

The Proposal is inspired by [THE ROUNDTABLES SERIES](#) and the [VALEDICTION](#) books

The Economic Justice World Peace Proposal

By Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould

June 1, 2023



[Eternal flame](#) at the Grave of John Fitzgerald Kennedy in Arlington National Cemetery
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As the featured speakers of TrineDay Publisher’s Roundtable Series we developed the *Economics Justice World Peace Proposal* and “An Open Letter to King Charles III” as the media kickoff campaign. The proposal lays out the basics of how to build a just economy that will lead to world peace.

Proposal Summary: Pages 1-6

Violence begets violence, war begets more wars. These facts have been known to generations before our time and we should not have to learn this horrible truth again. Events have been forgotten by history and covered up by administrations. Old angers and hatreds have been instilled in new generations. We cannot continue in this manner and survive as a people. We must calm down, face the facts of where we have come from, and put our minds to diffusing the crisis.

Is there a solution? Yes, there is; knowledge, understanding and the courage to vow to resolve the problem without violence or prejudice. First and foremost we must move away from the economy of war we have been living in the millennia. An economy of war creates war and eventually creates endless war which is what we are in. We need to move away from war to create an economy of peace and that will produce the endless peace we want. Sharing positive ideas is not sufficient to change the world. We need to translate consciously the power of ideas into action. The first step is to release all those feelings of fear and despair from the endless war agendas we face. Unlocking our creative power to imagine the peace we want will enable it to materialize as our future and once unlocked, the full potential for that future will provide the place for that peace to happen.

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-Marriage of Economic Justice & World Peace Will Create Heaven on Earth

Since world peace cannot exist without economic justice we'll start by building the economy of peace based on *The economics of Henry George*. "The Georgist philosophy advocates equal rights for all and special privileges for none. It affirms a universal right for everyone to share in the gifts and opportunities provided by nature." Everyone has a birthright to the earth's "God given" resources. A just, prosperous and peaceful future needs to be based on fairly sharing the Earth. The "unearned income" that now flows to the few who claim much more than their fair share of land and natural resources; should be used to finance public goods and services. Practical reforms in public finance policy can begin the process by shifting taxes from earned income on wages to unearned income on land and natural resources.

Fairly sharing this "commons rent" addresses the root causes of hunger, homelessness, poverty and yes, even war. When the commons rent finances public goods and services it benefits everyone. Land speculation and hoarding are curbed and the increased purchasing capacity due to removing taxes on work enables affordable housing, thriving small businesses and overall a more localized and diverse economy. The largest landowners in the world would pay an enormous amount of commons rent. If they refused to do so, their land by rights would be confiscated so that others could have access to their birthright. The more rapidly people awaken to the power of these earth rights tax principles and policies the faster we will build a world of peace and plenty for all. Ultimately when the marriage of world peace and economic justice is complete, it will create heaven on Earth. Let's Build It!

- Activating JFK's Plan for World Peace

"President John F. Kennedy, Speech at American University, June 10, 1963 "Our problems are manmade. Therefore, they can be solved by man. And man can be as big as he wants. No problem of human destiny is beyond human beings. Man's reason and spirit have often solved the seemingly unsolvable--and we believe they can do it again."

JFK is continually rated as one of our greatest presidents, a testament to his ability to inspire hope, faith and courage in Americans. He asked us to take on the most important challenge of our times in 1963 by helping him to create world peace. His American University Speech laid out that plan with words that are powerful – so powerful he could have lost his life five months later just because of them. Resurrecting JFK's plan for world peace is long overdue. *We the People* must do it. *We the People* can do it! *We the people* will do it! And the first step is for, *We the People* to imagine the peaceful future we want, starting today. Americans are in a unique position to start the building of the economy of peace and justice. Activating his plan will help bring forth the peaceful world we want out of the final chaotic stage of empire.

-JFK's Peace Speech resonates with Badshah Khan's Peace Message

"Is not the Pashtun amenable to love and reason? He will go with you to hell if you can win his heart, but you cannot force him even to go to heaven - Badshah Khan"

We'll intertwine JFK's blueprint for world peace with Afghan tribal leader Bhadshah Khan's indigenous non-violent movement known as the Khudai-Khidmatgar. If anyone today could name an historical figure connected to the origin of non-violent resistance against political oppression, it would most likely be India's Mohandas Gandhi. Gandhi defined the idea of non-violent resistance in his struggle to free India from British colonial rule. But in 1929, a Pashtun tribal leader in nearby Afghanistan named Bhadshah Khan - a peer of Gandhi - became an important ally by inaugurating Afghanistan's indigenous non-violent movement known as the Khudai-Khidmatgar - the servants of God. Since Khan realized that God needed no service he decided that they would serve God they by serving humanity and set out to remove violence from their ancient Pashtun tribal code. Known as Pashtunwali, Afghans had lived by the code's elaborate rules for millennia and continue to order their lives by it to this day. The strength of Badsher Kahn's Khudai-Khidmatgar and its philosophy challenged more than just the Afghan tribal code of Pashtunwali and the dominance of the British Empire in India. Badsher Khan also challenged the idea expressed by many Western orientalisks that his movement was just an aberration. In our research into Bhadshah Khan's Nonviolence Movement we discovered that his foundational idea was very similar to JFK's American University speech. Rather than focusing on British oppression as the first step towards nonviolence, Khan chose to reform the ancient Pashtun tribal code that sanctioned killing to resolve family feuds. It happens that JFK promoted a similar idea. In what became known as the "Peace Speech" Kennedy asked Americans to reflect first on and reform their own concepts of peaceful coexistence before expecting the "enemy" to change.

-The Fitzgerald Myth and History embodied in JFK's life and Death

We'll weave the history into the mythical stories from the Fitzgerald family's Irish roots going back to their 11th century origin. Myths have been created by every culture world-wide for millennia. They are the stories of human encounters with the mystical handed down from one generation to the next. When myths are merged with the historical record the interaction aids in deciphering a more complex meaning of history. In our research into the Fitzgerald family's rise and fall from power—*starting with the 12th century Norman invasion of Ireland and ending four hundred years later with the beheading of the last earl of Desmond by Elizabeth I*—we were faced with the limits of the historical record. Fortunately the age of myth lived on in Ireland into the mid—20th century allowing us access a rich layer of meaning beyond history. Starting with the Fitzgeralds' arrival in Ireland in 1169 there was an outpouring of prophecies believed to be connected to the family that were already in existence. Over time these prophecies became entwined with the prophetic legacies of Merlin, the Grail legends from Wales, the Irish prophets Moling, Brechan, Patrick and Colmcille and the ancient Irish legends of Finn and the Dagda.

The myths about the Fitzgerald Earls of Desmond began to form in the early 14th century. Maurice Fitzgerald's son Gerald, known as Gearoid Iarla in Gaelic, inspired the origin myth of the family. Born in 1338, Gearoid succeeded to the Earldom in 1358 making him the 3rd Earl of Desmond and the leader of the Munster branch of the Fitzgeralds—the most powerful Norman family in late medieval Ireland. Gearoid's castle at Lough Gur, Co. Limerick became the center of the earldom and a home for his love of Gaelic culture. As a highly respected composer of Gaelic love poetry, Gearoid became a leading example of the Norman lords' willingness to

embrace their own [Gaelicization](#). “More Irish than Irish themselves” was a phrase used by later historians to describe this phenomenon of total cultural assimilation.

The Fitzgeralds, as the new Norman overlords of Munster, adopted the mythic symbolism of the Gaelic tradition and embraced Aine as their goddess of Munster sovereignty. A poet in their employ in the 14th century referred to Gearoid's father, Maurice as “Aine's king” and Gearoid as “the son of Aine's knight.” According to the folklore, Maurice was walking by the shore of Lough Gur when he saw [Aine](#) bathing, seized her cloak, which magically put her under his power, and then lay with her. Aine told Maurice that she would bear him a son Gearoid Iarla whom he was to bring up with the best of care. One caution she gave to Maurice; he was not to show surprise at anything however strange his son should do because if Gearoid's feats were recognized as magical he would have to go with his mother into the otherworld.

-Our 1970 HAIR musical experience and why it still matters today

The completion of the plan's mission would be celebrated at a musical concert in Ireland and modeled after the 1985 *Live Aid* concert for famine relief in Africa. The sponsors of Live Aid took an issue nobody cared about, put it in front of 2 billion people through music and raised \$127 million. Unfortunately, not only are millions of lives still at risk today from famine in the third world, the first world is facing an unprecedented food crisis of its own. This exposes the truth that focusing on famine relief was never going to be a remedy for famine itself. Our concert will promote a genuine solution; establishing the economy of peace as the only underlying foundation that will address all human-made problems.

