



Nebraskans for Peace

Nebraska Report

There is no Peace without Justice

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The “Y” Article

On April 8, the prestigious “Woodrow Wilson International Center” in Washington, D.C. quietly released an analysis by two senior special assistants to the Department of Defense’s “Joint Chiefs of Staff” on America’s strategic role in the 21st century.

Writing under the pseudonym of “Mr. Y” and claiming to speak for no one but themselves, Navy Captain Wayne Porter and Marine Colonel Mark “Puck” Mykleby outlined in “A National Strategic Narrative” what *Foreign Policy* magazine described as “the Pentagon’s secret plan to slash its own budget.”

As the preface to the 13-page “Y” article openly asserts, for the United States to become “the strongest competitor and most influential player in a deeply inter-connected global system,”

we must “invest less in defense and more in sustainable prosperity and the tools of effective global engagement.” Our priorities must shift “from deterrence and defense to civilian engagement and competition.”

“If Mr. Y’s treatise gains traction in Congress and the White House,” Paul Olson notes in his “Speaking Our Peace” column on Page 12, “it will change the whole debate about security and military spending.”

That political “traction” will only occur, however, if the message of the “Y” article is broadly circulated and our elected officials are urged to heed it. The preface to “A National Strategic Narrative” is reprinted on Page 3. The entire document can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/yarticle>.

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Nebraska Report

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Nebraskans for Peace

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Over the next few weeks, President Obama will be making his decision on troop deployments in Afghanistan. Now is the time for him to hear from the world: Time to Exit Afghanistan!

Help us to send this message to the White House:

President Obama: It's time to exit Afghanistan now. Time is money (\$10 billion/month) and it's time to stop wasting it. It's time to bring the troops home.

1. Post the above message and these instructions as your Facebook status
2. Change your profile picture to this:
<http://tinyurl.com/3zhvp26>
3. Like Peace Action:
<http://facebook.com/peaceaction>

Do you use Twitter? Bonus points! After you've pasted the above in Facebook, use the hashtag #Time2Exit and tweet:@BarackObama: This is the year. #Time2exit Afghanistan. \$10 billion a month for an endless war? Like Peace Action! <http://on.fb.me/kvNR2I>

Help spread the word!

Paul Kawika Martin
Policy & Organizing Director, Peace Action

Invest in a Peaceful Tomorrow

*Make a tax-deductible donation
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The Preface to 'A National Strategic Narrative'

by Anne-Marie Slaughter

Bert G. Kerstetter '66 University Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University
Director of Policy Planning, U.S. Department of State, 2009-2011

The United States needs a national strategic narrative. We have a national security strategy, which sets forth four core national interests and outlines a number of dimensions of an overarching strategy to advance those interests in the 21st century world. But that is a document written by specialists for specialists. It does not answer a fundamental question that more and more Americans are asking. Where is the United States going in the world? How can we get there? What are the guiding stars that will illuminate

that encapsulated U.S. power and the structure of the global order for decades. Yet anyone under 30 today, a majority of the world's population, likely has no idea what it means.

Moreover, the U.S. is experiencing its latest round of 'declinism,' the periodic certainty that we are losing all the things that have made us a great nation. In a *National Journal* poll conducted in 2010, 47 percent of Americans rated China's economy as the world's strongest economy, even though today the

In one sentence, the strategic narrative of the United States in the 21st century is that we want to become the strongest competitor and most influential player in a deeply inter-connected global system, which requires that we invest less in defense and more in sustainable prosperity and the tools of effective global engagement.

the path along the way? We need a story with a beginning, middle, and projected happy ending that will transcend our political divisions, orient us as a nation, and give us both a common direction and the confidence and commitment to get to our destination.

These questions require new answers because of the universal awareness that we are living through a time of rapid and universal change. The assumptions of the 20th century, of the U.S. as a bulwark first against fascism and then against communism, make little sense in a world in which World War II and its aftermath is as distant to young generations today as the War of 1870 was to the men who designed the United Nations and the international order in the late 1940s. Consider the description of the U.S. president as "the leader of the free world," a phrase

U.S. economy is still 2½ times larger than the Chinese economy with only 1/6 of the population. Our crumbling roads and bridges reflect a crumbling self-confidence. Our education reformers often seem to despair that we can ever educate new generations effectively for the 21st century economy. Our health care system lags increasingly behind that of other developed nations—even behind British National Health in terms of the respective overall health of the British and American populations.

Against this backdrop, Captain Porter's and Colonel Mykleby's "Y article" could not come at a more propitious time. In 1947 George Kennan published "The Sources of Soviet Conduct" in *Foreign Affairs* under the pseudonym X, so as not to reveal his identity as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer. The X article gave us an

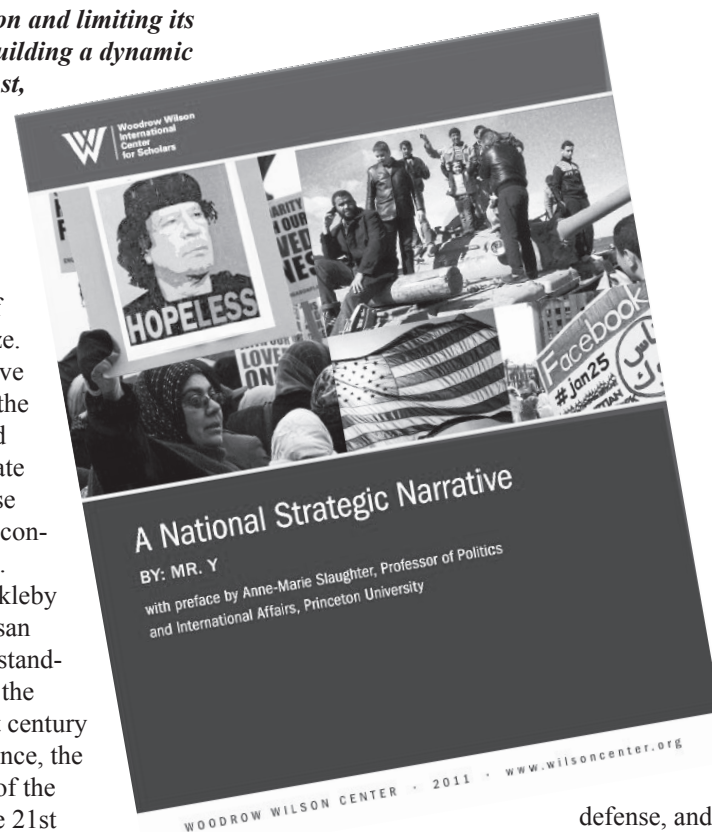
intellectual framework within which to understand the rise and eventual fall of the Soviet Union and a strategy to hasten that objective. Based on that foundation, the strategic narrative of the Cold War was that the United States was *the leader of the free world against the communist world; that we would invest in containing the Soviet Union and limiting its expansion while building a dynamic economy and as just, and prosperous a society as possible*. We often departed from that narrative in practice, as George Kennan was one of the first to recognize. But it was a narrative that fit the facts of the world we perceived well enough to create and maintain a loose bipartisan national consensus for 40 years.

