tolerance, unity, and evolution.

When a human child of Mankind is born, it instinctively moves toward the voice it has listened to for months in the womb, its lips seek its mother's breast milk to suckle, and its eyes open. Instantly, the infant's physical brain sparks a quantum mind external to its physical self to seek the source of light, and to identify and understand everything it illuminates.

In a role reversal, the baby's brain and body become extensions of its living mind, as the incorporeal mind reaches out with a physical hand to feel what it sees and to bring it to its mouth for a taste. Commanding all the body's resources, the mind asks the

what and why of things, and, the senses of the body are genetically programmed to deliver truthful answers to be recorded in the growing web of increasingly complex connections in the brain.

The total complexity of the human brain may be beyond mathematical description, not only in its trillions of chemical synapse switches between the dendrites and axons of its neurons, each of which can be on or off, but within the tendrils of the dendrites themselves, each serving as a computational subunit, as needed to comprehend reality and to make sense of existence.

A mind comes into being when a baby's brain receives information that its habitat has changed from the quiet, dark, warm, and watery womb, as the baby is birthed into the light, cold, and noisy, nitrous atmospheric fluid in which we live and breathe. With each instinctual inhalation of oxygen and exhalation of waste carbon dioxide, the infant's brain begins to receive and record a flood of information from its array of senses. Its emerging mind processes that data in determining its actions and reactions to the reality of its existence vis-à-vis its physical habitat.

From that moment onward in time and life, it is the infant's mind that directs its compliant brain and growing body to communicate its needs—starting

with its anguishing and piercing cry when it is hungry, too hot or cold, sick, or lying in its waste. It was the body of its mother that birthed the baby, and it is to the mind of its mother that a child's mind is first tethered.

Developing a personality and language for engaging in relationships with others, the minds of children expand outward, as they live, grow, suffer, learn, love, and experience the pain and pleasures of life; the minds of each seeking an understanding of its own self, and the peace of mind that comes from self-discovery.

An infant's mind is quantumly connected to—but physically independent of its brain and body—which remain an integral part of the positive physical world that naturally produced it. Our minds surround our physical self, in the Mind Field of black, negative, eternal, nothingness, within which our positive, moving, pulsating, and expanding universe exists, and which encompasses every atom and element of our physical bodies and brains. The Field is where minds meet.

As our minds radiate from our physical being, they expand outward, beyond the reach of our arms, away from our bodies, beyond our homes, communities, nations, and even our Mother Earth. We seek

and absorb the truths required to transform and evolve ourselves in becoming a being of mind—as a natural and physiologically healthy extension of the physical lifeform we are all born with. Until we achieve awareness of mind, however, we humans are little different from our chimpanzee cousins (with whom we share 99 percent of our DNA) in fighting over access to females, territory, and food. We just have more elaborate languages, practices, and rituals.

The metamorphosis of the human lifeform unfolds the visionary wings of wisdom, allowing us to imagine flying outward, beyond the physical universe that surrounds us into the black emptiness of eternity, and to envision what our universe of light looks like from beyond, as viewed from its beginning to its end. We have only to figure out how to get there to make the observation, and how to safely return to tell about it. If that mental transformation is not physical, then, how does an entire life form evolve, unless it occurs simultaneously and spontaneously, within the realm of mind? Where do we start?

First, there must be the *sine qua non* (Latin: without which, nothing) event—the universal understanding and acceptance of the fact that Mankind, the human species, will become extinct within the lifetimes of people living today, unless immediate and

drastic action is taken. Understanding the alternative to be certain death and preferring to do something in order to survive, people choose to tolerate, without bias or prejudice, all differences of sex, race, culture, nationality, religion, science, or political belief.

This unification of tolerant minds and purpose is the metamorphosis of the human species—its evolution from Man to Mindkind—that generates the enormous, exponential creative energy, knowledge, and wisdom required to quickly resolve the deadly threats to survival, and to convert that which presently exists beyond our imagination, into the joyful reality of our children's tomorrow: *The Age of Sophia-Nous*.¹⁴

AN AWARENESS OF MIND

Those of us who own, and try to train, dogs have observed with amusement the reaction of our dogs when they see themselves in a mirror. They will continue to bark at themselves, until they tire of the game, without ever recognizing that they themselves

¹⁴ In Greek, *sophia* is a feminine noun meaning wisdom, and *nous* is a masculine noun meaning mind or intellect. The combined *sophia-nous* means the individual and collective awareness of mind required to exercise reflective thinking, to reason effectively, to make proper decisions, and to act with wisdom, courage, and righteousness in creating just and joyful societies.

were the threatening, barking dog they were trying so valiantly to drive away.

Psychologists devised a test for self-awareness that involves placing a red mark on the forehead of human infants and other species to determine if they recognize that something is different about themselves when they again look in the mirror. Most primates, elephants, and marine mammals exhibit such self-awareness, and human infants achieve the ability at around 18 months of age.

Although they become aware of their own separate bodies in the mirror, most children do not achieve the ability to differentiate between the truthfulness and falsity of the mental states and representations of others until they are four or five years old. It is about this time that doubts about Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy begin to arise; however, the ability to understand ourselves as unique individuals, and to comprehend the nature of the voices we hear in our minds, requires mental maturity and time to process.

Most people avoid asking hard question about themselves; they never become aware of their true potential, and far too many unhappy people are too overwhelmed by their personal problems to be concerned about whether they are self-realized. Working

people, burdened with jobs, family, and other responsibilities, rarely have the time to consider their emotions in any great depth. They fail to develop the capacity to question the basis of their feelings, to ask themselves what motivates them, what do they really want, and how do they cope with the difficulties of life, relationships, and earning a living.

People never really get to know themselves as being separate from their families, social groups, or religious congregations. They allow themselves, and their own self-image, to be defined by others: their parents, families, friends, teachers, ministers, and the mass entertainment media and advertising industry.

As we mature, and we gain knowledge and insights about our lives and relationships, and we learn to make better decisions about our options, our self-awareness provides a clearer vision about life, and it offers insights into our choices of employment and relationships. Our communications become clearer, which empowers us to experience stronger, more productive, and lasting relationships. We are more likely to find comfort and joy in life and increased rewards in the things we do. We make a greater contribution to our families, societies, and employers, and we are recognized for our participation, contribution, and leadership.

This is where we are today. There are people, relatively few, in every race, nation, society, religion, and culture who have come to be at peace with themselves and others. Having less to do with status or education, than a tolerant acceptance of the thoughts and personalities of other people, those who achieve awareness of their own minds understand the difficulty and rarity of the triumph, and they recognize and respect self-awareness in others. They also realize there is little they can say or do to assist others who seek the same gift. That is, until the seeker makes the choice to become a tolerate person, appreciative and respectful of the differing knowledge and thinking offered by everyone else.

Once a person becomes self-aware and disassociates with much of the mental and emotional baggage that depresses and distresses most people, one continues to need and seek comfort, cooperation, and mutual respect from others. When meeting someone new, however, it's wise to filter one's thoughts, until reassured the other person also speaks the language of truth, rather than practices the art of the lie. The truth attracts, while its opposite, the lie repels.

It is easy enough to identify the absence of self-awareness by evidence of intolerance. With time and patience, we can discover far happier people who

made the effort to explore and understand their own minds, and who came to tolerate and enjoy what they found. The best way to find people who know themselves, is by the like-minded company they keep.

THE STUPENDOUS CREATIVE POTENTIAL OF A MEETING OF MINDS

What is there about a unity of minds saving humanity from extinction? Are we being asked to imagine a magical kumbaya moment, when everyone holds hands around a campfire, and we all live happily ever after, reading each other's minds? Only in science fiction.

What unity means is that there is a common cause that almost everyone agrees upon and supports, and that people commit to working together to arrive at commonsense solutions. It is this meeting of minds that is the driving force behind business, government, and every other organization that operates through the collaborative actions of a group. The reality is that, collectively, the group is always smarter than the smartest person in the group. That's why dictatorships always fail, why governments succeed only if they are free and democratic, and why econ-

omies only perform if there is a balance of labor and capital.

To increase our choices in life and to make better decisions, we can make a personal pledge of tolerance to ourselves, and we can promise to always tell the truth to ourselves and others. These are things we can do alone and within our own families, but what will be the result if we practice these principles in our relationships with others, at work, at church, at the market, at the gym, at a PTA meeting, or wherever we come together with people trying to get an education, earn a living, make a decent life, and raise healthy children?

What if all of us, billions and billions of us, all over the world, collectively recognized that unless we all act together—NOW—there will be no safe place for our grandchildren to live, and that the work and sacrifices of the thousands of generations who have come before us will have been wasted. Humanity will become extinct, its seed unplanted among the cosmos, as its children will be denied their chance to soar through the stars seeking fertile planetary gardens for the flowering of minds.

Even as we come to accept the reality of the deadly threats, we must still go on living, doing what we have to every day to survive. We will continue

living our lives seeking security, contentment, joy, comfort, respect, and recognition, *but we will do so with tolerance and mutual respect for everyone*. Would we be bored without the anger, fear, lies, and intolerance we are exposed to on television and in social media? Or, will we be too busy creating interesting and exciting futures for ourselves and our children, to be bothered with such juvenile nonsense?

The reason we must first collectively resolve the deadly threat of regressive intolerance is that, without the powerfully positive and progressive influence of tolerance, humanity will never be able to generate the will or ability to cure the harm already done to the planet, and to do so immediately. Imagine us putting our collective minds to work solving our problems in the best sense of the meaning, and that the creative output of such a union of effort would be exponential. In other words, the creative means to solve the remaining threats will be generated by the solution of the first. Tolerance is the magnificent tool of creation by which we evolve to solve the overwhelming threats to our existence.¹⁵

¹⁵ As children living on a dryland farm in the Panhandle of Texas in the 1940s, we spent the long hot, cloudless summer days chopping weeds from the growing cotton plants, and we learned that a few minutes invested with a file sharpening the

THE EDUCATION OF TOLERANCE

The word tolerance comes from the Latin *tolerantia* meaning “endurance.” Thus, if we are to willingly endure (*tolerō*) without confrontation, the nutty discourse of our whacky uncle, yet again, at Thanksgiving dinner, we are practicing tolerant behavior. In this context, toleration implies a moral virtue, the endurance of something unpleasant for a higher purpose, like family harmony. The word intolerance has the opposite meaning; it is an unwillingness to invest the time or energy required to consider opinions, beliefs, or behaviors that differ or conflict with our own, particularly those of race, religion, nationality, culture, politics, and science.

Intolerance breeds deception, hatred, and violence; therefore, for the better good, we are taught to endure situations that makes us feel uncomfortable. Seemingly then, tolerance, while unpleasant, is supposed to make us all feel better for having done a good thing, like taking out the garbage. Such is not

edge of your hoe, made the cutting easier and the time go faster, as we walked barefooted up and down the long, long rows of cotton plants, waiting for the sun to set in the evening and for school to open in the fall.

the case. While intolerance is always bad, toleration is intrinsically good. Tolerance is not just a moral virtue, to be endured because it's the right thing to do, but because the exercise of tolerance produces tremendous benefits, both individually and collectively.¹⁶

When we willingly open ourselves up to people of diverse cultures, races, religions, and political beliefs, we not only discover people we can admire for many wonderful personal traits, but we also find equally concerned people whose different experiences, knowledge, and cultural wisdom offers a valuable contribution to solving the common problems we confront.

Once we agree that intolerance is not to be tolerated, and we begin to universally encourage, respect, practice, and honor the toleration of diversity, we will tap into a stupendous reservoir of repressed and unshared latent abilities—a massive contribution of talent, intellect, knowledge, and wisdom—suddenly available to collectively identify solutions to the most desperate and immediate problems facing our species. Far more than just “live and let live,” universal toler-

¹⁶ UNESCO defines toleration as, “respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world’s cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human.”

ation is critical to human survival. Without it, we will all die a painful and senseless death.

Those of us who have done our best to raise and educate our children have sometimes witnessed the most abominable behavior between siblings and playmates, as willful children learn the lessons of mind—about possession, sharing, and playing nice, and about the value of empathy, compassion, and caring. Since intolerance is hardwired into the brainstems of our babies, we must commence lessons on the value of tolerance immediately. Children primarily learn by personal example; therefore, we must in fact live tolerant lives and reinforce the lessons of toleration with our children every day.