Our musical inspiration comes from the wildly popular American Tribal Love-Rock Musical HAIR. In its time HAIR was the center of the Anti-Vietnam War Movement; delivering a riveting political and social awakening. We lived our experience with HAIR when we became a part of the Boston production in 1970 while college students. HAIR was on the front lines of the anti-war movement and we waved the banner every night before sold-out audiences. To us, the Vietnam War was nothing more than what Daniel Ellsberg described as a neocolonial enterprise. America's Winter Soldiers joined us on stage to celebrate our right to dramatize the undoing of American society by the terror being inflicted on Southeast Asia.

HAIR was a worldwide phenomenon with casts in every major U.S. city and nineteen productions outside North America. Its anti-war theme was shared by millions of Americans who watched and participated in it. Every HAIR cast was local to the city it performed in and established new standards for racial diversity unheard of at the time. HAIR made the war and its impact on human beings personal in ways that nothing else could. HAIR's finale song *Flesh Failsures Let the Sunshine In* was an anthem for the world-wide peace movement; pleading with the audience to recognize with their hearts, that all people want peace and not war. It is a plea that still stirs the soul and will reenergize the movement we are building.

Our effort towards peace through economic justice, dialogue and music will accomplish many things by breaking us free from the war dialectic of defeating the “other” and opening us to a self-aware perspective that can function as a spiritual and moral gauge for testing our own

values. The concert will also be a re-awakening to bring back the peace robbed from our generation by dark forces manipulating from behind the scenes.

We'll end with a video of Paul Fitzgerald singing [*Flesh Failures Let the Sunshine In*](#) with the Boston Cast of HAIR at a performance given at Boston City Hospital in the summer of 1970. It was a cloudy afternoon when the cast started singing *Let the Sunshine Shine In* and the sun literally burst through the clouds as if on cue. Unknown to us at the time, the concert was filmed by the hospital's mortician and magically found its way to us a decade later. Although the video is of rough quality, the healing tone generated by HAIR's plea for peace still shines through. Click [here](#) to view the song.

-How the Mysticism of Newgrange pulled us into its vortex

A departure from the toxic war narrative is the solution needed to totally change the tone and reorient people's thinking from war to peace. This can be accomplished by connecting to our shared past through Ireland, the land that gave birth to the prophecy of the Fitzgerald family's most beloved ancestor, Gearóid Iarla whom legend tells will rise from the dead at the end of time to free the Irish people from the tyranny of empire. The time is now for the fulfillment of that prophecy and we believe that can be accomplished by resurrecting JFK's plan for world peace.

Finally the perfect setting for a concert that will build world peace through economic justice, dialogue and music is at a fifty five hundred year old UNESCO World Heritage Site north of Dublin known as Newgrange or in Irish, Bru Oengusa. We were first brought into the mystical vortex of Newgrange, the ancient megalithic passage tomb on August 1, 1997 at Dublin airport when the young driver of the shuttle bus posed a question after reading the name tag on our luggage. "Who's the Fitzgerald?" he asked. "We are" my son responded. "Well so am I" he said. That was the first hint that something unusual was happening on our visit to Ireland. In the old pagan Celtic calendar, August 1st was the Feast of Lughnasa in honor of the Irish god Lugh—brother of the Dagda – the chief god of the supernatural race known as the Tuatha de Danann—And oddly enough Newgrange was his home.

The second hint came when I asked the young man where he came from. "Oh it's a little village down past Limerick. I'm sure you've never heard of it. It's called Abbeyfeale" he said. "That is my grandfather's village" I told him. "We're from the same place." Was this coincidence, a synchronicity, or something more? "Well whatever you do when you're in Ireland." He said. "There's one place you must go. It's called Newgrange, Bru Oengusa in Irish – Angus's mansion on the river Boyne. I'd take you there myself, but I've got to work. It's only a twenty minute drive from where you're headed and it is the most amazing thing you will ever see."

This legendary site is central to pre-Christian Irish mythology having been built by the Dagda, father of the Tuatha de Danaan, (people of the Sidhe the *Shee*). Known as the Good Father he was a benefactor to all the people. Described as a "passage grave" the Bru was a "house" where the dead could pass in and out of supernatural reality into this world at will. Most of all Newgrange will stimulate the imagination towards a deeper connection to the past and the evolution of human thought that has been forgotten to both the East and the West.

-TrineDay Publisher Announces an Open Letter to King Charles from a “Birthdate Soulmate”

Earth Rights Visionary Proposes a Way to End Poverty, Homelessness, Hunger and War

April 7, 2023 – [EINPresswire.com](https://www.einpresswire.com) [TrineDay](https://www.trineday.com) Publisher announces the world-wide launch of “An Open Letter to King Charles on his coronation.” It was composed by Alanna Hartzok, an Earth Rights Visionary and “birthdate soulmate” of King Charles.

The letter, an Earth Rights Manifesto, premiered at [Roundtable 18](#) on April 5, 2023, is available online [HERE](#). It says, in part: *“As your astrological twin sister [born, as the stars appear, within 10 minutes of each other on November 14, 1948], I write this open letter to you in the hope that you might be moved to engage in a conversation with people from around the world. Together, as King and Commoners, I think that we can find clarity for a way forward, a way to end poverty, homelessness and hunger, to build a world that works for everyone including the animals and plants, indeed for life itself. Through our sincere conversation I am certain right action will follow and we will create a world where justice will keep the peace and thus will we end the scourge and abomination of war once and for all.”*

TrineDay publisher Kris Millegan began hosting the [Roundtables](#) in 2021. Co-authors Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould, as the featured speakers created a [proposal](#) to build World Peace based on JFK’s [Peace Speech](#) with Earth Rights economics as the foundation. The OPEN LETTER TO KING CHARLES III is its kickoff campaign.

“More and more people are convinced that the only way to a just, prosperous and peaceful future is to share the value of Earth’s resources more fairly,” says Ms. Gould. Mr. Fitzgerald added, “The Earth rights ethic will be realized by using the interregnum from the September 4th death of Queen Elizabeth to the May 6th coronation of King Charles – and the June 10th 60th Anniversary of JFK’s [Peace Speech](#) – to promote the economics of peace, culminating with a musical celebration in Ireland, the home of JFK’s Fitzgerald legacy.” “Alanna is an educator; activist and lecturer on economic justice, land rights, and commons rent public finance,” Ms. Gould shared. “Her letter is filled with deeply researched knowledge on why the time is right for King Charles to get on the Earth Rights bandwagon. Everyone should watch Alanna’s [ROUNDTABLE 16](#) on [Sacred Rule Economics](#).”

Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould have written *INVISIBLE HISTORY: Afghanistan’s Untold Story*; *CROSSING ZERO: The AfPak War at the Turning Point of American Empire*; *VALEDICTION: Three Nights of Desmond*; *VALEDICTION: Resurrection* and many other articles and books.

R. A. “Kris” Millegan, founder of TrineDay Publishing, and a writer, researcher, musician and son of a former intelligence officer, has spent over 50 years in “conspiracy theory land.”

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-Chapter 1: The Fitzgerald Myth and History embodied in JFK's life and death

Sharing positive ideas is not sufficient to change the world. We need to translate the power of ideas into action. The first step is to unblock our feelings of fear about the threats to our planet from the endless war. Unlocking our creative power to imagine the peace we want will enable it to materialize as our future and once unlocked, the full potential for that future will provide the place for that peace to happen.



Maurice FitzGerald in the *Expugnatio Hibernica*, written in 1189 by his nephew, Gerald of Wales
[Image by National Library of Ireland](#) [Details](#) [DMCA](#)

Myths have been created by every culture world-wide for millennia. They are the stories of human encounters with the mystical handed down from one generation to the next. When myths are merged with the historical record the interaction aids in deciphering a more complex meaning of history. In our [research](#) into the Fitzgerald family's rise and fall from power—*starting with the 12th century Norman invasion of Ireland and ending four hundred years later with the beheading of the last earl of Desmond by Elizabeth I*—we were faced with the limits of the historical record. Fortunately the [age of myth](#) lived on in Ireland into the mid—20th century allowing us the ability to access a rich layer of meaning beyond history.

Starting with the [Fitzgeralds'](#) arrival in Ireland in 1169 an outpouring of prophecies believed to be connected to the family were already in existence. Over time these prophecies became entwined with the prophetic legacies of Merlin, the Grail legends from Wales, the Irish prophets Moling, Brechan, Patrick and Colmcille and the ancient [Irish legends](#) of Finn and the [Dagda](#).

