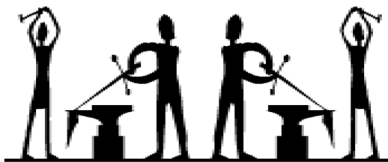


PeaceEconomyNews



A Publication of the Peace Economy Project

Fall 2017

Tough Conditions at Home and Around The World – The Summer of 2017

Remember the American soldier in Vietnam who claimed that “We had to destroy the village in order to save it.” That thought came back as we looked at the television pictures of Mosul and its miles of broken concrete containing who knows how many citizens who never got out. And there were so many Syrian, Iraqi and Yemeni cities before it.

The summer of 2017 is a hard one for Peace Economy Project members looking for good news. Just consider some of the recent headlines:

- The Director of the Office of Government Ethics quits in frustration
- More citizens killed in Afghanistan in the first half of 2017 than the same time period the year before.
- The first half of 2017 off to a blazing start, hotter around the world than any time except for the first six months of last year.
- The Opioid epidemic accelerates: on an average day 3900 initiate non-medical use of prescription opioids; 78 die from an overdose.
- 795 million people, about one in nine of the world population go to bed hungry. More than ten countries in Africa are estimated to have 25 per cent or more undernourished citizens. And not just Africa – Yemen, Haiti, North Korea, and more.
- North Korea “will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen” (Donald Trump) versus “everything will be reduced to ashes and flames the moment the first attack is unleashed.” (Democratic People’s Republic of North Korea).

Beyond these and other sad facts is the issue of the Administration and the Congressional proposed budgets. The House Budget Committee’s 2018 Budget Resolution Blue Print has just been released. Designed to set the guidelines for budget appropriations which must be approved in just over two months, the budget calls for a \$621.5 billion national defense budget, and only \$511 billion for all other “discretionary” expenditures. If enacted this would break the requirements of the 2011 Budget Control Act that called for parity between the military and non-military parts of the budget.

The House Budget conflicts with President Trump’s promises not to cut Medicaid, Medicare or Social Security. Over the coming decade \$500 billion in Medicare, \$1.5 trillion in Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act, and another \$2 trillion in discretionary funds would be slashed. Just \$203 billion of that \$4 trillion total would come next year.

Of course, the House budget can expect push back not just from the Democrats, but from the Republican’s “Freedom Caucus” conservatives that want even deeper cuts. And the Senate will get a chance to vote on its own budget, currently approved by its Armed Service Committee.

This newsletter addresses some of the most troubling aspects of the world scene – nuclear developments, the run-away military budget, threats from North Korea and more. You won’t see much about alleged Russian collusion, or tweets, or Saturday Night Live. But instead, with few exceptions, we examine very serious topics that demand our consideration. Let us hear from you; share your thoughts about what can and should be done.

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Peace Economy News

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Our patron saint Dwight Eisenhower must be turning in his grave. As recorded in the February 2017 issue of the Nation, in one of his early speeches after becoming president Eisenhower spoke to the American Society of Newspaper Editors focusing on the arms race and the “burden of arms draining the wealth and the labor of all peoples; a wasting of strength that defies the American system or the Soviet system or any system to achieve true abundance and happiness for the peoples of this earth.”

“Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, and the hopes of its children.”

Recall as well Eisenhower’s final address where he famously stressed that “we must guard against the unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals so that security and liberty may prosper together.”

Can We Avoid, Or at Least Slow Down, Another Nuclear Arms Race?

by Charles Kindleberger

Many of us remember President Obama’s April 2009 speech in Prague where he spoke of a world without nuclear weapons. A year later the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) was signed by the leaders of Russia and the US, followed by a Global Nuclear Security Summit held at the United Nations in order to review progress on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The New START treaty was ratified in December 2010 with a 71-26 vote by the Senate, more than the necessary 2/3rds super majority. Real progress in the reduction of nuclear weapons and tighter security against terrorists with “dirty bombs” seemed possible.

Nuclear Modernization. The New START Treaty called for the reduction of delivery vehicles (700 maximum) and nuclear war heads (1550 maximum) for both Russia and the US. However, to get the Congress to approve the treaty, President Obama agreed to a stipulation that America “modernize” its nuclear weapons. The amount was to be \$85 billion over the next 10 years.

At the same time as the push to “modernize” nuclear weapons, certain defense experts have argued for a new “suite of low-yield nuclear weapons” that could focus on smaller targets and cause less collateral damage. The Hiroshima (15 kiloton) and Nagasaki bombs (21 kiloton) bombs that ended World War II were small in comparison to most of their replacements. The claim from groups such as the US Defense Science Board was that nuclear bombs like the B61-7 Strategic gravity bomb (360 kiloton yield) and the B83-1 Strategic gravity bomb (yield up to 1,200 kiloton) are of such massive size that we would always be afraid to use them.

These individuals worry that Russia could use one or more of its small tactical nuclear weapons, leaving the US without an appropriate response. Stated in more bureaucratic language there would be no “credible rung on an escalation ladder that is currently binary between conventional weapons and all out nuclear war.”

Some of those said to be participating in President Trump’s Nuclear Posture Review have argued for:

- Building more low-yield options for strategic missiles.

- Building a smaller, short range cruise missile that could be delivered by the F35.
- Bringing back the Nuclear Tomahawk Land Attack Cruise Missile (TLAM-N) that was retired in 2010.

The counter argument is that we have a sufficient mix of large and small nuclear bombs. For example, General John Hyten, Commander of the United States Strategic Command (STRATCOM) has argued that about 1000 US Nuclear Weapons are, or can be configured to be low yield (less than 20 kiloton), and that provides more than sufficient options for any scenario.

Part of the debate has to do with what constitutes “modernization” and what constitutes a new weapon. In 2010, President Obama stated: “The U.S. will not develop new nuclear warheads or pursue new military missions or new capabilities from nuclear weapons.”

Unfortunately, that does not seem to be what has happened. People like Hans Kristensen and others at the Federation of American Scientists have described what the Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration and others are actually doing.

B61-12 (estimated cost: \$10 Billion). This will be a guided nuclear bomb, made possible with a Joint Direct Attack Munition Tail Kit (developed by Boeing), and one that can be “dialed” to result in various yields (.3 kiloton to 50 kiloton). It is said to be three or four times more accurate than existing nuclear gravity bombs. It is also able to control the amount of radioactive fallout. It will fit into three stealthy aircraft – the B-2 bomber, the B-21 bomber, and the F-35 Lightning II

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Joint Strike Fighter. Can anyone argue that the B61-12 is not a new tactical weapon with the capability to undertake new military missions?