Porter and Mykleby give us a non-partisan blueprint for understanding and reacting to the changes of the 21st century world. In one sentence, the strategic narrative of the United States in the 21st century is that we *want to become the strongest competitor and most influential player in a deeply inter-connected global system, which requires that we invest less in defense and more in sustainable prosperity and the tools of effective global engagement*.

At first reading, this sentence may not seem to mark much of a change. But look closer. The Y article narrative responds directly to five major transitions in the global system:

1) From control in a closed system to credible influence in an open system

The authors argue that Kennan's strategy of containment was designed for a closed system, in which we assumed that we could control events through deterrence,



defense, and dominance of the international system. The 21st century is an open system, in which unpredictable external events/phenomena are constantly disturbing and disrupting the system. In this world control is impossible; the best we can do is to build credible influence—the ability to shape and guide global trends in the direction that serves our values and interests (prosperity and security) within an interdependent stra-

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Military Spending Feeds National Debt

The following op-ed by UNL associate professor of accounting and NFP State Board Member Linda Ruchala appeared in the Wednesday, April 27, 2011, Lincoln Journal Star.

Friday's *Lincoln Journal Star* opinion noted that Congress was finally "getting serious about national debt," but chided them and the president for not proposing changes to Social Security: "Why ignore that issue?"

Indeed, I am curious as to how the editors could write an editorial about getting serious about national debt without mentioning the real elephant in the room—our soaring expenditures on military activity. Earlier last week, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) reported that \$1.6 trillion was spent worldwide on military activities, with the United States alone spending just under half that amount. It went on to report that "The United States has increased its military spending by 81 percent since 2001. At 4.8 percent of gross domestic product, U.S. military spending in 2010 represents the largest economic burden outside the Middle East."

The too-easy responses from military supporters to these figures are 1) we must support our soldiers, and 2) we must fight against terrorism. While I have no argument with the first response, supporting soldiers does not extend to supporting a bloated and mismanaged military apparatus. The second response I will follow up on later.

The \$698 billion SIPRI cites does not include all military expenditures by the United States; it counts only portions that are in the Department of Defense. This does not include Homeland Security, veterans' services, the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons program, the CIA, special operations and like activities. In addition, Hank Van den Berg, economics professor at the University of Nebraska, estimates that the interest on the federal debt alone that is due to military activity is nearly \$200 billion

per year. Taken together, the total annual military-related expenditures are more like \$1.2 trillion.

Figures in the billions and trillions can be hard to fathom. Just to get a comparative perspective on these numbers, the United States spends more than the military expenditures of the next 15 largest-spending countries, taken together! China, the next-largest military spender, spends only \$100 billion, one-tenth of the U.S. expenditure. France follows in third place with approximately

"According to some estimates, we cannot track \$2.3 trillion in transactions."

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld,
September 10, 2001

five percent of U.S. expenditures. From a spending perspective, even cutting half of our military expenditures each year, we would vastly outspend any country who would be our rival.

So why spend so much? One reason is that our military has very poor financial management. Just before September 11, 2001, then-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said that the money wasted by the military poses a serious threat. "According to some estimates, we cannot track \$2.3 trillion in transactions," Rumsfeld stated.

The General Accountability Office, often called the U.S. government's accountants, or the watchdog of the federal government, has reported "significant weaknesses in the management analysis, decision-making, and reporting." Each year, for more than 20 years, the GAO has attempted to audit the Department of Defense, and each year it has been unable to issue an opinion—in the GAO's own words: "The main obstacles to a GAO opinion were: 1) serious financial management problems at the Department

of Defense that made its financial statements unauditably ..." Only three major agencies in the Federal Government—DOD, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Labor—did not get clean opinions on their 2010 financial statements.

A second reason for such excessive spending on military activity can be found also in the SIPRI reports: Seven of the largest ten arms suppliers in the world are U.S. corporations. The top ten U.S. arms industry corporations had annual arms sales of \$204 billion (this excludes non-arms-related sales for those corporations). Fifty years ago, President Dwight Eisenhower spoke of the "conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry (which) is new in the American experience. The total influence—economic, political, even spiritual—is felt in every city, every State house, every office of the Federal government." He went on to warn that the "potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist." Eisenhower's chilling prophesy is evident in our nation's capital today; amid soaring debt and deficit spending, military expenditures are off the table in any meaningful way.

And, what about protection from terrorists? International terrorism, while it exists, should not be the driver behind the massive military spending and consequent disregard of our nation's domestic spending needs. On average, we have more to fear from homegrown terrorist threats—from those with mental or emotional needs like Jared Loughner, or anti-government ideologues like Timothy McVeigh—than we do from a tiny-membered sect like al-Qaida that can claim no country as its own. Our international "War on Terror" strategy is destined to be no more successful than an elephant's battle against a flea. But the exorbitant cost of this ill-conceived military strategy, if not stopped, promises to drive us right to our knees and permanently undermine our nation's economic security.

Solidarity!

The Only Route to a More Just Society

by Hendrik Van den Berg
UNL Professor of Economics

Several bills that would eliminate collective bargaining rights for public employees worked their way through the Nebraska Unicameral this spring. This legislation was similar in spirit to the draconian bill introduced in the Wisconsin Legislature earlier this year. You no doubt remember the news coverage of the demonstrations of over 100,000 people outside the capitol building in Madison, Wisconsin, protesting that bill.