The myths about the Earls of Desmond began to form in the early 14th century. Maurice Fitzgerald's son Gerald, known as Gearoid Iarla in Gaelic, inspired the origin myth of the family. Born in 1338, Gearoid succeeded to the Earldom in 1358 making him the 3rd Earl of Desmond and the leader of the Munster branch of the Fitzgeralds—the most powerful Norman family in late medieval Ireland. Gearoid's castle at [Lough Gur](#), Co. Limerick became the center of the earldom and a home for his love of Gaelic culture. As a highly respected composer of Gaelic love poetry, Gearoid became a leading example of the Norman lords' willingness to embrace their own [Gaelicization](#). “More Irish than Irish themselves” was a phrase used by later historians to describe this phenomenon of total cultural assimilation.

The Fitzgeralds, as the new Norman overlords of Munster, adopted the mythic symbolism of the Gaelic tradition and embraced Aine as their goddess of Munster sovereignty. A poet in their employ in the 14th century referred to Gearoid's father, Maurice as “Aine's king” and Gearoid as “the son of Aine's knight.” According to the folklore, Maurice was walking by the shore of Lough Gur when he saw [Aine](#) bathing, seized her cloak, which magically put her under his power, and then lay with her. Aine told Maurice that she would bear him a son Gearoid Iarla whom he was to bring up with the best of care. One caution she gave to Maurice; he was not to show surprise at anything however strange his son should do because if Gearoid's feats were recognized as magical he would have to go with his mother into the otherworld.

The boy grew into a handsome young man and one night there was a gathering at the castle with dancing. None of the ladies could compete with Gearoid but when one young woman rose and leaped over the guests, tables and dishes and then leaped back again the Old Earl grew concerned. “Can you do anything like that?” He said turning to his son. Gearoid then rose and leaped into a bottle and out again to the sound of great applause. But when the Old Earl looked with shock at his son's performance, the evening came to an abrupt end.

“Were you not warned, said the young Earl, “never to show surprise at anything I might do? You have forced me to leave you.” And with those last words Gearoid left the castle, entered the

water of the river, and swam away in the form of a goose. The Old Earl's display of surprise had forced his son to leave his father's world.

The folklore concerning Gearoid continued to spread. During the 15th century, London grew nervous about the growing power of the Desmond earls and despite continued challenges the Fitzgeralds' prestige throughout Europe grew. The Gherardini, a powerful Florentine family claimed they were related. But tension reached a breaking point in the early 16th century as rumors spread that the Fitzgeralds were plotting to invade London and seize the power of the throne.

For over four hundred years the Fitzgeralds had been absorbed into the local mythology. Then in 1558, the 14th Earl of Desmond succeeded to the title. His name was Gerald, the first to have that name since Gearoid Iarla. The English had deprived Gerald of his family estates by locking him up in London Tower for long periods of time. But rather than breaking his will, when Gerald returned home in 1573 he took on a stronger pro-Irish stance by joining his cousin's rebellion against the English. Hopes ran high for the Fitzgerald campaign as the prophecies were circulated. In later folklore it was claimed that the new Gearoid embodied the great Fitzgerald spirit of his 14th century ancestor and that Gearoid Iarla had not died but returned at the hour of the family's greatest need.

It is said that a man passing by Lough Gur saw a light and found the entrance to a cavern, where he saw an army of knights and horses asleep. There was a sword on the floor, and as the man drew it out the army awakened. Then its leader, Gearoid Iarla, asked if the time had come yet, but the man ran away. The army fell back to sleep, and the entrance could not be found later.

Although Gerald was an inspiration for Irish independence, by [1583](#) his cause was lost and he was killed. However, great affection for the family lived on, as did the hope that a Fitzgerald descendent would someday bring freedom to the land. There are repeated references to this mystical belief in documents from the 17th to the 19th centuries as well as London's concern that the Fitzgerald's defiance of English law and their embrace of Gaelic ways was an existential threat to London's rule in Ireland.

Despite London's fierce opposition, Gearoid Iarla and the myths surrounding him would continue to inspire future Fitzgeralds while winning the admiration of the Irish people. But as the power of these myths became entwined with Ireland's 19th and 20th century politics, London's fear of Irish independence brought on a new level of brutality that caused the Irish people to unite. To the royals, siding with the "people" over loyalty to the Crown was the highest treason of all. And when the Fitzgeralds identification with the people was transferred to the United States through JFK it became inevitable that the old forces aligned against his family would again rise to meet his challenge.

-Chapter 2: Our HAIR musical experience and why it still matters today



With a little help Paul Fitzgerald, star of the rock musical "Hair," sounds off on love, joy and several other emotions. The show is at the Wilbur and seats are available.

'Hair' gives free concerts

Summer, normally a time when most theaters relax and plan the coming season, has proved to be the exact opposite for the "Hair" Company now at the Wilbur Theatre.

The "Hair" Tribe, which plays eight shows a week, is also engaged in a series of free concerts for the public in parks, hospitals and other institutions.

The Wampanoag Tribe is also engaged in raising \$250,000 along with other companies for the United Nations World Youth Assembly. The UNYWA is attempting to bring together 200 young delegates from all over the world, including representatives from countries not represented in the UN. They will discuss and vote on such topics

as Environment, Education, Development and Peace. In September, their recommendations will be submitted to the UN for further action.

Paul Fitzgerald as Claude at the Wilbur Theater in 1970, Boston Globe

We had done research for an article on mind control that included the role of MK-ULTRA; a CIA project which operated from the early 1950s through the 1960s that had subjected Americans to mind altering experiments without their consent. The project had remained secret until 1975 when the Church Committee Hearings revealed the CIA's illegal activities. But what really caught our attention was the confirmation that MK-ULTRA had infiltrated the Anti-Vietnam War Movement to undermine its legitimacy with the distribution of psychedelic drugs. As teenagers growing up in the 1960s the music scene and the antiwar movement were synonymous. A new age was dawning and our generation wanted to keep war from becoming part of it. What we didn't know until recently was how much influence military intelligence and the CIA had in forming what we believed was an organic outgrowth of popular sentiment against the Vietnam War.

Before bands such as *The Doors* and *The Byrds* became famous; the songwriters, musicians and singers who would form those bands flocked to Laurel Canyon. What was strange about this migration was the absence of a music industry in the area. What it did have was Vito Paulekas and the Freaks; a regular feature of the Sunset Boulevard Club scene starting in 1964. Paulekas was known for supplying wildly frenzied dancers to stir interest in the bands and is credited with their early success. Having materialized a musical revolution out of thin air, he has also been credited as the inspiration for the Hippie movement's fashion and free love communal lifestyle.

Another oddity was that many of the artists who arrived were descended from influential families, had military or intelligence backgrounds or connections to high ranking military personnel. Frank Zappa, creator of *The Mothers of Invention* spent his youth at the Edgewood Arsenal Chemical Biological Center where his father was a chemical warfare specialist. Edgewood Arsenal was connected to MK-Ultra's mind control program. Major Floyd Crosby, father of David Crosby of Crosby, Stills and Nash was an Annapolis graduate and WWII military intelligence officer descended from the Van Rensselaers, a prominent American family.

Doors Keyboardist Ray Manzarek served in the highly selective Army Security Agency as an intelligence analyst in Laos in the run up to the Vietnam War. *Doors* producer Paul Rothchild also served in the same Military Intelligence Corps in 1959. Jim Morrison was the son of U.S. Navy Admiral George Morrison.

In August of 1964, U.S. warships, under Morrison's command, claimed to have been attacked while patrolling Vietnam's Tonkin Gulf. Although the claim was false, it resulted in the U.S. Congress passing the Tonkin Gulf Resolution, which provided the pretext for an escalation of American involvement in Vietnam. Morrison never spoke publicly of his father's role in creating the "false flag" that was used to deceive the American people into accepting a war against Vietnam.

More intriguing was Morrison's lack of interest in music until he transformed into one of the most glorified rock stars of all time. As the Door's lead singer, Morrison played a major role in forming the band's identity. He chose its name from Aldous Huxley's *The Doors of Perception*. Huxley's "doors" opened through the use of psychedelic drugs. He was also a key player behind the use of MK-Ultra's research into mind control. In a 1949 letter to George Orwell, Huxley described psychedelic drugs as far more efficient than prisons.

As an acolyte of the Greek god Dionysus and the [Dionysian Mysteries](#) Morrison reveled in the use of drugs, drink and frenzied dancing. [MKUltra's objectives](#) had much in common with the Dionysian Mysteries and Morrison's philosophy of life who said "I believe in a long, prolonged, derangement of the senses in order to obtain the unknown." Morrison was also described as a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. *Doors* manager Paul Rothchild explained, "You never knew whether Jim would show up as the poetic scholar or the kamikaze drunk."

