

## Four Ways We Could Contribute to Achieve Peace and Prosperity in the Nuclear Age

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The creation of a “just and peaceful world, free of nuclear weapons” is a pre-condition for the survival of human civilization and for the expansion of freedom and prosperity all over the world. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, is right when he said that “The clouds that parted following the end of the Cold War are gathering once more. We have been extraordinarily lucky so far. But luck is not a strategy. Nor is it a shield from geopolitical tensions boiling over into nuclear conflict. Today, humanity is just one misunderstanding, one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation.”

Dr. Ivana Hughes and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF, <https://www.wagingpeace.org>) she leads has done a wonderful job writing a letter to each leader of the G7, urging them to use this gathering in Hiroshima, the Japanese city that witnessed the horrors of nuclear weapons in 1945, to meaningfully engage in nuclear disarmament and to prevent the end of civilization, by signing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, to assume historic responsibility for global warming by a commitment to nuclear disarmament as an opportunity to address both threats, and to solve the problem by diverting current and future spending on nuclear weapons to climate change mitigation.

Today, there are nearly 13,000 nuclear warheads in the world, most of them are more destructive than the bomb used in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. The United States and Russia each possesses over 5,000 nuclear warheads, constituting the largest stockpiles. All nuclear powers are spending huge amounts of resources to update this system of self-destruction. The U.S. plans up to \$2 trillion on its nuclear arsenal modernization. Can nuclear war be won by any superpower? The answer is definitively NO! The U.S. could NOT win a nuclear war over Russia because the later possess more warheads and delivery systems. The U.S. theoretically could possibly win over China in a nuclear war because it possesses over 15 times more warheads than China (about 300 warheads), or any other country; however, the post-victory “nuclear winter” with wide spread of radioactive dust, fires and reductions in food production due to pollution, will soon lead to widespread starvation and death caused by cancer and other diseases, in an Armageddon-like scenario that SURELY will destroy all life forms in the U.S. as well. In fact, you do NOT need a nuclear confrontation among U.S., Russia and China to end all life forms on the Planet Earth. Accidental explosion of about 100 warheads from lesser nuclear powers such as France and Britain could easily turn the Planet Earth into an Armageddon as biblically described. Therefore, the winners, together with all life forms on the Planet Earth, will be exterminated in the same fate as the losers.

How about “peaceful use of nuclear energy?” The clear answer is that “nuclear energy” is equally dangerous. The nuclear plant accident in Chernobyl during Soviet time (1986) and another disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Ōkuma, Fukushima, Japan (2011), have both clearly demonstrated the ultimate danger of the so-called “peaceful use of nuclear energy.” Therefore, besides nuclear disarmament, we also need to gradually phase out our dependency on nuclear plants, and replace them with solar, wind, tidal, hydraulic and other sustainable, more reliable and non or less threatening energy sources.

All of the above being correct, nuclear disarmament and decommissioning of nuclear energy plants will not happen unless we first solve several important problems in the current international systems of politics, economics, cultural values and others. We will explore some of these issues based on political

wisdoms accumulated over several thousand years of human history, and scientific and rational analysis of the shortcomings of the current systems and some practical solutions acceptable by all parties.

### **Number One: Promoting political reconciliation among the Three Big Nuclear Powers and an immediate and unconditional moratorium to the further development of nuclear weapons**

First of all, the Three Big Nuclear Powers, in terms of possession of nuclear weapons plus nuclear energy-generating plants, i.e., the U.S., Russia, and China, especially the U.S. and Russia with more than 5,000 warheads each, capable of annihilating all life forms on the Planet Earth several dozen times, should make sure that they will (1) mutually respect the core interests of each other, especially in terms of legitimate geopolitical concerns for national security, political and economic systems, history and values, state sovereignty and territorial integrity; (2) safeguard their stockpiles of warheads and launching platforms against any possibilities of terrorist attacks and incidents; (3) prevent any “cut-throat” and malicious economic, political and cultural rivalries from escalating into military confrontation that might lead to a nuclear war; and (3) negotiate for a long-term international treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons all together. The peoples and governments of all nuclear powers, big or small, must recognize that, there shall be no winner in a nuclear war among them. Before an international treaty could be implemented, there should be an immediate and unconditional moratorium to further development of nuclear weapons.

