



Nebraskans for Peace

Nebraska Report

There is no Peace without Justice

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Statement of Nebraskans for Peace in support of student protest of U.S./Israel policy

Nebraskans for Peace applauds the courageous stand that students across the nation are making in opposing the genocide in Palestine. While the U.S. and European governments are providing the weapons used by the Netanyahu government in these crimes against humanity, history will show that these students are doing the right thing at the right time, and peace-loving people should join them and help them. These protests around the world provide a ray of hope in this shameful moment in human history.

Nebraskans for Peace is grateful for young people taking the lead in resisting war crimes, and we are appalled at the repression of peaceful protesters by university administrations with the help of local and state police.

We reject the mischaracterization

The Biden Administration's hollow platitudes about protecting civilians while supplying the bombs to the massacre are hypocritical and help the U.S. weapons manufacturers reap huge profits.

and lies from some politicians and corporate media regarding charges of violence, outside agitators, and antisemitism. Ne-

braskans for Peace does not sympathize with Hamas. Together with demonstrators at universities around the country, we sympathize with all oppressed peoples, and we call for a ceasefire. Many Jewish students, such as Jewish Voices for Peace, have led the call for a ceasefire and an end to this war. Protests against indiscriminate killing and starvation of innocent and defenseless people are heartfelt expressions of unity and mutual understanding.

The U.S. government has the power and influence and could have prevented the massacre of 35,000 people, more than a third of them children and counting as of this date. The Biden Administration's hollow platitudes about protecting civilians while supplying the bombs to the massacre are hypocritical and help the U.S. weapons manufacturers reap huge profits.

Nebraskans for Peace was formed by college students and others who protested the U.S. war on Vietnam. Nebraskans for Peace has been a voice for peaceful negotiation of conflicts caused by the U.S. "war on terror" that has devastated many Middle Eastern people over the last 30 years. Nebraskans for Peace continues to support and call for all who want to end this genocide to stand with the students so their generation will live in a more just and peaceful world.

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Nebraska Report

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Because the system isn't

BROKEN

by Schmeeka Simpson

Non-Profits, Grant Money, and White Saviors: Poverty Pimping in North Omaha, Part II

To continue the discussion of: Non-profits, Grant money and White Saviors: Poverty Pimping in North Omaha, printed in the Nebraska Report column titled: "Because the System isn't Broken"; I will further explore the "hardly discussed, colonialist, racist, predatory, capitalistic origins and continuing practices of the Non-Profit Industrial Complex (NPIC), largely ran by the white noblesse, and the harms that have been perpetuated by their existence around the globe and how that has trickled down to North Omaha."

Let's get into it.

Non-profits in the U.S. founded in Colonialism

- *"Although charitable, educational, and religious organizations are thousands of years old and **some in the United States were founded in colonial times**, the concept of "nonprofit organizations" as a unified and coherent "sector" dates back only to the 1970s. They vary enormously in scope and scale, ranging from informal grassroots organizations with no assets and no employees to multi-billion-dollar foundations, universities, religious bodies, and healthcare complexes with thousands of employees or members."*
- *"Prior to the Civil War, individuals, not organizations, did most charity work. However, in the face of accelerating industrialization and accompanying social ills, such as increased poverty and community breakdown to facilitate the flow of labor and violence, local organizations (generally headed by the community elite), developed to assist those seen to be "deserving" of assistance, such as widows and children. These charities focused on individual poverty rather than poverty on a systemic level."*

In the **pre-Civil War era**, charitable entities were primarily comprised of private individuals and organizations run by the elite (or noblesse) of the community. The pre-Civil War era is to be foundationally understood as the era of the legal enslavement of African peoples and their descendants for perpetuity. This era denoted the widespread centurial government-sanctioned discrimination and genocide of Indigenous and cultural ethnic peoples throughout the United States. It took place between the 17th century until, well... now, depending on your perspective, especially considering slavery was only officially outlawed in all 50 states on February 7, 2013, and many Native tribes still suffer disenfranchisement as revenge for defending themselves against colonization.

Since slavery, genocide, and discrimination were legally enforced, fiercely protected, and enthusiastically celebrated as a societal, religious, and economic necessity throughout the U.S., it's highly unlikely that

2024 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 2024 Nebraska Legislature Session is a wrap! It was a bit of a mixed bag, as usual. We saw some good policies become law, some bad policies become law, and a mixture of both that failed to cross the finish line.

It is likely that the legislature will be reconvening for a special session later in the year. Governor Pillen was unable to get his tax bill passed, **LB 388**. He has stated he will call a special session to get his tax plan accomplished.