Unfortunately, the demonstrations had no effect on the final outcome, and the anti-union legislation banning collective bargaining by Wisconsin public employees was passed and signed into law. There was talk of a general strike to shut the entire state economy down in protest. But, instead, the demonstrators went home and, presumably, back to work. It seems that workers were not (yet) willing to take such drastic action. They were pacified, in part, by politicians and union leaders who called for a campaign to recall the governor and the Republican legislators responsible for the denial of their basic labor rights.

A general strike is not a radical idea at all, of course. After all, corporate interests and their political operatives (in both parties) have not been at all reluctant to create havoc to further their interests. A general strike could actually have been effective in reversing the tide in the class war that corporations and banks have been waging and winning for three decades. As could have been predicted though, the idea was smoothly pushed off the table by the usual political manipulators: the bosses of the mainstream unions, the two mainstream political parties and the mainstream media. President Obama did not even bother to visit the protestors. And the corporate media dispensed the usual hysterical propaganda: A general strike would be

subversive—a radical return to the bad old days when communist labor leaders sought to take over the country. A general strike is so ‘French’! It would deprive people of their right to go to work!

So, Wisconsin’s public employees are back at work. Some are working hard to

in Marx’s words, a ‘commodity’ for the capitalist class. Nicer words are used to describe the commodification of labor, such as ‘free markets’ and ‘right to work.’ After all, our American culture has been so thoroughly shaped by private business interests that we must all start every conversation

are not going to exaggerate inequality) clearly show that most Americans are losing the class war. Since 1980, nearly all of the growth in U.S. income has gone to the top 90 percent of income earners. The average real income accruing to the remaining 90 percent of the U.S. population has not budged for over 30 years—longer than an entire generation!

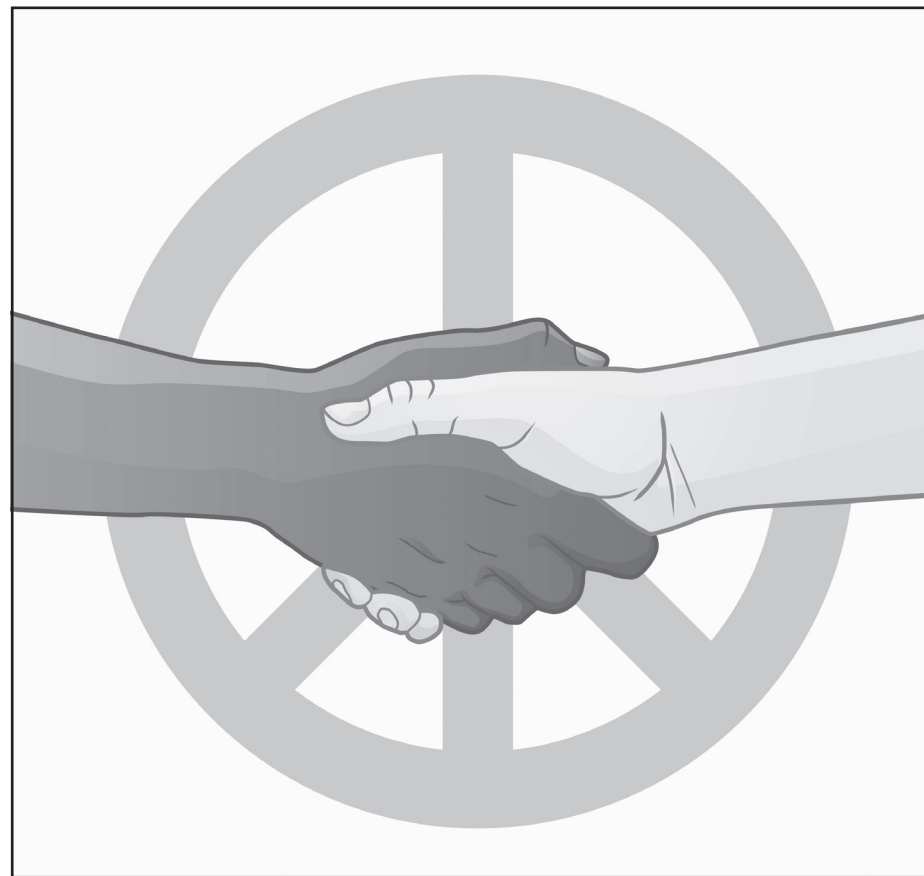
In 2009, an average non-supervisory worker earned \$18.62 an hour in the U.S. But how many people know that back in 1972 (that is 40 years ago, for crying out loud) the real purchasing power of the average real non-supervisory wage was over \$20 in today’s dollars. During this period, productivity of the average worker rose by over 100 percent. This means that for producing more than twice as much, the average worker took a pay cut! Yes, Virginia, there is a class war, and you and over 90 percent of your fellow Americans are on the losing side.

The top ten percent of income earners in the U.S. captured almost exactly 50 percent of total U.S. income in 2007—the highest percentage in the developed world... and higher than during the 1920s in the United States. The top one percent of U.S. income earners took about one quarter of total income in 2007. (For more information on this, see my article in the March/April 2011 *Nebraska Report*.) The point here is that most Americans are losing the class war.

We Know Things Are Not Right

Many Americans know that something is wrong with the system. The Tea Partiers know this, the poor know this, the part-time workers who want to work full time know this, and the unemployed certainly know this. Nearly all American workers whose wages have gone nowhere know

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gather signatures for recall elections, deluded into believing that if they just try hard enough, the political system will somehow bring justice. And as for a general strike that would have required some sacrifice on the part of all workers, that ‘radical’ idea was quickly forgotten. The unfortunate fact is that Americans have given in to the notion that their call in life is to be a tool—or,

on income distribution with a rejection of Marxism. But, Americans are apparently quite willing to perform the role Marx so aptly described.

Wake Up, Americans!

The official government data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (which certainly

Food for the Common Good

by Tim Rinne
NFP State Coordinator

Growing organic foods... in an environmentally sustainable manner... for consumer members in the local community. That's exactly the kind of socially responsible endeavor you'd expect from a couple of Nebraskans for Peace. Cooperation, community-building and sustainability are our watchwords, our peacemaking stock-in-trade.