Long Range Standoff Weapon (LRSO) (estimated cost: \$20 - \$30 Billion). In Fiscal Year 2015, the Department of Defense requested that the next generation of cruise missiles be delayed by 3 years. Last year it changed its mind and requested that the LRSO be accelerated. Reportedly, it now wants to purchase a 1000 of the new nuclear cruise missiles, twice as many as currently exist. They will contain a warhead (W80-4) with lower yield options, faster speeds, and able to travel within the B-2 and B-21 stealth bombers. Earlier Nuclear Posture Reviews said that any decision to replace the existing cruise missile (Air Launched Cruise Missile - ALCM) system should be postponed. The LRSO sure looks like a new weapon designed to take on new military missions.

W 76 Life Extension Program. This is a nuclear warhead that has been a central element of this country's nuclear inventory over the years. A new "radar-updated, path-length compensation super fuse" is apparently being developed to improve the warhead's ability to destroy "hardened targets." This sure sounds like a new bunker busting capability.

Remember the MAD nuclear policy – Mutually Assured Destruction? The idea was that as long as countries believed that their adversaries could retaliate from a nuclear attack with their own nuclear response, the bombs wouldn't be used. But when nuclear weapons are perceived as tactical weapons that can be used by local commanders to attack a relatively small target, the chances of their use would seem to expand. Former Defense Secretary William Perry believes that these new weapons will be "uniquely destabilizing." So do others now in Congress. Ten Senators asked President Obama to cancel development of the LRSO. But their views are far from popular. Last month the House of Representatives turned down (159 – 261) a proposed amendment to remove \$76 million dollars for development of the missile.

As the fall of 2017 approaches there are at least 3 nuclear policy initiatives that we need to monitor, all assuming that we don't blow ourselves up first in a nuclear war with North Korea.

1. National Defense Authorization Act. The 2018 NDAA has passed the House of Representatives (July 14th, 341-81) and been recommended by the Senate Armed Services Committee for debate. Senator John McCain has indicated that he will be open to the consideration of amendments, for which many can be expected. Among the issues:

2. Nuclear Posture Review. The Trump Administration began a new NPR in April of this year. It is supposed to be finished within 6 months, while others say the end of the year is more likely. DOD Secretary Mattis has testified before Congress that no deci-

sions have been made and that he is open on questions like the LSRO. In addition to the issue of what nuclear weapons should be modernized or newly built, the NPR will review the question of how to deliver them. The Obama Administration agreed to redo all aspects of the triad:

- A new long range bomber (the B-21) to be built by Northrup Grumman at an estimated \$80 to \$100 billion.
- A replacement for 12 Ohio Class submarines. To be known at the Columbia class, these subs are expected to collectively carry 240 Trident D-5 missiles. The estimated cost is \$100 – \$128 billion depending upon a variety of factors including inflation.
- And, the third leg of the triad would consist of 400 Ground Based Strategic Deterrent missiles, replacing the minute man missiles stored in western USA silos. Cost estimates have ranged from \$62 to \$85 billion.

Previous estimates have suggested that new armaments and delivery systems would require one trillion dollars over the next thirty years, estimates have now increased to \$1.2 trillion. We need to ensure that the NPR makes a fair evaluation of these huge multi-year defense programs – their actual contribution to peace, their impact on non-defense expenditure items, and the national debt.

3. Defense Budget Appropriations Act. Congress has to appropriate money once it has authorized its expenditure. Unless funds are appropriated by the beginning of October the government will shut down. The House bill (HR 3219, Make America Secure Appropriations Act) was approved on July 27, 2017 (335 yes to 192 no). Complicating the situation is that the House has voted \$72 billion above the law set in the Budget Control Act of 2011 and \$5 billion less than that for non-defense discretionary expenditures. Lack of compliance with this law could trigger a sequestration in keeping with the budget caps set in the 2011 law. These caps could be removed but that will require a new law, one that can survive a filibuster by the Democrats. The Administration/Republicans need 60 plus votes to replace or eliminate the current budget caps.

The Senate is moving more slowly. In theory, the final appropriation process cannot be completed until a Budget Resolution has been agreed to that establishes available money and divides it between the twelve appropriation committees. The Senate's immediate challenge is passing a new National Defense Authorization Act.

Once again it is impossible to know how this all will work out. Continuing resolutions have proved to be one way to keep the government going for at least a short while. It would seem that significant compromise will be necessary between the two parties and the Administration. This is a time when PEP needs to stay engaged. Let the Administration, your Congressional representatives, and the media hear from you about the costs and dangers of building, enhancing, and deploying nuclear weapons. Our society and planet are at risk.

PEP Statement on Poverty and Military Spending

by Tila Neguse

The most recent Census data in 2015 reflects the state of poverty in the US.

- 13.5 percent of people or 43.1 million people in the US lived in poverty.
- One in three children lived in poverty
- 4.2 million seniors 65 and older lived in poverty

In recent years, non-defense discretionary spending has been cut so drastically that many anti-poverty programs in this section of the budget cannot meet the needs of low income families and individuals. However, the efficacy of federal anti-poverty programs is unquestionable.

Safety net programs lift millions of people out of poverty every year.

- **SNAP** (formerly food stamps) lifted about 4.7 million out of poverty in 2015
- **Supplemental Security Income**, which provides support for the elderly and those suffering from a disability, lifted about 3.8 million people out of poverty.
- **Rent subsidies** lifted about 2.8 million people out of poverty.

At the Peace Economy Project, we advocate for cutting pentagon spending and funding human needs. We often talk at length about reducing wasteful pentagon spending by eliminating expensive and ineffective weapons systems or reducing our nuclear arsenal. But what about ‘human needs’? When we merge the concept of the reduction of pentagon spending with funding human needs we are referencing the way our nation budgets.

The federal budget should reflect the importance of investments in programs that help lift people out of poverty. The federal budget is not just about policies but about our national priorities as well. Consistently, pentagon spending consumes more than half of all federal discretionary spending. Discretionary spending is the part of the federal budget where many anti-poverty programs are housed. Programs like LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program), Community Services Block Grants, job training programs and legal services for low-income individuals make up the nondefense discretionary spending portion of the budget. The more money we spend on the Pentagon, the less we have to fund these important human needs programs. Over 50 years ago, President Lyndon Johnson called for an end to poverty in the US. While the programs built since then boosts millions of people over the poverty line each year, the US needs to do more to create pathways out of poverty. Part of the strategy to create these pathways and end poverty must include reducing military spending.

PEP believes in a federal budget that reflects our priorities as a nation. While still highlighting the need to reduce Pentagon spending, we support robust funding for human needs programs.

Sources: US Census Bureau; Center on Budget and Policy Priorities;; Coalition on Human Needs

Authoritarian Democracy: A Disturbing Trend Around the World

by Jason Sibert

The rise of authoritarian democracy in democratic republics around the world represents a challenge to those who believe in a peaceful, law driven world and to those who care about human rights.

