



**A 2020 POLITICAL CAMPAIGN:  
END THE WAR SYSTEM →  
BEGIN PEACE**



THE MEGIDDO  
PEACE PROJECT

*Emergency... as if you didn't know.*

## **NOW THROUGH 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN AND PLAN OF ACTION**

*One leaflet to change the world.  
End the war system. Begin Peace.*

The action begins first circulating, as widely as we can, a one page, self-empowering, inviting, "change the world" leaflet, and, second, ourselves, each, responding to the three Questions posed in the leaflet:

- 1) What would help make peace where you live and in the world?**
- 2) Who and what are the people and powers blocking the way of peace?**
- 3) What can I do to help begin the peace?**

The intent of this 20/20 clearer vision is to put the war system in the center of political debates in 2020, to identify "The War System" as a "system," and to gather a comprehensive policy change agenda for peace, and overall, to frame the politics of this time as a high-drama of the "people of the world" calling "the war powers," "the powers that be," to the table of meeting, to negotiate peace, "a new social-political-economic contract" to end the war system.

Everyone has an opportunity to become an acting character in this global peace/war drama... and to help express the agenda for peace.

### **BACKGROUND: NAMING THE SYSTEM IS A BEGINNING**

In 1965, at the first US national demonstration against the Vietnam war, organized by the Students for a Democratic Society, our keynote talk challenged us to "name the system."



*"For it isn't enough to talk of peace.  
One must believe it.  
And it isn't enough to believe in it.  
One must work at it."*

*"It is for the people of the world to make the peace."  
(in response to the adoption of the  
Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948)*

— Eleanor Roosevelt

Since the 1980's, peace activists working in the United States experienced "solidarity whip-lash," shifting from calls for help from El Salvador, then Nicaragua, then South Africa, now the Middle East, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Africa, while it is increasingly clear the same system and dynamics underlay all these wars.

Each of the many descriptive names highlights some important aspect of the elephant, so to speak: Capitalism? Imperialism? Empire? Patriarchy? White Supremacy? Corporatism? Neo-liberalism? Neo-conservatism? Military-industrial complex?

This initiative urges that we consider these labels all to be systems, the effect of which is to create war. They all share and overlap in a common dynamic and culture producing war. Therefore, call it what, in effect, it is: a "war system." And we all together demand the war system be ended.

## WHAT IS THE WAR SYSTEM?

*[Another telling of the sorry story...]*

The people of the world have suffered under the war system for at least the last 5000 years. The boundaries of our countries are often drawn in blood and in the agonies of soldiers contending in violence, and of the innocents swept in its tides of bullets and bombs.

History, ("his story") is often taught pre-war, post-war, between the wars, cold war... the War of Roses and a Hundred Years. Entertainments tell its glories and horrors, Wall Street records its profits.

States are defined by Constitutions, Treaties, and Laws, often imposed after violence and sustained by pacifications of uprisings and the umbrellas of "protection," like old feudal barons lording it over vassals and serfs.

A culture of war has permeated all aspects of our common life.

The War System is a "system of power" based on domination, hierarchy, command, imposition,

impunity, and ultimately violence to keep in power those who often got into power by those means, including aggression, corruption, deceit, bullying, and manipulations of democracy and fear. Male rule is at its core, "might makes right" its mantra.

The war system exists in a "concurrent consensus" among the powerful on the divisions of resources, prestige, terms of trade and alliances to keep things relatively stable,... until there is a rift in the fabric and arms are called to re-establish order, ...or overthrow it.

The war system is a siphon that sucks money and wealth and the fruit of labor from the poor and the working many into the coffers of the gun makers, financiers and politicians who profit from the mayhem, based on a war economy.

The war system is hot now in 40 plus places on our planet, and simmering in many more, creating sufferings beyond measure. State governments have bonded into coalitions and are making war in some of the poorest nations like Yemen.

So it has been, from beyond memory. Forever people have endured, persevered. People resist, organize, protest all over the world, on a thousand and ten thousand local fronts... advances are made, humanity keeps hope alive. We all persist in our long haul plans.

However, even in our victories, the war system has maintained itself.



**Now, however**, two looming realities send Alarms that make mere perseverance and steadfastness not enough.

**FIRST ALARM:** The destructive capacity of the weapons of war and the instability of power, and people in power, pressed by distress everywhere, make urgent a reversal of increasing militarization... and a ban against the bomb and weapons of mass destruction.