Americans need to look back and reconsider the turning points that brought our country to this crossroads. How did we come from being so much against war in Vietnam into preparing for an endless war against everyone on the planet today? Was the Laurel Canyon scene the only operation sabotaging the legitimacy of the anti-war movement? Was the CIA responsible for permanently wrapping the anti-war movement and public dissent in a cloak of freaked out hippies, communal sex and acid trips on LSD?

The 1950s and 1960s saw America in direct competition with the Soviet Union, not only for military superiority but also for the world's hearts and minds. The Cultural Cold War waged by Washington embraced activities that were intended to outshine its communist rival in literature, music and the arts with a whole new way of engaging the world. A psychological warfare campaign to break down traditional patterns of behavior had already been laid out in 1953 by the CIA's Psychological Strategy Board's doctrine for social control known as PSB D-33/2. With an emphasis on the strange and avant-garde, the CIA began bringing artists, writers and musicians into what was known as its "Freedom Manifesto." The CIA came to view the program as a landmark in the Cold War, not just for solidifying its control over the non-communist left and the West's intellectuals, but for enabling the CIA to secretly disenfranchise Europeans and Americans from their own political culture in such a way they would never know it.

As the historian of the CIA's secret co-optation of America's non-communist left Christopher Lasch wrote in 1969 "The modern state is an engine of propaganda, alternately manufacturing crises and claiming to be the only instrument that can effectively deal with them. This propaganda, in order to be successful, demands the cooperation of writers, teachers, and artists not as paid propagandists or state-censored time-servers but as 'free' intellectuals capable of policing their own jurisdictions and of enforcing acceptable standards of responsibility within the various intellectual professions."

While declaring itself as the antidote to communist totalitarianism, one CIA officer viewed [PSB D-33/2](#) as interposing "a wide doctrinal system that accepts uniformity as a substitute for diversity," embracing "all fields of human thought-all fields of intellectual interests, from anthropology and artistic creations to sociology and scientific methodology." He concluded "That is just about as totalitarian as one can get."

The evidence that the birth of the psychedelic 1960s New Age music scene was guided by the invisible hand of military and intelligence operatives is well documented. But what about the American Tribal Love-Rock Musical HAIR that swept the world in 1968 after opening to rave reviews on Broadway?

We lived our experience with HAIR when we became a part of the Boston production in 1970 while college students. HAIR was on the front lines of the anti-war movement and we waved the banner every night before sold-out audiences. To us, the Vietnam War was nothing more than what Daniel Ellsberg described as a neocolonial enterprise. America's Winter Soldiers joined us on stage to celebrate our right to dramatize the undoing of American society by the terror being inflicted on Southeast Asia.

HAIR was a worldwide phenomenon with casts in every major U.S. city and nineteen productions outside North America. Its anti-war theme was shared by millions of Americans who watched and participated in it. Every HAIR cast was local to the city it performed in and established new standards for racial diversity unheard of at the time. HAIR made the war and its impact on human beings personal in ways that nothing else could.

But that impact and the anti-war momentum it had accrued was lost and channeled away from the universal peace we believed was possible. Was HAIR's popularity part of a cultural cold war experiment to influence public opinion and then made to go away? A 1977 revival of HAIR at the Biltmore Theatre, where it ran for 1750 performances from 1968 to 1972, was surprisingly attacked by the [NYT](#) as too far gone to be timely; too recently gone to be even nostalgia.

With its antiwar message dismissed and President Carter's Russo phobic National Security Advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski taking over security policy at the White House, the message was clear. The antiwar movement would not be coming to power in Washington in 1977 and never would. When the film version of HAIR was released in 1979 – it was rewritten and detached from the show's anti-war theme. With Vietnam disposed of; the West's endless war against the Soviet Union could be put back on the track. By the time Ronald Reagan was elected president

in 1980, the anti-Vietnam War movement had been reduced to a “Syndrome” and cured with a World War II size defense budget that transformed the U.S. from a creditor to a debtor nation.

The celebrity arm of the non-communist left was well represented at our 1970 HAIR opening night with the presence of Peter, Paul and Mary’s Peter Yarrow and the show’s executive producer Bertrand Castelli; a member of Europe’s cultural cold war elite. Yarrow’s Ukrainian born father, Bernard was a member of the CIA’s European cultural front organization the National Committee for a Free Europe. Having served during World War II in the OSS and then joining the Dulles brothers' law firm, Bernard helped found Radio Free Europe and became its senior vice president. Following Vietnam, Yarrow transferred his activism to Soviet Jewry and their emigration to Israel, a major component of the neoconservative agenda.

By the 1980s the issue became a key platform of the Reagan administration’s ability to stop détente with the Soviet Union. As for HAIR, stripped of its antiwar message, it was reduced to being the poster child of the 1960s debauched hedonism. Or as Castelli labelled a revival in 2008, “Everything that was joyful and harmless became dangerous and ugly.” Dangerous and ugly is not the way we remember our experience. Nuclear war and Vietnam were dangerous and ugly and in the intervening years that danger and ugliness returned to haunt us.

If HAIR was part of a psychological campaign to energize the youth of America to action in the pursuit of peace, freedom and happiness it succeeded. But if the ultimate objective was to crush that freedom and numb us to the danger of permanent war it too succeeded. At the time, HAIR’s success helped us believe that we had changed our future for the better. The war ended and the troops came home, but we now accept that the new age we sought was nothing more than an illusion.

President Eisenhower warned what would happen if our country dedicated itself to war. Endless war puts you in a hell of madness from which there is no escape. The madness of war on the world has come full circle and is now in our schools, parks, bars and homes. It was always there as part of our nature. We have given in to a part of our nature that should have matured and been processed but instead has remained aloof from our humanity. That part of our nature is still unlearned and untamed. We are the victims of our own design and therefore we can change it.

The CIA did succeed in redirecting Americans anti-war sentiment towards accepting permanent war. To paraphrase, Hermann Goering’s statement at his Nuremberg trial: People don't want war, but people can be brought to the bidding of their leaders by instilling fear or denouncing the pacifists for exposing the country to danger and it works the same way in any country.

Our only course is to step outside today’s endless war narrative and see where we are in the paradigm. The false narratives that control our thinking will fall away as we replace them with the deep knowledge and acceptance of what we have actually lived through. As the past finally becomes prologue; we can imagine the genuine future we truly want and start to make it happen.

We’ll end with a video of Paul Fitzgerald singing [*Flesh Failures Let the Sunshine In*](#) with the Boston Cast of HAIR at a performance given at Boston City Hospital in the summer of 1970. It

was a cloudy afternoon when the cast started singing *Let the Sunshine Shine In* and the sun literally burst through the clouds as if on cue. Unknown to us at the time, the concert was filmed by the hospital's mortician and magically found its way to us a decade later. Although the video is of rough quality, the healing tone generated by HAIR's plea for peace still shines through. Click [here](#) to view the song.

Lyrics to *Flesh Failures/Let the Sunshine In*, the Anthem for the World Peace Concert

We starve-look at one another Short of breath
 Walking proudly in our winter coats
 Wearing smells from laboratories
 Facing a dying nation
 Of moving paper fantasy
 Listening for the new told lies
 With supreme visions of lonely tunes

Somewhere Inside something there is a rush of
 Greatness who knows what stands in front of
 Our lives I fashion my future on films in space
 Silence Tells me secretly
 Everything Everything

We starve-look At one another Short of breath
 Walking proudly in our winter coats
 Wearing smells from laboratories
 Facing a dying nation Of moving paper fantasy
 Listening for the new told lies
 With supreme visions of lonely tunes Singing
 Our space songs on a spider web sitar
 Life is around you and in you
 Answer for Timothy Leary, dearie

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Let the sunshine | Let the sunshine in | The sun shine in |
| Let the sunshine | Let the sunshine in | The sun shine in |
| Let the sunshine | Let the sunshine in | The sun shine in... |

-Chapter 3: How the Mysticism of Newgrange pulled us into its vortex



A front view of [Newgrange](#), County Meath Ireland [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International](#)

We were first brought into the mystical vortex of Newgrange, the ancient megalithic passage tomb on August 1, 1997 at Dublin airport when the young driver of the shuttle bus posed a question after reading the name tag on our luggage. “Who’s the Fitzgerald?” “We are.” My son responded. “Well so am I.” He said.