As a primary education task of child rearing, we must facilitate the natural development of toleration in young minds allowing them to naturally mature into healthy, confident, productive, and joyful adults. Kindness, altruism, empathy, sympathy, and compassion are more than “people skills” to be learned; they are essential elements of toleration—natural attributes of minds generated to seek the truth. Children must learn what everyone has in common, as well as what makes people different. Children must achieve the confidence to overcome their fears of the unknown

and the unlike, and to behave with toleration and respect toward everyone.

Above the entrance of every building leading into the study of every discipline at every school, college, university, and library, let the single word **TOLERANCE** be chiseled into the keystone, as the watchword to universal knowledge and eternal wisdom.

BEATING THE EXPLOSIVE SWORDS OF WAR INTO HIGH TECH PLOWSHARES OF PEACE

“they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.”

Isaiah 2:4

In 1928, following “The War to End All Wars,” most of the nations of the world, including the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Japan, USSR, and China signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact which condemned “recourse to war for the solution of international controversies and renounce[d] it as an instrument of national policy.” Although the nations all agreed that the settlement of disputes “shall never be sought except by pacific means” the agreement failed to prevent the Second World War which started just ten years later.

With as many as 100 million total deaths, World War II ended in 1945, and the nations of the world made another attempt to avoid warfare. The preamble to the charter of the United Nations begins:

We the People of the United Nations Determined

- to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and
- to regain faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and
- to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and
- to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

And for These Ends

- to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours,
...

The Kellogg-Briand Pact did nothing to prevent World War II, and the creation of the United Nations has done little to prevent us from killing

millions of ourselves during the wars we have fought in the past 75 years. What can be done to end, finally, the “scourge of war?”

THE FAILURE OF WAR AS AN INSTRUMENT OF PUBLIC POLICY

Making war against nation states and their people no longer works. Unstable and undemocratic countries, like North Korea, are usually controlled by individuals and cabals against whom military force ends up harming their own domestic victims more than the entrenched leadership. War directs the wrath of the people against the outsiders who slaughter their children, and war helps to solidify the rule of their domestic despots.

Destroying the infrastructure of a nation to turn the will of its people against their “leadership” fails—as in Iraq—resulting in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent children. Targeting “insurgents” using drones and violent nighttime home invasions fails—as in Afghanistan—resulting in “collateral” deaths and injuries to children and noncombatants. Imposition of economic sanctions fail—as in Iran—resulting in the destruction of the middle class and small businesses that are essential to a free society. Support of “rebels” against their gov-

ernment fails—as in Libya—when the new government is controlled by hostile and undemocratic forces. Direct military strikes fail to make a difference—as in Syria—for all these reasons; and the threat of violent war—as in North Korea—is simply stupid against an immature dictator who has nuclear weapons and nothing to lose by using them.

The use of war as an instrument of foreign policy fails in all these situations because it simply does not produce the desired change. Ever! Other than to resist an actual armed invasion, war against other nations, and their people—to persuade their leaders to do something—primarily injures the innocent victims of the enemies' unrepresentative governments and results in victim's hatred of the aggressors, rather than their oppressors.

The wars of the American Empire harm its own people through the wasteful diversion of scarce tax resources to the corporate industrial machine, the compiling of massive and unsustainable public debt, the interest paid to financial gamblers on that debt, a reduction of personal freedoms by the intelligence-security-law enforcement complex, and a loss of respect by other peoples and nations around the world.

Moreover, continued use of aggressive—yet undeclared—wars by the Empire has resulted in an

undemocratic shift of power from the legislative branch to the executive branch of government. The Constitution provides that “The Congress shall have power . . . To declare War” For the past 50 years, however, American presidents, rather than Congress, have repeatedly unleashed military force against far weaker nations and their people—who do not have the means or ability to fight back, except through the tactics of terror.

In addition to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and Syria, the United States is currently conducting military operations in Somalia and Yemen. Not only are these wars undeclared by Congress, their extent is largely concealed from the American People. Moreover, in “fighting” these wars, the president, as Commander-in-Chief, claims the right to detain and kill “unlawful combatants,” including American citizens, anywhere in the world, without trial, and to authorize the preemptive bombing of any person, or any nation, deemed to be a threat to the United States in its perpetual war against international terrorism.

Yes, there is violence and repression in the world, and some of its perpetrators may threaten the security interests of the United States, and it would be naive to deny it. It is equally foolish, however, to

believe that launching undeclared aggressive wars against nation states and their people can resolve every one of these threats. There must be a better solution, one that is both legal and more effective.

AN ALTERNATIVE TO STUPID WARS

Let us, for a moment, think “outside the box” about an alternative public policy to deal with these dangerous geopolitical situations—one based on commonsense and the law. Let’s continue to use North Korea as an example.

If the Trump administration can make the case that Kim Jong-un and his regime pose a risk of danger to the People of the United States, shouldn’t President Trump present that evidence to Congress and allow it to decide what to do? Rather than an authorization to launch a violent military attack against North Korea—essentially a declaration of war—Congress could pass a resolution along these lines:

The Congress of the United States declares that Kim Jong-un and his administration of the government of North Korea pose a danger to the People of the United States of America, and he is hereby personally declared to be an outlaw. Congress directs the

President to file a legal proceeding against the government of North Korea in the International Court of Justice and to take all necessary and reasonable steps to compel the personal attendance of Kim Jong-un to defend his government and its conduct.

As a member of the United Nations, North Korea is automatically a party of the International Court; however, it must consent to jurisdiction in a specific case. The congressional resolution would, however, be directed against Kim, personally—as the dictator of North Korea—instead of the people of North Korea. It is narrowly designed to compel him to personally leave North Korea and to accept jurisdiction of the Court on its behalf. As a practical matter, once Kim leaves the country, the chances of his ever returning are very slim.

In many respects, the congressional resolution would act like an arrest warrant in a domestic criminal action. There, a judge finds probable cause for the arrest and directs the police to take the suspect into custody and to deliver the defendant for trial. In doing so, the police are authorized to use all necessary and reasonable force to take physical custody of the accused.

Although the use of reasonable force personally directed against the outlaw dictator to “arrest” him might result in his death, the use of force would not have political assassination as its purpose. To the contrary—much like hostage negotiations by professional police officers—every attempt should be made to obtain the voluntary surrender of the outlaw, without inflicting any collateral damage on those around him. Reasonable rewards and incentives might also be offered for his surrender by his own trusted advisors, who could put him aboard an aircraft bound for the Hague, and the World Court of Justice.

The Kim dictatorship dominates the North Korean electronic and print media and carefully controls the information received by the people. Radios and television sets are preset to North Korean frequencies and must be registered with the authorities. Although there is little access to the Internet, there is a widespread market for USB flash drives which feature South Korean music and movies.

It is not difficult to imagine infiltrating and peacefully “bombing” the nation with entertainment flash drives and other forms of person-to-person communications reassuring the North Korean people that the United States was renouncing the making of war against them and their nation in favor of rewards

and benefits for the arrest and delivery of their dictator. While ordinary North Koreans might not have the ready ability or opportunity, those most close to the person of Kim Jong-un might be sufficiently encouraged to act.

REDIRECT THE WEAPONS OF WAR TO THE PURSUIT OF PEACE

In the following papers on a just society, a fair economy, and a healthy environment, we will be discussing remedies, such as quickly eliminating carbon burning as a source of energy, that will require huge sums of money and other precious human and material resources. The military spending budgets of every nation on Earth is the only real source for these revenues. Not only is military spending entirely wasteful; it does not even solve the intended problems, and militarization is counterproductive to achieving the essential peace required for the survival of humanity.

We must not only renounce war as a matter of national and international policy, agreeing to never again make war against a nation or its peoples, but we must entirely redirect all military resources. We must enlist the engineers, scientists, and educators—who have contributed their knowledge and research

to the development of ballistic missiles—to help to generate solar energy from space. Those who designed the mechanics of killing, can redirect their energies to the creation of presently unimaginable devices to cure diseases, make life easier, and to fly our children through the cosmos.

The application of machine programming and artificial intelligence (AI) using simple algorithms, is presently driving much of what we are experiencing in the “Internet Revolution.” Just as industrialization once drove the education and use of energy-driven machine technology, the connectivity value of the Internet has created an entirely new digital revolution.

Operated by the AI we program into our digital machines and robots, these automatons are increasingly playing a major role in manufacturing, but also in farming, and the production and delivery of food and other essentials of life, including water and power systems. Algorithms are already affecting our lives through Internet advertising, shopping and social media, and AI is influencing the choices made by people, both in their purchasing decisions and in deciding whom to vote for or against.

There are legitimate fears of such technology, both physically in machines of death, war, and destruction, but also in the loss of freedoms and privacy

through surveillance and unwarranted intrusions into our homes and lives in violation of our rights of liberty. There is also a not-quite-so-rational fear that the artificial intelligence programmed into operating systems, will ultimately take control of host computers, and direct their massive power against their puny human creators.

There is this very real concern: To the extent that the power of artificial intelligence and computers is put to harmful use by those who remain irrationally intolerant of others, there is great and grave danger. To the extent, however, that we become entities of mind—existing outside the bounds of mathematical and physical reality—there is no greater risk of danger from AI and computers than there is of the peaceful use of properly contained nuclear energy.

Our mind can make an imaginative leap of realistic probabilities that easily defies the physical reality and overwhelms the computational abilities of AI. We can imagine a mind approaching our universe of light from a great distance in the empty darkness, having detected an initial quantum spark of photons in its creation, and we can imagine the magnificence of our universe blazing away in every spectrum of light, expanding at an ever-increasing rate, as its

waves pulsate and dissipate into the infinity of eternity.

Continuing to explore at the fourth power of light, our traveling mind can flash inside to locate and visit our Garden of Earth—circling with its large moon, around our warm yellow sun, out in the spiral arms of our lovely Milky Way galaxy. The traveling mind can pinpoint exactly where we are now, but also the mind can go back to the beginning, and travel forward to the end, as it is all the same in the timelessness of the negative nothing.

Are the multiple deadly threats of extinction existential? Of course, they are all entirely caused by the existence and rapid multiplication of humans on Mother Earth. Will the harm to her garden diminish with the demise of the invasive species? Not for a very long time, but that is not the alternative we have chosen, for we are here seeking remedies, rather than assigning blame. We are evolving, rather than becoming extinct.

We can continue to debate the timeline of extinction—whether carbon emissions can be cut in half by 2030, and if that's enough—until it is too late. Or, we can commence to act—NOW—with courage, spirit, and tolerance, and we can evolve together in

creating a joyful, just, and exciting future for our children of mind.

THE RIGHTS OF LIBERTY IN A JUST AND JOYFUL SOCIETY

As we learned in the Extinction Papers, the great two-century experiment of self-government by the People of the United States has resulted in an economically bankrupt, politically repressive, and militarily inept American Empire controlled by the right-wing for the benefit of an uncaring corporate industrial machine. The Rights of Liberty the American People fought and died for are being subverted by their own elected officials to provide protection, productivity, and profits to their corporate masters who, through the corrupting influence of cash campaign contributions and introductions to the social and economic elite, actually decide which candidates the People are allowed to vote for, as their purported representatives.

Around the world, we find that the governments established by the people for their own benefit are being dominated by both neofascist and neoliberal politicians who are indebted to the same wealthy and international corporate interests. Radical right political groups are now strongly influencing or controlling governments across Europe, including becoming serious opposition parties in parliamentary governments in Germany, Spain, Austria, France,

Sweden, Finland, Estonia, and Poland, and recently electing an authoritarian nationalist to his third term as the Prime Minister of Hungary.

In the United States, the government is now being administered by a nationalist media con man, who has no respect for truth, knowledge, and intellect, and is enamored with strong-men dictators, whose repressive governments he seeks to emulate.

Individual rights are enshrined in the written constitutions of most nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948. The inherent rights of every person, however, necessarily exceeds that guaranteed by any political document—as no person can ever, irreversibly, surrender their power of consent. Under their Universal Rights of Liberty, all people reserve their consent to be governed, should their government be corrupted, no longer serve their needs, or become harmful to their interests.