Authoritarian democracy exists within the framework of democratic systems. However, the party in power uses the power they earned in elections to muzzle dissent in various ways. President Donald Trump in America, Vladimir Putin in Russia, Narendra Modi in India, Recep Erdogan in Turkey and Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines all embrace certain ideas that define authoritarian democracy. Trump attacks the media (a critical institution in a democratic society), peddles conspiracy theories, praises autocrats like Putin and encourages our country to scapegoat Muslims, minorities and outsiders. There are similar trends in smaller countries like Hungary, South Africa and Venezuela.

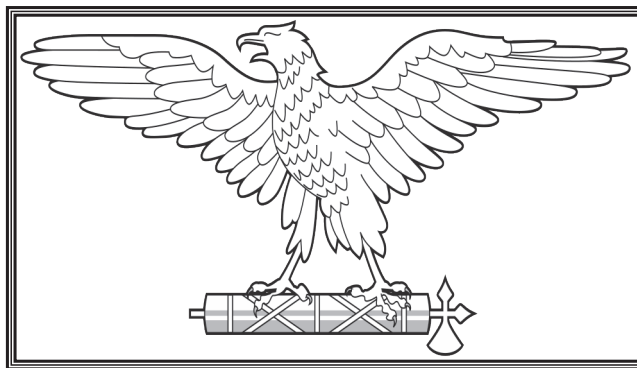
The politics of Putin, Modi, Erdogan and Duterte converge in different ways even though their countries differ in so many ways. All politicize opponents. In Modi's India, it is not uncommon for politicians to bring legal cases against opponents; similarly, and during the last election cycle Trump threatened to jail his opponent, Hillary Clinton. All of these leaders use the law to muzzle media that does not sing their praises. Modi has conducted tax audits of media organizations critical of his rule. Such actions keep the audited organizations under scrutiny and undermine them in the eyes of the public. During the election, Trump threatened to bring a Federal Trade Commission suit against Amazon.com in retaliation for the coverage that the Washington Post, owned by Amazon.com, gave his campaign. In Russia, there is the suggestion that Putin has murdered journalists. Duterte has killed drug dealers and users without due process. It is worth noting that Trump has not trampled on the judicial process as much as these other leaders.

Leaders of authoritarian democracy movements also use libel laws to discredit critics. During his campaign for the presidency, Trump threatened libel suits against women who claimed he had sexually assaulted them. Another tactic used by these leaders is undercutting traditionally non-partisan government institutions. In Turkey, Erdogan replaced huge numbers of civil servants with loyalists after an attempted coup. Under Modi, India replaced the leader of the country's reserve bank after he expressed concern

about the rising intolerance in the country.

All of these leaders remain silent in the face of violence. In India, Modi has remained silent while Muslims have been attacked in the name of Hindu ideology. In the United States, there has been an increase in hate crimes against women, minorities and Muslims in keeping with the rise of Trump. The central thrust behind these movements is the use of power to intimidate and discredit the opposition, even though the opposition isn't outlawed outright.

Democratic-republics thrive on dissent, a free media, civil liberties, a nonpartisan civil service and tolerance of differences of opinion. These are all defined as human rights by advocates of the concept and therefore these movements toward authoritarianism in democratic-republics constitute a threat to human rights.



Authoritarian democratic movements also are typically defined by an excessive nationalism. Putin, Erdogan, Trump, Duterte all have groups they do not consider to

be a part of their version of their respective nations. Trump's rhetoric against immigrants, Modi's promotion of Hindu nationalism (excluding other religions), and Putin's demands that Muslims conform to Russian culture (even though there have been Muslim in Russia for years) are all examples of exclusion. The list of people not to be trusted extends to the peoples and governments of other countries. Trump's rhetoric on trading partners, our Mexican neighbors, Europe and China are an example of authoritarian democracy's hostility to the outside world. Leaders of authoritarian democracies, who have little trust in much beyond their own borders, are unlikely to participate in arms control agreements. Since Trump was sworn in, he has directed criticism at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for not spending enough on the military. In response, some NATO members upped their defense budgets, but Trump has not responded by suggesting that the U.S.A. could now spend less. He has responded by the biggest peacetime defense buildup in the history of the republic. The result is that the world as a whole is now spending more on arms.

The rise of authoritarian democracy means the rise of a more armed and less peaceful world. Fortunately, there is resistance to these movements in every country. Curtailing the thirst for power by authoritarian politicians is important to the cause of peace.

Insider Look at Policing in America

by Alphonso Hicks Jr.

Abstract: Joe Rogan (former host of the TV show *Fear Factor*) interviews Michael Wood, an ex-cop from Baltimore. The discussion highlights multiple topics regarding policing misconduct and potential reform. Topics include training, operations, the war on drugs, disciplinary action, etc. Wood details how modern police are often unqualified, poorly trained and power hungry. This leads to militant practice and excessive use of force without accountability. A distrust of police is evident. Wood details how the current system perpetuates institutionalized racism. Reform could not only positively affect police-community relationships, but lower incarceration rates and increase economic production.

Joe Rogan, former host of the TV Show *Fear Factor* interviewed an ex-Baltimore cop named Michael Wood. Wood reveals how police departments perpetuate institutionalized racism through systemically targeting people of color. The reoccurring theme of the discussion is the lack of morality and ethics the police exhibit. Part of the issue is that we don't fully understand the problem. It's obvious that police shouldn't use excessive force. It's obvious they shouldn't take a life unless absolutely necessary—so why do they do it?



The first reason is because a power dynamic has to be maintained. I preface this statement by saying that not all cops are bad. Some join for the right reasons, others join for the wrong reasons. Regardless of their intent, they are ingratiating themselves into an occupying force with a long history of systemically oppressing people of color instead of “serving and protecting” them. With the badge comes a strong sense of pride and invincibility. The combination of these two creates a God complex, making some officers feel as if they're above the law. An officer can literally kill an unarmed Black person in cold blood and not be indicted for murder. Knowing this, they have free reign to abuse their authority whenever they see fit. There is a complete lack of checks and balances, thus resulting in the absence of accountability and reprimand among officers.

The first method of resolve, empathy training, is also the most important. Cops don't see those they're after as people. Instead, they're trained to see them as targets that can be acquired by any means desired, not necessary. The media stimulates perpetuates this through distorted depictions of black criminals and innocent people. For example, Brave New Films' video “White Riots vs. Black protests” highlights how news channels depict Black protests as riots, full of animals, thugs and looters, but depicts White riots as passionate parties that got out of hand. At white riots police officers were dressed normally and casually standing to the side, as if nothing were happening. Yet police officers show up in full riot gear at a peaceful black protest. The obvious difference in language used shows the media's constant attempt to dehumanize Black people.