That was the first hint that something unusual was happening on our visit to Ireland. In the old pagan Celtic calendar, August 1st was the Feast of Lughnasa in honor of the Irish god Lugh—brother of the Dagda – the chief god of the supernatural race known as the Tuatha de Danann—And oddly enough Newgrange was his home.

The second hint came when I asked the young man where he came from. “Oh it’s a little village down past Limerick. I’m sure you’ve never heard of it. It’s called Abbeyfeale.” “That is my grandfather’s village.” I told him. “We’re from the same place.” Was this coincidence, a synchronicity, or something more?

“Well whatever you do when you’re in Ireland.” He said. “There’s one place you must go. It’s called Newgrange, Bru Oengusa in Irish – Angus’s mansion on the river Boyne. I’d take you there myself, but I’ve got to work. It’s only a twenty minute drive from where you’re headed and it is the most amazing thing you will ever see.”

I knew that returning to Ireland would complete something I’d started when I’d first visited there back in 1971. But it wasn’t until we were directed to Newgrange by another Fitzgerald from the same village as my family on the other side of Ireland did I realize—that something—was far more profound than anything I’d experienced in my lifetime.

Jung described the concept of synchronicity or coincidence as an “acausal connecting principle,” that joined the rational ego of the senses to the Daemonic ego of the irrational “other self” which then overlapped into our reality. The Daemon was well known to the ancient philosophers as the causer of Déjà vu—the feeling of having experienced a present moment once before. To the classical Greeks it was a supernatural spirit-guide who caused coincidences to happen in order to

shape our destiny. Was this message from another Fitzgerald part of an acausal connection directing me to apply our six years of research on the Fitzgerald family to something at Newgrange?

Within a few days we'd made our way to the Boyne valley and had to shield our eyes from the glare of the quartz crystals shining in the bright sunlight. The young Fitzgerald from Abbeyfeale had been more than right. From a distance, Newgrange looked like a giant-futuristic time machine. But as we soon learned that time machine hadn't arrived from the future but had travelled five thousand years out of the past.

Originally built in the shape of an egg, its exterior was now a drum-shaped flying saucer with a facade covered by eleven feet of quartz that glowed like an ancient solar timepiece in the early morning sun. In fact, even after five thousand years it still kept perfect time by focusing an intense, almost laser-like light into the darkness of Bru Oengusa for exactly seventeen minutes every winter solstice. Wealthy Romans had once made pilgrimages to it from Britain and left precious offerings of gold and jewelry to propitiate the spirits of its powerful gods, the Tuatha de Danann. And it was suspected that large crowds of people had once filled its huge natural amphitheater to participate in a yearly ritual hinted at in ancient annals as involving music, magic and "many colored Chequered Lights."

Newgrange was older than the Temples of Mycenae and the Pyramids. But like the Pyramids, which appeared to have had some ceremonial function in addition to their role as tombs, what else did this quartz palace do? Was measuring the solstice the only reason its builders had labored for years to plot the exact movement of the sun? And why, over all the other sacred sites around the world did Joseph Campbell consider this place to be the home of the most sought after of relics, the Holy Grail?

It wasn't until we probed Campbell's well-known book *The Masks of God* that pieces of the mystery of Angus's mansion began to fall into place. "By various schools of modern scholarship," Campbell wrote, "the Grail has been identified with the Dagda's caldron of plenty, the begging bowl of the Buddha in which four bowls, from four quarters were united, the Kaaba of the Great Mosque of Mecca, and the ultimate talismanic symbol of some sort of Gnostic-Manichean rite of spiritual initiation, practiced possibly by the Knights Templar."

Limited to being a "passage tomb" by modern scholars, the mansion of Angus in Irish myth was described as a place where Angus could go to visit his dead friends making it quite literally a "house" where the dead could pass in and out of supernatural reality at will. It was also a place where the living could experience what awaited them in the spirit world beyond.

Having been carbon dated to at least 3500 BCE Bru Oengusa was far older than "Irish" or "Celtic" culture and is now thought by some to represent the zenith of a peaceful Golden Era of human existence that reached from Anatolia in the Near East across Europe into the heart of

ancient Ireland. The Grail has been the object of occult quests for millennia as the divine chalice of “becoming.” And according to Joseph Campbell, Bru Oengusa represented the place where it could be found, making it a sacred domain suspended between the world of matter and the realm of pure spirit.

Campbell’s statement was a mythological Rosetta Stone, tying together a deep vein of mythology about the origins of human spiritual existence together with a little understood prehistory of Europe. But as the poets and mythologists George Russell and W.B Yeats testified, it was also a metaphor for a transubstantiation of mind and matter from the irrational ego to the rational. To their minds the egg-shaped mansion of Oengus was where the Dagda – the ancient father/Sun God of the Tuatha De Danann – impregnated matter with light and brought forth a race of invisible beings who are to this day regarded as operating behind the scenes.

So how did this dreamlike transformation from light to matter work? In 1897 George Russell, the mystic, poet, and prominent Gaelic Revivalist known by the initials A.E. visited Newgrange in the company of fellow mystic, William Butler Yeats. Russell left an account of the impression the monument made on him in his poem *A Dream of Angus Og*:

“As he spoke, he paused before a great mound grown over with trees, and around it silver clear in the moonlight were immense stones piled, the remains of an original circle, and there was a dark, low, narrow entrance leading therein. "This was my palace. In days past many a one plucked ere the purple flower of magic and the fruit of the tree of life...

“And even as he spoke, a light began to glow and to pervade the cave, and to obliterate the stone walls and the antique hieroglyphics engraven thereon, and to melt the earthen floor into itself like a fiery sun suddenly uprisen within the world, and there was everywhere a wandering ecstasy of sound: light and sound were one; light had a voice, and the music hung glittering in the air....

“I am Aengus; men call me the Young. I am the sunlight in the heart, the moonlight in the mind; I am the light at the end of every dream, the voice for ever calling to come away; I am desire beyond joy or tears. Come with me, come with me: I will make you immortal; for my palace opens into the Gardens of the Sun, and there are the fire-fountains which quench the heart's desire in rapture.” (AEON, *A Dream of Angus Og*, 1897)

The Boyne Valley monuments have played an important but little known role in British politics. In the late 19th century, a fanatical group of British-Israelites excavated nearby at the ancient seat of Irish kings at Tara attempting to prove Britain’s descent from ancient Israel and the House of King David. Convinced the Ark of the Covenant was buried there, they found no Ark but did succeed in scattering five thousand years of ancient Irish history leaving Tara more a looted graveyard than a magical court of legendary heroes and kings.

After witnessing New Grange in all its shining quartz glory, it made us wonder whether this destruction was accidental or done intentionally to obscure its true history. But then we learned that the Newgrange of today is not the mansion of Angus it was when viewed by George Russel and William Butler Yeats under a full moon in 1897. Newgrange had been significantly altered in the 1960s to conform to the restorers “idea” of what it might have looked like some 5300 years ago – and not what it was carefully designed to do.

According to one of many critics who have studied the reconstruction, despite all the effort put into restoring Newgrange’s magnificent appearance, “It doesn’t work like it used to,” wrote Hugh Kearns, author of *The Mysterious Chequered Lights of Newgrange*. “And if it was made to work again, and it could, then the number of visitors would soon be back to the original Stone Age levels.”

As a modern Irish designer and engineer, Hugh Kearns believes that in addition to having had a ritual significance, Newgrange once functioned as a kind of light machine, capable – when constructed properly – of projecting images through use of its “chequered lights.” To prove his theory he constructed a scale model that when tested worked to perfection. So if true, was Newgrange somehow used by ancient engineers to project the images of fallen heroes as recorded in the Irish annals? Was it really a place where Angus could go to visit his dead friends? Or, was Newgrange providing the power with its quartz crystals, solstice sun and musical tones to do something more? And was that something more, the power to access the inner workings of an organic otherworld hologram and not just its emulation.

Newgrange felt eerily familiar to us when we first saw it that day glistening in the sun. Its original purpose was clearly more than just as a burial mound and we soon learned that the origin mythology of the Fitzgerald family’s arrival in Ireland mirrored its origin mythology as well. The myths that had been applied to the chief god of the Tuatha De Danann, the Dagda and his son Angus were applied to the Earl of Desmond and his son Geroid and remain alive to this day. The fact that we’d been directed there out of the blue by another Fitzgerald from my grandfather’s village qualified as a genuine synchronicity (the so called book falling off the shelf) and we were eventually to discover the legendary power of the family name possessed truly mythic qualities of its own.