As an organization, we had a good year on the advocacy front. Combined with a push from the board president to have each board member take three pieces of action, we had a more collaborative and active group involved in legislative issues than we have had in the past. This was great to see! At least 12 people submitted comments on at least 34 different bills through the online portal, and two individuals testified in person. Susan sent out 19 emails blasts for us throughout the session regarding bills, legislative issues, and calls to action. Maggie facilitated a successful online event on the death penalty with a knowledgeable panel and great participation.

Here is a rundown of just a few of the bills we ended up focusing on this session. Some were carry-over bills from last year.

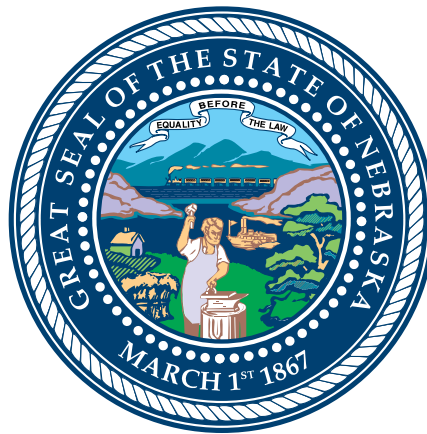
WORST BILL OF THE YEAR TO PASS

LB 1402 (Linehan) Directs the State Treasurer to use 10 million dollars of state funds each year for private school tuition. The bill also eliminates the Opportunity Scholarship Act, last year's **LB 753**. Opponents of **LB 753** gathered the signatures of over 117,000 Nebraska voters to get a referendum on the ballot in November. Supporters of **LB 753** were

afraid to hear from the people, so they just introduced a new bill this session to usurp the entire referendum process. Unquestionably, this was the most blatant act of silencing the Second House I have ever seen.

On a better note, here are:

GOOD BILLS THAT PASSED



LB 16 (Conrad) Eases the process for individuals with certain criminal convictions to apply for occupational licenses. After years of attempts to open up employment opportunities to those with criminal convictions by allowing them to at least apply for certain occupational licenses, Senator Conrad was finally able to get it done this session. There is still more to be done, but this is a big step in the right direction.

LB 631 (McKinney) Changes some provisions relating to parole eligibility, reentry services and other measures, and increases accountability for the Board of Parole. It also establishes the Community Work Release Program, which is aimed at getting more individuals into community based housing for employment,

skills training, and treatment. It has been proven that this type of program leads to more successful outcomes and less recidivism.

LB 840 (McKinney) adopts the Poverty Elimination Plan Act, requiring communities to create a 5 year poverty elimination plan. Pared down from the original bill, this will apply to only Lincoln and Omaha. The bill also includes new requirements for the Omaha Housing Authority to protect tenants from unlawful evictions.

LB 20 (Wayne) restores voting rights to individuals upon completion of a felony conviction. Currently, they have to wait for two years after completion of sentence before being allowed to vote. The governor allowed this to pass without his signature but stated that he does not approve of the bill. He has asked the Attorney General to challenge the constitutionality of the bill.

BAD BILLS THAT WERE STOPPED

LB 441 (Albrecht) would have ended protection for teachers and librarians from prosecution for using educational materials or having books in their classroom that someone deems obscene. The bill faced a filibuster and fell three votes short of cloture. The bill failed.

LB 575 (Kauth) would have banned transgender students from participating in sports with teammates that match their gender identity. The bill faced a filibuster and fell two votes short of cloture. The bill failed.

LB 1330 (Murman) would have eliminated Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

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POISONED

INSIDE AND OUT

Landfill Land Swap and the Devastating Impact of Environmental Realism on Prison Population

by Terri L. Crawford, JD

Prison Policy Initiative statistics show Nebraska has an incarceration rate of 601 per 100,000 people (including prisons, jails, immigration detention, and juvenile justice facilities). Translation: Nebraska locks up a higher percentage of its people than almost any democratic country on earth. (*Prison Policy Initiative*, 2022). According to an *Omaha World-Herald* article, North Omaha neighborhoods produce some of the highest incarceration rates found anywhere in the country, as shown in a *World-Herald* analysis of Harvard University data. In a 2010 snapshot of people behind bars, more than a half dozen North Omaha census tracts produced higher rates of male incarceration than any in South Central Los Angeles (*Omaha World-Herald*, Henry Cordes – March 6, 2023). We know through the research that there is a correlation between historically redlined areas and the rate of incarceration in those census tracts due to policies, practices, and processes that coded neighborhoods, beginning in the 1930s, based on racial composition and racially restrictive covenants.

