

## Reintroduction to Articles Still Relevant after All These Years

(Jan 2023)

Working toward real peace requires a three pronged approach: community based efforts including protests, the inner work of “liberating the peacemaker within” and a “lifeworld reconnect.” Van Jones addresses the first two: “It’s in the convergence of spiritual people becoming active and active people becoming spiritual that the hope of humanity now rests.” The third addresses our perception (currently our misperception) of the natural world that renders most of us insane. Insanity is defined as: the inability to perceive and/or interact constructively with life world reality. Our everyday interactions with the natural world remain destructive. I will deal with this issue in the written version of my course titled: Liberating the Peacemaker Within. Regarding the essays below, my intent is to inform people about the true nature of the American military which Martin Luther King Jr. described as the greatest purveyor of evil in the world. It’s one of the world’s greatest polluters as well. The public needs to know what “service” or, more aptly, what disservice is dispensed (often unwittingly) by American military personnel around the world.

Unfortunately, regarding the issue of real peace, things are getting worse and the various points discussed in these articles are as relevant today as they were at the start of our “forever” wars. Rereading the articles offers an interesting historical perspective as well. Sadly, most of the predictions I offered based on my experience with the Vietnam catastrophe came to pass. It’s a repeating pattern program that becomes more destructively futile with each succeeding iteration. When will they ever learn? “Means and ends are like seed and tree respectively” (Gandhi) or “the ends are preexistent in the means” (Walt Whitman). Additionally, we all harbor the tendency “To Create an Enemy” via unconscious projections. I will continue to post Sam Keen’s helpful poem which describes that mental process so eloquently.

The most widely read essays below, judging from the feedback received, were “The Military Chaplaincy and Prostitution” and the article written for the Madison, WI newspaper - The Capitol Times: “Troops Not Served by Perpetuating Hero Myth.” The latter generated a lot of electronic hate mail. A majority of the American public back then were still heavily swayed by the lies and propaganda promoting Bush’s absurd “holy war.” At that time, very few knew anything about the courageous young woman in British Intelligence who exposed (and thus thwarted) the Bush regime's attempt to extort a UN resolution supporting its war of aggression. Without UN support, warmongers were forced to concoct the infamous “Weapons of Mass Destruction” scare to get the death machine rolling. The most discouraging and at times depressing memory of that time involves the number of scholars and religious leaders who bought into the lies and supported the criminal invasion of Iraq - including Bishop Desmond TuTu and most of the scholars I knew and worked with. Bishop TuTu cited “just war theory” as a basis for his support. That theory had already lost credibility at the start of my lifetime. I was born less than four months after the US tested atomic bombs on Japanese civilians. The majority of casualties in the “good war” were suffered by defenseless civilians. That majority increased during the “forgotten war” and increased again during the “lost war” that I witnessed first hand.

Since WWII, no American war criminals have yet been held accountable for civilian slaughter and other war crimes. Lesser (Nazi) war criminals were executed at Nuremberg. Only whistleblowers who told us the horrible truth (e.g., about the murder video, about Abu Ghraib and the torture gulag) have been jailed. "The naked truth is still taboo whenever it can be seen." - Bob Dylan

The Military Chaplaincy and Prostitution article drew responses from coast to coast. All inquiries were focused on the brothel ("Sin City") managed by the US military in Ahn Khe, Vietnam circa 1968. All respondents, including the head of chaplaincy services in Boston, MA, missed the point of this article - which was and still is: why begin, much less end, our moral concern with the issue of prostitution? Why not begin with the utter absurdity of "just war theory" when the majority of casualties are known to be noncombatants, including children? That was the case during WWII ("the good war") with an ever increasing percentage of defenseless civilians killed in every war since then. Again, this article is mostly NOT about prostitution; it's about the Chaplaincy's role and complicity in crimes against humanity committed by the US military. In effect the military chaplaincy perpetuates evil in the name of "The Prince of Peace."

### **Bush's "Holy War" - The Truth about Wars - Open Letter to the Madison School Board**

Afghanistan took twice as long to accomplish but our defeat there came more quickly and more resoundingly at the end than did our defeat in Vietnam. And the cost was much greater. However Bush's "holy war" in Iraq is still ongoing. At tremendous cost, thousands of mercenaries maintain what Eric Prince and his Blackwater mercenaries dubbed Crusader Castle in the "Green Zone" of Baghdad. The only war of longer duration is the Korean war with only an armistice agreement (often violated) in effect. In school I was taught the Korean war ended in 1953. I wrote to an army buddy I trained with in 1968 who was sent to Korea instead of Vietnam congratulating him for getting a non combat assignment. To my surprise he wrote back "are you kidding?!" He informed me that he too received combat incentive pay and had been under fire a number of times. I recall my brother (who had access to top secret info around that time) confiding that it was so volatile there that nuclear munitions had been secretly deployed along the DMZ separating North and South Korea. Corporate media does not inform us of such details. We aren't told much about the murderous effects of sanctions either. A professor in Hanoi told me the US sanctions were more devastating than the Vietnam war itself. It's a sure bet the sanctions on Afghanistan will be horrific as well.

The open letter was inspired by comments following a televised school board meeting regarding military advertising in Madison, WI schools. I presented the case against military ads. Several board members insisted the ads merely informed students of another possible career choice. I see them as bait for the next generation of cannon fodder hooked by the poverty draft. I would replace the ads with quotes from those who utilize cannon fodder for profit and political advantage, like this one by Henry

Kissinger from the infamous Nixon tapes: "Soldiers are dumb animals to be used as pawns." or "soldiers are suckers." by President Donald Trump.