“The family’s Irish myth-makers were capable of grafting the Geraldines onto a native historical tradition that traced their lineage back to the Greeks, while at other times and for different audiences, the family could make plausible claim to an Italian and ultimately Trojan lineage,... The old adage that the Geraldines became ‘more Irish than the Irish themselves’ fails to capture the Geraldine experience in medieval Ireland in all its richness and variety.” Editors Peter Crooke and Sean Duffy wrote in the preface to their 2017 book, *The Geraldines and Medieval Ireland, the Making of a Myth*.

And so in writing our dream-inspired novel *The Voice* and our new book *Valediction Resurrection*, we found ourselves building on all the richness and variety of the mythology we could find. And ultimately we came to discover that the Fitzgerald myth was not only firmly grounded in reality but that the reality was firmly planted in an otherworld of dreams, synchronicities and coincidence—and that those coincidences are caused by something known as the Daemon.

We made the decision to investigate the Fitzgerald family based on our daughter Alissa's dream in 1991 in which Paul's deceased father visited Alissa accompanied by an eight hundred year old man in a strange plaid suit. His message was clear. Fix the memory of the family. And so as we wrote our novel *The Voice* the mythology of Newgrange became incorporated into the story and as we worked toward a publishing date in 2001 the importance of Newgrange as a character became clear.

Following the publication of our two books on Afghanistan in 2009 and 2011 we began working with members of the Afghan diaspora on a peace conference and recommended Newgrange as a neutral location for the Afghan people to come together. Aside from sharing a long colonial heritage with Britain and Ireland, Afghanistan shared an ancient legacy of tribal law and secular codes of moral conduct that long preceded the Christian and Islamic eras. Ireland's pre-Christian Brehon Laws provided a sophisticated set of rules for every aspect of Irish society. According to the legendary 19th century British agent Alexander Burnes – Prior to hostile European invasions, Pashtunwali was a guide for a peaceful and hospitable Afghanistan that was known to accommodate Jews and Christians, considering them both to be religions of “the book.”

We believed a departure from the existing narrative was needed to change the tone of the Afghan crisis and reorient people's thinking. As part of the indigenous solution to restore the true Afghanistan, Afghans needed to allow themselves an escape from the existing extremist narrative by reconnecting to an ancient shared past. We believed this could be achieved by holding initial planning sessions at Newgrange with Afghan leaders and organizations from around the world to share their knowledge as advisors and supporters. And this proposal was totally embraced by our Afghan partners. That dream of an Afghan peace was never fulfilled.

We are resurrecting the concept centered on Newgrange as the location to celebrate the marriage of World Peace and Economic Justice as a musical concert.

-Chapter 4: Bhadshah Khan's Afghan World Peace Movement



Gandhi at Peshawar meeting with Badshah Khan in 1938 Scanned by [Yann](#) [Public Domain](#)

Is not the Pashtun amenable to love and reason? He will go with you to hell if you can win his heart, but you cannot force him even to go to heaven - Badshah Khan

If anyone today could name an historical figure connected to the origin of non-violent resistance against political oppression, it would most likely be India's Mohandas Gandhi. Gandhi virtually defined the idea of non-violent resistance in his struggle to free India from British colonial rule. But in 1929, a Pashtun tribal leader in nearby Afghanistan named Bhadshah Khan - a peer of Gandhi - became an important ally by inaugurating Afghanistan's indigenous non-violent movement known as the Khudai-Khidmatgar - the servants of God. Since Khan realized that God needed no service he decided that by serving God they would in fact be serving humanity and set out to remove violence from their ancient Pashtun tribal code. Known as Pashtunwali, Afghans had lived by the code's elaborate rules for millennia and continue to order their lives by it to this day.

In addition to establishing a leadership council accepted by the community, Pashtunwali laid out in detail the proper behavior for hospitality as well as what was necessary to create security for all including how and when the act of revenge was acceptable.

Following Britain's colonization of Afghan tribal lands east of the Hindu Kush Mountains in 1848, these principles of Pashtun law were gradually replaced by a new British colonial order. Pashtun society was already known to be in need of social reform for its long-standing acceptance of revenge killing. But the British creation of a small, elite landlord-class to control and administer the province turned revenge killing into a permanent blood bath.

According to Dr. Sruti Bala of the University of Amsterdam: "With traditional tribal authority diminished, this ruling elite gradually emerged as a group of powerful landlords who fought among each other and increased rivalry among the clans. By introducing their own manner of punishment and control, including fines, levies and even imprisonment, they created a new culture of conflict with its own rules of settlement."

According to Bala "this was a major change in comparison with the tribal councils' traditional focus on limiting conflicts and blame, and resolving feuds without punishment." The 1872 Frontier Crimes Regulation Act further worsened the situation by sanctioning punishments and mass arrests without trial and legal support and placed heavy restrictions on the free assembly of

ethnic Pashtuns. The Frontier Crimes Regulations were far stricter in the Pashtun territories than in any other part of British India and directly limited civil liberties. According to Bala, “The infringements on civil as well as basic human rights were legitimized by the apparent need to control the Western frontier as a defensive line against Russian aggression and military advances in the region.” And this was of course long before the threat of Soviet communism ever existed.

British competition with Russia for control of Central Asia was a central feature of the 19th century imperialism known as the Great Game. Over time a delicate balance was reached and Afghanistan used as a buffer state between empires but not without a brutal suppression of the Pashtun tribes by the British.

Khan’s appeal to non-violence was accepted by many Pashtuns as a way to resolve deep rooted social problems while undermining British authority at the same time. Although organized like an army, his recruits swore an oath to renounce violence and to never so much as touch a weapon. Over time, the Khudai-Khidmatgar movement developed an educational network to address the social and cultural reforms needed to leave revenge and retribution behind and move towards non-violent development.

This network served the community by focusing on education for all, encouraging poetry, music and literature as avenues of expression that would help eradicate the roots of violence that had become normalized among Pashtuns during British rule.

The non-violence base of the Khudai-Khidmatgar not only addressed the imbalance created by tribal feuds, it also brought Afghans under the single platform of non-violence which ultimately helped the Pashtuns present a powerful united front against British imperial designs.

Khan was an active member of the Indian National Congress, Chief of the Frontier Province Chapter of the Congress and a close ally of Gandhi and when they first met he questioned Gandhi about something that troubled him. “You have been preaching non-violence in India for a long time,” he said. “But I started teaching the Pashtuns non-violence only a short time ago, yet the Pashtuns seemed to have grasped the idea of non-violence much quicker and better than the Indians. How do you explain that?” To which Gandhi replied, “Non-violence is not for cowards. It is for the brave and for the courageous and the Pashtuns are brave and courageous. That is why the Pashtuns were able to remain non-violent.”

Gandhi’s response to Badsher Khan’s question defined the Khudai-Khidmatgar accurately, but a true understanding of the Pashtun non-violence movement only begins there.

The strength of Badsher Kahn’s Khudai-Khidmatgar and its philosophy challenged more than just the Afghan tribal code of Pashtunwali and the dominance of the British Empire in India. Badsher Khan also challenged the idea expressed by many Western orientalists that his movement was just an aberration.

As we discovered in writing our book *Invisible History: Afghanistan’s Untold Story*, getting an authentic picture of Afghan culture through the minefield of orientalist scholarship is no simple

task. Sruti Bala's 2013 article in the Journal Peace and Change points out that commentaries and studies of anything regarding the Afghan non-violence movement are "ridden with interconnected problems" that make it impossible to come anywhere close to an honest understanding of Badsher Khan's movement.

Cultural stereotyping of Pashtuns, labeling acts of non-violent resistance as simply an aberrant phase of an inherently violent culture and denying the indigenous Afghan roots of the movement are just the start. Added to that is an intellectual prejudice which privileges elitist viewpoints of Gandhi's Hindu non-violence movement over the actual concrete acts and practices of the Muslim Khudai-Khidmatgar.

The maltreatment of the Afghan nonviolent movement reveals more about the biases of Western academics than of the movement itself and according to Sruti Bala has completely obscured its place in history. She writes:

"The social and political movement that this organization spearheaded is arguably one of the least known and most misunderstood examples of non-violent action in the twentieth century. The lack of extensive research is partly connected to the systematic destruction of crucial archival material during the colonial era, as well as by Pakistani authorities following independence."

Why was the non-violence movement of Mohandas Gandhi awarded recognition and international celebrity status by the West; while the Pashtun Khudai-Khidmatgar movement and its leader Badsher Kahn were suppressed, imprisoned and eventually outlawed? Should the Afghan non-violent movement be dismissed as just an aberration as critics say, or is it more likely that Badsher Khan's commitment by Pashtuns to internal tribal reform and genuine non-violent resistance was something *the British Empire feared might actually change the game* and so, did everything in their power to erase it from the public's memory and pretend it never existed.