To allow the Three Big Nuclear Powers to talk to each other, there should be (1) a non-military solution to end Russia-Ukraine conflict; (2) an economic solution to end the trade war between the U.S. and China; and (3) a negotiated solution to the Taiwan Issue between the U.S. and China, as soon as possible. Elon Musk from Tesla has recently offered some realistic ideas on how to end the above conflicts. The U.S. political elites better listen to what Elon has to say. All reports from the battlegrounds in Ukraine, all statistics about trade between U.S. and China, and all War Games in the Taiwan Strait including the most recent one in the U.S. House of Representatives (2023) and analysis of military balance of power, indicate that continuation of the above rivalries and conflict will not bring any benefit to any of the Three Big Nuclear Powers. They only cause inflation, homelessness, breakdown of the American Dream at home, as well as suffering, death, and destruction of social infrastructures abroad. All of these caused domestic social discontent and breakdown of international trust in American economy and in the values of U.S. dollars. As a matter of fact, since the start of war in Ukraine, U.S. policy is supported mainly by NATO allies, but most of the developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America stay neutral or are sympathetic to Russia; some important regional players such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Brazil have signed deals with China and Russia, and among themselves to conduct bilateral trade with their own currencies, not with U.S. dollars. This is unprecedentedly and immediately threatening to America’s world-wide economic dominance. Henry Kissinger has in recent years warned about the danger of U.S.-China confrontation. Professor John Mearsheimer at the University of Chicago, a leading scholar on international politics, has also presented in-depth analysis of the root causes of the war in Ukraine and ideas about its solution (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qciVozNtCDM> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfk-qaqP2Ws>). Therefore, new approaches must be entertained by policy-makers; and a negotiated peace plan acceptable by both Russia and Ukraine is the only viable solution. We must start switching from wasteful military over-spending into profitable economic spending, providing the Military Industrial Complex financial incentives, such as subsidize, tax cut and even direct government investment, to convert their death machines into equipment for the infrastructure construction projects, to rebuild America’s crumbling highways, power plants and other facilities that have been built several decades ago.

After the end of the U.S.-Soviet Cold War on December 25, 1991, the peoples in the world do not need a new cold war between the U.S. and China, or a series of regional wars, or much worse, a hot war between the U.S. and Russia, either a direct confrontation or a “proxy” one. They aspire to enjoy peace dividends which have not been realized yet. Due to the mistakes of the politicians, we have allowed unnecessary wars to take place in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yugoslavia, and Ukraine, wasting trillions of dollars, which

should be spent to satisfy human needs through development of ecologically-sustainable, profitable and prosperous peace time economy.

### **Number Two: Promoting a global moratorium on nuclear power plants**

In addition, the Three Big Nuclear Powers, with the most extensive use of nuclear power plants, should make sure that they will (1) safeguard their nuclear power plants against any possibilities of terrorist attacks and incidents; and (2) negotiate for a long-term international treaty to gradually replace all energy-generating nuclear power plants with non-polluting energy sources (solar, wind, tidal, hydraulic and others). Before an international treaty could be implemented, there should be (1) an immediate and unconditional moratorium to construction of new nuclear energy facilities, and (2) increased investment on R&D and usage of non-polluting sources. The Three Big Nuclear Powers and the rest of the world must negotiate a plan to replace nuclear power plants with investment in renewable energy sources, through a global-wide partnership between public and private sectors. This shall also contribute to the growth of global economy, which will benefit the Three Big Nuclear Powers and the rest of the world.

### **Number Three: Promoting global economic cooperation and interdependence**

Politics alone cannot safeguard world peace. "It is the economy, stupid." The shortcomings in the global system of economics are actually the key factors causing wars. There is a wide gap among the developed world (U.S. and allies, plus China), the undeveloped world (most of countries in Asia, Africa, Pacific Islands and Latin America), and somewhere in between, semi-developed world (Russian Federation and Eastern Europe). The developed world is a "done deal;" there is little room for large-scale growth at home; the undeveloped world is like a "blank sheet of paper on which to create the most beautiful drawing." China's Belt and Road Initiative for Africa and other Third World countries is aimed at achieving this goal and so far, it has succeeded in strengthening China's trade relations with many countries. President Biden's promised Build Back the World Better and European Union's proposed Global Gates are also aimed at the same target; and the whole world is expecting their kickstarts and outcomes. We need to seek a political and diplomatic solution to end Russia-Ukraine conflict as soon as possible, so that we can redirect our limited financial resources to peaceful growth of economy and expansion of prosperity into developing and semi-developed nations. History has shown that economic problems are the most important causes for all devastating wars. These problems could be (1) economic collapse (rise and expansion of Genghis Khan's Mongolian Empire due to shortage of resources, rise of Hitler and Nazi Germany due to inflation caused by payment of war compensation, violent end of the Czarist Russian Empire due to participation in World War One causing economic collapse); and (2) unfair distribution of social wealth (Chinese Civil War between Nationalists and Communists, Civil Wars in Cuba, Nicaragua, Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia between conservatives and leftists). "A house divided cannot stand." Economic stagnation in the developed world and near collapse in Ukraine, Syria Afghanistan, Sudan and other places of military conflict, all contributes to the disintegration of the global economic system. We need enlightened political leaders who promote global economic integration or "Globalization" to facilitate the growth of world economy, not narrow-minded demagogues who preach "decoupling" under the smokescreen of "national security." As history has shown, economic segregation is a major cause of international conflict, while economic integration creates large-scale regional or even global human communities of shared destiny, where nations co-prosper as interdependent partners. Countries with interdependent relations are not likely to go to war, as demonstrated by the peaceful co-existence and co-prosperity of Western Europe after World War Two thanks to American-led or supported economic, political, cultural and military integration under NATO and EU. The same countries were cradles of both World Wars because of inter-European economic rivalries and political conflicts, or lack of continental integration. The former Yugoslavia disintegrated for similar reasons; after World War Two, Marshall Tito founded the multi-ethnic state called Yugoslavia; but instead of promoting economic integration of all member republics, he promoted local economic "autonomy" which is actually "segregation;" after the death of the Strong Man, due to the lack of economic interdependence, member republics started to break away, leading to brutal civil wars and disintegration of Yugoslavia. The