Now, Nebraska will be building a new 1,500-bed prison to replace Nebraska’s aging penitentiary. According to news accounts, it was originally planned to be built on the northeast edge of Lincoln, near the Lancaster Event Center. (*Lincoln Journal Star*, August

Our national prison population, too frequently affected and neglected, often faces environmental harm because many prisons are intentionally built near or directly on abandoned industrial sites, places deemed fit only for dumping toxic materials.



2023). Due to some controversy and backlash from residents who live nearby in several neighborhoods, there was a second announcement that state and city officials entered what has been described as a “land swap” agreement to move the site of the new prison away from one of the fastest-growing parts of northeast Lincoln to a city-owned site about seven miles away, just north of Interstate 80—and just east of the city landfill. This “land swap” joint announcement was made by Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird and Gov. Jim Pillen less than two weeks after the governor said the prison would be built near the Lancaster Events Center.

Why is this important? Here’s why. Our national prison population, too frequently affected and neglected, often faces environmental harm because many prisons are intentionally built near or directly on abandoned industrial sites, places deemed fit only for dumping toxic materials. One-third (32%) of state and federal prisons are located within three miles of federal Superfund sites, the most seriously contaminated places requiring extensive cleanup. It is also well known that this proximity is linked to lower life expectancy and a litany of illnesses, and it is ill-advised to live, work, or go to schools near Superfund sites. As a result of being on or near wastelands and landfills, prisons constantly expose those inside to serious environmental hazards, from tainted water to harmful air pollut-

Because the system isn't broken, continued

oppressed/enslaved people considered no better than animals were allowed access to these resources. How many enslaved people do you think were running legal charitable organizations in the pre-Civil War 1600s? How many Indigenous peoples do you think were considered "community elites" and allowed to oversee local community organizations? Very much like the origins of welfare, food stamps, Section 8, FHA loans, the Homestead Act, and other funding for the poor/working class in the United States, these resources were officially only available to certain whites, for a very long time. Even the church of the Quakers, a notable ally to the abolitionist movement, was a future 501c3 in the making, with no leadership even until today that reflects the racial makeup of the population it claimed to serve.

The stereotype is of the downtrodden Black population that is good enough to be the help and beg the white saviors for help but never good enough or equal enough to be in key decision-making roles in these allied organizations, especially concerning our own communities. It was not until the 1900s, with the establishment of the NAACP in 1909 and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASALH) in 1915, that you start to get a hint of government-legitimized non-profit corporations being led by Black people.

Post-Civil War, Racist, and Discriminatory Philanthropies

In 1874, the National Conference of Charities and Corrections (later renamed the National Conference on Social Welfare) was established by members of private charities, organizations, religious agencies, and public officials to discuss "mutual concerns." None of these organizations were established by Black or Indigenous people, and no Black, Indigenous, or marginalized groups were invited to the table to discuss the mutual concerns seriously.

- "Many consider the Peabody Education Fund, established in 1867, the first non-profit organization in America. Its main goal was to help integrate poor white and formerly enslaved people in the South and

assist in the rebuilding of the educational system after the devastation of the Civil War."

This goal, however, was not reached as only six percent of the funding, despite the founder's request, was spent on education for the former enslaved.

Does anything sound familiar? Since the inception of the Nonprofit model, funds raised and designated for the community that needs them the most have been intentionally mismanaged.

The stereotype is of the downtrodden Black population that is good enough to be the help and beg the white saviors for help but never good enough or equal enough to be in key decision-making roles in these allied organizations, especially concerning our own communities.

This begs the question, Was the money ever going to go to the formerly enslaved? Or were the formerly enslaved just used as a cover to get the money?

How often can we ask these questions even today?

Is the real goal of the non-profit the enrichment of the community, or is it a vehicle to raise money for private gains and agendas? Maybe the reason why non-profits are not working themselves out of a job is that the downtrodden community is what keeps them employed, rich, and in power.

After the Civil War, charitable organizations officially became vehicles of capitalism to protect the wealthy's riches and extract from the poor.

- *Broadly speaking, a foundation is a nonprofit corporation or a charitable trust that makes grants to organizations, institutions, or individuals for charitable purposes such as science, education,*

culture, and religion.

The first officially recorded foundation was started from the wealth of colonialist robber baron Russel Sage in 1907, called the Russel Sage Foundation, and followed in 1910 and 1911 by fellow colonist robber barons, the Rockefeller and Carnegie Foundations. These legally protected foundations were new institutions specifically created to support philanthropic giving as a way of shielding their earnings from taxation. They were designed to exist in perpetuity, in a bold move to colonize time and resources.