**SECOND ALARM:** The planetary climate change consequences of human activity and militarism,

threatening the life system as a whole, require economic and political shifts in policies and cooperation hardly conceivable in the world of war. The war system itself contributes mightily to the fossil fuel dependence and pollution.

The inter-dependence of world problems has humanity at the edge of abyss. Calamity, famines and holocaust haunt the horizon. The doomsday clock is moving the wrong direction, two minutes to midnight now.

Among ourselves a higher level of cooperation is needed.

The United States Government Pentagon calls their War System perspective, "2020 Vision: Full Spectrum Dominance." A mobilized people's peace voice can adopt the visual analogy of 20/20 as clear vision, and assert **20/20 Clearer Vision, 2020 Full Spectrum Cooperation**, a change-the-system political program.

## THE RISING MOVEMENTS GIVE MANY REASONS FOR HOPE

Often our movements and organizations have been separated and siloed in different specialties, localities and vocabularies... (and ideologies, identities and egos, too)... each focused on some critical aspect of the big picture. 20/20 Clearer Vision is an immediate opportunity to bring our perspectives together.

Promoting a common leaflet that shares three common questions and constructing a comprehensive program for system change could be a basis for increasing cooperation among all fronts of the movement—in America and worldwide.

The basis of unity in a "Call of Life for Peace" is far deeper than the particulars of our differences, and cooperation is a way differences can be resolved.



## TEN STRENGTHS ON WHICH TO BUILD

**FIRST**, the movements for peace and justice and freedom and liberation have never been stronger, more diverse, extensive, and active. Every identity has become more conscious of itself and its history and dignity. Increasingly, every facet of repression and oppression is resisted and challenged. People inspire one another across boundaries. Incredible work has already been done. We are near everywhere.

**SECOND**, the capacity for communication with the world wide web, internet and social media allows a degree of cooperation, inter-connection, information sharing, thinking, and planning together never before possible.

**THIRD**, this is a new time in the whole human story. Now, for the first time since humans first came out of Africa and populated the world, or however it happened, there are actually three and four generations active, conscious and trying to figure out our human predicament to extricate ourselves from the consequences of the actions of the past generations which we have inherited. The old book said, "the sins and iniquities of the fathers are on the children to the 3rd and 4th generation," because no one was alive anymore to remember from what situations these problems came. The opportunity for four inter-generation thinking has the capacity, perhaps, to point a strategic path that does not reproduce the problems that got humanity into this mess in the first place.

**FOURTH**, there is a new generation of courage and honesty, individuals who have it together and speak authentic truths... and challenge power right in its face. Youth demand their future. Women have taken a stronger lead. Those schooled in the worlds of oppression and carriers of the ancient and indigenous wisdoms are in new prominence.

**FIFTH**, there is new knowledge and continuing movements of consciousness and spirit and human potential, general systems thinking, trauma recovery and healing, and permaculture all of which allow a wider global life system perspective in political work.

**SIXTH**, failures of the old systems are obvious all around, whatever one calls them. Almost everyone, in every country, feels apprehension... Increasingly, people are alert, restless, like animals before a storm, possibly receptive.

**SEVENTH**, a viable peace system alternative exists. An agenda of policies and best practices that could set in motion a transition out of the economy, politics and culture of war, into a next system economy and culture of peace and non-violence, global security, rapprochement and a wider justice and freer life for all.

**EIGHTH**, Everywhere diplomatic alternatives exist. War is not anywhere necessary. It is not good for children and other living things. Everyone could be better off if everywhere, battlefield by battle field, if the whole enterprise were closed down, the money reallocated, swords beaten into plowshares, and people set to doing better things for human needs. Past belligerents can agree on mutual recognitions.

**NINTH**, there are more of us than them.

**AND TENTH**, the arc of history does bend toward justice... we should be on the justice side of history, with our shoulders to the wheel.

So, given the Necessity imposed by the First and Second Alarms, and the Potentialities suggested by strengths 1 through 10...

**What can be done?**



## **BE BOLD: DEMAND SYSTEM CHANGE**

*Challenge the war system as a system.*

This is a Call for cooperative unity among all humanity ill-affected by any part of the war system.

It is an invitation to join your voice in expressing the one human voice of life for peace.