Yet, even for someone like me (who's worked in the peace movement professionally for 20 years), there's still something powerful and heartening about seeing people live their convictions and actually put their beliefs into practice... And, in a small way, be personally part of it.

Ruth Chantry and Evrett Lunquist's "Common Good Farm" is located 15 miles northwest of my home in Lincoln, just north of Raymond, Nebraska. I've only been to the farm two, maybe three times in the past decade (once to ferry 20,000 bees in my little compact car to a hive that was being set up on the grounds). But I've been a consumer member in the Common Good Farm "CSA" for four years now, and religiously pick up my vegetable share in Lincoln 12 weeks each summer.

The concept of "Community Supported Agriculture" (CSA) arose about 20 years ago and can be summed up neatly as 'share the bounty, share the risk.' Community Supported Agriculture engages both the local farmer and the local consumer in a relationship in which the consumer members annually pledge to pay a share of the farm's economic operating expenses—and in return receive a share of the produce. At Common Good Farm, the summer harvest season runs weekly from about late May to early August, with a special fall box in October. As is the nature of farming, there are of course variables beyond human control...



Evrett Lunquist and Ruth Chantry of Common Good Farm

But as Ruth and Evrett phrase it, "we try to work with Mother Nature and based on our years of experience, we can usually work with most tricks she sends our way."

Those "years of experience" though were acquired the hard way, as neither Ruth nor Evrett grew up on a farm. Both city kids, Ruth was born and raised in Omaha and Evrett hails from suburban Minneapolis. Still, they weren't complete novices when they started out. Prior to founding Common Good Farm in 1996, the two of them worked on a community farm/CSA in Wisconsin, and Evrett (who earned a bachelor's degree in "Sustainable Food and Agriculture Systems" at the University of Minnesota) had worked on market farms in his home state. It was a natural leap to return to Ruth's roots in Nebraska and found a family farm to grow "good food through good farming in Lancaster County"—where, in their words, they provide much that is "delicious and hopeful and dynamic in CSA

and sustainable agriculture."

Common Good Farm is a small, sustainable, certified organic and certified Biodynamic®/Demeter farm—one of about 150 certified Biodynamic farms in the United States. The certifications, Ruth and Evrett say, are "just a reflection of our striving to grow the highest quality produce, eggs and meat through soil vitality and conscientious farming practices. We use Biodynamic and organic seeds as available, focus on open-pollinated and heirloom varieties and limit our use of hybrids... We're a 'mom and pop' family farm, and food is grown at Common Good Farm from seed to harvest."

As Ruth and Evrett state on their website (www.commongoodfarm.com), "Our impulse for farming Biodynamically comes from our experience with observing plants as living things—not merely as passive recipients of soil-based nutrients. With Biodynamics, farming is about creating a whole farm as a vibrant entity through the farmers' impulses. Through it we develop ourselves as individuals and farmers to serve our land and our community through agriculture. Biodynamics and sustainable farming are exciting and creative endeavors... directed but not prescriptive."

On their 34-acre farm, they currently grow over 45 different kinds of vegetables and annual and perennial herbs throughout the season—as well as eggs and pastured pork and grass-fed beef for market. Eggs are available year-round at the farm and at "Open Harvest Food Co-op" in Lincoln (which also carries their seasonal produce). Meat is butchered annually in late fall. Common Good Farm also vends at the "Old Cheney Farmer's Market" in Lincoln the first half of the gardening season.

The hours are long and the work is never-ending. But you can catch a sense of the passion they feel for what they're doing from their language:

Why do we farm the way we do? We feel called to grow good food, pure and simple... for people we know or come to know. Farming this way provides that which is uplifting nutritionally and spiritually for us and for our customers... We're committed to sustaining

conclusion on page 8

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What's HOT in Global Warming?

by Professor Bruce E. Johansen

Extreme Precipitation and Scary Math

By 2011, scientific studies were beginning to bear out what many incidents of extreme precipitation have been telling weather watchers who follow the meteorological news: a warmer atmosphere produces more rain and snowfall—and a greater risk of damaging floods. These studies also lend credence to a scary prospect, and one that popular media coverage of these studies largely missed: while increases in temperature are linear, intensity of precipitation increases exponentially. One must wonder what the atmosphere has in store for us once temperature increases get *really* serious.

“Climate models have improved a lot since ten years ago, when we basically couldn’t say anything about rainfall,” said Gabriele Hegerl, a climate researcher at the University of Edinburgh. Hegerl and colleagues compiled data from weather stations in the Northern Hemisphere, then compared it with precipitation models. The study covered the years 1951 through 1999.

A second study associated damaging floods in 2000 in England and Wales with temperature increases. Myles Allen of the University of Oxford and colleagues found that human-induced climate change “may have almost doubled the risk of the extremely wet weather that caused the floods.”

While increases in extreme precipitation have been recognized on an incident-by-incident basis for more than ten years, these studies provide systematic evidence. “What has been considered a 1-in-100-years event in a stationary climate may actually occur twice as often in the future,” said Allen.

One must wonder what the atmosphere has in store for us once temperature increases get *really* serious.

Hegerl and colleagues wrote in *Nature*: “We show that human-induced increases in greenhouse gases have contributed to the observed intensification of heavy precipitation events found over approximately two-thirds of data-covered parts of Northern Hemisphere land areas... Changes in extreme precipitation projected by models, and thus the impacts of future changes in extreme precipitation, may be underestimated because models seem to underestimate the observed increase in heavy precipitation with warming.”

The study of flooding in the UK said: “The UK floods of October and November 2000 occurred during the wettest autumn in England and Wales since records began in 1766. These floods damaged nearly 10,000 properties

across that region, disrupted services severely, and caused insured losses estimated at £1.3 billion.”

World-wide Wake-up Call

The wake-up call has become worldwide. Warm air holds more water, and the atmosphere is about five percent moister than 40 years ago, a factor in the increas-

ing severity of deluges. Where it isn’t raining, more heat provides faster evaporation, increasing drought.

