

# WORLD WITHOUT WAR

## A Guide To Survival For the 21st Century And Beyond

© Copyright 1999, Randy Tavenner

Welcome To **World Without War**.

War is a dated concept we need to grow beyond. Let's declare it illegal and make it a crime. Peaceful resolution of conflict through mandatory negotiation is the future, our next evolutionary step. A world without war, a world at peace is really the only practical option. We have to think our way out of the dangerous situations we have created and build a peaceful future for us all. The spread of weapons of mass destruction makes this essential. Our growing sense of environmental ethics, enlightened negotiation and global communication are the keys to creating a world without war. This is our highest responsibility. Please join in a worldwide community effort to free us all from the winds of war.

## Our Mission

To Make War Illegal.

To create a world without war, a long range peaceful future for us all.

Please feel free to print this short book by clicking on the Print this Site/Book link on the left, which will open a pdf file.

A good idea will have a life of its own. Let's make war illegal and finally give peace a chance!

## Contact Information

World Without War

Email:

Imagine@worldwithoutwar.com

## World Without War

Let's make war illegal.

Why should war be legal? Murder, attacking people or property are not legal activities, why is war?

It has been a long, dark and stormy night, it is time for a peaceful sunrise. The time has come for us to visualize and embrace the idea of a world without war.

We will not have a world free of problems, misunderstandings and conflicts, but we will create new tools to deal with them. War is no longer a practical option. We are at the point of being able to destroy ourselves and the livability of our world. This technological state is irreversible. From now on we will possess the means of global destruction in many possible forms. Advanced technology demands more advanced thinking in order to remove the intrinsic danger arising from our scientific achievements.

This is an effort to produce a practical guide to begin the task of ending war and finding the new tools needed to negotiate our differences.

The first and most important step on the path into a peaceful future is very simple and straightforward. Each person must accept responsibility for creating their own reality. We must choose peace. We must reject the idea of war. We can live in a world free of armed conflict.

To put this in perspective, is there any society in the world today that allows individuals to kill others and destroy property? No law encourage such behavior. We have declared it to be outside the law, to be illegal.

Why then, should we accept and legitimize such actions when we call it war? Individual crimes are not considered appropriate behavior and we do our best to prevent and punish them. The group crimes of warfare should be no more acceptable to us. We can prevent them from happening in our future. We can make war illegal, we can remove its legitimacy.

## Our Highest Responsibility

Legally, morally and ethically dealing with the problem of war is our highest responsibility. We hold life on earth in our hands. We need to create a new ethic that values whole systems and the web of life we call nature.

Simply by creating and empowering such an ethical system war becomes an obsolete concept. Warfare is far too destructive to be allowed within an environmental ethic.

This is not about war crimes, this is about making war a crime.

To give the idea historical perspective, consider slavery. Until the last two centuries, slavery was a feature of many societies on earth. It was a normal condition of life. It is now illegal and more than that an unthinkable situation for us.

Likewise Dictatorships and Empires were the rule until only very recently. Now in the space of a few hundred years these old fashioned totalitarian forms of government have changed and over half of the world has some form of Democracy. As nations evolve most of the world will soon be ruled by the vote of the people.

Clearly this shows that it is possible for very old and entrenched concepts to be fundamentally changed by an enlightened populace. We need only see new and higher possibilities to guide ourselves out of darkness.

## Beyond War

Warfare, armed conflict, is another dated concept we need to grow beyond.

It is true that making war illegal is a logical path and that many people base decisions not on logic but on emotion. These emotional responses can be successfully included in the idea of a peaceful world. "World War Free" can have as much positive emotion attached to it as "World War Three" has negative.

A difficult challenge is the issue of civil war, terrorism and long-standing ethnic and religious conflicts. Revenge and grief are highly charged issues. They will require a new broader sense of understanding. We have many

examples: Palestine, Israel, Ireland, India, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Bosnia, Serbia, Kosovo, Rwanda and Sudan are but a few.

The energy represented by emotional response can be channeled away from violence and into a positive direction of active negotiation. We can grow out of our traditional responses to threats and into a new wider view of life.