Instead of seeing violent drug dealers/thugs, they should see people who were born into an environment where education and economic resources are scarce. As a result these people had no choice but to resort to drugs and violence to support their families. To all cops, imagine if that was your child. Maybe then excessive

force will seem just that—excessive. An empathetic point-of-view can provide better judgement calls in the field, resulting in fewer lives lost.

Next, Wood discusses how ending the “war on drugs” would reduce police brutality immensely. Of his 11 years on the force 90% of his arrests were either drug or gun related. Police are conditioned to believe that blacks/latino males are the ones committing the crimes, so much so that officers make criminals out of innocent people. Ronald Reagan's “War on Drugs” campaign eventually grew into the Bill Clinton's “War on Crime” in the early '90s. The 1994 Crime Bill introduced the 3 Strikes Law, mandatory minimums, children as young as 13 could be tried as adults, and lastly, 100,000 new police officers to be hired. The 1994 Crime Bill invested a lot of money into militarization of police and the prison-industrial industry. Such a large investment had to show results. As a result Black people's images were once again distorted in not only the media, but by the First Lady herself. In 1996 Hillary Clinton gave a speech discussing the impending need to crack down on black and Latino gangs (whom she said were ALL linked to drug cartels-not true) who were labeled responsible for all the crimes. Another example of the dehumanization of the Black/Latino image, Hillary Clinton specifically labeled them as “super predators” that had no conscious or sense of morals.

The police departments have to maintain high arrest numbers because they have to meet the demands of the prison-industrial system. The prison-industrial complex lives off of incarcerating people, justly or not. It's like a hotel: if the building holds 100 rooms they expect to occupy each one. The same with prisons. Mid interview Rogan stated,

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“and they’re going to fill them with the people they can demonize the easiest.” The police and judicial system are the catalysts for the mass oppression and resource deprivation blacks/Latinos face daily.

This is why self-education is so important. It is imperative that we know our human and civil rights. It is equally important that we are familiar with police procedure, especially regarding traffic stops, stop n frisks, and search & seizures. Anyone can find police training manuals, mandates and action plans online. Check the documents for any racially motivated incentives or disproportionate statistics. Ironically, statistics show that officers know how to de-escalate a situation using non-lethal force, just not when the subject is Black. Until we can educate ourselves and articulate that knowledge, police officers will continue to abuse their power.

The third change would be a complete reform on the police hiring, training and reprimand process. A new perception of policing is required. A strong sense of ethics is vital to setting disciplinary policies. As stated before, the “occupying force” mentality must go. Instead, there should be a collective serviceman approach to policing. A service position aids the people, which requires empathy. The current methodology hasn’t garnered any positive results. Wood even told a story about how he and his partners found a 30 year old action plan for their sector. The plan was literally the same as their current one. If a plan failed to resolve an issue three decades ago and is still in effect today, the administration wants the problem to persist. A checks and balances system is needed. There needs to be a set of conduct rules

that are strongly enforced. Any infraction results in severe disciplinary action, or even indictment.

Most importantly, police commissioners need to work in conjunction with respective social organizations and community leaders. That way police can gain an empathetic understanding of the effects of institutionalized racism on policing. People like Wood can be an asset to Afrocentric organizations/movements aiming to reform the aforementioned systems. Conversely, the community leaders can express their concerns freely without prejudice or pain. The hundreds of young black/Latino males that are in prison could be in the community learning to redirect their attention to more positive ventures, all with the guidance of friends, family, and yes- even police. That would exemplify the utopian principle of policing- to serve and protect; aid not arrest.

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Make the Government Accountable

by Jason Sibert

Americans have long heard their government portrayed as a monstrous beast that wastes their tax dollars. We’ve heard time and again about government misuse of money in this or that department or agency. However, waste in our country’s defense structure is rarely mentioned.

In 1990, Congress passed the Chief Financial Officers Act that required every agency and department of the federal government to produce verifiable financial statements that can be audited. To this date all agencies and departments have fulfilled this requirement except one – the Department of Defense.

This is astonishing considering right now the U.S. government faces a debt of \$20 trillion. The Defense Department is one of the biggest employers in the world with over 2.8 million service members. In fiscal year 2016, the Defense Department budget reached nearly \$600 billion. In 2014, the Marine Corps successfully passed an audit but had to retract its statement after scrutiny. The Defense Business Board, an organization of private executives who work to make the Defense Department more efficient, issued a report in 2015 revealing \$125 billion in administrative waste.

The Government Accountability Office, Congress’ organ to keep the government accountable, stated in 2013 that it could not complete

an audit because the Defense Department could not produce verifiable documents. A GAO statement said serious financial mismanagement problems at the Defense Department made its financial statements un-auditable. The Pentagon must conform to the same procedures to which other government departments and agencies conform when it comes to spending tax dollars. This is a department that accounts for 54 percent of discretionary spending.

According to William Hartung, the Director of the Arms and Security Project at the Center for International Policy, private contractors significantly benefit from the Pentagon’s confusion regarding its funds. Hartung explains that contractors will “periodically intervene to try to stop practices that would make them more accountable.” One company that hugely benefits from this is Lockheed Martin as its F-35 fighter-jet program is seriously flawed, yet the government turns a blind eye to this. Hartung explains, “The concept is: benefit from a dysfunctional system because they can charge however much they want and there’s not a lot of quality control.”

President Donald Trump has proposed a \$54 billion defense buildup. With the amount of money being suggested, the American people need to know where their money is actually going. Let us build a movement promoting an honest audit of the Pentagon.

Strange, and not so strange, things we have heard recently

by Charles Kindleberger

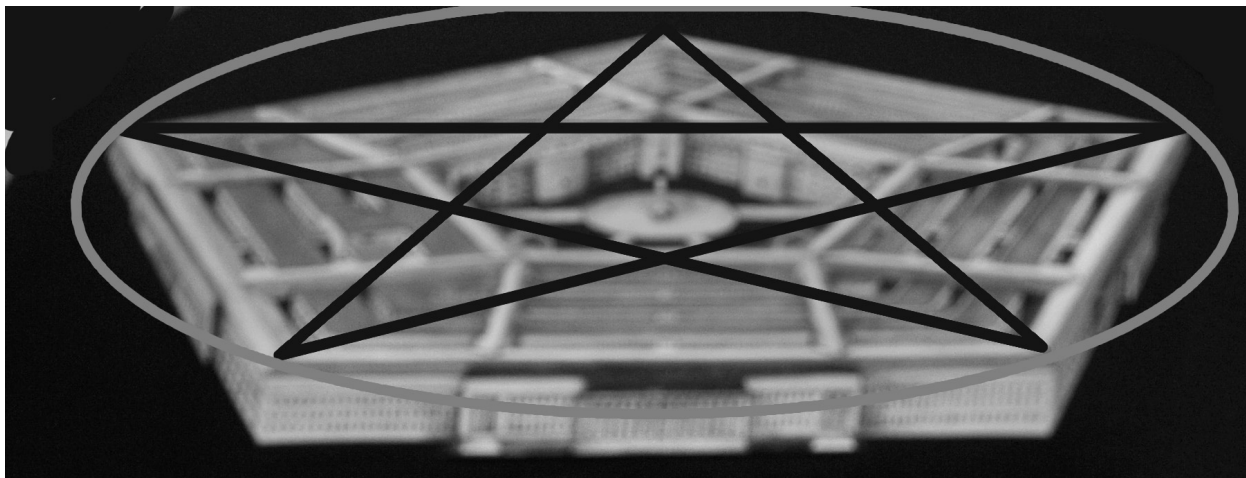
Staying up with developments in the military/industrial world is a never ending process. Here are some terms, acronyms and events that have come to our attention in recent months. Some old, some new, many depressing.