An organization containing meteorologists from 189 countries said in August, 2010 that the summer’s heat waves, droughts, and floods displayed global warming’s effects. “Several diverse extreme weather events are occurring concurrently around the world, giving rise to an unprecedented loss of human life and property. They include the record heat wave and wildfires in the Russian Federation, monsoonal flooding in Pakistan, rain-induced landslides in China, and calving of a large iceberg from the Greenland ice sheet,” said the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

In January, 2011 near-record floods swept a large area of north-

eastern Australia, including Brisbane, a city of two million people, forcing evacuation of 30,000 homes and businesses and killing at least 15 people. At the same time, floods rampaged through towns near Rio de Janeiro, Bra-

2010 however, a half-hour deluge swept much of the village away, killing 150 people, with several hundred missing. The storm was so intense, and isolated, that it missed a weather station in the valley, and went unmeasured.

In 2010, during July and August, Pakistan mourned the deaths of more than 2,000 people in its worst monsoon deluge on record. One-fifth of the country was flooded by the raging Indus River, and 20 million people were affected; eight million were driven from their homes. The floods followed record high temperatures; the 129 F. reading there in July was the highest ever recorded anywhere in Asia.

During the fall of 2010, Colombia experienced its worst rainy season in at least 30 years, leaving more than 130 people dead and a million homeless. Also during 2010, by the end of July, 1,072 people were killed by floods in China, according to Shu Qingpeng, deputy director of the Office of Flood Control and Drought Relief, with the central government. About 140 million people were affected by floods in China during those seven months; a million homes had been destroyed, and economic damage was estimated at \$31 billion.

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zil, killing more than 600 people, most of them in landslides. Many were killed in their beds during the wee hours of the morning, including at least 250 in Teresopolis.

A Rare Deluge in India

As floods devastated Pakistan in the summer of 2010, an extremely rare deluge inundated the town of Leh, in Ladakh, India, which sits in what is usually one of the driest deserts on the planet. The village sits in what is a high-altitude desert protected from most precipitation by surrounding mountains. The average rainfall there in August is 15 millimeters—a fraction of an inch. In the early morning of August 6,

The Militarization of Lincoln Schools

by Barb Van den Berg

The organization Alternatives to the Military (ATM) has been investigating the increasing militarization of our youth in the Lincoln Public School system. For many years, the organization has been active in distributing information to students that discusses some of the questions students should ask military recruiters in order to understand the true obligations of signing up for service in any of the military branches. Alternatives to the Military has had

Do we really want to see education with its culture of respect, cooperation, and equality eroded by the military with its culture of hierarchy, obedience and conformity?

face-to-face meetings and other communications with Lincoln Public School staff to clarify LPS policy on military recruitment and military-sponsored programs on LPS campuses. ATM was concerned that few students and parents were aware that students can opt out of having their name and other personal information sent to military recruiters. The 2001 "No Child Left Behind" legislation requires schools to give student information to military branches if students and/or parents do not submit an opt-out form. That form now can be found on the www.lps.org website under the button, "Forms" on the left-hand side of the home page. ATM requested that this form, "Request for Non-disclosure of High School Student Personal Information to Military Recruiters" be made more visible.

Further inquiry into other aspects of the military in our schools has illuminated several areas of concern. Is it appropriate to have Junior

Reserve Officer Training Corps on high school campuses? The Air Force JROTC, based on the Lincoln Northeast campus, but serving the entire district, has been in existence since 2009 and this past school year had 82 students registered for the program. ATM has been in communication with LPS Board members about the appropriateness of this program and has found there are both positive and negative opinions about the program on the board. Teachers are well-liked, but ATM is concerned about LPS spending \$59,000 for the salaries of the program's two teachers, plus \$11,000 for benefits and other expenditures. Of course, there still is the issue of military personnel on a public school campus for the express purpose of making students comfortable with the culture of the military and thus making recruitment of students for military service easier. Despite the promotion of community service and academic training in the program description, military recruitment is still one of the main objectives of the program.

The Department of Defense sponsors a program at the primary level of education called STARBASE. (See www.starbasene.org) The appropriateness of the Department of Defense—rather than the Department of Education—designing science curriculum for our students is questionable. Science, technology, engineering, and math skills are taught in a five week course for a total of 25 hours located in the Penterman Armory of the National Guard in Lincoln, Nebraska. Fifth graders from 12 Lincoln Public Schools and a number of other private schools participated this past year. The program was expanded to the middle school level with STARBASE 2 at Culler Middle School. The program targets low-income students: most STARBASE students also participate in the free lunch program.

According to a founding member of ATM, Lincoln schools have even had military vehicles on its campuses. Our school systems have

conclusion on page 11

Food, conclusion


a family farm in Lancaster County to provide delicious, healthful food for our neighbors near and far, to tend the soil, love the land, and to create a healthful community.

And like any good neighbor, they're anxious to share what they've learned with others. In addition to regular public outreach events at the farm, Evrett teaches a delightful (and non-technical) organic gardening class through Southeast Community College that I've had the pleasure of taking. For those seeking an introduction to the wonders of home gardening, I can't recommend it highly enough. You'll learn everything you need to get started.

And the times warrant the learning of these basic domestic skills.

The twin crises of 'peak oil' and climate change (coupled with the staggering scale of our federal debt), all but condemn the U.S. economy to a state of permanent contraction. High fuel prices will drive up production and transportation costs. Climate change will wreak havoc with agricultural production... Both of which will increase the price of food on the shelf at Hy-Vee and Safeway. In the years ahead, growing and buying 'local' won't just be a laudable idea; it will become ever more necessary.

What Common Good Farm is modeling with its Community Supported Agriculture and sustainable farming practices is nothing less than a blueprint for the economy and culture of the future... One we all need to start wholeheartedly embracing while we've still got time.

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The Preface to 'A National Strategic Narrative', conclusion

tegic ecosystem. In other words, the U.S. should stop trying to dominate and direct global events. The best we can do is to build our capital so that we can influence events as they arise.

2) From containment to sustainment

The move from control to credible influence as a fundamental strategic goal requires a shift from containment to sustainment (sustainability). Instead of trying to contain others (the Soviet Union, terrorists, China, etc), we need to focus on sustaining ourselves in ways that build our strengths and underpin credible influence. That shift in turn means that the starting point for our strategy should be internal rather than external. The 2010 National Security Strategy did indeed focus on national renewal and global leadership, but this account makes an even stronger case for why we have to focus first and foremost on investing our resources domestically in those national resources that can be sustained, such as our youth and our natural resources (ranging from crops, livestock, and potable water to sources of energy and materials for industry). We can and must still engage internationally, of course, but only after a careful weighing of costs and benefits and with as many partners as possible.