Ultimately peace is a process, an upward spiral into harmony and understanding. We will need a firm view of our long-term goal, a peaceful world without war. Creativity, adaptability and a global perspective will be needed to journey into a peaceful future.

We can make war a crime and armed conflict illegal. We can require disputes to be settled through negotiation. We can make a peaceful world a basic human right for all of us.

This "we" is made up of all concerned people, wherever they may be. It is up to us to make our leaders listen to us and take the next step on the path, into a world that has grown beyond war.

### **How to Achieve a Peaceful World**

- 1) **Make war illegal.**
- 2) Give the idea life. Think about it and talk about it. The right idea at the right time will produce a momentum of its own.
- 3) Make it an issue: introduce the idea of a World Without War into politics.
- 4) Take the long view, this won't happen overnight. The concept must be planted and nurtured. A world without war can be seen as a long-range goal and plan for the future.
- 5) Be cheerful, choose optimism, don't be discouraged. A peaceful future is the only real option we have.
- 6) Focus your creativity and energy on solutions to the many practical problems involved in creating and maintaining a World Free of War.

What follows are steps toward this future vision and strategies we could use to make a truly peaceful world happen.

## **First Steps on the Path**

Bad guys will always be here. Peace requires vigilance and courage. It is the true path of the enlightened person. It is far harder to wage peace than to wage war.

We can use the existing structure of the United Nations and we can declare war illegal. Once again the challenge here is to make the peaceful resolution of conflicts an overriding issue. We can form a global grassroots campaign to force our leaders to give this issue their attention.

One immediate challenge is to define war. Is it an armed conflict involving groups of some minimum number of people? What about the terrorist acts of a few affecting the many? We need to be clear about our goals.

Begin at home, "Act Locally, Think Globally". Towns, cities, counties, boroughs, states and countries can declare themselves to be War Free Zones. Within these areas warfare will not be tolerated. Eventually it will become the accepted global standard.

Nuclear Free Zones are an example of this strategy at work. Small local efforts eventually paid off with Global Nuclear Testing and Disarmament Treaties.

## **Peace is Action**

Appropriate response to inappropriate behavior is the heart of the concept. Back up a World Without War with a true UN Peacemaking and Peacekeeping Force. Every country could keep its armed and trained defensive force.

Think of world intolerance of war as a global martial art, ready to defend against attack at all times, but not offensive in posture or attitude. Each nation will contribute to the Global Peacekeeping Force, while maintaining its own defensive ability.

The timing and appropriateness of the responsive action is very important. The rules must be clear and everyone must understand that armed aggression (warfare) will not be allowed. The Peacemaking reaction must be swift, decisive and overwhelming. We must be ready to fight fire with fire anywhere, anytime.

The Global Peacekeeping Force must be state of the art, world mobile and ready to go. They will be our Fire Department, ready to respond quickly and appropriately to the fires of war.

We are already working on non-lethal weapons. This research can be expanded and we can develop non-injurious means of stopping armed conflicts. Prevention of war will require legislation, appropriate armed response, and a clearly understood goal of mandatory negotiation of conflicts.

It is very important that the response of the peacemaking force be specific and directed.

These two simple ideas,

- 1) Make war illegal
- 2) Back it up with a true peacekeeping force

are a framework for the future.

### Appropriate Response

We will need to know when and where war breaks out and who is involved. We must respond quickly and specifically.

We will aim our peacekeeping forces at the armed conflict only. This will not include a generalized response beyond the immediate conflict.

The idea is to force a halt in the fighting and force negotiations to begin.

Our reaction will be divided into two distinct components. The initial military peacemaking force will halt the fighting and violence. It will be followed by the peacekeeping force, which will maintain a nonviolent situation, allowing mandatory negotiations to take place.

Military peacemaking forces will be deployed only in response to violence. The level of peacemaking reaction will be carefully adjusted to stop the bloodshed and end the armed conflict as quickly as possible.

Mandatory negotiations will begin as soon as the fighting has been stopped. The negotiations will uncover where the real conflict lies.

## Fire Department for the Fires of War

We could model our response to warfare on a modern effective fire department.

The point is to put out the fire, quickly and efficiently. We should be able to call on a peacemaking force that responds within 24 hours anywhere on the globe.