Able Archer 83. In January of this year Lt. General Leonard Perrouts died. A former commander in the Airforce Intelligence Service, in the early eighties, General Perrouts was serving at Ramstad Air Force base in West Germany in the face of very realistic war games being coordinated by Moscow in East Germany and Poland. Nate James' book, *Able Archer 83: The secret history of the NATO exercise that almost triggered nuclear war*, describes how Perrouts in the face of a highly tense situation, elected to do nothing, rather than ratcheting up the nuclear response procedures. How lucky we have been.

approach). The president wants to see it activated as well given the large excess (20 percent plus) capacity in military bases across the country.

Camouflage Uniforms. Joe Sopko is the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction. In that capacity he worries about the money that gets wasted in Afghanistan, so his recent outrage was understandable. It seems that someone in the Afghan Defense Ministry selected a forest design that was not in stock and available for free. The resulting uniforms reportedly cost \$28 million, but even more embarrassing supposedly only 2-3 percent of the country of Afghanistan is covered by forest.

Collusion. We're not lawyers but some who are suggest that seeking something of value from a foreign country in order to advance a political campaign is illegal. We'll wait for Robert Mueller.



AUMF. Shortly after the 9/11 disaster in 2001, Congress passed an “Authorization to use Military Force” in order to fight those behind the attack. Since then many have argued for new language as we have moved on to Iraq, Syria and other parts of the world. Barbara Lee (D-CA) who voted against the bill in 2001 has repeatedly tried to “sunset” the AUMF thereby forcing Congress to come up with new language. This past June the House Appropriations Committee agreed with her with “strong bi-partisan” support. Speaker of House Paul Ryan didn’t like this approach, so he reportedly convinced Tom Cole (R-OK) to offer a less drastic amendment. It apparently asks the Department of Defense to advise the Congress as to what it would like to see in a new AUMF. Understandably, Ms. Lee was upset.

BRAC. Remember Base Realignment and Closure, the process whereby a commission analyzed and recommended the closing of excess military facilities? Congress has fought the process because some of their constituents inevitably got hurt. Now Senators John McCain and Jack Read, Chair and Ranking member respectively of the Senate Armed Security Committee have revived the concept, but perhaps without the need for a commission (deemed a “cowardly”

Hypoxia. In June all F-35 planes at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona were grounded after 5 pilots experienced “hypoxia – like symptoms.” Hypoxia is a deficiency in the amount of oxygen that reaches the body, resulting typically in shortness of breath, confusion and/or wheezing. It has occurred with other advanced planes like the F-22 or F-18. Retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Dan Ward wrote a piece in 2015 with the following perceptive observation: “Forget the enormous cost overruns. Excuse the epic schedule delays. Overlook the disturbing performance limitations. ... It comes down to a single word – hypoxia.”

JCPOA. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, otherwise known as the Iran Deal, calls for the President to inform Congress every 90 days as to whether Iran is living up to the agreement between it and the five permanent members of the Security Council plus Germany (P5+1) and the European Union. Reportedly there was fierce debate between Steve Bannon (strategist) and Mike Pompeo (CIA) versus Rex Tillerson (State), Jim Mattis (DOD) and HR McMaster (NSC) concerning whether the President should indicate compliance. The President reluctantly signed but only after imposing other sanctions not related to the agreement. What will happen after the next 90 days? *continued on page 9*

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Laos Option. As DOD Secretary Jim Mattis contemplates sending a large contingent of additional American and NATO troops to Afghanistan, Steve Bannon is reported to be promoting another plan. He is said to be exploring the use of mercenary troops rather than American soldiers, working with Erik Price, the founder of Blackwater, and the brother of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. Why the name? Because during the Vietnam war we retained Laotians to disrupt the Ho Chi Min trail that carried North Vietnamese into South Vietnam.

Malabar Naval Exercises. This summer the United States is again undertaking naval training with the Indian navy in the Bay of Bengal. This year the event did not include Australia, but it did involve Japan. The emphasis is on anti-submarine warfare, given that increasingly Chinese submarines are entering into the Bay of Bengal, coming through the Malacca Strait that separates Indonesia from Malaysia and Singapore. They, of course, have a shared interest with Pakistan.

MARSOC. The United States Marine Corp Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC) is the Marine component of the Special Operations Command. Members typically have special training in languages, counter terrorism, special reconnaissance and related skills. Six members and a Naval Corpsman recently died in a plane crash in Mississippi.

Major Defense Acquisition Program (MDAP). We all know that the F-35 costs plenty, an estimated \$400 billion to build the fleet and another trillion in “operating and sustainment costs.” (GAO – 17-351). Now it is time for F-35 “follow-on modernization.” The Government Accounting Office estimates that this initiative to be known as Block 4 will cost over \$3.9 billion through 2022, money that will be devoted to research, development, test and evaluation. You will be pleased to learn that according to GAO, the Defense Department plans to use an “incremental, knowledge-based approach.”

HUGE Pentagon Expenses. For those of us who remember the \$640 toilet seat, and the \$7600 coffee maker, this announcement is still a little hard to digest. Apparently, the Pentagon has entered into an 18 month lease in Trump Tower at the cost of the more than \$130,000 per month. On the other hand Lockheed Martin’s costs per F-35A (the version that flies off of normal runways, not aircraft carriers or vertically) has reportedly shrunk to around \$75 million per plane from \$100 million. Because of the President’s bully pulpit, DOD pressure or Boeing’s new version of its F-18?

Pegasus. Spyware created by an Israeli firm (NSO Group) and sold in recent years to the Mexican Government (reportedly for \$80 million) was supposedly to help fight against terrorists and the drug cartels. Unfortunately it has been used to monitor and harass academics, lawyers journalists, and especially the international group of investigators that have been looking into the disappearance of 43 students in 2014.