Credible influence also requires that we model the behavior we recommend for others, and that we pay close attention to the gap between our words and our deeds.

3) From deterrence and defense to civilian engagement and competition

Here in many ways is the hard nub of this narrative. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Admiral Mike Mullen has already said publicly that the U.S. deficit is our biggest national security threat. He and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates have also given speeches and written articles calling for “demilitarizing American foreign policy” and investing more in the

tools of civilian engagements—diplomacy and defense. As we modernize our military and cut spending on the tools of 20th century warfare, we must also invest in a security complex that includes *all* domestic and foreign policy assets. Our credibility also requires a willingness to compete with others. Instead of defeatism and protectionism, we must embrace competition as a way to make ourselves stronger and better (e.g. Ford today, now competing with Toyota on electric cars). A willingness to compete means a new narrative on trade and a new willingness to invest in the skills, education, energy sources, and infrastructure necessary to make our products competitive.

4) From zero sum to positive sum global politics/economics

An interdependent world creates many converging interests and opportunities for positive-sum rather than zero-sum competition. The threats that come from interdependence (economic instability, global pandemics, global terrorist and criminal networks) also create common interests in countering those threats domestically and internationally. President Obama has often emphasized the significance of moving toward positive sum politics. To take only one example, the rise of China as a major economic power has been overall very positive for the U.S. economy and the prosperity and stability of East Asia. The United States must be careful to guard our interests and those of our allies, but we miss great opportunities if we assume that the rise of some necessarily means the decline of others.

5) From national security to national prosperity and security

The piece closes with a call for a National Prosperity and Security Act to replace the National Security Act of 1947. The term “national security” only entered the foreign policy lexicon after 1947 to reflect the merger of defense and foreign affairs. Today our security lies as much or more in our prosperity as in our military capabilities. Our vocabulary, our institu-

tions, and our assumptions must reflect that shift. “National security” has become a trump card, justifying military spending even as the domestic foundations of our national strength are crumbling. “National prosperity and security” reminds us where our true security begins. Foreign policy pundits have long called for an overhaul of NSC 68, the blueprint for the national security state that accompanied the grand strategy of containment. If we are truly to become the strongest competitor and most influential player in the deeply interconnected world of the 21st century, then we need a new blueprint.

A narrative is a story. A national strategic narrative must be a story that all Americans can understand and identify with in their own lives. America’s national story has always see-sawed between exceptionalism and universalism. We think that we are an exceptional nation, but a core part of that exceptionalism is a commitment to universal values—to the equality of all human beings not just within the borders of the United States, but around the world. We should thus embrace the rise of other nations when that

rise is powered by expanded prosperity, opportunity, and dignity for their peoples. In such a world we do not need to see ourselves as the automatic leader of any bloc of nations. We should be prepared instead to earn our influence through our ability to compete with other nations, the evident prosperity and wellbeing of our people, and our ability to engage not just with states but with societies in all their richness and complexity. We do not want to be the sole superpower that billions of people around the world have learned to hate from fear of our military might. We seek instead to be the nation other nations listen to, rely on and emulate out of respect and admiration.

The Y article is the first step down that new path. It is written by two military men who have put their lives on the line in the defense of their country and who are non-partisan by profession and conviction. Their insights and ideas should spark a national conversation. All it takes is for politicians, pundits, journalists, businesspeople, civic leaders, and engaged citizens across the country to read and respond.

“Chronicles a painful odyssey that should give pause to the caring, the oblivious, and those who don’t give a damn.” Frank LaMere
Winebago Tribe of Nebraska
Chair, Native Caucus, Democratic National Committee

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Solidarity! conclusion

this, as do women workers whose wages continue to lag behind those stagnant male wages. Unfortunately, to cope with this defeat at the hands of the elite class and preserve a sense of dignity, we resort to a variety of simplistic rationales and non-constructive behaviors: ultra-nationalism, anti-immigrant sentiment, ‘birther-ism,’ sports fanaticism, and celebrity worship. Some maintain dignity by pretending to believe that the rich will trickle something down on them. Some buy lottery tickets.

But for a brief few weeks, it looked as though Americans were getting a better grip on the issue of equality. In Wisconsin they turned out by the thousands to scream ‘No!’ But, since then, the enthusiasm has ebbed. A few people are gathering signatures, some write their Senators, and most are back at work. What is most sad is that many self-proclaimed ‘liberals,’ ‘progressives’ and ‘leftists’ have led the retreat from serious protest. It has been liberals who, in part, have resisted the idea of a general strike.

Abandonment by the Liberal Class

The Democratic Party has abandoned labor. Not only Barack Obama, but nearly all Democratic politicians have chosen to work for the interests of corporations and banks rather than the interests of workers. The way labor issues were quietly abandoned (even though Democrats controlled both houses of Congress as well as the White House after the 2008 election) shows the extent of our corrupt political system of ‘one dollar-one vote.’ Like Republicans, Democrats know that they have to go where the money is to get elected. It’s not surprising then, with the money more and more concentrated in the hands of the few, that they work for those who have the money.

We are in a true vicious cycle: the rich control the political system, which they use to get even richer, which gives them even more political power, which lets them tailor the system even more in their favor, which... Well, you get the picture.

Yet, many liberals and progressives continue to ‘hope’ that the ‘real Obama’ will soon appear. The fact is, the real

Obama does not work for the average American. He appointed Wall Street people as his economic team, and he kept Bush and Cheney’s military advisors. He appointed to head his ‘bipartisan’ deficit panel Alan Simpson, a Republican right-wing fanatic, and Erskine Bowles, an alleged ‘liberal’ who earns over half a million per year serving on the boards of two financial firms. The lack of progress on financial reform in Washington is discouraging but

Yes, Virginia, there is a class war, and you and over 90 percent of your fellow Americans are on the losing side.

to be expected. And, there is legislation pending to give the military yet another supplemental appropriation of \$110 billion for the ongoing Iraq and Afghanistan occupations, despite Obama’s promise to not only stop asking for supplemental budgets, but—more importantly—to scale down those occupations. Yet, liberals continue to hope for change. And then they claim that Tea Partiers are delusional!