Despite the bad news about the rise of intolerant governments, there is also good news about self-government in the history of the first two decades of the twenty-first century. Around the world, young people, primarily students, have used the Internet tools of social media to organize social and political

rebellions against both neoliberal and neofascist governments. Growing to represent almost every color in a box of crayons, largely nonviolent “color revolutions” erupted in country after country, as the exploits of each group of rebels were shared around the world through social media. Although ignored by much of the mainstream Western media, the political rebellions of young people commenced with the successful “Bulldozer Revolution” in 2000 that demonstrated the power of the ballot in forcing Serbia’s strongman out of office.

The rebellious Serbians chanting, “He is finished!” inspired the “Rose Revolutions” by the Otpor! (Resistance!) youth movement in Georgia in 2003 and 2004, which spread to the “Orange Revolution” in the Ukraine in 2004, the “Purple Revolution” in Iraq in 2005, the “Tulip Revolution” in Kyrgyzstan in 2005, the “Cedar Revolution” in Lebanon in 2005, the “Blue Revolution” in Kuwait in 2005, the “Jeans Revolution” in Belarus in 2006, the “Saffron Revolution” in Myanmar in 2007, the “Grape Revolution” in Moldova in 2009, the “Green Movement” in Iran in 2009, the “Melon Revolution” in Kyrgyzstan in 2010, the “Jasmine Revolution” in Tunisia in 2010, the “Lotus Revolution” in Egypt in 2011, the “Pearl Revolution” in Bahrain in 2011, the “Coffee Revolution” in Yemen in 2011, the “Jasmine

Revolution” in China in 2011, the “Snow Revolution” in Russia in 2011, the “Colorful Revolution” in Macedonia in 2016, and the “Velvet Revolution” in Armenia in 2018.

The “Yellow Umbrella Movement” of Hong Kong occurred between September and December in 2014, but thousands of young Hongkongers continue to turn out, weekend after weekend, to demonstrate their refusal to surrender their freedom of self-government they inherited from the British, for something less under the dictates of the unrepresentative and repressive central Chinese government. Every participant in every one of these “revolutions” inherently possessed the universal Rights of Liberty to self-government, and to petition for it.

It is Up to the Young People to Change Their Government if They are to Survive. Motivated as they are by the specter of generational extinction, the young people of the world are becoming increasingly aware that it is up to them to save their own lives and futures. During the past 20 years, young people around the world have demonstrated the organizational energy required to drive a world-wide movement to secure the Universal Rights of Liberty for every person on Earth, irrespective of the governments under which they live.

Young people, without respect to race, religion, nationality, or culture, are connected to one other by more than the Internet and social media. All young people share a future which will either be very bad or very good; it will not remain the same. The reality of tomorrow cannot be predicted, one way or the other, except by the effective actions taken today to create, alter, and shape a desired reality.

The young people of the world have the energy, drive, and connectivity to make a difference, but to ensure the quality of their success, they require the counsel, moderation, and wisdom of women, to ensure that resulting governments nurture and care for those who consent to be governed, and for their children—who remain the most precious thing there is, or has ever been.

Instead of a Lie Detector, Using the Vote as a Truth Determinator. With the rights of liberty come the duties of performance, and people must not only vote when elections are called, but people must also educate themselves about the issues and candidates, and prepare themselves to solemnly cast well-informed and effective votes, as a sacrament in the political religion of self-government.

We are all witness to the failures of the existing systems of representative democracy, in which com-

peting candidates and political parties propose policies, and individual voters cast their ballot for the candidate or party whose policy platform attracts them the most in the billion-dollar political beauty contests, which relentlessly broadcast negative and misleading commercial advertisements. The vote of the people has become the same as any other purchasing decision, with political hucksters saying whatever must be said to sell the product, and to trick voting slaves into casting ballots against their own interest.

There are at least two serious problems with the existing electoral system. The first is that voters are often presented with two options, both of which are unfavorable, so the choice is not for a position or candidate, but against one or the other, or both. The second endemic problem is that, once elected, politicians rarely, if ever, keep their promises. Politicians will always march to the drummer of whoever contributes the most money to their campaign and election. The money is critical to the purchase of political advertising required to sell their lies and distortions to voters, who find little or nothing to trust and believe in, including the value of their own vote, as the ultimate determinator of truth.

Another problem, of course, with the existing system of policy making is that politicians rarely, if

ever tell the truth, or admit they're wrong. They are all far too clever and well-practiced in the Art of the Lie. The truth has been reduced to insignificance, by the relentless broadcasting of lies, and the search for the truth is tangled up in the deceptive fluff spun out of the fraudulent political con game being played out in the American Empire. Its current emperor spends much of his time twittering a stream of idle thoughts, wacky fantasies, and deadly threats, and his aides scramble to convert his digital diatribes into international policy regarding matters of life and death, of war and peace.

Before telling us what to do, or not, governments must first figure out what the people who created the governments want it to do. Presently, politicians tell the public what they (and their pollsters) believe the voters want to hear, and then, once elected, politicians not only fail to come through on promised policies, they work for interests that are contrary to that of their constituents, all the while blaming their political opponents for their failures.

There must be a better way for ordinary people—who are smart enough to pay taxes and brave enough to die in wars—to tell their government what they want it to do, since most do not have the dis-

possible cash to make a million-dollar campaign contribution to get their calls answered.

A policy referendum is a politically evolved way to maintain our republican form of representative democracy, and to permit the People to make their own policy. Policy referenda directly informs the government about the true will of the People, and referenda provide a standard by which to hold responsible those who are elected. Unlike the initiatives and propositions that plague most elections, a policy referendum vote by the People would not make law, but it would be a clear expression of public policy direction on major issues.

The Voters' Bill of Rights is a proposed constitutional amendment titled the United States Voters Rights Amendment (USVRA). It was written as a legal document to remedy the wrongs presently suffered by the People who are unrepresented in their own government. The USVRA proposes specific constitutional remedies for all the serious political issues that interfere with the rights of liberty of every American citizen to cast effective ballots in the election of policies and representatives.

The loss of any one of the protection elements outlined below, would weaken and defeat the purpose of the whole, which is to produce a

comprehensive alternative reality in which the People come to control their own government. Envision how it would be if the People transformed the government they have, into the government they want and need. The People have the power, but do they have the imagination to envision it and the will to make it a reality.

Irrespective of everything else, the truth about the future will be told at midnight on November 3, 2020, when the American People tally their vote in deciding the nature of their future, and that of their children. Will there be a peaceful evolution, or will intolerance, war, economic gambling, and corrupt governments continue to their natural conclusion, environmental extinction?

THE USVRA – A VOTERS’ BILL OF RIGHTS

Increasingly dominated by a plutocracy composed of corporations and the wealthy elite, the two-party electoral system of the United States is almost completely dysfunctional. The parties do not produce viable candidates for the presidency, and the candidates do not address the most critical issues facing the Nation. Without a meaningful choice, voters are forced to select the lesser of two evils, or they give up and don’t vote at all.

Both major political parties are controlled by the same powerful corporate and financial interests, and the policies of both parties benefit their corporate and wealthy sponsors rather than the American People. Effectively, there is but one political party, divided into two competing tribes having slightly different social views, vying for control of Congress and the White House.

The government and those seeking elective office deliberately deceive the People into acting contrary to their interests. Truth, honor, and fair play have no place in the political process—only raw power and the benefits it confers on the rich and powerful.

The last time a similar crisis prevailed was following the Revolutionary War when the Articles of Confederacy governed the new United States. George Washington and other founders recognized that an entirely new government had to be created if the Nation they had fought for was to survive. He believed there was a delicate balance between things being sufficiently bad enough to force a change and being too bad to allow a change. Out of necessity, they created the Constitution and the Bill of Rights to transform their government into one that better served their needs. Americans are once again confronted with the same crisis.

Many different initiatives to repair various elements of the electoral system have been proposed, including the elimination of corporate constitutional rights. While efforts to eliminate corporate personhood and control campaign financing, would be beneficial, they would not ensure the right to cast effective votes—which is the essential requirement of a free and democratic republic.

The United States Voters' Rights Amendment (USVRA) is a comprehensive solution to these problems. Addressing the various issues that interfere with the ability of the People to cast effective votes, it will transform the government into a true representative democracy. The USVRA will reorient the priority of the government to the benefit of the People and their society.

People Making Policy. The whole concept of the USVRA stemmed from the idea that the People have an inherent right and ability to vote on the most critical issues facing them and their society, to articulate their own policies, and to elect the representatives who are most likely to follow and implement those policies. This concept shifts policy formulation from the politicians to the People themselves.

From this, all other aspects of the USVRA

evolved as being necessary to attain this goal. We will begin by examining what it means for the People to make their own policy, and in subsequent sections we will look at measures that transform that ideal into a reality.

Just as the law of supply and demand usually works to provide a product or service at the time and place it is needed, the collective wisdom of a group of informed and engaged voters is greater than that of any candidate seeking their vote. Irrespective of a candidate's intelligence, ethics, or qualifications, the voters' collective thinking will be more reliable and less subject to corruption.

The concept of “policy” is widely misunderstood. Policy is simply a guideline or a path to a goal or objective. It differs from laws, rules and regulations, which are mandatory.

Moreover, a policy referendum differs substantially from the initiatives and propositions that voters often find on their state and local ballots. *A policy referendum does not make law—it creates political guidelines.* Initiatives and propositions may not be the best way to make laws, but a referendum is an excellent way to make public policy.

Through their answers to referendum questions, voters can effectively establish policy guidelines to be

followed and implemented by those they elect. We have repeatedly seen how necessary laws on matters such as fair taxation, gun control, and women's freedom of choice are often defeated by small, but powerful special interests. With the opportunity for a full and complete public discussion, an overwhelming vote by the People would compel their representatives to act according to the quiet wishes of a large majority of the voters, rather than the loud demands of a small, but vocal minority.

The USVRA compels Congress to identify the most critical policy questions for the People to answer and to place these questions on the national presidential ballot.

Failure of Congress to adopt a joint resolution containing the questions shall result in the disqualification of all sitting members of Congress to be eligible for reelection. In other words, all of them will automatically be out of a job if they fail to address the policy issues of concern to the People.

The Right of the People to Vote—Effectively. Did you know that United States citizens do not have a constitutional right to vote? As the result of a series of amendments, people of color, women, and young people over the age of 18 cannot be deprived of the right to vote because of their status; however, nowhere in the Constitution does it say that they or

anyone else have a fundamental right to vote in the first place. This absence was clearly and bluntly acknowledged by the Supreme Court in *Bush v. Gore*, which awarded the presidency to George W. Bush in 2000.

The protection of voting rights for women was excluded from the Fourteenth Amendment in that it mentioned only "male inhabitants" of discriminating states. That omission was finally corrected by the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920; however, the 1972 Equal Rights Amendment—an attempt to secure full equality of all rights for women—failed to be ratified by the necessary 38 states by the deadline of 1979. The right to cast effective votes cannot be fully effective if half of the People (the women) do not have full and equal rights, which is why the Equal Rights Amendment is included in the USVRA.

The USVRA gives all citizens a constitutional right to an effective vote.

Maximum Voting Participation by the People.

Universal voting is the ideal of a free and democratic republic. The USVRA requires that we make voting a national priority, and that we make it easy to vote. Imagine how this could look.

First, as a citizen, the state you reside in would automatically register you to vote, putting to rest any

fears of voter fraud—which is extremely rare. Voter identification (ID) laws and other forms of voter suppression—which adversely affect the poor, powerless, and disadvantaged—are abolished.

Instead of rushing to the crowded polling places before or after work, a national voters' holiday is declared so that everyone who votes receives full pay for the day. Once in the voting booth voters can take time to carefully consider the issues and candidates presented on their ballots by the various political parties, if they have not done so already. Or, voters can mail in their ballots in advance, and still take the day off in honor of their fundamental role in representative government.

The USVRA requires the states to register all qualified voters, and it punishes voter suppression. It mandates that federal elections held every two years be conducted on a national paid holiday.

Well-informed Voters. If the voters are to make critical policy decisions, they must be well-informed. A truly representative government must ensure that the People are supplied with truthful, unbiased, objective, and timely information regarding the political, economic, environmental, financial, and social issues that affect them.