By 1955, these ludicrously financially successful coalitions of **non-profits**, started by predatorial capitalists, had amassed 7.7 billion dollars from individuals, foundations, and corporations. By 1978, NPO funding had increased to \$39 million. In 1998 and in the **last year of the available data reported** from the American Association of Fundraising Counsel Trust for Philanthropy non-profits had amassed, through charitable giving of the poor masses, from individuals to foundations and non-profit entities, to consumer funded corporations, a whopping \$175 billion dollars.

Today, according to the last IRS count, foundations have accrued resources of around \$500 billion and only give around \$33.6 billion annually. There are 837,027 non-profits, excluding religious organizations. (Side Note: the culpability and complacency of religious organizations in slavery, sexism, racism, child sacrifice/abuse, predatorial behavior, capitalism and colonialism; on a global scale, under the guise of a non-profit

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What Can ‘Green Islam’ Achieve in the World’s Largest Muslim Country?

We’ve included this article in the Nebraska Report based on a suggestion by our regular columnist Bruce Johanssen.

The original article can be found on the New York Times website: <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/17/world/asia/green-islam-indonesia.html>.

by Sui-Lee Wee

Sui-Lee Wee of the *New York Times* traveled to three cities in Indonesia to report on Clerics in Indonesia who are issuing fatwas, retrofitting mosques and imploring congregants to help turn the tide against climate...” The faithful gathered in an imposing modernist building, thousands of men in skullcaps and women in veils sitting shoulder to shoulder. Their leader took to his perch and delivered a stark warning. “Our fatal shortcomings as human beings have been that we treat the earth as just an object,” Grand Imam Nasaruddin Umar said. “The greedier we are toward nature, the sooner doomsday will arrive.”

“Then he prescribed the cure as laid out by their faith,” Klee Wee which guides almost a quarter of humanity. Like fasting during Ramadan, it is every Muslim’s Fard al-Ayn, or obligation, to be a guardian of the earth. Like giving alms, his congregants should give waqf, a kind of religious donation, to renewable energy. Like daily prayers, planting trees should be a habit.

The environment is a central theme in the sermons of Mr. Nasaruddin, the influential head of the Istiqlal Mosque in Jakarta, Indonesia, who has tried to lead by example. Dismayed by the trash sullyng the river that the mosque sits on, he ordered a cleanup. Shocked by astronomical utility bills, he retrofitted Southeast Asia’s largest mosque with solar panels, slow-flow faucets and a water recycling system — changes that helped make it the first place of worship to win a

green building accolade from the World Bank.

He is not alone in this country of more than 200 million people, the majority of them Muslims, in trying to kindle an environmental awakening through Islam. Top clergy have issued fatwas, or edicts, on how to rein in climate change. Neighborhood activists are beseeching friends, family and neighbors that environmentalism is embedded in the Quran.

“As the country with the largest number of Muslim people in the world, we have to set a good example for Muslim society,” Grand Imam Nasaruddin said in an interview.

The map locates the city of Jakarta, with the Istiqlal Mosque, and the city of Yogyakarta, with the Al-Muharram Mosque, on the island of Java, in Indonesia.

While other Muslim nations also have strains of this “Green Islam” movement, Indonesia could be a guide for the rest of the world if it can transform itself. The world’s biggest exporter of coal, it is one of the top global emitters of greenhouse gases. Thousands of hectares of its rainforests have been cleared to produce palm oil or dig for minerals. Wildfires and flooding have become more intense, byproducts of the extreme weather propelled by higher temperatures.

Some clerics see environmentalism as peripheral to religion. And surveys suggest there is a widespread belief among Indonesians that climate change is not caused by human activity.

But educating 200 million Muslims, the proponents of the Green Islam movement say, can drive the change.

“People will not listen to laws, they don’t care,” said Hayu Prabowo, the head of environmental protection at the Indonesian Ulema Council, the nation’s highest Islamic authority.

“They listen to religious leaders because their religious leaders say you can escape worldly laws, but you cannot escape God’s laws.”

The fatwas issued by the council are not legally binding, according to the Times’ account, but he said they have had a notable effect. He pointed to studies that found that people living in areas with rich forests and peatlands are now more aware that it is wrong to clear these lands because of the fatwas declaring these activities as haram, or forbidden.