When I brought up the need for worker solidarity and a renewed push for unionization, one self-proclaimed liberal professional immediately trashed unions as corrupt organizations that breed overpaid lazy workers. “You should see the boats and cars the union workers own!” Well, yes, that is what workers will tend to buy when their incomes rise in accordance with the productivity gains in their industries. Should only CEOs, upper management, professionals, and a few other privileged people get all the cars and boats? So, we decry inequality, but when this means higher incomes for workers, liberals suddenly hold their breath.

No matter how much they want to deny it, however, there is really only one practical way to reverse the class war. Labor must be allowed—no, encouraged—to exercise its power.

Labor Solidarity!

The growing income inequality (and the political power this gives the wealthy) is due to the fact that some groups have much more power to extract gains from economic interactions than others. A worker applying for a job has no power, by herself, to insist on a higher wage. With nearly 20 percent unemployment and forced part-time employment, unlimited numbers of illegal im-

migrants, and employers’ wielding the ever-present threat of outsourcing, an individual worker has no power in the labor market. On the consumer side, the abandonment of anti-trust laws (another consequence of the power of money in the political arena) means that we now have just a small number of firms supplying most of the products we are propagandized into wanting. So on both the income and consumption sides of the economy, most individuals get a smaller share of the gains our economy is capable of producing. This is why workers did not capture any of the productivity gains in their real incomes over the past 40 years. They must accept the same old wages while they pay more for goods. This is good only for business profits.

Perhaps the need for workers to join together will occur first to the Tea Partiers. Fortunately, they are reported to all be watching “Atlas Shrugged,” the movie based on Ayn Rand’s ideological novel. For those of you who have not read this cult novel, the story is a compelling one from the capitalist perspective: one John Gault leads a general strike by capitalists, who feel they are not getting enough of the gains from their innovations and business management. With their calculated withdrawal, the entire economy falls apart since no “thinking people” are left to run things. Gault and his fellow general strikers

eventually drive the “collectivists” out of power and establish a true laissez-faire society. The movie is one big piece of propaganda, of course. But there is one element of truth in the novel and movie: no one creates income and wealth by themselves. If one group withholds its participation, our economy and society collapse. But this is not only true for the top one percent of society that John Gault led; it is equally true for the other 99 percent. Without workers to make, design, distribute, market, repair, maintain, administer—and buy what they produce, there are no profits for capitalists to collect.

Given the present trends in profits and earnings of the most privileged in society, we do not need a John Gault. We do need a general strike by workers, however. We need to send a message to those who have captured all the gains from economic growth since 1980: share the economic bounty created by the entire society in a fair and equitable manner. We need unwavering solidarity with workers, whenever and wherever they decide to fight back in the class war. We must honor picket lines, organize workplaces, press labor issues, and contribute financially to the labor movement as best as we can. We must demand—with a general strike that inconveniences all of us—that our government protect worker rights.

Here in Nebraska, we cannot match the money that is pushing anti-labor legislation through the Unicameral. But we can deny the corporate interests the profits they seek at the expense of labor by strengthening labor and, if necessary, inconveniencing our lives to side with strikers.

We do not live in the perfectly competitive economy the right-wing propagandists claim. The game is rigged against the overwhelming majority of us. Therefore, fairness and equality can only be achieved by matching the concentrated economic and political power of business and finance with labor solidarity. ‘An injury to one is an injury to all.’ This is what labor solidarity was always about. It worked earlier in the 20th century. Given the growing inequality today, we need to put it to work again.

The Militarization of Lincoln Schools, conclusion

become a battlefield for the hearts and minds of our teachers, parents and students. As publications from the armed services indicate, “school ownership” is the goal for military programs working with our youth with the purpose of increasing enlistments in the military services. The activities of JROTC and STARBASE are public relations campaigns disguising military recruiting with the more palatable perception that these programs are for teaching leadership skills, citizenship and community service. The targeting of poor students who have fewer education and career choices than higher-income students is discrimination and our school systems should not be partners in this predatory activity.

Do we really want to see education with its culture of respect, cooperation, and equality eroded by the military with its culture of hierarchy, obedience and conformity? Do you want teaching and learning to be replaced with training? Making us comfortable with the presence of uniformed military personnel on school

campuses, for the purpose of recruiting and teaching classes and day camps to military facilities like the Penterman Armory, numbs us to the culture of a military state and the dangers that it poses for a free society.

What can you do? Talk to your representative on the Lincoln Public School Board or your representatives at private schools and express your concerns. Submit the Request for Non-disclosure of High School Student Personal Information to Military Recruiters to your high school. Let Alternatives to the Military know if you and/or members of your family have had disconcerting experiences with the military in your school. E-mail: atmlincoln@gmail.com Add your experiences and comments on the Alternatives to the Military Facebook page: www.facebook.com/atmlincoln Check out the website www.nebraskagreens.org/atm and tweet on twitter.com/ATMLincolnNE Become more aware of the increasing militarization of youth in our schools.

What's HOT, conclusion

The Rio Negro, a major Amazon tributary, went from record high to record low levels between 2009 and 2010—a severe deluge-drought cycle. An *Associated Press* report said that: “Floating homes along the Rio Negro now rest on muddy flats, and locals have had to modify boats to run in shallower waters in a region without roads. Some riverbanks have caved in, although no injuries have been reported. Enormous fields of trash and other debris have been revealed by the disappearing waters. The drought is hurting fishing, cattle, agriculture and other businesses, prompting authorities to declare a state of emergency in nearly 40 municipalities.”

Bruce E. Johansen is Jacob J. Isaacson Professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and author of The Encyclopedia of Global Warming Science and Technology (2009).

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Paul Olson, conclusion

cal way. They are not visionary. If Sufism and other forms of Islamic peacemaking are the bedrock of these Middle Eastern nonviolent movements, Sharp’s works are the manuals for building a new future on that bedrock.

The Arab Spring may yet lead to other tyrannies, but for the moment the hard ice of repression seems to be melting. And it is melting without the trillions of expenditures that we spend on the tools of forcible repression dispensed to tyrants through Pentagon aid.