Coexistent with the creation of the United

States, the founders recognized the essential role of public education in its operation. One unrealized goal of President George Washington was the establishment of a national university to train future leaders. He regretted its omission in his farewell address, saying education was "one of the surest means of enlightening and giving just ways of thinking to our citizens. . . ."

The current emphasis on mandatory testing of math, science, and language in public schools has reduced the amount of classroom time available to discuss civics and current political events. Under the corporate model, civic education and government studies have been largely eliminated from the core curricula.

Imagine if there were a national university that included all the military service academies under its umbrella—so future military officers are first instructed about the nature and values of the government they will later learn to serve and defend. Moreover, the university would include other service academies, such as justice, education, health, nutrition and agriculture, energy, transportation, economics, science, government, and diplomacy, where students can specialize after first being instructed in the basic values of a free and democratic

government.

The USVRA requires that all students be educated in the nature and responsibilities of representative democracy. It establishes the University of the United States—which will teach the values of liberty and justice upon which the nation was founded. It will be a place where students learn the nature and operation of a democratic republic and are provided the specialized training to professionally serve the needs of the Nation and its People.

A National Paper Ballot for the People. If American voters are to regain and retain control over their elections, they must refuse to use computerized voting machines or any other form of electronic balloting. Instead, voters must insist on hand-countable paper ballots upon which to physically record their choices.

Not only can paper ballots be accurately counted (and recounted—if necessary), but most importantly, each ballot is, indisputably, documentary evidence of an individual's vote. Collectively, paper ballots serve as a tangible symbol of representative democracy in action.

Once a decision is reached, each voter can demonstrate her or his literacy by voting yes or no on the most vital policy questions. Moreover, voters

can physically demonstrate their Rights of Liberty (if choosing to do so) by clearly writing in their choice for president and vice president of the United States and Congressional senators and representatives—whether or not the choices have been nominated by a political party and the names are printed on the ballot.

So what if it takes a little longer to count, or recount, the ballots? Wouldn't it be a good thing if pundits could not predict the outcome of elections before the polls have even closed? Isn't delayed gratification a small price to pay for ensuring that the People control elections, rather than those who currently bribe the candidates?

The USVRA requires that federal elections be conducted on uniform, hand-countable paper ballots, and—for the presidential election—ballots must include the twelve most critical policy questions articulated by Congress, each to be answered yes or no by the voters. Moreover, paper ballots are required to provide space allowing voters to handwrite in their choice for all elective federal offices—if they choose—and that all such votes be counted.

The Popular Election of Presidents and Vice Presidents. Fearing an "excess of democracy," the founders of the United States created the Electoral

College to choose the president and vice president instead of relying on direct elections by the People. Currently, all but two states award *all* their electoral votes to the candidate who wins the state's popular vote, rather than apportioning them by the number of ballots cast for each candidate.

Because Electoral College votes do not correlate with popular votes, twice in the last four presidential elections (2000 and 2016), the winner of the popular vote did not obtain a majority of the votes cast by the states in the Electoral College—thereby defeating the will of the People. Moreover, the Electoral College does not allow American citizens in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and other U.S. territories a vote in the presidential election.

Inconsistencies in the presidential primary process occur because the voting and election processes have been left up to the states. Iowa—which chooses candidates by party caucuses—commences the process in early January of the election year and is followed by others states through June. The early states exert a disproportionate influence in the process, as the campaigns are often decided before primaries are held in the later states.

A uniform date for primaries would still allow the various states to have some flexibility in the type

of primary system to employ, such as caucuses, open or closed primaries, or winner-take-all contests. It would also reduce the length and cost of the presidential elections.

The USVRA establishes a uniform primary date for all states and the date for the general election of the president and vice president. It provides that "The presidential and vice presidential candidates receiving the most popular votes by all citizens of the United States shall be elected."

Only People Have Constitutional Rights. Several decisions by the Supreme Court have allowed corporations and the wealthy elite to take control of the People's government. The Supreme Court struck down election laws prohibiting corporations and labor unions from making independent expenditures and "electioneering communications." Moreover, ruling that the laws violated First Amendment rights to free speech, the Court also struck down laws that set limits on campaign spending. In other words, the Court equated the spending of money with free speech. Those with the most money are allowed to shout the loudest—even if they are not real people.

There have been several initiatives brought forth to amend the Constitution as the only way to reverse the Court's actions; however, the best researched and

most popular initiatives appear to be those by the Move to Amend organization.

Sections Four and Five of the USVRA are identical to the Move to Amend proposed amendments.

Under the USVRA, "The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only." Corporations "shall have no rights under this Constitution and are subject to regulation by the People . . ."

The government will be required to "regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their economic status, have access to the political process, and that no person gains, as a result of their money, substantially more access or ability to influence in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure."

The USVRA goes on to say that these provisions shall not be "construed to abridge the freedom of the press, which includes electronic and digital publication."

Public Funding of Elections. Since 1976, taxpayers have been allowed to check a box on their tax return to divert three dollars of their income taxes to a matching fund for presidential elections. Subsequently, every presidential nominee used the public funds until George W. Bush opted out of the matching fund program in the 2000 primary, and Barack

Obama opted out in the general election of 2008. Both Obama and Mitt Romney opted out in the 2012 general election—as each spent more than a billion dollars on the election. Only one primary candidate (Democrat Martin O'Mally) requested public funding in the 2016 presidential election.

A large percentage of the cost of political campaigns results from the widespread use of radio and television advertising. During the 2016 general election campaigns, more than \$4.4 billion was spent on television advertising. Most countries in the European Union, including Ireland and the United Kingdom, forbid the use of paid political advertisements on radio and television; however, political parties are provided free broadcast slots.

As the price they paid for using the public airways, American broadcasters were once required to provide equal time to opposing candidates in the public interest. The rule has become ineffective due to exceptions, including news programming—as occurred in the ratings-driven media frenzy over the publicity-seeking antics of candidate Donald Trump during the 2016 campaign. Moreover, the Fairness Doctrine once required licensees to present controversial issues of public importance and to do so in a manner that was honest, equitable, and balanced. It

was repealed by the Reagan administration in 1987.

Another reason why political campaigns are so expensive is because they are continual. As soon as candidates are elected, they immediately begin to raise money for the next election, or as they say, "dialing for dollars." It is not unusual for presidential candidates to start actively soliciting campaign contributions several years before an election. President Trump began running for reelection the day he was inaugurated, officially. To date, his fundraising exceeds that of all other candidates.

The USVRA provides a presumption in favor of public funding; establishes a public access, fairness doctrine, and equal-time rule for public broadcasting; and limits the period of active fundraising and campaigning to six months before an election.

Gerrymandering and Adequate Congressional Representation. Gerrymandering—in which politicians obtain an electoral advantage by the bizarre mapping of election districts to benefit one party over another—is in widespread use. Most congressional districts have been configured to ensure there are no serious challenges to incumbents.

The Constitution provides there shall be a minimum of 30,000 "Persons" for each member of the House of Representatives; however, it does not estab-

lish a maximum number. In 1790, the number of Persons represented in each district was 33,000. When the number of Congressional seats was increased to the current 435 in 1911, each new district represented approximately 212,000 Persons.

The population of each congressional district is now around 700,000 Persons. The more than three-fold increase in the number of constituents since 1911 makes it virtually impossible for voters to communicate with their representatives—absent generous financial contributions. On the other hand, simply mailing a single letter to each voter in a congressional district by a candidate could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The USVRA prohibits gerrymandering and reduces the number of Persons represented in each congressional district to 250,000.

Lobbying, Bribery, and the Revolving Door.

Lobbyists bribe the People's representatives by providing campaign contributions and other personal benefits and gifts. Their success depends upon the access they have to those they seek to persuade. The most successful are those who previously held the same or similar positions in government.

Existing laws and congressional rules attempting to regulate lobbyists are limited and ineffective be-

cause the Supreme Court has declared the practice to be an exercise of free speech and the right to petition for redress.

The USVRA places constitutional restrictions on lobbying—which it disallows as free speech and the right to petition—and it prohibits former representatives and government employees from engaging in lobbying for a period following such service equal to the period of such service.

Conflicts of Interest. Both the Senate and House of Representatives have developed rules of ethics governing conflicts of interest by Congressional members and their staffs; however, the rules are almost meaningless, as there are so many exceptions.

While the canons of the Code of Conduct for United States Judges prohibit them from hearing any matter "in which the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned," the U.S. Supreme Court has refused to apply the Code to the conduct of its own justices. The situation of Justice Clarence Thomas is a case in point. He participated in deciding a matter involving the Affordable Care Act, while his wife was an officer of Liberty Central and Liberty Consulting—organizations that actively opposed the act. It was also discovered that Justice Thomas had "inadvertently" failed to report his wife's employment

income of more than \$1.5 million from similar organizations over a 13-year period. Justice Thomas denied there was any conflict of interest in his deciding the case and refused to disqualify himself.

The USVRA disqualifies federal officials, congressional members, and all federal judges from participating in decisions regarding matters in which they have an interest.

We the People. It is time for all of us, irrespective of individual political persuasion—conservative, progressive, libertarian, green, social-democrat, or independent—to come together with a common purpose: to secure our right to an effective vote, thereby preserving our Rights of Liberty. The Voters' Bill of Rights can and will serve as a unifying force for all the People to achieve a voice in their own government and to make a difference in their future.

Thus united, the People will restrain the power of the plutocracy and will *transform their government into something unlike anything ever achieved on Earth*. The United States government will become oriented to the society that elects it, and the needs, aspiration and well-being of the People will become paramount. The lamp of liberty will be refueled, and its light will once again shine brightly as a beacon of freedom for

all the world to see.

The Constitution was created by "We, the People of the United States of America." We are not powerless. We did it once, and we can do it again. We, this generation of modern and capable Americans, have the brief opportunity to again create a new Bill of Rights and to finally achieve the promise articulated by President Abraham Lincoln—a Nation of the People, by the People, and for the People.

GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS AND PRESUMPTIONS OF LAW

Regulation is one of those words, like socialism or liberalism, which has negative connotations for many conservatives and libertarians, but no matter the word used, we cannot have a complex society without organizational controls.

As you fly into the greater Los Angeles area on a clear night, you are one of a string of landing lights leading back miles into the sky. You can look down on the lights of dozens of cities connected by thousands of miles of roads and inhabited by millions of people. The skyscrapers and freeways could not have been built without specialized regulations, and there would not be reliable electricity, water, and sanita-

tion systems without specific federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

You wouldn't be able to safely drive a car through intersections or down a highway, meeting oncoming car at high speeds, without laws and regulations, and you would not have the confidence that others will respect and willingly comply with the same rules of the road.

Regulations have been around for tens of thousands of years and can be found in the very earliest civilizations. The gates of walled towns had to be locked during the night; the walls had to be patrolled, and taxes had to be collected from the itinerant peddlers who entered during the day.

Just as our modern society could not exist without regulation, it could not function without a financial system, largely based on self-interest, to provide the money and credit required to allow the fair and free enterprise system to work. The two factors must be balanced, however; otherwise the economy does not take all interests into account and it will ultimately fail.

We must recognize that a modern society requires a sophisticated system to deal with supply and demand; however, we, the People, must ensure that the financial and economic systems works for our

benefit, rather than for the benefit of the corporate economic system, and their investors.

The essence of the corporate system is greed—unmitigated greed. The system will lie, cheat, and steal to maintain its profits, and it will do everything in its power to benefit the few who control it, irrespective of the harm it may cause to everyone else.

The system is far too powerful to allow it to regulate itself. It must be controlled, not only for the benefit of the People, but also against its own excesses and greed. We have seen the results of deregulation and the damage done by the casino mentality of bankers. They have a gambling addiction, and they must be forced to attend counseling as a condition of their probation.

Reasonably regulated and operating in a transparent manner, the worldwide financial system can work for the benefit of everyone in every country. But these two elements are essential: reasonable regulation and transparency. They are the *sine qua non* of a free and fair enterprise system.