Self-Executing Amendment. Congress can be an arcane place. An amendment was made to “strip a provision that would prohibit

Pentagon funding being used for a border wall.” The House Rules committee approved the proposal but because it was made as part of a self-executing rule (“also known as “deem and pass”) there was no separate vote on the measure. Therefore no Congressman had the obligation to vote on the record regarding the use of DOD money for the President’s Wall. Speaking of the wall, President recently claimed that he wanted his wall to be transparent so that drug runners would not inadvertently hit people on the other side when they threw heavy sacks of drugs over the fence! He said what?

Ship Building—Where will we find the workers? President Trump has declared that he wants to build another 75 ships (currently 275, goal 350). The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that this would cost \$690 billion over 30 years or about \$23 billion a year, 60 per cent more annually than the last 30 years. Actually the CBO says considerably more ships will have to be built, because ships currently in operation will reach retirement age during that time.

There are, of course, the serious questions of need and money; but beyond this is the challenge of skilled workers and “ramping up” a ship yard. During the cold war there were 176,000 workers in the ship building and repair sector. The Ship Builders Council of America says there are around 100,000 today. General Dynamics, Huntington Ingalls Industries and other large companies are finding it very difficult to hire qualified electricians and welders. Gaining experience to work on something like a new submarine or aircraft carrier can take years. And there is the problem of obtaining security clearances that allow workers inside the yard.

Space Corp. The 1967 Outer Space Treaty prohibits the use of the moon or other celestial bodies for stationing or testing weapons, but it does not regulate the placement of weapons in orbit. For years groups like the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space have fought the urge by the Military-Industrial Complex to do just that. Pressure keeps growing to develop the means for protecting our satellites, and creating an offensive capability. With bi-partisan support, a group in Congress led by Congressman Mike Rodgers (Alabama) and Mac Thornberry (Texas) have pushed to consolidate the many space oriented activities throughout the Pentagon into one organization – a Space Corp. No doubt pushed by the Air Force, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has kept the proposal out of the National Defense Authorization Act. But the struggle is by no means over.

Transgender Ban. President Trump’s July 26 tweet proposing a ban on all transgender troops will not be cheap. He claimed it was necessary because of excessive medical help required for transgender soldiers, a number that RAND estimated to be \$8.4 million per year. On the other hand, the Palm Centre estimates an average cost of \$75,000 to recruit and train a replacement. They estimate 12,800 individuals with a transgender classification are currently in the military service, and it would cost about \$960 million to find and replace those currently in the service. That’s about a 100 to 1 difference, not to mention all the anticipated lawsuits.

What a Scary Time!! Cool Heads Need to Step Forward

by Charles Kindleberger

On July 4th North Korea culminated years of testing with an ICBM that flew 1,800 miles above earth before deliberately crashing into the Pacific Ocean. David Wright, a member of the Union of Concerned Scientists, concluded that with a normal trajectory, the missile could have reached Alaska. Then on July 28th a second ICBM was launched, this one estimated to have the ability to reach the lower 48 states, perhaps as far as Chicago. President Trump has stated emphatically that North Korea would not be allowed to develop such a weapon. Fortunately, Department of Defense Secretary James Mattis and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson have announced that war is not imminent. What is going on? What can, and should, be done?

Here are one person's thoughts regarding some basic questions.

a) Does North Korea have an ICBM that works? It would appear so, but there is limited evidence (at least for those of us not privy to national intelligence) that they have a miniaturized nuclear war head that will fit on an intercontinental missile and/or that it can survive the severe heat and pressure of reentry into the atmosphere.

b) Would the USA have advance notice prior to a launch? Unlike the 450 Minutemen ICBMs in the western United States which reside in hardened silos, there is some indication that North Korea's ICBMs can be stored on mobile launchers hidden in caves, and move to launch sites on short notice. Moreover, if they are using solid fuels, the preparation time should be much shorter than with liquid fuel.

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Preventing Quality Arms Control

by Jason Sibert

While extra missile defense systems are often described by their advocates as a way to prevent the disaster of a missile strike, they also prevent quality arms control.

On May 30, after years of planning, the Defense Department intercepted a mock intercontinental ballistic missile, the first successful test of its ground based program against an ICBM range target. Top Pentagon officials hailed the success of the test.

As Ambassador Thomas Graham of the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation pointed out, a missile defense system could defend the United States against North Korea. However, it could also lead to something more dangerous: another arms race with Russia. Successful arms control is built not just on controlling offensive systems but also defensive systems.

Over the past three decades, we've seen the U.S.-Russian consensus on the importance of limiting missile defenses dissolve. This receives less attention than nuclear weapons but could limit cooperation on arms reduction.

Ground-based missile defense seems attractive because it could protect us from a missile based attack. It uses radar to detect a missile and then an interceptor to destroy it. As Graham points out, some experts have compared this to a bullet hitting another bullet. Both the missile and the interceptor are moving 20 times faster than the speed of sound.

During the Cold War both Soviet Russia and the United States understood the dangers of missile defense technology. In 1972, President Richard Nixon signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty which limited the number of missile defense systems on each side to two and then phased in a drawdown to one. The Treaty created a sense of stability that allowed for more arms control agreements. Those agreements led to a 50 percent reduction in the American and Soviet arsenals.

In 2002, President George W Bush withdrew from the ABM Treaty to develop a Ground-based Midcourse Defense. Since that time the role of missile defense has expanded. Congress has increased the number of interceptors in our arsenal. In 2016, Congress broadened the role of national missile defense system "to maintain and improve an effective and robust layered missile defense system" that can defend the United States and other allies abroad. This is different from the previous doctrines on missile defense.

In March a group of senators introduced a bill that would increase the number of interceptors deployed from 44 scheduled to be deployed at the end of 2017 to 72 and maybe 100. The bill also requires the Missile Defense Agency to complete a third interceptor site to defend against a North Korean missile attack. Ambassador Graham called these ideas "dangerous and unproven." He said it's not clear if our missile defense system could take out all of Russia's arsenal or even deflect a missile from North Korea. With 44 scheduled interceptors by the end of the year, our missile defense system is no threat to Russia's dangerous 1,700 deployed nuclear weapons.

Russia will most likely respond to increases in our missile defense with more offensive weapons. This whole strategy serves to make arms control less possible and international discord more likely. Let us hope that cooler heads prevail and we can return to sensible arms control.