Become an actor creating a new cultural fact that such a voice is being created, of the human family demanding peace, and saying how, what needs to be undone, and done.

Add to continued direct actions and educations on every front, the narrative of the worldwide drama of people challenging the war powers.

**Beside continuing working every way we have been and are doing, add one new element: "the turn of heart," providing the warriors an exit option, a "transformational capitulation" and the people a way of participating.**

Begin to Stage and act out a mythic high-drama of the "people of the world" challenging the "old powers that have been," ...to give up their wars, put down their guns, to let their hearts be touched, and turned, and come to the table to talk... to face the "people of the world," and to change. Introduce "transformative capitulation" as an heroic option for the masters of war.

Every person in the world is invited to become a living character in this drama, a passion play for our time, to put their voice in the "one human voice" ... (or alternatively, taking on the voice of the masters of war and makers of the big guns,)... or to be spectators,... or perhaps members of a chorus of lamentation, or silent.

On the everyday level of peace and anti-war organization actions and missions, everyone keeps doing what we do,... forward on all fronts. Resisting and proposing. Advancing coordinated direct action demonstrations and non-violent civil disobedience. Struggling for the commons and democratic space and moving the money.

On the meta level of system change, the "End the War System > Begin Peace" initiating leaflet is intended to create an open public process inviting the self expression of the "one human voice," and, then, to draw together the capacity to compose and synthesize out of the particulars of response, a draft of The Demand, of a "new social-political-economic contract," for "after the wars," and for the transition time to "after the wars," that the "people of the world" call the

“powers that have been” to the table negotiate....  
and to which to agree.

### **Power concedes nothing without a Demand.**

Full spectrum cooperation could make this “News”  
and loud by the 2020 political campaigns, in America,  
and all over the world, wherever there are elections...  
pressing all candidates for their response to the Demand.

In the United States this would be a proper Challenge  
to the wars powers long announced plan of “full  
spectrum dominance” with the people power plan  
of “full spectrum cooperation,” beginning now with  
cooperation among peace organizations in sharing in  
“crowdsourcing” the peoples’ voice, and in compos-  
ing a document of Demand—and possibly video,  
song or other expression.

Cooperation could create a bank of win-win solutions  
that have occurred. Problems versus solutions so all  
could access possibilities that have worked and won  
the day lessening disputes or wars, that help also to  
create long term decisions.



## **TIME LINE: STEP BY STEP NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

### **Now through Summer 2019**

- > Circulate draft leaflet and this introduction for  
responses, and rework for better expression
- > Review networks from 2018:
  - *WILPF International Congress Ghana*
  - *Nuclear Accountability Alliance, Boulder*
  - *World Beyond War, Toronto*
  - *Peace Congress, Washington DC*
  - *Armistice Day 100, veterans rallies Washington*

- > Answer three questions: From what you know?
  - 1) What would help make peace where you live and in the world?**
  - 2) Who and what are the people and powers blocking the way of peace**
  - 3) What can I do to help begin the peace?**
- > Invite five working groups:
  - *Software committee: To design a system to share*
  - *Reception committee: To read and organize*
  - *Presentation committee: To synthesize and articulate*
  - *Conversation committee: To refine and amplify*
  - *Collaboration consortium: To help*
- > Open Megiddo web site portal as initial reception  
point of response
- > Seek co-initiators, and proliferators and  
pollinators
- > Begin general distribution, promotion of the  
initiative to:
  - *Friends*
  - *1400 organizations in 2018-2019 Housemans  
World Peace Directory*
  - *Slingshot Organizer infoshop international  
and U.S. list*
  - *Suggestions from networkers*
- > Reception committee receives, reads, and  
organizes responses
- > Presentation committee undertakes reading the  
writings and other expressions and synthesizes,  
for public presentation, the comprehensive peace  
policy, “The Demand,” voiced as a the global call  
of the people of the world

### **Seeking and considering voices:**

... From all 207 country codes, “world citizens,”  
and undocumented

... From all 40 war zones situations and displaced persons, and people without documents

Recurrent questions in dispute: land, water, security, privilege, power, care of life system, traditional enmities and historic memories, unredeemed blood, Religious differences about ultimate questions...

### **Whole system elements:**

Justice, governance, infrastructure, economics, environment, science, education, media, health, relations, spirituality, arts...

"Revolution/evolution of values":  
racism, materialism, militarism nationalism...