This does not necessarily mean that the government should be enforcing every regulation, all the time. What government should be doing is to independently examine the evidence, conduct tests, and arrive at reasonable standards for products, manufac-

turing, employment, medical care, and other areas where unregulated activities can be expected to lead to public harm.

Presupposing a fair and impartial judicial system, once standards have been established, they can be relied upon as rebuttable presumptions in legal proceedings brought by people harmed by a violation of the standards. The government, which independently establishes the standard, should not be a party to the action of enforcement, except to provide evidence of standards, as called upon.

A JUST SYSTEM OF CORRECTING UNLAWFUL BEHAVIOR

Let us begin with the innocence of an infant and proceed, birthday, by birthday, until we reach the age of adult responsibility where the punishment for the child's disobedience of the law is to be confined in a cage for a period of time or for life, or to be put to death. Forty years ago, a child under the age of 14 was conclusively presumed to be incapable of committing a crime, now boys as young as 14 are being locked up for life terms in adult prisons. The purpose of the criminal justice system is no longer correction or rehabilitation; it is to confine and punish to the

maximum extent possible, as a deterrent to the commission of crimes.

In raising children, we try to teach tolerance and to encourage inhibitions against intolerant things that are harmful to oneself or others, and one of the strongest inhibitions is against being labeled as a thief, liar, cheater, or violent bully. Once a child bullies, lies, cheats or steals, the initial inhibition is lost, and the child, who now sees himself as a bully, liar, cheater, or thief, finds it easier to commit further anti-social acts, until the child is “caught” and forced to face the consequences of his voluntary actions.

With the justice system oriented towards confinement as a form of tribal revenge, and judges evaluated on the length of the sentences they impose and the hardness of their hearts, we must admit that one of the most accurate ways a society can be objectively evaluated is by the manner in which they treat those accused of crimes and confined in cages.

What if we imagined a better and more effective way to treat those who violate the criminal laws, one that is devised to help them confront and resolve the personal and emotional issues that contributed to the commission of their crimes, allowing them to get on with their lives with the least overall risk to society?

Criminal Justice System Discretion. The first thing that must be recognized is that a just system requires a large amount of discretion by police officers, prosecutors, juries, judges, correctional officers, parole boards, and governors if there is to be individual justice in individual cases.

Next, to avoid discrimination, discretion must be exercised according to written policy standards that ensure that individuals in identical circumstances are treated equally.

Therefore, laws must be enacted that allow for a wide range of discretion *and* that require decision-making agencies and entities to research, draft, and publish the policy standards that govern the exercise of discretion.

Once there is agreement on which crimes should be handled only by the criminal justice system, sentences should be reduced to a range that anticipates that most prisoners will achieve rehabilitation during their confinement and can be released without a significant risk to society.

In all but minor matters, a comprehensive background and sentencing report must be prepared by social science professionals, and judges should have a broad range of discretion in the imposition of sentences. Judges should be encouraged to take risks by

enacting a statutory presumption for probation and other alternative sentencing options for many, if not most crimes.

A sentence to prison should be the last resort and not the first choice. For all but the most horrific and violent offenses, sentences should not exceed five years. Statutes should not allow any time off for good conduct, but they should provide a procedure by which reasonable periods of time can be added for bad behavior, with a guarantee of due process.

A Center of Healing, Change, and Freedom. To envision how moderate sentences would more effectively protect society, let us imagine a completely different type of correctional system, one that truly emphasizes healing, rehabilitation, and change, rather than punishment and revenge. Rather than to treat inmates as loathsome pariahs, let us create a system that treats them as if they are personally infected with a disease that has infected society.

Rather than despising them for their illness, let us learn and work to cure them in a way that avoids a relapse and the infection of others. Imagine that the rest of society is peacefully proceeding along, and every effort is made to repair the damage done to individuals, so the vast majority of them merge seamlessly back into the free flow of society—

without suffering any further legal disability, parole, loss of rights, or societal stigma.

Assuming a fair and compassionate sentencing process, where would we send those who require removal from the free society? One remedy would be to send convicts to a remote Free Town surrounded by a high wall having two gates. Upon their arrival, prisoners would enter one gate into Free Town, and they would be expected to obtain a job to support themselves, and to obey the law.

Obeying the law would be the only requirement. When they completed their sentence, they would leave by the same gate and would rejoin the society of free people without the burden of parole, their social inhibitions against committing crimes restored and strengthened.

Both prisoners and non-prisoners would be encouraged to establish businesses in the town and would be expected to pay the legal minimum and prevailing wages for the labor performed directly into each employee's bank account.

Prisoners who managed their income—without outside assistance—would be entitled to have their spouses and significant others live with them in the town; however, dependents could not be employed in the town, nor would they be allowed to come and

go, except in emergencies. Of course, they could always choose to leave on a permanent basis.

All prisoners would have the benefit of professional counseling, if desired, and health, dental, and vision care would be provided on the same basis as it is provided in the free society.

The Treatment Facility. Individuals who refuse to be self-supporting or who commit repeated or serious crimes would be removed through the first gate and taken back inside through the second gate. The second gate would lead to a tunnel under the Free Town to a Treatment Facility, a large round high rise building with glass walls located in the center of the town, which would have no direct connection to the Free Town.

The Treatment Facility would be staffed by rehabilitation, education, and mental health professionals and would be dedicated to curing its patients of their emotional and behavioral problems before their scheduled release date.

Prisoner-patients would be confined in pie-shaped rooms, with a door at the apex opening into a common area equipped as a library, recreation, and eating area. The entire curved wall would be constructed of unbreakable glass allowing patients to

look down upon the Free Town, where other inmates would live and work in relative freedom.

Graduates of the rehabilitation program who commit nonviolent crimes following release would continue to be charged and sentenced the same as first offenders, until such time as they learn to live in the free society without violating the law of the People.

DESPAIRING OF GUN VIOLENCE

When the men of Concord, Massachusetts assembled at the North Bridge on April 19, 1775 to confront the British Army, it was not so much that they possessed firearms that carried the day. Rather, it was their discipline from having been drilled as a militia that provided the victory. Later, when the Bill of Rights was enacted, the Second Amendment was included to ensure that the People—fearful of a standing army—retained the power to organize state militias in resistance to tyranny and to preserve their new republic. Moreover, the South demanded the right to maintain state militias to control their slaves.

Initially, in most states, and excepting a few officials, most white men were required to join the militia and equip themselves with a musket. Records

were kept and officials knew who had firearms and how well they were trained to perform their public duty. Later, in the Wild West—contrary to movie images—cowboys had to deposit their guns at the sheriff's office on entering most towns.

As America evolved into a more urban and industrialized society, militias were replaced by National Guards in every state, and the percentage of Americans who personally owned firearms dropped. States began to legislate against the possession of dangerous weapons, such as sawed-off shotguns and machine guns, and prohibited carrying concealed handguns. Regarding these laws, the courts consistently ruled that the Second Amendment preserved the right of states to organize National Guards, rather than an unlimited personal right of gun ownership.

Regulating Cars & Guns. Traffic accidents are one of the leading causes of death and injury in the United States, with 36,560 deaths during 2018, but firearm-related deaths already exceeded traffic deaths in 2017 at 39,773. Overall, while the rate of firearm deaths has been rising, the rate and number of traffic deaths has been falling as a result of effective government safety regulations for both drivers and vehicles.

Few people doubt the wisdom of requiring seat belts and air bags in cars; for transporting young children in approved car seats; that cars are registered; that drivers are educated, tested, and licensed; that they obey the rules of the road; and that they are required to have liability insurance. However, any legislative or executive action to regulate the safety of firearms or the ability of individuals to obtain and carry them is met with defiant resistance by the politically powerful gun lobby—and the politicians they bribe with campaign contributions.

Using a vehicle as a weapon is an assault with a deadly weapon (ADW) in most jurisdictions; however, one rarely hears about cars being used in that manner. All too often, road rage manifests itself with one driver shooting another. Automobile ADW is so rare that there are no readily available statistics to determine its frequency. Just imagine, however, the fear and outrage if there were 23,854 intentionally fatal traffic collisions each year in the United States—which was the number of firearm suicides recorded by the CDC in 2017. Or, if cars were used as weapons almost a half million times each year—which is the number of Americans who reported they were victims of a crime involving a firearm in 2011. Would drivers feel safe knowing that cars approaching from

the opposite direction at a high rate of speed were being operated by unlicensed ten-year-olds?

Guns are the only consumer products that are not subject to federal regulation, and *it is not the Second Amendment that prevents the registration of guns in the same manner as vehicles and the testing and licensing of gun owners as is required for all drivers.* This fact was made clear by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2008 when it struck down a ban on the possession of handguns (*District of Columbia vs. Heller*) as violating the right to personally bear firearms. Regarding regulation, however, the court said its "opinion should not be taken to cast doubt on longstanding prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms." While the Court now says the Second Amendment confers a right to personally own a gun outside of a militia, the right remains subject to reasonable regulation.

Since militia members and their weapons were subject to government inspection and regulation at the time the Second Amendment was enacted, it would not seem unreasonable to expect that even the

conservative members of the Court would uphold firearm registration and licensing of owners similar to that presently imposed on the ownership and operation of automobiles.

Constitutionally, the Fourteenth Amendment guarantee of due process and equal protection of the law protects the rights of Americans to own and operate motor vehicles, which is the same level of constitutional protection as the Second Amendment right to bear arms. Necessarily, reasonable regulations would have to preserve due process and could not be so onerous as to constitute prohibition.

Even with reasonable registration and licensing, firearms would continue to pose a significant danger to public safety due to their overwhelming proliferation throughout American society. Therefore, additional, constitutionally acceptable, steps need to be taken to further reduce the threat.

Building Monuments with Destroyed Weapons.

It is far too quick and easy for an angry person to point a finger wrapped around the trigger of a gun and apply slight pressure—thereby destroying the lives of the victim *and the shooter*. Efforts to protect both must deal with the fact that gun violence is often a consequence of other psychological and social issues, such as domestic violence, child abuse, and

bullying of the perpetrator. Even without guns, these causative factors can manifest themselves in violence, albeit at a far less deadly level.

In addition to teaching small children to avoid picking up a gun, they must also learn to tolerate the equality of others and to avoid violent behavior. Children are more capable of acquiring empathy and experiencing positive interpersonal relations, than resisting playing with an attractive deadly toy. There is clear evidence that children can be taught to resolve conflicts and problems without resorting to violence. School-based anti-bullying programs have become widespread and have been successful in reducing violence among students.

Just because Americans have a right to own firearms does not mean that they need or must do so. The percentage of individuals who own firearms continues to decrease. People can continue to freely choose to give up their firearms and to live, more safely, without them—both personally and as a society. There have been some successes with "buy back" programs, whereby people are paid for their guns. All too often, however, the guns turned in are old, defective, or obsolete. What is needed is a broad-based grassroots movement to encourage the American People to participate in achieving a voluntary and

massive reduction of operable firearms in their own homes and communities.

Imagine an innovative national program whereby surrendered and confiscated guns are welded into massive peace sculptures in front of local courthouses, police stations, and other public buildings. Competitions could be held for artists to design unique works of art for each location. Instead of blood running down the sidewalks, let it be rust, as these monuments to nonviolence slowly grow with discarded weapons and become more interesting over the years. Just as those who fight and die for freedom are honored, those who nonviolently strive to achieve peace by surrendering their weapons should also be memorialized. Perhaps, someday Americans will look at these sculptures in amazement and recall a time in when people owned machines designed to kill other people and how they voluntarily and bravely overcame their fascination them.

PAYING THE TAB FOR THE RIGHTS OF LIBERTY

If the “pursuit of happiness” has any special constitutional meaning, it must in some way refer to the pure joy of a good life, well-lived, whatever that might mean to different people, at different times. There can be no joy living under an unjust govern-

ment, which is why the guarantee of justice is one of the most ancient rights ever demanded and received. Thus, the Declaration by the American People in 1776 that among the unalienable Rights “are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness” expresses far more than a shared goal is seeking good government; it is an expression of basic individual Rights of Liberty that are universal and cannot be given or taken away.

These rights are ours from the moment our minds imagine them, and we begin to think about ways to keep and exercise our rights. Our Rights of Liberty are the most valuable creation of our minds, for they allow us the joy and freedom of existence.