We should expect the peacemakers to go straight to the specific area of violent activity and stop it, using the most direct and effective methods.

Terrorism, ethnic cleansing, massacres, attacks, invasions, bombings, police actions and all the various forms of inappropriate behavior that we are faced with can be stopped. They all grow in scale over a period of time. If peacekeepers are there within 24 hours the dynamics of any situation will be changed.

We need to be fair but effective and put out the fire of war while the blaze is still small and manageable. This is the goal of global peacemaking, extinguish violence as soon as possible. Mandatory negotiations would then immediately begin and the real problems involved would have to be faced up to by both sides.

## Practical Problems

Many practical problems will begin to become apparent as these ideas develop. Who oversees the program? Who watches the watchers? What is "appropriate response"? How can the fears of those concerned with global government be addressed?

Civil war, terrorism, ethnic strife, tribal feuds, international aggression and all the myriad variations on these themes of armed conflict must be prepared for.

A long-range peaceful future will require many short-range tough responses. Armed peacekeepers will have to be ready to stop war wherever and whenever it appears.



Beyond that, the new tools and processes of negotiating differences fairly and quickly must be developed. When the armed conflict is stopped, the real work of settling the dispute begins. Eventually, we will skip the destructive conflict stage and take our differences straight to the arbitration and settlement stages.

Up to this point, we have allowed violence to grow into wars in which hundreds, thousands or millions have died before we negotiated a settlement. We can and will do better in our future.

## **Dark Ages**

The dark ages, characterized by warfare and violence, are alive and well in the hearts of some people and always will be. We cannot assume people are enlightened in their thinking no matter what they may say. Old hatreds and animosities can boil to the surface in any group. The greater human community must be prepared to stop violence - ethnic, religious or political - in any form at any time. Only by stopping armed conflict quickly and efficiently can we force talk -- negotiation -- to resolve issues.

We have many historic and current examples of nations and groups within nations rising up and using violence to achieve goals. This is no longer an acceptable alternative to due political process.

The issues and animosities may remain, but they can no longer be resolved with violence. Our "civilized society" needs to move on to the next stage of our development. We need to substitute negotiation with each other for fighting and killing each other.

## **No Quick Fix**

We face many practical problems for which there is no quick fix or easy solution. This booklet is an effort to see through the forest of human nature into a future of our choice: a future in which a peaceful, non-violent world is a basic right for us all.

This does not solve the problems, but sets us on a path of mandatory negotiation. We owe ourselves this step up out of the mud of warfare. With a

little thoughtfulness and directed effort we can begin to illuminate our world with the light of understanding and compassion. Clearly this is a great improvement over our old traditional, violent means of settling disputes.

## **Work For Us All**

There is work here, mental and physical challenge for many people over many years. Everyone has a stake in this: parents, children, soldiers, scientists, environmentalists, all of us. Every living, breathing person on the planet has a role to play in this new vision.

World Without War can be the basis of a peace that can last far into the future

It will be based on voluntary peacekeepers from all nations and voluntary compliance. Individual Democracies will globally exercise their rights to the peaceful pursuit of happiness.

We can leave the dark age of dictatorships and aggressive armies and enter an enlightened era. Freedom from the fear and destruction of warfare, true democracies, human rights and an environmental ethic will be our future.

We can choose this path and make it so.

## **Into the 21st Century**

Our scientific accomplishments seem to precede our social skills. As we develop our new conflict arbitration and settlement tools we can make use of the military technology already available.

Global response requires quick, effective movement and appropriate action. Satellite communication and oversight will be vital components of Global Peacekeeping. These systems already exist and will be further refined by individual nations. Consider how much better it will be for all of us to have this sophisticated hardware dedicated to stopping warfare rather than preparing for it.

We will never be able to rest from the task of peacekeeping. The price of peace will be constant vigilance. But as time goes on, less and less of the world's resources will have to be devoted to defense. More of our time, money and energy can be used for peaceful pursuits.

We can all think of a thousand things that need to be done here at home, on earth. Beyond here the moon, the planets and the stars are waiting for us. They represent the promise of the future for exploration and human endeavor. In order to devote our attention and energy to these concerns, we need to become a peaceful global community.