Questions of "morals":  
bigotry, greed, brutality, arrogance...

Examples of what peace looks like... actual on the ground projects and pieces of the peace, practical best practices...

Next system economic cooperation, transition and conversion policies...

Gender and transgender perspectives post patriarchy...

Four generational perspectives: young and youth; old and elder; and two generations between

### **Peace Week 2019 / Peoples of the World Convocation (September 15–22, 2019) and International Day of Peace (Saturday, September 21, 2019)**

Emulating the aspirations of the 1999 Hague Appeal for Peace, plus 20, and the First Hague conference, 1899 plus 120... and to receive and discuss the work of the "presentation committee"

Invent a beautiful way of doing it, with music art and ideas, broadcast everywhere

Envision an inclusive peace circle with its center everywhere and circumference surrounding, and embracing the whole world

- > Invite a "Convocation Planning Committee," all organizations that want to cooperate
- > Choose a meeting venue: central site? or multiple inter-connected sites? or entirely internet based?
- > Create a computer world wide web interconnect design so any one or group at any peace table in the world can have a presence in the world convocation
- > Present "the Presentation;" seek consensus and identify continuing questions; present on the first Sunday; deliberate through the week; and express consensus on second Sunday
- > Issue "The Demand"
- > Address the Powers that have been, the Masters of War: those identified as the ones we are up against (as in Question 2). End of the War System, your part of the whole system. put down the guns, come to the people's peace table to talk. consider to accept a "new social-political contract," articulated in minute particular at this convocation, a better system, where everyone wins: "full spectrum cooperation." partnership, generosity, caring, sharing, healing, helping, truth and reconciliation, demanding all governments become "governments for peace."
- > In the United States, for instance, formulate a four year economic, political diplomatic transition program to demobilize the military industrial complex and convert to the peace system and an alternative global security system
- > Encourage allies in other countries to do the same for their situations



## **Peace Week 2019 to Election Days 2020 (November 3, 2020 in the United States)**

- > Introduce the peace Demand in political debates
- > Challenge all political candidates to read and endorse the Demand and the “new social-political-economic contract.” ...Press National House and Senate candidates, State and Local candidates, and especially all those contending for the Presidency
- > Challenge the Democratic and Republican Conventions
- > Seek to introduce an End the War System platform (Summer 2020)
- > Consider options for independent political action

### **After the elections 2020:**

- > Re-evaluate
- > Press the four year conversion plan on Congress
- > Prepare for 2022 and 2024



## **TO THE END GAME**

A conscious social political evolution can happen.

Awakening is possible, especially when alarms are sounded.

People can choose to change old habits, especially when help is at hand.

Learned behaviors and beliefs can be unlearned, especially when mentors are at hand.

It is also true, not to be denied, as one woman said:  
*“Nobody in the world, nobody in history, has ever gotten their freedom by appealing to the moral sense, of the people, who were oppressing them.”*

Yet ending the war system, creating a world beyond war, is changing history, and changing the world as it has been since before memory.

## **CREATING ONE HUMAN VOICE, SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER**

The action begins by circulating a common leaflet, asking people to respond to three questions, circulating it and listening, being a receptor of responses, and gathering workers to synthesize one human voice of the many, ...these actions will create an articulated public voice of the “people of the world,” speaking directly to the powers of war and war politics, demanding they come to the table to talk, demand they consider “transformational surrender,” going through the eye of the needle, accepting as better a new social-political-economic contract, as a way to end the whole war system and beginning the next age of humanity, after the wars, becoming heroes for the future.

Asking them to change? Yes, each of them, identified by the people who respond to the question, “Who and what are the people and powers that stand in the way of peace?” Personalize the system with names and deeds, identified by those whose necks are pinned by the feet of the war system.

It is an appeal to the heart, and reason, and care for the children, their own, and grandchildren, and the next generations—and for the polar bears too!

Look for splinterings in the ruling class concurrent consensus that keeps the war system in place.

The Demand, as distilled from the leaflet answers by the “Reception Committee, is intended to be policy specific—local, state, national, regional, global—with links to sources, for peace in the world and in all of the wars now hot and simmering. “What is needed for peace where you are?” is our first basic question.

“The Presentation” will likely be in many media forms... more than words. The words though are important, hoped to be beautifully said, clear and in big enough



print, explicit about the minute particulars, in multiple languages. Other forms of presentation may include videos, songs, dances, tweets— who knows how the people of the world, if asked, would express themselves?