Clerics have not always been on board with the movement. Two decades ago, a regional branch of the Ulema Council issued a fatwa against Aak Abdullah al-Kudus, an environmentalist in East Java Province who tried to combine a tree-planting campaign with the celebration of the Prophet Muhammad’s birthday. He also received death threats.

But support for Mr. Aak grew over time, and he went on to start the Green Army, a group of tree-planting volunteers working to reforest Mount Lemongan, a small volcano where 2,000 hectares of protected forest had been cut down. Today it is covered with verdant bamboo and fruit trees.

“Our task is to be khalifahs, the guardians, of the earth,” Mr. Aak said. “That is the mission of Islam.”

Elok Faiqotul Mutia was inspired by the same sentiment. When she was 6 and growing up in a city in central Java, her father took her along to teak forests where she watched trees being cut down for her family’s furniture business. She said she wanted to “replace my father’s sins to the earth.”

One of her first jobs was a researcher for Greenpeace. She later founded Enter Nusantara, an organization that aims to educate youth on climate change.

'Green Islam', conclusion

Ms. Mutia said she believed Islam could offer Indonesians a gentler message about environmental conservation, pointing to a survey that found that Indonesian Muslims heed religious leaders more than scientists, the media and the president.

"Environmental activism always uses negative terms like 'Phase out coal, reject coal power plants!'" Ms. Mutia said. "We want to show that in Islam, we already have values that support environmental values."

Last June, [2022] her group raised more than \$5,300 so that a small mosque in the city of Yogyakarta could install solar panels. More than 5,500 people donated funds, which went to the Al-Muharram Mosque, where congregants often sat in darkness because of chronic power shortages.

The new panels helped slash the mosque's monthly power bill 75 percent to \$1, its leader, Ananto Isworo, said. Congregants

were already using harvested rainwater to cleanse themselves.

Mr. Ananto said many of his peers call him the "crazy ustadz," or the "crazy Muslim teacher," saying preaching about the environment has nothing to do with religion. He counters by saying there are roughly 700 verses in the Quran and dozens of hadiths, or sayings, by the Prophet Muhammad that speak about the environment. He cites Prophet Muhammad's dictum: "God is kind and likes kindness, God is clean and likes cleanliness." "This is an order to preserve the environment by cleaning it," Ananto said in the *New York Times*.

The Istiqlal Mosque is a testament to what can be achieved. Mr. Nasaruddin said installing 500 solar panels has lowered the mosque's power bill by 25 percent. With slow-flow faucets and a water recycling system, worshipers use far less water to cleanse themselves before prayers.

Legislative update, conclusion

(DEI) classes and programs in colleges. This bill had a record-breaking number of opponents in person and online. It did not make it out of committee.

IMPORTANT ODDS & ENDS

- No more sales tax on diapers
- Help for qualified low-income individuals with medical debts
- Establishment of October 17 as Nebraska Missing Persons Day
- Establishment of May 19 as Malcolm X Day
- Stronger tools for the Dept of Labor to investigate violations of child labor laws
- Help for pregnant women on Medicaid with high risk pregnancies.

As mentioned above, these are just a few of the bills we watched through-

out the session. If there are outcomes for others you are interested in, let me know, and I will try to answer your questions. Thanks to everyone who participated in the process!

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What's HOT in Global Warming?

by Professor Bruce E. Johansen

Just How Quickly Is Our Earth Warming?

Back about 1997, when the genius of James E Hansen taught me that there was something very serious about this global warming business, many people who had any ideas about it thought of it as staple hippie food. Hansen and a number of other scientists had it right – that the world's increase in carbon dioxide and a few different “trace” gases could ruin the Earth.

All the same, even today, very few people outside a small core of climate scientists understand just how quickly the Earth and its oceans are heating. Granted, I am no climate scientist, but I do know how to combine small-caliber numbers from reliable sources and compare them. Thus, my email inbox overflows nearly every day.

One tidbit from the *British Broadcasting Corp (BBC)*: “Fuelled by climate change, the world’s oceans have broken temperature records every single day over the past year,” a *BBC* analysis found.

“Nearly 50 days have smashed existing highs for the time of year by the largest margin in the satellite era.” That is, the largest length of time that satellites have been available to track them [or about 1979.]