Dr. Sruti Bala provides some clues about Badsher Khan and the suppression of the Khudai-Khidmatgar. "Khan belonged to a comparatively well-off land-owning family. Unlike Gandhi or Nehru, he was neither a man of Western learning nor a prolific writer." She writes. "In fact, he was described as, 'a man of very large silences,' a nationalist leader whose life of ninety-eight years, one third of which was spent in jail, is steeped in myth and legend."

"Khan spent nearly thirty-five years of his life in prison for his political activities and involvement in civil disobedience actions. The British and later the Government of Pakistan systematically destroyed most documents and material records of the movement by raiding homes and confiscating anything related to the Khudai-Khidmatgar from handkerchiefs to uniforms and flags to copies of the movement's journal."

The treatment of Badsher Khan was an extreme example of British colonial brutality that left a mark on Afghan society that remains to this day. But as Sruti Bala points out, without taking

these aspects of Pashtun history into consideration it is easy to fall into the orientalist discourse of viewing Pashtun culture stereotypically as one that intrinsically values brutality and revenge.

According to Bala, Indian nationalism also played an important role in perpetuating the image of the brute Pashtun, while never acknowledging or mentioning its own role in sustaining a racist Pashtun narrative. As an example, the Indian bourgeoisie were quite prepared to participate in the structural and institutional violence of the Frontier Province and eager to gain favors from the British.

And then there is the Pashtuns own complicity with the narrative through their service to the Empire. “The British ruled the Pashtun provinces through rich and influential landlords.” Bala writes. “One of the most prestigious regiments in the British Indian Army founded in 1847 was the Corps of Guides with a significant Pashtun presence. Many of the activities of the Khudai-Khidmatgar were thus addressed as much against Pashtun collaboration with the British, as directly against British colonial laws.

Yet without exception, the old stereotype continues to rule. Every historical account of the Khudai-Khidmatgar always begins by highlighting Pashtun culture as violent and vengeful, instead of portraying it as a culture living on the borders between civilizations under constant threat to its survival and forced to defend itself... Why is this so?

Again according to Bala, “Gandhi’s speeches to the Pashtuns on his visits to Khudai-Khidmatgar camps reveal a clear mistrust of Pashtun nonviolence which can be traced back to both a suspicion of the lower class Khidmatgar’s soldiers’ inability to embrace the ‘HIGH’ ideals of nonviolence as well as a subtle anti-Muslim slant in his perception of the Pashtuns.”

So despite overt proof of the Khudai-Khidmatgar’s commitment to nonviolence, Ghaffar Khan’s movement continued to be subjected to Gandhi’s personal mistrust of Muslim values and specifically his class biases.

“For the Khudai-Khidmatgar” Bala writes, “nonviolence was not a matter of individual soul-searching and achievement, but a principle for the entire community, requiring a collective effort. This is why I believe the Pashtun interpretation of nonviolence is very different from the individualistic approach that Gandhi adopted.”

And so in this is to be found a profound difference between the Afghan and Indian concept of nonviolence and perhaps the key to their success or failure as peace movements. According to Bala, Khan is generally placed in the shadow of Gandhi, often referred to as his pupil or even more patronizingly as the Frontier Gandhi. They were good friends, shared similar views on civil disobedience, spent significant time working together and held each other in high regard. But, in terms of serving as a movement whose ideals for peace could be made universal, it would seem that it was Gandhi’s appeal to the West’s upper class elites that won him success even though Badsher Khan would have served as a more realistic, grassroots hero for a world in dire need of workable community-based formulas for peace.

Yet largely because of Gandhi, Badsher Khan's movement remains viewed as just a poor provincial attempt at replicating his ideology and not a genuine indigenous movement of its own with its own characteristics. During his visits to the service and training camps of the Khudai-Khidmatgar, Gandhi insisted on incorporating his personal ideas such as vegetarianism, fasting, and hand spinning (Khadi) into their social reform activities in order to instill what he believed was a "true" sense of nonviolence in the soldiers of the Khudai-Khidmatgar. But for Gandhi to make his specific personal religious preferences a gauge for the purity of Pashtun nonviolence, he risked removing his philosophy from the realm of a cultural movement and placing it firmly into the realm of a personality cult.

According to Bala, references in Khan's biography indicate that such missionary attempts at making Pashtun practices palatable to liberal upper caste Hindu sensibilities were often met with mild derision. One Khudai-Khidmatgar leader remarked that he had no objections to eating vegetarian food in Gandhi's ashrams, but wished the Gandhians would not be so fussy when they came to the Frontier Province themselves.

But yet, the sense of Gandhi's moral superiority was no laughing matter when it came to the plight of the Pashtuns under British rule. In an October 1938 speech to Khudai-Khidmatgar rank and file members Gandhi announced openly that the Pashtun's commitment to peace was incomplete. He then proceeded to refer to the idea that Pashtuns - who held life so cheap and would have killed a human being with no more thought than they would kill a sheep or a hen, could at the bidding of one man lay down their arms and accept nonviolence – AS A FAIRY TALE.

Gandhi made his apartness from the common Afghan man and woman, landed or landless a hallmark of his speeches. Reading them today betrays a racist sensibility and a disregard and prejudice for the detail, history and context of Pashtun life that has been systematically carried forward into numerous current high minded but failed social experiments.

Gandhi's disrespect for the elaborate system of Pashtun tribal rules known as Pashtunwali is troublesome. More troublesome still is that multiple generations of historians and journalists have looked to Gandhi's Pashtun stereotype as the end all and be all to the history of the Khudai-Khidmatgar. Badsher Khan understood more than anyone the need to disassemble and delegitimize the acceptance of violence within the context of Afghan society as a prerequisite for creating an authentic peace movement. It is that model inspired by Badsher Kahn that should comprise the next stage of a global movement that removes the impetus from the elite and places it in the hands of the people. And only by doing that can a genuine peace movement move forward.

-Chapter 5: How JFK's Plan for World Peace came to be

In our research into Bhadshah Khan's Nonviolence Movement we discovered that his foundational idea was very similar to JFK's American University speech. Rather than focusing on British oppression as the first step towards nonviolence, Khan chose to reform the ancient Pashtun tribal code that sanctioned killing to resolve family feuds. It happens that JFK promoted a similar idea. In what became known as the "Peace Speech" Kennedy asked Americans to reflect first on and reform their own concepts of peaceful coexistence before expecting the "enemy" to change.

The path that led to the creation of that Speech began with JFK's major reason to run for president in the first place. He feared that a nuclear war could still break out regardless of world leaders' best intentions. Within the first six months of his presidency Kennedy's relationship with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev had started off badly on that very issue. His impression was formed during a meeting in Vienna regarding Laos when Khrushchev was shockingly unresponsive to Kennedy's stated concerns about the human costs of a nuclear war. JFK's opinion changed when Khrushchev initiated a secret correspondence with him three months later in September that was kept hidden from the Kremlin due to hardliners in *his* government. Kennedy would soon learn that the same problem with hardliners would overtake in his administration too.

Khrushchev's first letter was 25 pages long and expressed his deep regret that distrust interfered with their ability to develop a positive working relationship from the start. The Premier compared their dilemma with "Noah's Ark where both the 'clean' and the 'unclean' found sanctuary regardless of who is 'clean' and who is 'unclean.'" The message was clear to Kennedy, either we live in peace so that the Ark continues to float, or else we all sink. Kennedy sent a letter back agreeing with Khrushchev's metaphor emphasizing, "Whatever our differences collaboration to keep the peace is more urgent than our collaboration to win the last world war." Thus began a very special exchange between two adversaries now becoming friends for the sake of world peace.

The first test of their evolving relationship came by October of 1961 when a standoff between American and Soviet tanks at the Berlin Wall broke out. Before rushing to judgement, Khrushchev sensed it was brought about by elements of the U.S. government without JFK's knowledge or approval. When Kennedy did become aware of the standoff he utilized the already set up back channels to work out a withdrawal plan with Khrushchev.

But the next test was far more challenging. There were times when Kennedy had to appease the Cold War hawks around him. And one of those opportunities arose in March of 1962. Kennedy made this statement during an interview, "Khrushchev must not be certain that, where its vital interests are threatened, the US will never strike first. In some circumstances, we might have to take the initiative." Khrushchev interpreted that last statement as a *first-strike threat*, which resulted in a Soviet military alert. When Kennedy's press secretary tried to reassure Khrushchev months later, he was still not convinced and began to review his military options in Cuba. It was then decided that placing missiles would not only deter an invasion of Cuba, it would fix the

imbalance created by the U.S. regarding its nuclear missiles in Turkey that were on the USSR's border.