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c) Could we stop one or more North Korean ICBM missiles? Who knows? We have spent hundreds of billions of dollars since the Reagan Star War initiative, trying to build the capacity to “hit a bullet with a bullet.” The latest test (May 30, 2017) supposedly was successful, but traditionally these tests have been carefully scripted, with advance knowledge about the trajectory available to the antimissile battery. Then there is the question of our ability to distinguish chaff or dummy warheads from the real thing. And what if the launch was not just one or two but fifteen or twenty ICBMs? The press reports that North Korea currently has around twenty nuclear bombs, perhaps considerable more.

d) Can't we get China to convince North Korea to adopt a more peaceful stance? Apparently not. China is said to fear the prospects of millions of hungry, impoverished North Koreans pouring across the Yalu River into their country should the Kim regime fall. Nor would it look with pleasure at the prospects of an American presence throughout the Korean peninsula. They are suspicious of the THAD battery partially installed in South Korea, claiming that its radar is invasive. China also enjoys economic trade with the North Koreans.

e) What should we do? First of all everyone should take a deep breath. H.R. McMaster, head of the National Security Council, talks of the possibilities of a “preventive war.” Mike Pompeo, head of the Central Intelligence Agency has hinted that North Korean regime change was an option. In contrast, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has mostly promoted dialog, encouraged by economic sanctions. President Trump changes tweet messages a lot but typically emphasizes that a nuclear threat to America is “not tolerable.”

Second, let us fully recognize the numbers of people at risk. If North Korea hit an American city one or two million could die. Presumably at the same time North Korea would attack

South Korea where 26 million reportedly live within Metropolitan Seoul, most within range of massive rocket and artillery fire. They would no doubt shoot, as well, at the 23,000 American soldiers and dependents, and the additional estimated 175,000 American citizens in South Korea. North Korea would not likely spare Japan, which has an additional 40,000 members of the American military. And no doubt, the USA would obliterate the Pyongyang administration and countless of its innocent citizens. The suffering would be horrific.

Third, let's be realistic about the power of sanctions. A stiff set of sanctions was recently adopted by the

United Nations Security Council by an impressive, unanimous vote. Countries will be prohibited from importing North Korean coal, iron, lead, and seafood products. Additionally North Korean laborers will not be allowed to expand their work in China, Russia or other countries. The sanctions are estimated to cut as much as \$1 billion out of the country's \$3 billion in annual exports. Most of that trade is with China. If they decide to enforce the UN sanctions, North Korea will be hurt. Yet few doubt sanctions alone will force Kim Jung-un to modify his nuclear program.

Finally, we need to recognize that Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) has worked. Since the 1950s, America and its enemies have recognized that it was in all of our interests to avoid a nuclear war. Yes, but what if Kim Jung-un is crazy? My response is that is probably not the case, but even if is, then all the more reason to try to convince him that the USA will not remove him from office or in any other way attack his country. We have a long term commitment to protect South Korea, a country for which we sacrificed some 33,000 US soldiers in the war. It seems to me that we can make it very clear that we honor that commitment. We can do so without the incendiary rhetoric or large scale military exercises that seem to provoke the North or the sanctions that hurt one of the world's poorest countries.

Let's be clear that regime change is not our policy. That a unified Korea is not a US priority. That we would love to see a nuclear free Korean peninsula. Yes, we will speak out against those who do not practice humanitarian and democratic behavior. Moreover, if North Korea attacks us or our allies, we can be expected to respond with force. Our overwhelming desire, however, is to live in peace with mutual respect for North Korea and all countries.



Peace Economy Project would like to thank all of those who gave time in support of the 2017 print newsletter. Especially Joe Welling and Fran Armstrong who contributed valuable layout and copyediting support.

Peace Economy Project would also invite all members to visit and contribute to our Facebook and Twitter pages.

The Relationship Between Worldwide Human Rights, The American Economy and American Security

by Bob Lindsey

Increasingly, the United States is placing itself in a Human Rights cocoon by continuing economic relations with despotic regimes of every size, shape and stripe. Why should the average Americans, many suffering economic deprivation themselves, care about what goes on overseas? Quite simply, because our labor force is becoming increasingly noncompetitive with foreign workers who suffer extreme abuse in many ways in order to produce products for American consumption cheaper than they can be produced in America. Working class Americans are protected by a wide array of laws and regulations that emanated from abuse and hazard that was prevalent on our shores years back. Indeed, such protections continued to grow through the end of the last administration while, at the same time, corporate America's shift of manual, low-skilled jobs continued unabated to economic/political regimes which are less concerned with workers' health and safety.

What are the inducements for corporate America to shift such work overseas? (1) Greatly reduced liability for workplace accidents. A chemical release in Bhopal, India in December 1984 killed thousands and has maimed and caused genetic mutations to many more. Dow Chemical has yet to be held fully accountable. If such negligent conduct had taken place in the United States, the resulting litigation would have likely bankrupted the firm and caused its liquidation. Another major industrial catastrophe in a third-world country was the 2013 collapse of a building in Bangladesh which housed a number of garment factories producing brand-name clothing for the developed world. (2) Reduced environmental protections. The damage caused by an oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico cost BP Oil millions of dollars in cleanup costs yet such environmental negligence caused by the petroleum industry is ongoing in Nigeria. (3) Low cost of labor. It has been documented that the multi-billion dollar seafood processing industry throughout Southeast Asia routinely employees child labor and the use of enslaved persons by some foreign actors has been documented. (4) Ability to organize unions is almost non-existent. Even where lip service is paid to this right, the reality is that labor organizers are continually harassed; often in violent fashion. This includes some of our largest trading partners such as Cambodia, China, Indonesia and Vietnam.

The protection of our own rights here at home will continue to suffer as a result unless we demand that current and prospective trading partners adhere to the same norms that Americans still enjoy. Has our government's response been to insist on such compliance with human rights standards by these countries in order to make the American working class competitive with such offshore labor? To the

contrary, our politicians are actively engaged in attempts to dumb down our own conditions and protections through actions such as the misnamed *Right-to-Work* legislation. The focus of much political advocacy, however, to simply "Buy American" is misplaced and misses the point. The economies of Japan, South Korea and the European Union are not the problem as the American worker has been shown to be able to compete on a level playing field with these; witness the construction of several manufacturing facilities in the United States by these foreign companies.

Ignoring such Human Rights abuses has also compromised America's reputation. *Cruel and unusual punishment* is blatant in Saudi Arabia, for instance, yet our government pays homage to their rulers as we facilitate their profitable oil trade that benefits only a select few. Our military interventions in the Middle East have borne little relationship to any actual threats to our country. Our government justifies such interventions in the name of human rights. However, genocide continues in parts of Africa and our government remains silent.

Further, the victims of such warfare cannot help but know who provides the military force. As a result of such meddling by the United States in the affairs of these countries, we are actually growing venom towards our country by people who can only judge us by the hypocrisy of our actions. The economic interests of American firms seems to be the only determinant as to whom we pick a fight with, irrespective of their treatment of their own citizens.