downfall of the former Soviet Union and of the Warsaw Pact is by and large due to similar reasons; although the Soviet Communist Party preached “proletarian internationalism” and talk about “egalitarian” and “fraternal” relations among the nations, in reality it practiced Great Russian ultra-nationalistic Chauvinism and Czarist-style territorial expansionism and imperialism, in dealing with non-Russians inside the Soviet Union and with Eastern European satellite states; the Soviet Empire’s political elites relied on brutal totalitarian means to put its subjects under tight control, but have failed to establish genuinely egalitarian but interdependent economic relationships among all nations in Eastern Bloc; therefore, its eventual breakdown is inevitable.

In the United States, Great Britain, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, despite of the negative legacy from the past history of colonial empires and racism, the English-speaking peoples of the Five Eye League nations have, since the end of World War Two, made genuine efforts at remedying the mistakes of the past, through domestic affirmative actions and foreign aid for developing nations, and have succeeded in establishing the basic framework for racial, ethnic, economic and political integrations, which constitutes the foundation for further progress of the Anglo-American Civilization, in both domestic and international dimensions.

Therefore, world-wide economic integration through Globalization is good for peace and prosperity.

On the basis of global wide economic growth, we also need to promote social justice in terms of narrowing the gap between the haves and the have-nots, dismantling the New Berlin Wall separating the rich and the poor, providing opportunities for entrepreneurship to average citizens, improving social services for the needy, and guaranteeing the growth of purchasing power of the masses of people all over the world, so as to promote sustainable growth of world economy. These constitute the pre-conditions for American economic expansion beyond the borders of the developed world.

### **Number Four: Constructing the Global Village through spiritual and cultural integrations**

In a lot of instances, mutual misunderstanding of cultural values also contributes to confrontations, conflict and wars. These “values” are reflective of diverse aspirations of diverse groups in human societies in different geographic areas or during different periods of time. They could include religions, ideologies, political traditions, social customs, and lifestyles. They all include positive and constructive as well as negative and destructive factors; but none of them is sacrosanct as a “fundamentalist” or dogmatic system. We need to promote free exchange of ideas, tolerance for different positions but genuine endeavors to narrow down the differences through mutually agreeable concessions and compromises, pursuit of common grounds and consensus, so as to promote the integration of all positive factors and removal of all negative ones, for the construction of the Global Village, the One World of peace and freedom, for all members of human race to enjoy the Four Freedoms proposed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, i.e., freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. To achieve the goals of a Global Village with Four Freedoms, we must undergo a spiritual revival through the shift of our philosophical paradigm from the outdated garbage of narrow-minded, backward-looking and regressive nationalism, isolationism, ideological dogmatism and extremism, “religious” fanaticism and terrorism, to the updated ideals of broad-minded, forward-looking and progressive humanitarianism, globalism, international cooperation and interdependence.

### **My contributions to the cause of peace and freedom**

My contributions to the above four endeavors for achieving peace and freedom in the nuclear age would be (1) writing research papers, feature stories, news reports, creating cartoons, illustrations and artworks, and (2) publishing them in my own website (<https://n8b.weebly.com/>), in Los Angeles City College’s Collegian mass media, and other news media, especially those dedicated to peace and social justice.

My bi-lingual online media (English and Mandarin Chinese), The New Eight Banners for The One World of Peace and Freedom (<https://n8b.weebly.com/>) is dedicated to the publication of news, stories, and artworks that

promote world peace, social justice, the Four Freedoms, ecologically sustainable technology and product design, and healthy lifestyle. Some relevant contents have been published:

- Editorial (<https://n8b.weebly.com/editorials65288310383577065289.html>),
- Opinions (<https://n8b.weebly.com/opinions65288243143532865289.html>)
- Public Policy Advocacies (<https://n8b.weebly.com/public-policy-advocacies6528820844208492591931574200272435265289.html>),
- On Focus (<https://n8b.weebly.com/on-focus652882896628857358053906465289.html>),
- Community News (<https://n8b.weebly.com/community-news652883103821306260323839565289.html>),
- Animal Stories (<https://n8b.weebly.com/animal-stories6528820247299832347822253362593839565289.html>),
- STEM & Innovation (<https://n8b.weebly.com/stem--innovation652883118525216210192603265289.html>),
- Arts Exhibition (<https://n8b.weebly.com/arts-exhibition652883265426415236373527265289.html>)

I plan to launch The New Eight Banners for The One World of Peace and Freedom online media early in October 2023, after I fill all webpages with relevant content materials.