## **20/20 CLEAR VISION: FULL SPECTRUM COOPERATION. END THE WAR SYSTEM.**

In the political campaigns of 2020, the universal inclusive Demand can be put to every politician in the political process, country by country, reinforcing itself across borders—changing the terms of debate globally, and helping all of us better work together.

And ideally, too, it will help stir an increasing awakening, and a way for people, wherever they are, to participate in a conscious social evolution,... to be and become characters in the drama.

This initiative projects a process through the next U.S. National Election, also ideally, that we become more the “we” that we can be, a big us... worldwide... collaborating in both intentional action, and in a big hug, of mutual recognition around the world, across boundaries of class and race and gender and age and organization and religion... to a common purpose, broad enough to embrace all our purposes.

In this effort toward full spectrum cooperation, no organization loses its autonomy or independence in what it does.

Each “co-initiator organization” keeps connection with the responses that come through its portal to the “reception committee.” All organizations can spread the initiative invitation leaflet in their own outreach and program efforts.

This work is also hoped to increase our knowledge of one another and opportunities to cooperate.

- > A “collaboration consortium” of participating organizations will figure out how to proceed as we go along to the Peace Table



## **SCALE OF THIS ENDEAVOR**

There are seven billion people in the world and almost all of them would include their voice for peace in the one human voice, if they heard they were asked. In the short run this would overload any capacity to receive the responses.

### **So practically speaking, how many people responding are enough?**

As many responses as we receive is the best we can do. It will be a measure of how full spectrum is our full spectrum cooperation.

Looked at another way, a psychologist of visual perception reported, there are 1.2 million neural fibers in the optic nerve, carrying information about what is out there in the world to what is seen in the mind, giving the clarity of vision of the human eye.

If we could among us receive 1.2 million inputs, and integrate them, we could perhaps see together. adequately enough to approach a true human vision ...of the one human family.

- > We invite information engineers to join the “software committee” to help design a receiver, adequate to receive a wider world web of inputs

## **MONEY**

The whole project will be run on voluntary donations of work, love and knowledge:

- > Money needed for postage and printing
- > Money needed for the Peace Week meeting 2019
- > Each committee and consortium will develop its own budget and fundraising plan
- > The web site will have a donate button



## THE MEGIDDO PEACE PROJECT

Since its inception in 1986, the Megiddo Peace Project has focused on bringing all questions and all parties to the Peace Table. Peace requires a meeting, (or many, but one to seal it,) and a meeting requires a table, and peace requires putting down the gun and coming to the table to talk, and people have to agree on the shape of the table at which to sit and see eye to eye.

The project began with a physical table, family size, designed to be receptive to all outstanding questions—artistically representing the coming together of the four corners of the square of our earthly dilemmas, rising through the eye of the needle transformed to support the circle of community—and after serving a family for a generation, it was given to the movement to do with what we can.

Tel Megiddo is an archaeological site in the Holy Lands, the foretold place of “Armageddon” the bloody war at the “end of days”...which it is our purpose to preempt and prevent and transform. And make peace instead.

We are long time activists: **Odile Hugonot Haber**, a nurse, and **Alan Haber**, a woodworker. We call this effort an “initiative” because without our initiative it would not have been talked out, presented at the WILPF international congress in Ghana, and now in our world of friends and colleagues in the movements... and to you.

We hope what we do produces a positive response and generates the momentum and reach necessary for success.

## YES, I AM INTERESTED.

Name

Email

Country code

Tel

Other self identification

My answers to the questions:  now, or  later

1. **What would help make peace where you live and in the world?**

2. **Who and what are the people and powers that stand in the way of peace?**

I am willing to help:

- Software Committee:** Help design reception portal sharing information
- Co-Initiating Organization:** Establishing a partner portal
- Reception Committee:** Receive responses
- Presentation Committee:** Integrate and present what is received
- Convocation Planning Committee /** Peace Week 2019 conference
- Collaboration Consortium:** Figuring it out as we go along!

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Please share your responses with us:

By email:

**megiddo@umich.edu** – or – **odilehh@gmail.com**

By mail:

The Megiddo Peace Project  
P.O. Box 7213, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107

On our website:

**WWW.PEACETABLE.ORG**

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