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, adopted by the United Nations in 1948, provides a moral foundation that, if adhered to, would truly facilitate our participation in the worldwide economy on a fair and equal basis. Attempts at domination have never served nations well and will only serve to further denigrate the rights of our own citizens. Groups such as *Amnesty International*—we have an active local group here in St. Louis—actively monitor and call out abuse wherever and whenever detected including the identification of American complicity. The relevance of worldwide Human Rights to our own prosperity and security, therefore, is paramount.

Peace Economy Project	
Financial Report for 2016	
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and other Revenue	42,353.83
Total Expenses	\$35,365.36

U.N. Votes to Declare Nuclear Weapons Illegal

by Jason Sibert

On July 7, 2017, almost 72 years after the first atomic bomb exploded in the desert of New Mexico, 122 nations voted to declare nuclear weapons illegal under international law in a session at United Nations headquarters in New York City. None of the nine nuclear armed states attended the session. In September, the treaty will be open for signatures from all U.N. states and will enter into force after all 50 countries have signed it.

Even the treaty's strongest supporters admit that it's an aspirational document designed to delegitimize nuclear weapons. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons believes that outlawed weapons will lose their "legitimacy and status and also the resources for production, modernization and retention." The treaty does not really ban nuclear weapons by international law because it does not apply to any country that will not sign it. Proponents hope the treaty will create a stigma to the possession of nuclear weapons that will spread.

The cleanup of waste sites and production facilities and the potential for nuclear winter and environmental effects are among the dangers associated with nuclear weapons. Even a small-scale nuclear war could have large effects on the environment that we depend on for survival. A research team from the University of Nebraska recently spoke to a concern on the environmental effects a small nuclear weapon explosion could have on climate change, causing a bleak phenomenon known as nuclear autumn. It is a less intense version of nuclear winter – a severe global cooling event triggered by an all-out nuclear war.

The University of Nebraska paper noted that a nuclear autumn would cause catastrophic damage to humans and eco-systems. There could be massive changes in agricultural productivity, stratospheric ozone loss, and hazardous radioactive fallout. The United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China all have weapons that could create nuclear autumn through the detonation of merely five bombs.

Despite the dangers of such powerful weapons, President Donald Trump said in February that he would add more nuclear weapons to our arsenal. In a tweet he said: "The United States must greatly strengthen and expand its nuclear capability until such time as the world comes to its senses regarding nukes."

The U.N. Treaty to ban nuclear weapons is a small step in the direction of abolition. Much more needs to be done to educate the citizens of our country and other countries on the incredibly dire effects that even a limited nuclear war would likely have.

In Memoriam

The St. Louis peace and justice community lost three true champions and long-time PEP members.

Hedy Epstein was a Holocaust survivor who was active in standing up for peace and justice her entire life.

Yvonne Logan founded the World Community Center to house peace and justice groups.

Agnes Wilcox was the founder of Prison Performing Arts, demonstrating the positive power of the creative arts in changing lives.

2016 Annual Report

At our board retreat at the beginning of the year, we asked ourselves, "What does a peace economy look like?" We recognize that PEP must react to and oppose bad military policy – but at the same time, we put energy into a call for the transfer from military spending to health care, community policing, and, yes, nation-building. We rewrote our mission statement, which we've been referring to regularly:

PEP's Mission

The Peace Economy Project researches military spending, educates about the hazards of an unchecked military-industrial complex and advocates for conversion from a military- to a more stable, peace-based economy. We focus our attention on local weapons manufacturing, arms proliferation and worldwide militarization. We collaborate with other organizations to raise consciousness about where our tax dollars are invested and to encourage others to reinvest in their communities.

PEP's Accomplishments

1. PEP collaborates with Veterans for Peace, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Empower Missouri, the Table, Drone-Free St. Louis and Instead of War until they closed, Interfaith Center on Latin America, Show Me \$15, Jobs with Justice, Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration, Netroots Nation, Amnesty International, Civitas Model UN, and Forward Through Ferguson,
2. Completed "Mothers of Murdered Children": an investigation into violence in St. Louis and the many efforts to resist and repair this violence
3. Published monthly eZine, maintained website, and published annual newsletter
4. Published a Call to Congress to cut military spending, collected signatures, and delivered the signatures to Members of Congress in the St. Louis region
5. Presented a monthly movie series on peace issues, Charlie King in Concert, Kim Klein Conference on Fundraising, and a Jeopardy-style quiz show on military spending



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Mary Ann McGivern	Joan Suarez
Tila Neguse	Mary Beth Reissen
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 Carla Mae Streeter
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 Fanice Sudvarg
 Abbe Sudvarg & Francis Baumli
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 Henry Webber & Christine Jacobs

Sr. Paulette Weindel
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 Agnes Wilcox

Warren & Bonnie Wimmer
 Peter Wollenberg
 Margaret Hilpert Woolley
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New Executive Director

New Peace Economy Project Executive Director Jason Sibert comes to the organization with a wealth of experience in journalism, marketing, accounting and sales.

Sibert worked for the Suburban Journals from 1999 to 2009 as a news writer, sportswriter and advertising copywriter. He worked as a freelance writer for publications such as Today's Advantage, Patch.com, Java Journal, Breakthrough Institute and St. Louis Beacon after his stint with the Journals. In addition, Sibert spent four years as an auditor in the restaurant industry, worked in the marketing departments of two different rental car companies and also worked in the insurance industry as a sales manager.

Sibert looks forward to applying his writing and journalism background to his everyday duties with Peace Economy Project. He considers writing and research to be his strong point and, since starting with PEP, he has published op-eds and letters in publications like the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Alton Telegraph, Today's Advantage, the Tory-Times Tribune and Belleville News Democrat. He has also published stories with Progressive Populist.

The new executive director feels that alternative and non-profit media are important in a landscape dominated by commercial media outlets who are influenced by military contractors and other commercial entities. This makes the media he produces for PEP vital. Sibert feels a regular presence in local media via letters and op-eds helps spread the ideas associated with PEP to an even wider audience.

Sibert is also interested in creating a vision of what the peace economy looks like and what it means for our country socially and economically. If a group has a vision, the group also needs a map.

Meet Our Intern

Brenna Sullivan is a senior in her final semester at Saint Louis University finishing degrees in both Sociology and Psychology with minors in Public Health and Urban Poverty Studies. Coming from a small central Illinois town, Saint Louis opened her eyes to issues of oppression and the rights of marginalized groups. Advocacy, particularly in the form of writing, is something incredibly important to Brenna and she is very thankful for the opportunity the Peace Economy Project has given her.



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JPS Shares (\$25/month) save these 5 organizations valuable time and energy otherwise spent fundraising so that they can focus on their important work for peace and justice.

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(314) 974-7432
www.jpsstl.org

To our readers: If you are not currently a member but like what you have read here, please consider joining PEP. Membership supports PEP's research and work to build a peace-based economy. Clip and mail the form below. Don't forget your email address - it is the quickest way for us to reach you.

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