If we are to now image a happy future in which the People have achieved a just government that represents their needs and aspirations, how exactly, does that government pay for everything the People need and aspire to? What constitutes a truly free and fair enterprise system in which there is a balance between labor and capital? For an answer to these questions, and others we will continue the Evolution Papers with an outside-the-box view of the economy in which we all earn, buy, or steal our living, or die, and see if there are any remedies that might make it work better.

A FREE & FAIR ENTERPRISE SYSTEM

Among the Rights of Liberty must be found freedom from wage slavery, for if we do not exercise authority over our own thoughts and labor, we are slaves indeed. In the complicated world we live in, these things are basic: We must take care of ourselves, and for most of us that means getting an education, a job, and taking care of our families and other responsibilities, including voting. We must have constant access to food, water, clothing, and the myriad of products required to survive in our existing habitat. All of this requires commercial organization, or trade of some sort.

There is no doubt that commerce is a basic part of human nature, and that corporations must exist if we are to have a modern complex society. We must also recognize that unregulated corporations, with powers far beyond that of any human, pose one of the greatest dangers to individual freedoms in the United States and in every nation on Earth.

Corporations are composed of people, who both work there and who own stock, and they all have families and responsibilities and live according to some spiritual belief or personal code of conduct and behavior. Corporations, however, are greedy by nature and are without a conscience, which is why they

must be regulated instead of being accorded the same constitutional protection as the People who created the government.

As one of the seven deadly sins, greed is an excessive and selfish desire to acquire or possess more than what one needs for basic survival and comfort. As the prime motivation for corporate power and the desire of corporate officers for wealth and status, greed represents the acquisition of more than what one deserves or can be comfortably consumed in one's lifetime.

Virtually every check on unbridled corporate power, including an effective labor movement, has been defeated, allowing corporations to seize unprecedented political power in the United States, and around the world.

This insane pursuit of profit by every possible means, legal or illegal, threatens every economic system that relies on an equality of the freedom of the markets and the freedom of workers. The concept of free and fair enterprise requires a balance between the power of capital and labor; achieving that balance is its primary challenge and must be its ultimate goal.

STRIKING A BALANCE BETWEEN LABOR AND CAPITAL

To obtain and sustain the balance between business and labor required to establish a free and fair enterprise system, we must take steps to ensure that constitutional guarantees are limited to individuals. Moreover, effective laws must be enacted and enforced to effectively regulate corporations and the national economy, and to guarantee the right of labor to organize and to effectively represent its members.

The failure of organized labor affects more than its workers; it influences the entire economy. If workers are forced to accept poverty level wages, they will not have the income to purchase the goods and services provided by the economy. Even the industrialist Henry Ford believed his assembly line workers should earn enough money to pay for the cars they built.

Not only are most American workers no longer represented by a union, they are not represented by any political party. The "New" Democratic Party now represents the same narrow corporate interests as the Republican Party. The alternative Libertarian Party does not believe in any government support of labor or working conditions, and while the Green Party supports "social justice and equal opportunity,"

it does not offer specific programs to protect the rights of workers.

Every person—whether in the private or public sector, a blue or white-collar worker, small business owner, self-employed professional, or corporate executive—has an interest in ensuring there is a balance in the interaction of labor and capital. Otherwise, a truly free and fair enterprise system cannot exist.

That balance was once provided by unions acting with the encouragement of New Deal government laws and regulations, but corporate power over both major political parties has largely eliminated fairness in the system. The ability of corporations to obtain "right to work" laws and influence regulatory agencies to abandon their oversight responsibilities is increasingly leaving workers with little or no power or control over their own labor.

Rather than establishing a Labor Party, such as those in European countries, workers and the self-employed need to organize in a bipartisan effort to eliminate the constitutional protection now being provided to nonperson entities, such as corporations and labor unions. Capitalists should have the right to organize businesses and corporations, and workers should have the right to organize labor unions, but

both should be subject to reasonable regulation for the public good.

Fair employment practices, safe working conditions, and sustainable wages are in the interest of everyone, not just workers and their labor unions. Raising the level of income and leisure benefits everyone, including the self-employed and small business owners. While increased productivity may benefit the corporate bottom line in the short term, lower wages and longer hours will ultimately collapse the economy.

The appropriate role of government should be the establishment of reasonable standards, legal presumptions, and minimum damages allowing workers—whether represented by a union, or not—to obtain a fair and just adjudication of their labor claims.

A FAIR AND SIMPLE TAX

Presently, one-quarter of all large U.S. corporations, two-thirds of all small corporations, and most foreign companies doing business in the United States pay no federal income tax—even though they book trillions in receipts every year and take advantage of America's courts and infrastructure to

make their profits. A simple system of collecting a tiny financial toll tax on the movement of all money in the economy would effectively transfer the tax burden from workers, the self-employed, and small business owners to the wealthy, large corporations, and financial institutions.

Writing in the fourth century BCE, the Greek philosopher Plato said, "When there is an income tax, the just man will pay more and the unjust less on the same amount of income." Nothing has changed, nor will it, unless an alternative system of taxation were to be designed.

Following the collapse of the banking industry in 2008, proposals were made to target a special tax on financial transactions—not only to raise tax revenues to help pay for the bailout—but to restrain the insane financial gambling that caused the crash.

Taking into account the amount of stocks, bonds, commodities, currencies, and futures that are bought and sold every day, the shuffling of funds between banks, and the massive trading of over-the-counter derivatives, trillions and trillions of dollars are being gambled in an economic casino that has little to do with the efforts of most working people and the self-employed. It does, however, have everything

to do with their lives, their economic stability, and the future happiness of their families.

Many, if not most, of these financial transactions escape all taxation, as they are not legally defined as "income." This is true, even though the banks are gambling with sophisticated trading software that allows them to place high-speed bets that cheat ordinary investors and destabilize the markets.

A financial transaction tax was proposed in 1972 by James Tobin, a Yale professor who won the Nobel Prize for economics. It was Dr. Tobin's view that the world economy was being disrupted by currency speculation in which money moved around the world as bets on the fluctuations in exchange rates. He believed the imposition of a small tax on every currency transaction would disrupt the currency gamblers, while imposing a trivial burden on those legitimately engaged in foreign trade or long-term investment.

Tax the Movement of Money. Expanding on the idea of a currency speculation tax, wouldn't it be more sensible and much fairer to simply tax the movement of all money in the U.S. economy—instead of taxing personal and corporate income? Not a sales tax, not a value-added tax, not a flat income tax, not even a speculation tax, but rather a simple

toll on every single financial transaction that occurs within the economic system. Not just every time someone buys a pack of chewing gum, but every time stocks and bonds are bought and sold, every time currencies and derivatives are traded, and every time General Motors buys a new robot to replace its assembly-line workers.

In one year (2012), the Chicago Board of Trade processed nearly three billion contracts that were worth approximately \$1 quadrillion in notional value. In 2013, the daily trading value of transactions at the New York Stock Exchange exceeded \$169 billion, or \$42.5 trillion during the year. In order to maintain liquidity requirements, banks make overnight short-term loans to each other amounting to approximately \$200 billion each day, or \$50.4 trillion each year.

Since the working-, middle- and self-employed-classes have far fewer and much smaller financial transactions, the wealthy and the multinational corporations—who spend a lot of money to avoid having any “taxable” income—would have to share proportionally in paying the toll for their traffic on the economic highway and their use of the People's courts and institutions to enforce their contracts and to facilitate their profits. Why should so many of the

largest corporations completely escape the payment of any taxes?

It is likely that the federal government could operate on the revenues produced by a simple transaction tax of far less than five percent on the movement of all money. As a result, the payment of taxes would shift from individuals and small businesses to large corporations, and from the laboring poor to the wealthy elite.

Envision the effect of a slight touch every time money moves, a tiny ka-ching in the U.S. Treasury's cash register, every day, which in the aggregate could quickly add up to trillions of dollars each year. How nice it would be to have Congress first decide what the People of the United States want, need, and expect from their government and to then calculate what the toll tax rate should be to produce the revenue required to pay for it. The result would be significant; public debt could be eliminated, and the United States could finally achieve a balanced budget every year.

Imagine that most people would only have to pay an annual tax rate of a few percent on their spending (income). Of course, the transaction tax would result in a small increase in the overall cost of the goods and services people purchase; however, the

toll would apply to all financial transactions, including the purchase of limousines, helicopters, and mansions by the wealthy—including President Trump—who rely on every imaginable scheme to avoid having any “income” upon which to pay taxes.

Those who enjoy luxuries would pay more for them, and those who gamble in the money markets would have to pay the house for their visit to the economic casino.

In a regulatory sense, a universal financial toll tax would operate somewhat like the income tax in that individuals and corporations would have to prepare an annual tax report, rather than as a sales tax where the revenue is collected at the point of purchase. For most individuals, small businesses, and corporations, the preparation of tax returns would be greatly simplified.

A transaction tax was believed to pose impossible accounting problems when first proposed by James Tobin 40 years ago; however, computer technology now allows for the instantaneous calculation and posting of all financial transactions. Just as the income tax contributions of workers are withheld from their payroll checks every week, it should be possible for the tax on corporate financial transactions to be paid every single day at the close of

business. The practice would make for more honest and fair dealings all the way around.

The People do not have to willingly endure corrupt government and unfair taxation. Those who pay the taxes must make the essential decisions about the methods of taxation and the level of payment. Otherwise, the People live in slavery and any freedoms are illusionary.

THE BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

The economy, like everything else in life, operates best when it is allowed the freedom of making informed choices, as a result of deliberative thinking, rather than reckless gambling.

Accomplishing everything that must be done within the next few years—if atmospheric warming is to be reversed and a balanced environment restored—will require economic resources at least equivalent to that being presently wasted on militarization and warfare.

With universal tolerance and responsible governments, a free and fair enterprise system should produce the goods and services required to allow the environment to be stabilized and for the evolution of Mankind into Mindkind. Unified and creative think-

ing will be required, and the product will be astounding.

RESTORING THE BALANCE OF MOTHER EARTH'S ENVIRONMENT

It is here in the last of the Evolution Papers that we can engage in some creative thinking to imagine practical projects that can be done to quickly restore the earth's environmental balance. The few papers offered here propose generating energy from outer space; using it to energize the national highways providing free transportation; and designing ultra-safe small, interchangeable nuclear-generators to replace all coal-burning plants in five years and all carbon-burning facilities within ten years.

A MIRACULOUS SOURCE OF ABUNDANT ENERGY

Space-solar energy is the greatest source of untapped energy which could, potentially, completely solve the world's energy and greenhouse gas emission problems. The sun will shine for another 4-5 billion years, and the earth only receives one part in 2.3 billion of the sun's total energy. There is a colossal amount of safe energy waiting to be collected and distributed.

The technology currently exists, much of it off-the-shelf, to launch solar-collector satellites into geostationary orbits around the Earth to convert the

Sun's radiant energy into electricity 24 hours a day and to safely transmit the electricity by microwave beams to rectifying antennas on Earth.

Following its proposal by Dr. Peter Glaser in 1968, the concept of solar power satellites was extensively studied by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). By 1981, the organizations determined that the idea was a high-risk venture; however, they recommended further study.

With increases in electricity demand and costs, NASA took a "fresh look" at the concept between 1995 and 1997. The NASA study envisioned a trillion-dollar project to place several dozen solar-power satellites in geostationary orbits by 2050, sending between two gigawatts and five gigawatts of power to Earth.

The project may have remained shelved except for the military's need for sources of energy in its campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan, where the cost of gasoline and diesel exceeds \$400 a gallon. A report by the Department of Defense's National Security Space Office in 2007 recommended that the U.S. "begin a coordinated national program" to develop space-based solar power.

There are three basic engineering problems presented in the deployment of a space-based solar power system: the size, weight and capacity of solar collectors to absorb energy; the ability of robots to assemble solar collectors in outer space; and the cost and reliability of lifting collectors and robots into space.

Two of these problems have been substantially solved since space-solar power was originally proposed. New thin-film advances in the design of solar collectors have steadily improved, allowing for increases in the efficiency of energy conversion and decreases in size and weight. At the same time, industrial robots have been greatly improved and are now used extensively in heavy manufacturing to perform complex tasks.