In this connection, while the Arab Spring was blossoming, on the other side of the world another flower (well, maybe that’s a bit much) was pushing through the snows of our own faith in militarism: “Mr. Y’s ‘A National Strategic Narrative,’” published by Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson Center. “Mr. Y” is a *nom de guerre* for two military officers, Captain Wayne Porter, U.S. Navy, and Colonel Mark “Puck” Medley, U.S. Marine Corps—both senior special assistants to the chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“Mr. Y” ruminates on the path to security in a post-Cold War and post-9/11 world just as White House diplomat George Kennan, under the *nom de guerre* of “Mr. X,” first proposed containment as the path to avoiding war with the Soviet Union after WWII.

Anyone interested in peace should read this short 13-page document, which can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/yarticle>.

If Mr. Y’s treatise gains traction in Congress and the White House, it will change the whole debate about security and military spending.

As the Woodrow Wilson Center’s Anne Marie Slather summarizes “A National Strategic Narrative,” Mr. Y argues for a new security policy that moves from control of a closed dominance system to influence in an interdependent, open-strategy ecosystem... from ‘containment’ to sustainment... from hoarding resources to working for sustainable futures in food, water, energy and work... from using excessive military spending as the key to

security to regarding all of our productive resources as creating a secure life, especially those that give us a quality education and renewable energy... from a policy that sees other nations as rivals to one that sees them as collaborators... from primarily spending on our military to primarily spending on our people.

As Mr. Y says, “America’s national strategy in the second half of the last century was anchored in the belief that our global environment is a closed system to be controlled by mankind” so that “anything that challenged our national interest was perceived a threat or risk to be managed” or contained. Mr. Y argues that it is time for containment to be replaced by “sustainment.” We could recognize that competitors are not adversaries, that security comes from “freedom from anxiety and external threat” but also from freedom from disease and poverty, tyranny and oppression. We could note the dangers of the repression of free expression and the imposition of insane ideologies and, concomitantly, invest in education, health, development and diplomacy.

Our wealth cannot be separated from global poverty. Our leadership must come from our global problem-solving dealing with renewable energy, health care, water management, and an “inter-connectivity” that goes beyond nationalism. As Mr. Y argues, all of this will require massive transfers of assets from the military-industrial order to a new prosperity and security regime based on democracy, care and intellectual leadership.

Gene Sharp and Mr. Y represent two faces of the future. Mr. Y may represent the path to the construction of a legitimate future security for us; Gene Sharp the path to the de-legitimization of present false security authority in this and other countries.

Our members of Congress need to hear what Gene Sharp has done and what our top military thinkers are proposing. The trillion-dollar military budget proposed for 2012 is not our future. Education, clean energy, multilateralism, and resistance to tyrannical authority are.

Your Foundation Speaks

by Loyal Park, Nebraska Peace Foundation President

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Speaking Our Peace

Osama, Gene Sharp and Mr. Y

by Paul Olson, NFP President Emeritus

I was doing my stretching exercises and preparing to turn in when Osama bin Laden's death was announced on TV the night of May 1. As I watched, the news reports showed crowds of cheering and exuberant people in front of the White House and in Times Square, who'd spontaneously left their homes at that late hour to mark the occasion. After nearly a decade of waiting, "justice," the president said, "has been done."

While we celebrate no one's execution, Nebraskans for Peace members can feel some vindication in how this mission was accomplished. The result not of a military invasion and ten-year occupation of another country, but of meticulous police-style work and a targeted operation in which no civilians were killed—the approach was exactly what NFP has advocated since September 2001. Never did we endorse the useless and counter-productive wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that killed far more than 9/11 did. The criminal acts of September 11 required a police manhunt—not an invasion force.

Between the shots of chanting and cheering crowds, the pundits pontificated

that bin Laden is the 'Arab past' while the "Arab Spring" in Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Yemen and environs is the 'Arab future.' Perhaps. We shall see.

In their usual headline-chasing fashion, the media have focused on the intelligence and the undoubted courage that produced the end of the 'past'-facing Osama. But while the terrorist mastermind and the White House group that planned the raid have been showered with attention, the philosophy and techniques undergirding the nonviolent "Arab Spring" (excluding Libya) have received scant notice. Only *NPR* and the *New York Times*, among the big media, have acknowledged the hand of Gene Sharp—the present international guru of nonviolence—in this unprecedented political transformation.

Islam, like all religions, has its traditions of nonviolence (these particularly powerful in Sufism). But though the expression of that will to peace and the destruction of tyranny witnessed in the "Arab Spring" has its bedrock in Islamic traditions, its practical techniques come from Gandhi's India, Tolstoy's Russia, Martin Luther King's African-American

South, Nelson Mandela's South Africa and dozens of other places—all of these filtered through Gene Sharp's analysis.

Sharp, 83, formerly a professor at Dartmouth and the University of Massachusetts, receives almost no attention in our media, though his books and pamphlets have been translated into dozens of languages and his disciples are everywhere. His insights come over the internet. Although he has slipped into Burma to give heart to the nonviolent movement there, he has had no direct communications with the Egyptian protesters or any other Middle Eastern movement dependent on his ideas.

Sharp's study of the history of dozens of nonviolent movements concludes that one cannot create legitimacy through illegitimate means, peace through violence, or democracy through coercion. His central insight is that rulers have no power over subjects unwilling to obey them. Therefore, he focuses on the techniques whereby power elites gain and maintain their powers: their police and military establishments, regulatory bureaucracies, obedient religious and

cultural structures, reward of friends and punishment of enemies. He asks how these can be countered. Sharp's way to freedom is to act on novelist James Joyce's phrase: "I will not serve that in which I no longer believe."

His books *From Dictatorship to Democracy* and *The Politics of Nonviolent Action, Vol. 2* set forth in detail the tactics of nonviolent revolution. These tactics were first used in the Balkan areas that denied legitimacy to tyrants, then in the "Orange Revolution" in the Ukraine, then in the failed "Green Revolution" in Iran, and finally in the Arab Spring revolutions. All moved toward the de-legitimizing of tyrannical authority through mass action: the use of the poster and the symbolic colors of revolt, the chant, Facebook-style decentralized communication, the targeted and general strike, mass rallies in public spaces calling for the leader and his cronies to leave.

Sharp argues that the revolutions he advocates come about because they are practical—perhaps the only practi-

conclusion on page 11