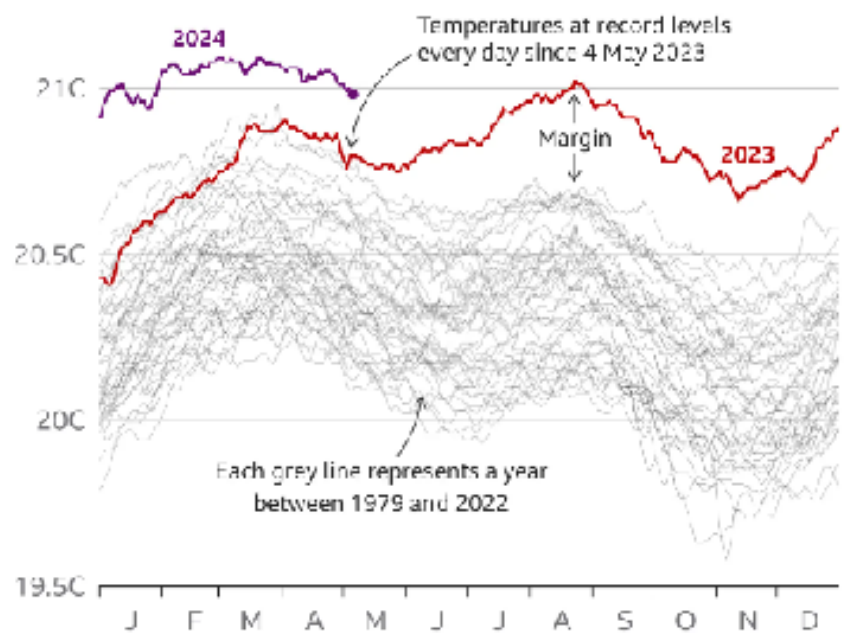
“Planet-warming gases are mostly to blame, but the natural weather event El Niño has also helped warm the seas.”

“The super-heated oceans have hit

“Every single day since May 2023, the ocean surface temperature’s global average was the highest it has been — sometimes by a whopping margin.”

— BBC

A year of record-breaking ocean temperatures Daily average sea surface temperature, 1979-2024



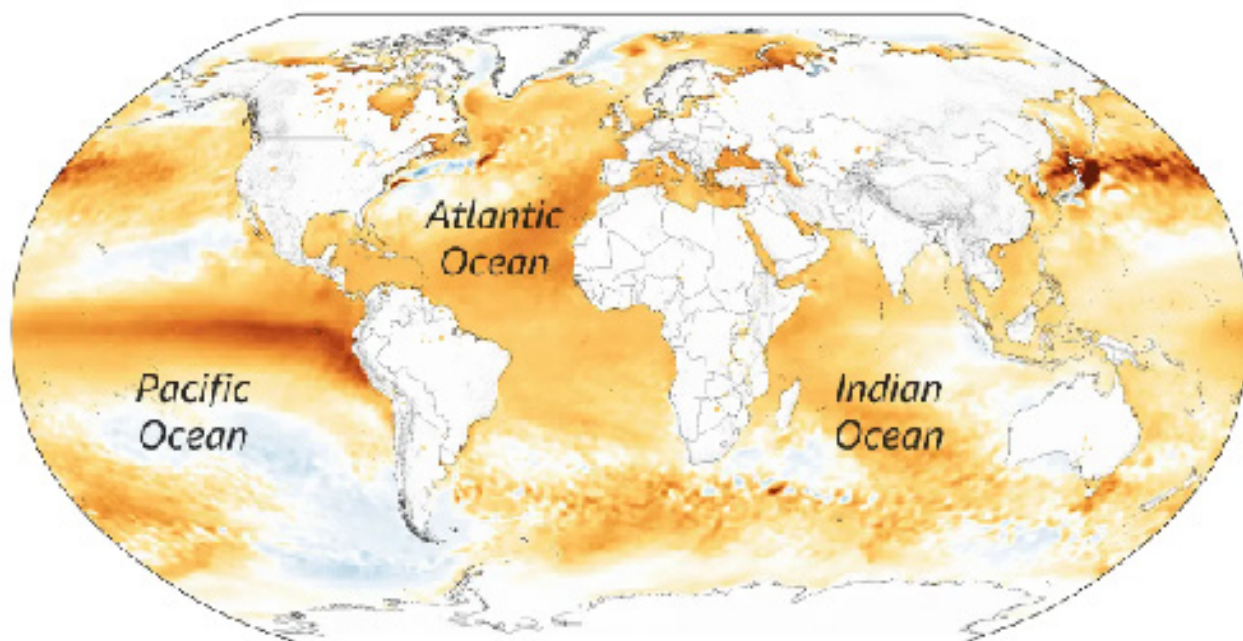
Temperatures measured between latitudes 60° North and 60° South

Source: ERA5, CBS/ECMWF

BBC

Most of the oceans much hotter than normal

Average sea surface temperature, May 2023 to April 2024 compared with 1991-2020 average



marine life hard and driven a new wave of coral bleaching.”