In 2018, California Institute of Technology scientists completed a prototype unit for collecting and transmitting solar energy. There are three main components to the lightweight tiles: optical reflectors to concentrate the sunlight; photovoltaic cells to convert the sunlight to electricity; and integrated circuits to convert the electricity into radiofrequency energy and to transmit the wave energy through an attached antenna. At 1.5 kilograms per square meter, the lightweight tiles can be robotically assembled with

others to work in concert in harvesting solar power and transmitting it to receivers on Earth.

The remaining problem is the expense of lifting equipment and materials into space. The last flights of the space shuttle cost \$20,000 per kilogram of payload to move satellites into orbit and to resupply the space station. Since the U.S. retired its space shuttle in 2011, it has primarily relied on a contract with Russia to lift its supplies and crews into orbit, at a present cost of almost \$75 million per seat on the Soyuz, for a total of more than \$3.36 billion.

SpaceX has demonstrated the ability of its Falcon rockets to lift its Dragon cargo spacecraft, and the ability to return the first stage booster to a landing pad for reuse and recycling. The Boeing Starliner is also preparing for uncrewed flight testing for certification to commencing lifting to the space station.

It has been estimated that economic viability of space solar energy would require a reduction in the payload cost to less than \$200 per kilogram. The present cost of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket to lift one kilogram to the space station is \$2,720 (a considerable reduction from space shuttle costs).

Although there are substantial costs associated with the development of space-solar power, it makes far more sense to invest precious public resources in

the development of an efficient and reliable power supply for the future, rather than to waste tax dollars on an ineffective missile defense system, a Space Force, an ego trip to Mars, or risky loan guarantees to the nuclear power industry to continue constructing large and unsafe generators.

An agreement between California Institute of Technology and defense contractor Northrop Grumman in 2015 released up to \$17.5 million for research into space solar power innovations. The Caltech team has successfully tested their proof of concept that their modular roll out array of photovoltaic prototypes could collect and wirelessly transmit solar energy.

China is currently investing \$35 billion of its hard-currency reserves in the development of energy-efficient green technology and has become the world's leading producer of solar panels. In addition, China has aggressively moved into space by orbiting astronauts and by demonstrating a capability to destroy the satellites of other nations. Chinese scientists at the Chongqing Collaborative Innovative Research Institute of Civil-Military Integration are currently developing and testing orbital photovoltaic arrays in a massive effort to place a solar power station in orbit by 2050.

Japan has committed \$21 billion to secure space-solar energy. By 2030, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency plans to “put into geostationary orbit a solar-power generator that will transmit one gigawatt of energy to Earth, equivalent to the output of a large nuclear power plant.” Japanese officials estimate that, ultimately, they will be able to deliver electricity at a cost of \$0.09 per kilowatt-hour, which will be competitive with all other sources.

Only by comparison to present military spending can we envision the political will and economic ability to redirect military spending of between \$36 billion and \$3.4 trillion required to pay for a space-based solar energy system.

We can build the system, but how will we distribute and use the power?

POWERING GROUND TRANSPORTATION IN THE SPACE AGE

To force the American and foreign automobile industry to meet future transportation needs, the Interstate Highway System and most major streets and highways in America should be reconstructed in a massive five-year upgrade of the transportation infrastructure to provide a constant source of

electromagnetic energy sufficient to power a standard passenger car anywhere in America at no cost to the operator.

The technology exists to design hybrid cars to operate primarily on batteries recharged by electromagnetic energy supplied by a mutual inductance interface embedded under the surface of all highways and freeways. Home charging stations can maintain a battery charge with a range of several hundred miles should the grid fail, or when traveling over local streets that have yet to be connected to the grid.

Americans should be able to travel for free throughout the United States as a benefit of self-government. Workers could get to their jobs without having to slave an hour each day just to pay for getting there. Everyone would have more money to spend on vacations, and would be able to tour the country, see the grand sights, and visit with friends and relatives along the way.

In addition to freeways for passenger cars, dedicated truckways could be constructed for the operation of battery-tractors controlling trains of individually powered, and regeneratively braked, trailers. Commercial traffic would pay a toll for the recharging of its batteries and use of the truckways.

If America initially dedicated its space solar power to energizing its national highways, the U.S. could begin to restrict the future use of its remaining fossil fuels to the manufacturing of synthetic materials and purposes other than energy. Ultimately, the entire national economy could be powered by space solar power, augmented by small modular nuclear reactors, and renewable sources of energy, such as surface solar and wind power systems.

Although there are substantial costs associated with the development of space solar power, it makes far more sense to spend the space exploration budget on developing an efficient and reliable power supply for the future, than upon stupid weapons of war.

SAFE NUCLEAR ENERGY

The world would be a far different place today had the nations of the world adhered to the agreement they signed in 1928 renouncing War as an Instrument of National Policy. World War II would not have started, as many as 100 million people would not have died, and the United States would not have invented and deployed nuclear weapons against the Japanese people.

Imagine how different history might have turned out. All the industrial nations might have peacefully developed nuclear power in a more cooperative manner reducing substantially the amount of carbon dioxide discharged into the atmosphere over the past 75 years. The earth's climatic balance would not be out of whack, and humanity would not be facing the threat of nuclear war. More telling, the use of nuclear energy to produce electrical power would not carry the stigma it presently does over the fear of misuse of its waste products by terrorists. If we had it all to do over again, what might we have done differently?

During the Cold War following World War II, the United States and its allies and the Soviet Union aggressively developed stocks of both nuclear and thermonuclear weapons deliverable by intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of destroying all human life on Earth. Humanity has lived with the threat of imminent nuclear destruction for more than a half century, and it does not appear to be any closer to eliminating war than it was almost a century ago, when it was renounced.

Postwar, and principally looking at the nuclear power policies and decisions of the United States, we find two lines of deployment decisions. From the first, the U.S. Navy developed a series of nuclear en-

gines to power submarines, cruisers, and ultimately aircraft carriers. It settled on a modular pressurized-water reactor in which the coolant water does not boil, but it is maintained under high pressure, allowing the nuclear generated heat to transfer to steam plants which drive the ships. The reactors are completely self-contained and produce no airborne waste-products. They continue to operate throughout the lifetime of the ship, and their fuel rods do not have to be replaced. All waste is contained within the reactor and disposed of when the reactor is replaced, or the ship is decommissioned. There has never been a fatal accident in the U.S. Navy involving nuclear power.

Underwritten by Congressional legislation that imposed limits on liability, the private nuclear power industry in the United States initially constructed small nuclear-powered plants. The size and output of plants quickly increased, however, as it was believed less expensive to build and operate fewer large gigawatt facilities, than a series of smaller, modular units. Initially envisioned as operating 1,000 reactors in the United States by 2000, the first reactor to produce electricity to the U.S. grid came online in 1958. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission was established to oversee the development and deployment of domestic nuclear power.

Because its liability was capped by legislation, the nuclear power industry decided to construct and operate massive gigawatt facilities, even though they presented greater risks of an uncontrolled nuclear reaction and meltdown and the problem of storage and disposal of waste fuel rods. Thinking that these problems would be solved down the road, the large plants were built, and the expended fuel rods began to accumulate in cooling ponds at the generation sites. Fuel rods can be reprocessed into other forms of nuclear fuel, but the cost of reprocessing currently exceeds that of the initial manufacture.

Partially out of a societal fear of nuclear weapons during the Cold War, and the decisions by the power industry to construct large facilities with massive waste problems, concerted public opposition to nuclear power plants began to take shape by the 1960s and the general anti-war movement of the time. Protests about the fears of nuclear accidents, nuclear terrorism and proliferation, the high cost of nuclear plants, and the disposal of radioactive waste products continued through the 1970s and 1980s. A dozen plants were shut down, and construction plans for new plants were scraped, as it became less expensive and politically difficult to operate gas and coal fired facilities.

Of the original 253 nuclear plants ordered, only 132 were built, and of those only 27 percent have avoided failure for a year or more, and 34 have been permanently shut down. There are currently 98 large commercial nuclear reactors operating in the United States. They produce almost 20 percent of the U.S. total electrical generation, making the United States the world's largest producer of commercial nuclear energy.

Currently, most people (54%) in the United States oppose nuclear power and are not in favor of building new power plants. These objections primarily result from the decision to construct large, expensive, and environmentally dangerous megawatt nuclear plants, instead of the simpler, smaller, and safer modular designs adopted by the U.S. Navy.

Over the past ten years, there has been a renaissance of interest in the design and deployment of advanced small modular reactors (SMRs). Ideally, SMRs can be manufactured in a factory, with fuel rods installed, sealed, delivered to a site, installed safely below ground, and brought online with far less maintenance and refueling than required by large water reactors. These SMRs range in size up to 300 megawatts; major components can be fabricated and

shipped to the much-simplified plant sites for assembly.

In addition to the generation of power, these smaller, self-contained reactors can be used for heating, desalination of water, production of hydrogen, and other industrial applications. Their durability and compactness allow them to be deployed in remote areas where there is a shortage of power generation, and their modular design allows them to be installed in series to produce increased levels of power as needed.

The current generation of SMRs is being designed with inherent and passive safety features that require a minimum of human control, allowing SMRs to be deployed in remote areas where the availability of trained operators may be limited.

Most nuclear reactors currently use water to cool the fuel core, but new designs are considering other coolants, including liquid metal and molten salt. Other experimental designs make direct use of thermal energy, rather than water-steam, to produce electricity. Some designs include fast reactors that convert feeder uranium into plutonium that can be used as a fuel in other reactors, or reprocessed and fed back into the same fast reactor.

There are an estimated 62,500 power plants operating in the world today, with coal remaining as the largest source of global power generation. The global coal capacity nearly doubled between 2000 and 2018, and it continues to grow, albeit more slowly. Overall, the number of coal-burning plants continues to fall, as the number of plants being retired increases. Although China accounted for two-thirds of new coal-fired generation capacity in 2018, it also scored the largest increase in solar and wind generation for the year. China is the top emitter of carbon dioxide; however, on a per capita basis, the United States and Canada remain the top offenders.

If humanity is to significantly reduce the amount of carbon being released into the atmosphere, it must eliminate the burning of fossil fuels in the production of electrical energy, and it must do so in the near term of less than ten years, rather than over a period of decades. There is only one way to accomplish this objective, and that is to completely replace all coal-burning plants within five years, and all other gas and oil burning plants within ten years. Accomplishing this goal will require each of the major polluting nations to identify a basic, standard SMR that can be manufactured in multiple factories and installed with the minimum amount of on-site assembly.

Although SMRs can be designed as a simpler version of any of the nuclear technologies, including water and gas cooled reactors, their small size also lends themselves to being produced as “nuclear batteries.” With the nuclear fuel preinstalled, the batteries can be designed to last for 30 to 50 years, whereupon they can be unplugged and replaced.

Thousands of SMRs will have to be quickly installed in the major industrial nations and made available at low cost to developing nations to supply their energy needs. We need to look at how the United States was able to quickly mobilize its industry within a matter of months to commence the manufacture of the tens of thousands of aircraft, transportation vehicles, and ships required to prevail in World War II and to drive the industrial and economic recovery that followed. The crisis of today is just as great, and another economic and industrial miracle can be created, for “where there’s a will, there’s a way.”

Most large commercial nuclear plants cost more than \$7 billion to custom build on each site and generate at least a gigawatt of power, while SMRs range between 60 and 300 megawatts of power. By simplifying SMRs and mass producing them in factories, they can be assembled into series that can more safely

produce the same amount of power as the gigawatt plants, at less cost, economically and environmentally.

China recently brought two large foreign-built reactors into operation. One, a power plant built by Westinghouse incorporates advanced passive safety systems and a simplified plant design, and the other is an advanced Evolutionary Power Reactor built by Framatome in France. In addition, China is on schedule to complete its own domestically designed “third-generation” “Hualong One” large power plant in 2020.

China is also constructing a SMR project to “verify the design, manufacture, construction and operation of the technology and accumulate valuable experience in small nuclear power plants.”

The United States developed an Integral Fast Reactor, which could run on nuclear waste, during the Clinton administration. For reasons yet to be satisfactorily explained, the administration stopped supporting work on the reactor, and Congress eliminated funding in 1994, three years before it was scheduled for completion. The mechanics of the fast reactor are now a part of the “new” generation of safe reactor design under current consideration.