### **Think Globally - Act Locally**

Once the idea of a world without war has made itself clear to us, the next question is "What can we do to make it happen?"

The answer is not carved in stone. The whole business of developing this idea into a workable system is a process that will take time, energy and long range vision. We must see into our own future and form an image of what we want our world to be, then bring it back to today as our goal.

World Without War: a concept that every society, every religion, every philosophy can include and embrace.

Making war illegal is step one.

The old axiom "Keep It Simple" should be an important part of the process. The idea can be presented simply and implemented simply. Common sense should be our guide. The wisdom of no longer accepting war as an option will become plain to everyone eventually. We need only begin thinking and talking about a world without war. The idea will provide its own momentum and life through our individual and group efforts.

### **Happiness, Health and Long Life**

Our technology has given us the potential of global destruction. It has also given us the means to save ourselves with the evolving framework of the

internet, a universal communications system. We can now become a truly global society, a society that chooses to be safe, healthy and long lived.

As a peaceful world becomes more accepted as a possibility, the direction of its implementation will evolve. We are bright enough to think our way out of the situation we find ourselves in. We are now victims of the winds of war, which are constantly threatening somewhere.

We are not looking for a world free of disagreement, only one free of violence. The principles we have evolved to deal with individual behavior can be expanded and developed to cover group behavior.

The information age will become the age of enlightened negotiation. Honest information, freely available to all will be the key to straightforward talk. We will learn to compromise and seek win - win solutions. By eliminating the possibility of throwing temper tantrums, being greedy or bullying others with an armed force, we may find negotiating differences is a lot easier than we think. Nonviolent negotiation is our long term solution. In the short term, reducing and eventually stopping the international arms trade makes good sense.

To quote the current Dali Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, "Violence is against human nature and always leads to more problems." The cultivation of compassion and nonviolent diplomacy is the route to world peace.

## Age of Arbitration

Why should we be victims of war?

Bystanders are often caught in the middle as refugees, displaced persons or statistics of injury and death. We can no longer allow the Game of War to endanger any of us. We will no longer be the victims of war.

We owe ourselves, our children and all life on the planet a healthy future. This can only be assured by growing beyond warfare. Mass violence not only can be stopped, but must be stopped. Our present and our future depend on it and demand it.

Beyond ego, beyond macho, beyond borders lies our true path: the path of peace. Let us revive the United Nations with an ultimately worthy goal, Global Peacekeeping -- a responsibility shared by all nations and all peoples.

The age of negotiation, arbitration and compromise lies just beyond the age of war. All problems end up being solved with these skills anyway. We are only removing the violence.

We should be able to manage this next evolutionary step in our growth as human beings. The resources and energy it will eventually free up for other uses will be an economic and spiritual boost for us all.

We can lighten up our path in this world.

It has been over fifty years since the end of World War Two, fifty years since the birth of the United Nations and fifty years since Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

This has not been an easy time, but it has also been over fifty years since the last global war.

We need a new framework for the future, a new direction for our energies and thoughts.

It is time for us to truly Give Peace a Chance.

### **May Peace Prevail On Earth**

"Imagine a world without war!"

John Lennon

So you like the idea and want to help. Great!

Talk it up, spread the idea. Be prepared to be told you are idealistic and impractical. New wide ranging concepts have always had to expect such a reception.

"The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them."

Albert Einstein

It is time! If not now, when?

If not us, who?

Let's give peace a chance; it sure beats the alternative!

This is the work of a lifetime for any of us who choose long life and health for our children and ourselves. It is the path toward global prosperity, democracy, peace and the beginning of the fulfillment of our true potential as human beings.

This is a good idea. It will acquire a life and energy of its own. One day A World Without War will be the issue of the day. A hundred years from now this may be looked back upon as a turning point.

Let's get started!

Let's make war illegal!

Imagine - a world without war!

## **Into Our Future**

### **Make War Illegal**

Ideas? Suggestions?

Please feel free to print this short book by clicking on the Print this Site/Book link on the left, which will open a pdf file.

E-Mail [World Without War](mailto:imagine@worldwithoutwar.com) - [imagine@worldwithoutwar.com](mailto:imagine@worldwithoutwar.com)