Record-busting year for ocean temperature

A few days before my eyes slid over that piece, I found this, also from the *BBC*, I saw this:

“Every single day since May 2023, the ocean surface temperature’s global average was the highest it has been — sometimes by a whopping margin. Data from the European Union’s Copernicus Climate Service, analyzed by the *BBC*, [paint a dramatic picture of the impact of ocean warming](#) caused by greenhouse gas emissions, coupled with a strong El Niño weather event. Warmer waters could bring more ferocious hurricanes, cause penguins’ icy fledging sites to melt, and have already caused disastrous coral

bleaching. ‘These are real signs of the environment moving into areas where we don’t want it to be, and if it carries on in that direction, the consequences will be severe,’ says oceanographer Mike Meredith.’ (*BBC*)

For a more comprehensive and quick gauge of how our ocean water has warmed, compare the previous oceanic high of about 101 to 102F. to the new high last summer, of almost 102F near the Florida Keys.

To understand how quickly our oceans have heated, look at the previous oceanic high of about 100 F. Look now at the new record (101.8) near the Florida Keys. The new record was as warm as a bathtub. As Bob Dylan used to sing: “You don’t need a weathervane to tell which way the wind blows.”



*Bruce E. Johansen has written and published several books on this climate change during the past 25 years, the most recent of which will be *Nationalism and Nature: War and Warming*, due out in October from Springer publishers in Frankfurt, Germany.*

Because the system isn't broken, continued

organization or charitable entity, is another topic for another day.) **But my point is... imagine thinking these organizations as a whole care about the poor, as they get insanely rich.**

- *"In the early 1960s, Foundations grew at 1,200 per year, and financial magazines routinely promoted foundations as tax-shelter tools."*

Since their beginning, the foundations that fund the non-profit industrial complex mainly do so to protect their assets and further their interests. This is the very definition and example of "poverty pimpin," replicated through the business model of almost every

How do we stop the NPIC from taking advantage of the communities it claims to serve? Do we stop giving? The answer could be simple, but donors must do their due diligence...

Start exploring our own motives for giving; is it a tax write-off that motivates us to give, or do we want to see change?

corporate entity, whether non-profit or for-profit. These organizations also do everything in their power to avoid taxes. These taxes fund government assistance programs, roads and infrastructure, public schools, etc. If the rich refuse or find a way not to pay their taxes,

the tax burden is left to the poor in the name of charity.

It's expensive to be poor because the poor fund their own exploitation through charitable giving to corrupt agencies and so, therefore, literally fund the work that perpetuates poverty.

Non-profits used to stifle the Revolution movement

- *"From their inception, foundations focused on research and dissemination of information designed ostensibly to ameliorate social issues- in a manner that did not challenge capitalism."*
- *In the early 1900s, the Rockefeller Foundation "identified research and information to quiet social and political unrest as foundation priority."*

The explosion of NPOs in the 1970s was a direct response by the colonial OGs (Original Gangsters) to successfully tame the revolutionary movements of grassroots organizations, civil/human rights and Vietnam activism, and the collective movement of the people to directly overthrow the United States government.

Please consider this timely quote made by the Rockefeller Foundation in the late 1800s/early 1900s, in the light of the current Mexican immigration situation of 2024 being perpetuated as the 21st century downfall of the United States.

"The danger is not the combination of capital, it is not the Mexican Situation, it is the labor monopoly, and the danger of the labor monopoly lies in its use of armed force, its organized and deliberate war on society."

— Fredrick Gates, Rockefeller Foundation

On a national level, also consider the fact that both Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King were both assassinated once they started to immerse themselves in the grassroots movements that dissented against

war, capitalism, modern slave labor, and corrupt government agendas, which transcended race.

Making America Great Again in the eyes of the elite and wealthy, who fund government agendas and direct the U.S. social consciousness through non-profits, foundations, grant money, and a system that only supports a white savior model, also support agendas that disenfranchise and limit the freedoms of everybody else (**Google Project 2025**). The problems of the United States were not and never have been about a Mexican invasion, immigration, communism, welfare, etc. The pushback has always been against the empowerment of the people against the corrupt capitalistic government that feeds off the poor like leeches to sustain and feed the rich. All else are excuses designed to stifle movement and thwart real systemic change, with the nonprofit industrial complex at the core of squashing citizen dis-sension.