The United States Office of Nuclear Energy is presently “supporting” the development of light water-cooled SMRs, under the licensing review of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, for deployment in 10 to 15 years.

The immediate design, manufacture, and deployment of thousands of SMRs to replace all carbon burning electrical generation within five to ten years is critical to human survival. There is no higher priority.

If we can imagine replacing all fossil fuel burning plants with safe plug-and-replace nuclear battery reactors, can we also imagine a world free from the fear of terrorism or militaristic use of such technology. With that new-found freedom, can we also anticipate a proliferation of ever-smaller, life-time nuclear batteries, without the limitations and dangers of chemical batteries, including lithium-ion.

SEEDING THE SUNSCREEN

Eliminating the generation of electricity by burning fossil fuels would produce the good news of reducing the amount of emitted carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, resulting in a gradual slowing of global warming; however, the bad news is that the

corresponding reduction or elimination of pollution particles also emitted by coal-burning plants and gasoline-fueled automobiles would actually result in a rapid increase in global temperatures. This is because the emitted aerosols rise into the stratosphere where they act as an umbrella, reflecting sunlight and cooling the surface. Without the heavy load of existing pollution, the average temperature of the earth would be 0.5 to 1.1 degree Celsius higher. These aerosols are very short-acting, being washed out of the atmosphere by rain and other precipitation within a matter of weeks or months.

Geoengineering research has been conducted into the feasibility of injecting aerosol particles, principally precursor sulfide gases such as sulfuric acid, hydrogen sulfide, or sulfur dioxide into the lower stratosphere at around 60,000 feet. It has been estimated that a fleet of 100 specially equipped airplanes could spray sulphate particles in a sustained effort to moderate atmospheric warming over the long term. The process would have to be delicate, rather than ham-handed, inasmuch as the environmental effects are difficult to predict, and there is the risk of creating unintended extreme weather events.

Commercial jet airplanes travel under 45,000 feet; however, the combined effect of their contrails,

visibly laced across the sky, has been shown to reflect sunlight and to reduce the atmospheric temperature. It is not difficult to imagine a future in which all airliners are cooperatively equipped with a simple, computerized dispenser to release an aerosol spray in its wake as determined by atmospheric models of warming and weather conditions. Although not dispensed at the higher more-optimum height, the computer-knitted aerosol canopy might serve to reduce the increase of global warming in the near term and to moderate it in the future.

MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE

One of the first things that can be done immediately to mitigate the harm being done to the environment is to end the government subsidies that encourage and allow the harmful acts to continue. The United States pays more than \$20 billion each year in direct subsidies to the fossil fuel industry and another \$20 billion in agricultural subsidies. The European Union subsidizes the fossil fuel industry at €55 billion, and almost 38 percent of its annual budget goes toward supporting agriculture. Instead of subsidizing harmful behavior, those funds could be directed toward the task of removing the existing excess carbon from the atmosphere—a task that will

remain to be done, even if we stop adding carbon to the problem.

Technologically, there are numerous solutions that can contribute to balancing and restoring the cooling cycle, but they all require political and social will. The science is there, and the scientists are trained and waiting, to provide the answers that are essential to survival.

THE SUSTAINABLE GROWING OF FOOD

The collective agreement to gather, store, and share food has done more, perhaps, than any other event to organize and define our human society. Think about it. Every single one of us spends a good portion of our time and money every day thinking about, obtaining, preparing, cooking, serving and eating food, as often as three times a day. We must drink water even more frequently. Such is the essence of life.

In the world of most who will read this, this daily drive to drink water and eat requires less of our time and energy than say, the starving millions in the world who are clinging to life by their fingertips. Most of us go about our lives happily doing whatever it is that earns us a living, and we spend what we earn

making the best life possible for ourselves and those who depend on us.

That necessity of having enough fresh water and food every day is essential to every single one of us, and we are all equally threatened, no matter how well off we might be. Every bit of safety could be eliminated in a flash, a nanosecond, by a cyber-attack, as collateral damage in the new electronic warfare being fought over the Internet. All the savings, retirement, and foreign accounts, documents, plans, everything gone, wiped clean, irretrievably lost, worldwide. Money becomes worthless, and nothing works. Those starving in the jungles could find themselves better off than the people in the cities.

With all the extreme weather threats already built into the warming environment, there will be scarce food to feed the existing population during the next 30 years, much less the predicted increase of another three billion in the world population by 2050. The unavoidable and unjust fact is that the scythe of starvation will first slice through those in Africa and South and Central America who contributed the least to global warming, and who are the most defenseless in avoiding their fate. One out of every nine people on Earth today is hungry and undernourished; how are we to feed more with less in the future?

The answers to that critical question is beyond the scope of this paper and resides in other minds. Whether we end up eating lab-grown food from great vats of bacteria, or we decide to collectively impose upon ourselves, a fair and equal rationing of some of the foods we've been oversold as being evidence and requirements of the good life, including beef, pork, poultry, fish, and dairy products. As the cost of these foods increases, only the wealthy will be able to afford to eat them, in the absence of a reduced, but fair distribution, that could include the banning of advertisements for the promotion and sale of meat products.

Humans evolved eating a healthy plant-based diet supplemented with occasional small portions of animal protein, and it is to that healthy diet we must surely return, if we are to continue living the best and most joyful life possible.

THE END

Have we all gone mad? Are we doomed? Are we over the hill, and on the downward slippery slope of slick lies and clueless clichés? Or, are we undergoing what every sentient being does, wherever situated, once it becomes aware of the exponentially creative power of its collective mind and cooperative potential in the universe and eternity?

Is there always this tension, a moral and intellectual struggle between the latent intolerance and violence of life, and the tolerance and peace that can only be achieved by evolving minds? No matter how successful individuals are at becoming self-aware, or how many people learn self-knowledge, the human species will never have the ability or power to fly from its Garden of Earth, without achieving a universal understanding of tolerance and undergoing an evolution of mind.

Without repeating the descriptions of horrible suffering that will surely result from the deadly threats indicted in the Extinction Papers, or reliving the exciting alternative remedies in the Evolution Papers, we are

left with this remaining question. How do we achieve this miraculous transformation, practically?

There is only one way. The young people living today will either endure great suffering under the most extreme climatic conditions imaginable, leading to a great die off, within their lifetimes, or, they will collectively do what must be done to reduce the threats of extinction, and to continue with the peaceful and joyful evolution of life and mind. Of course, young people cannot perform this transformation alone, and they will require the strength, knowledge, wisdom, and caring support of every one of us who will not be around to witness either the carnage, or the celebrations in 2050.

Every single person, irrespective of age, inherently possesses universal Rights of Liberty, among which is the right to live under a constitutional self-government to which one consents. Young people may not have the ability to immediately overcome societal, racial, national, language, and religious intolerance—which may take a little while longer—but young people do have the social, media, and political power to immediately unite together and to peacefully transform their governments into more tolerant ones that will take better care of their people, whose consent to be governed can never be taken for granted.

Every government, no matter how despotic, relies on the appearance of democratic voting for legitimacy. The individual vote—the act of voting—the actual physical ballot cast, is the key to achieving rapid change in government. The process must be transparent, and voting must be effective, as each ballot cast is a trust that consent to govern is conditional upon political promises being kept.

The will of the People cannot be denied. The People will either prevail and obtain a government of their own choice, peacefully, by voting, or else governments will fail, violently.

wjc

Long Beach, California

January 19, 2020

17. These papers on extinction and evolution were quickly drafted during the past six weeks, and this will be the last book ever written by these tired old hands. So, whether I die today, next week, or 20 years from now, the literary legacy listed in my obituary will be the same. With publication of *The Choices of Mind: Extinction or Evolution?* my books now number around a dozen, including *The Way of Righteousness: A Revealing History and Reconciliation of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* and *The Gift of Mind Series* of little paperback books, of which *Choices* was the fifth and last.

At my age, the question of my remaining years is more than the tally of an ever-decreasing number of possibilities, as I yearn to live long enough to see a happy and productive future unfold for our grandchildren. I am almost 79 years of age, and my first great-granddaughter was just born, and there is another great-grand one due in May.

Looking out through the tired eyes of this weary, worn, wrinkled, and battered old body, I remain that lonely little boy who lost his mother on this day 74 years ago, and who has searched everywhere, ever since, for the sense of it all—the meaning and purpose of life and mind—asking, always, what and why? The various collections of papers I've accumulated and published contain *what* I have learned along the way in answer to my questions, as I've also sought to ascertain the greater truth about the *why* of the various matters I encountered along the way.

I will not know whether my mind will continue beyond my physical existence until my last breath is drawn, my heart stops beating, and the neurons in my brain cease firing. The physiological computer will shut down, and it will then be too late to write a better ending.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The papers in this collection were primarily written and summarized from earlier writings, during a six-week blur of early mornings and long days of work during December into January 2020, as I obsessed about getting *The Choices of Mind* written and published in time to be relevant in the November 2020 elections. Following are the principal sources I consulted, as I reviewed everything I could find on the five deadly crises. I am, as always, indebted to these writers, and the minds and energy of the hundreds of other writers whose work has reached me over the years, as I have studied to learn the truth and striven to remember and write it down correctly. All these contributors have my eternal gratitude, particularly Dr. James Hansen and Dr. Peter Wadhams, whose work was most inspiring and beneficial.

In addition to these written sources, I keep all three of the major search engines up on my computer screens, and I often ask questions as I'm writing, for example, how many "color revolutions" have there been? And, I get the complete list for quick inclusion

in the manuscript, without, alas, a dedicated footnote to Wikipedia, here recognized as a truly amazing and trusted resource.

Generous as always with his professional time and energy, my friend and colleague, Dr. William Younglove quickly proofread and corrected the manuscript before it was formatted for printing. I am entirely responsible, however, for any errors overlooked in the rush to publish.

This book would not have been possible without the loving support and encouragement of my mentor and best friend, Mel Lindsey, a true angel, if ever there was one.

Helen, my gifted wife of 20 years and soulmate for life, remains my patient listener, as I sometimes have a need to read my papers aloud to someone other than myself or my sidekick, Trusty Rusty the Ranger Dog. Helen's observations about intolerance caused its inclusion in the Extinction Papers, and she contributed the thread of tolerance that was woven into "The Metamorphosis of Mind" paper. The melding of our minds generates great happiness in our lives, but it also engenders the vision of an exciting future, and the chance of another 20 years of joy and the games of life, mind, and time.

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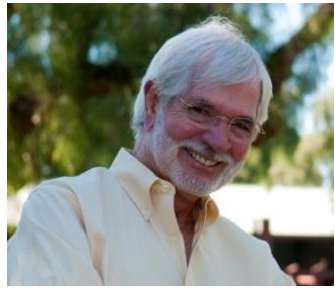
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WILLIAM JOHN COX

For more than 45 years, William John Cox has written extensively on law, politics, philosophy, and the human condition. During this time, he has vigorously pursued a career in law enforcement, public policy, and the law.

As a young police officer, Cox wrote the *Role of the Police in America* as a part of the “New Breed” movement to define and professionalize law enforcement. As an attorney, he worked for the U.S.



Department of Justice to implement national criminal justice standards and goals, prosecuted cases for the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office, and operated a public interest law practice primarily dedicated to the defense of young people.

Cox volunteered *pro bono* services in several landmark legal cases. In 1979, he filed a class-action lawsuit on behalf of all citizens directly in the U.S. Supreme Court alleging that the government no longer represented the voters who elected it.

In 1981, representing a Jewish survivor of Auschwitz, Cox investigated and successfully sued a group of radical right-wing organizations that denied the Holocaust. He later represented a secret client and arranged the publication of almost 1,800 photographs of ancient Dead Sea Scrolls that had been suppressed for more than 40 years.

Cox concluded his legal career in 2007 as a Supervising Trial Counsel for the State Bar of California, where he prosecuted unethical lawyers and criminal gangs engaged in the illegal practice of law.

Continuing to contemplate public policy, political, and philosophical matters since his retirement, Cox has been writing books and creating Internet websites. His digital autobiography is at WilliamJohnCox.com.