- *"For instance, foundations, particularly Ford, became involved in the civil rights movement, often steering it into more conservative directions."*
- *"Early in 1967 the Ford Foundation made grants of several hundred thousand dollars to the NAACP and the Urban League. A few months later the [Ford] Foundation gave one million to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund's new National Office for the Rights of Indigents."*
- *"Robert L. Allen, as early as 1969, warned of the co-optation of the Black Power movement by Foundations. Allen documents how the Ford Foundation's support of certain Black Civil Rights and Black Power organizations, such as CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) helped shift the movement's emphasis- through the recruitment of key movement leaders- from Black Liberation to Black Capitalism."*

Why would a charitable, non-profit organization dedicated to uplifting marginalized communities through its philanthropy and

POISONED. CONCLUSION

ants. These conditions manifest in health conditions and deaths that are unmistakably linked to those hazards. (Leah Wang, *Prison Policy Initiative*, April 20, 2022).

For example, in western Pennsylvania, a state prison located on top of a coal waste deposit has done permanent damage, causing skin rashes, sores, cysts, gastrointestinal problems, and cancer, with symptoms often appearing soon after arrival at the facility. (Human Rights Coalition, 2014).

The devastating health outcomes at one prison in Louisiana were a smoking gun for environmental injustice — or a smoking tire, in this case. Laborde Correctional Center’s neighbor, an abandoned tire landfill, caught fire and burned for four days before the prison decided to evacuate. The state’s environmental

agency and the tire company are on the hook for failing to address compliance issues. (*The Intercept*, March 2022).

Nebraska has 17 active Superfund sites; 13 are currently in the cleanup phase, and four sites are in the site study phase. (Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, aka DEE, website). It is overwhelmingly evident from the research that people in prison tend to come from redlined, disadvantaged, and criminalized communities. These are the same communities bearing the brunt of the burden of environmental injustice. Using the criminal legal system to move people from the environmental hazards deliberately imposed on redlined communities to similar or more extreme hazards in prisons is a practice with enormous moral and fiscal costs.

We now know much more than we did about the potential exposure of incarcerated populations to harmful environmental conditions. Numerous studies now identify the proximity of prisons to potentially hazardous sites; for example, one shows that in nine western states of the United States, juvenile detention centers are in close proximity to hazardous waste (‘Superfund’) sites. (United States. Environ. Justice 2020, 13, 65–74).

This dialogue is not about whether or not you believe building a new prison is a solution to our high numbers of incarcerated individuals. Rather, why did Nebraska choose a site next to a toxic landfill where the “inhabitants” have no choice but to live with environmental injustice?

Because the system isn't broken, continued

supportive resources steer anybody fighting for their rights in any direction but through the leadership of the people they claim to support? How is this not colonization repeated through the benign neglect of the people’s needs while reaping their resources? Who is truly benefitting from these resources, then? The people or the organizations?

On a global scale the Non-profit Industrial Complex has committed atrocities such as funding forced sterilizations for agendas supporting population control, colluding with secret government agencies, providing research to empower think tanks that control entire countries and their resources, and using poverty as an excuse to promote propaganda, encourage community dissension and to disenfranchise and incarcerate throughout the world.

“The NPIC functions as an alibi that allows the government to make war, expand punishment, and proliferate market economies under the veil of a partnership between

the public and private sectors.”

The trickle-down effect of a global predatory system is a local predatory system. Omaha is not exempt from the damaging impacts the wealthy have made in the name of charity and change. For example, Laws were created in our state legislature that effectively criminalized community daycare providers, which removed children from the care of their community and pushed them into new Head Start programs funded by the wealthy. The professionalization of non-profit leadership on a national scale has damaged grassroots organizations in our city, set up these organizations for failure and, in some cases criminal liability. Funding has been denied to a leader of a grassroots organization trying to help empower returning citizens because of her own previous incarceration. Large amounts of funding have repeatedly been given to organizations that talk a good game but show little to no results.

What are possible solutions to this grave problem? How do we stop the NPIC from taking advantage of the communities it claims to serve? Do we stop giving? The answer could be simple, but requires donors to do their due diligence. Start researching what agendas the non-profits and for-profit entities we support subscribe to locally and nationally, including universities and religious organizations. Start exploring our own motives for giving; is it a tax write-off that motivates us to give, or do we want to see change? Start partnering with individuals and organizations doing the grassroots work in their communities and are directly connected to the people we say we care about.

Start realizing that the system isn’t broken but working exactly how it was originally designed. Once we get into the mindset that a system that isn’t broken can’t be fixed, we

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Because the system isn't broken, conclusion

can start to generally have conversations that center on dismantling oppression in all of its facets and start transforming our society.

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