By October of 1962, Khrushchev's decision to place missiles in Cuba became a full-blown crisis that threatened a nuclear holocaust. During the darkest moment when Soviet ships were approaching Cuba and nuclear war seemed imminent Robert Kennedy summarized his brother's fear that the crisis would get out of his control, "What most haunted the President was the fate of all the children who'd had no say in what was happening and would have no chance to grow up and make something of the world."

Transcripts reveal that during the crisis he was constantly being pressured to bomb and invade Cuba while catastrophic consequences were dismissed. Calls for a nuclear first strike on the Soviets continued including one meeting where his advisors causally discussed the estimated deaths of 130 million Soviets and 30 million Americans. He was so committed to deescalating the situation; Kennedy withstood the pressure and refused to approve any of these ill-conceived plans.

The crisis finally ended after Robert Kennedy visited Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin to deliver the President's message that his military advisors were pressing for escalation and things could quickly spiral out of control. That's when Khrushchev ordered the Soviet ships to stop immediately in the water before breaching the U.S. blockade. Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles in Cuba ending the most terrifying standoff of all time. Kennedy followed with a secret promise to remove U.S. nuclear missiles from Turkey that were on the Soviet Union's border. Those missiles were removed within six months.

In December of 1962 journalist Norman Cousins asked Khrushchev how it felt to be so close to letting nuclear war break out. His response was illuminating, "I was frightened about what could happen to my country – or your country and all the other countries that would be devastated. If being frightened meant that I helped avert such insanity then I'm glad I was frightened. One of the problems today is that not enough people are sufficiently frightened by the danger of nuclear war."

Despite progress being made between Kennedy and Khrushchev they had reached an impasse on the nuclear test ban treaty. The Soviets feared inspections were an opportunity for espionage and had agreed to three. Kennedy realized that Congress would not approve any treaty with less than eight. The president sensed that Americans had drawn the same conclusion that he and Khrushchev had from the Cuban Missile Crisis; we need to turn toward peaceful co-existence, disarmament, and cooperation. Kennedy was becoming aware that the neocons in his government would constantly undermine his peace policies. In an effort to address that fact, he asked Theodore Sorenson to write a speech that would outline his vision of peaceful co-existence. That became the basis for his American University speech in which he explained that peace becomes far more accessible when it is broken down into manageable and concrete steps, acknowledged the shared humanity of the Soviet people despite differences, and encouraged Americans to self-reflect on their own attitudes that could impede progress toward peace.

On June 10, 1963 President Kennedy delivered the speech that challenged Americans to think outside the box about war and peace and to empathize with the Soviets rather than distrusting them. Kennedy had gotten word to the Soviets ahead of time that he would be giving this speech. In response, the Soviet's' allowed the full text to be published across the USSR. And that was followed with an unexpected move. After fifteen years of almost uninterrupted jamming, the Soviets stopped jamming Western broadcasts.

Suddenly the outlook for a test-ban agreement turned from hopeless to promising as Kennedy and Khrushchev agreed to the principle of inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency. This became the first nuclear treaty of the Cold War. Khrushchev then proposed that Kennedy consider a treaty banning nuclear testing in the air, space and water, eliminating the need for inspections, as well as a non-aggression pact between NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Unfortunately the speech was largely ignored in Washington.

Ironically one of JFK's goals when he went to Dallas that fateful day was to condemn the notion pushed by the neocons that peace was a sign of weakness. He believed that the best way to demonstrate American strength was by being a nation striving toward peace instead of aggressive actions." His greatest desire as president was to break the neocon ideology that has dominated Washington policy since the end of World War II. Whatever commitment to peace JFK brought to his presidency, it was when he and Khrushchev faced the abyss of nuclear annihilation during the Cuban Missile Crisis that sealed the deal and led to the American University speech.

-Chapter 6: Passages from JFK's Plan resonate with Badshah Khan's message



JFK 1963 Commencement Address, American University Washington, D. C. [Cecil Stoughton Public domain.](#)

“I have chosen this time and place to discuss a topic on which ignorance too often abounds and the truth too rarely perceived. And that is the most important topic on Earth peace. What kind of

a peace do I mean? And what kind of a peace do we seek? Not a Pax Americana enforced on the world by American weapons of war. I am talking about genuine peace, the kind of peace that makes life on earth worth living, and the kind that enables men and nations to grow, and to hope, and build a better life for their children -- not merely peace for Americans but peace for all men and women, not merely peace in our time but peace in all time.

Some say that it is useless to speak of peace until the leaders of the Soviet Union adopt a more enlightened attitude. I hope they do. I believe we can help them do it. But I also believe that we must reexamine our own attitude for our attitude is as essential as theirs. And every citizen who despairs of war and wishes to bring peace, should begin by looking inward by examining his own attitude toward the possibilities of peace, toward the Soviet Union and toward freedom and peace here at home.

First, examine our attitude toward peace itself. Too many think it is impossible. But that is a defeatist belief. It leads to the conclusion that war is inevitable, that mankind is doomed, that we are gripped by forces we cannot control. Our problems are manmade. Therefore, they can be solved by man. Man's reason and spirit have often solved the seemingly unsolvable and we can do it again.

Let us focus on an attainable peace based on a gradual evolution in human institutions, on a series of actions and effective agreements which are in the interest of all concerned. With such a peace, there will still be conflicting interests, as there are within families and nations. World peace, like community peace, does not require that each man love his neighbor, it requires only that they live together in mutual tolerance, submitting their disputes to a just settlement.

So let us persevere. Peace need not be impracticable, and war need not be inevitable. By defining our goal more clearly, by making it seem more manageable and less remote, we can help people to see it, to draw hope from it, and to move irresistibly toward it.

And second, let us reexamine our attitude toward the Soviet Union. It is discouraging to read a Soviet claim that "*there is a very real threat of a preventive war being unleashed by American imperialists against the Soviet Union.*" It is sad to realize the extent of the gulf between us. But it is also a warning to the American people not to fall into the same trap as the Soviets, not to see only a distorted view of the other side, not to see conflict as inevitable, accommodation as impossible, and communication as nothing more than an exchange of threats.

No government or social system is so evil that its people must be considered as lacking in virtue. No nation in the history of battle ever suffered more than the Soviet Union in the Second World War. *At least* 20 million lost their lives. A third of the nation's territory, including nearly two-thirds of its industrial base, was turned into a wasteland.

In short, both the United States and its allies, and the Soviet Union and its allies, have a mutually deep interest in a genuine peace and in halting the arms race. Agreements to this end are in the interests of the Soviet Union as well as ours.

So, let us not be blind to our differences, but let us also direct attention to our common interests and the means by which those differences can be resolved. For our most common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal." (The full [American University Speech](#))

Like Badshah Khan, JFK knew colonialism must end. In an exchange with Indian Prime Minister Nehru he explained the understanding was handed down from his own family's brutal 400 year experience with empire in Ireland as the first colony of the British. That explains why both Khan and JFK connected to the same intuitive wisdom about creating an enduring World Peace movement. It requires this commitment, *we the people* must give up the use of violence from within ourselves first.

-Chapter 7: To turn from War to Peace, the Hegelian Dialectic must be dismantled



Ouroboros Perpetual Motion Machine Author & Copyright holder Otto Rapp and Martin Wallnberger

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William Roper: "So, now you give the Devil the benefit of law!"

Sir Thomas More: "Yes! What would you do? Cut a great road through the law to get after the Devil?"

William Roper: "Yes, I'd cut down every law in England to do that!"

Sir Thomas More: "Oh? And when the last law was down, and the Devil turned 'round on you, where would you hide, Roper, the laws all being flat? This country is planted thick with laws, from coast to coast, Man's laws, not God's! And if you cut them down, and you're just the man to do it, do you really think you could stand upright in the winds that would blow then? Yes, I'd give the Devil benefit of law, for my own safety's sake!" — [A Man for All Seasons](#)

Today's American empire was established in the post-WWII era with the U.S. acting as "receiver" for British mercantile interests. Along with its corporate elites and imperial mandate, the U.S. inherited a 19th century European worldview referred to as the [Hegelian Dialectic](#), which is based on the belief that [conflict creates history](#). The dialectic derived from German

philosopher Georg Hegel's critique of natural law, written in 1825, in which he posited a theory of social and historical evolution. Hegel's new manner of thinking with its Thesis – Antithesis – Synthesis revolutionized thought and served as a tool for a new breed of social engineer eager to overthrow the old world order. Hegel's dialectics acted as the foundation for the communist economic theories of [Karl Marx](#) and [Frederick Engels](#). In essence, Hegel disputed the theory of [universal natural rights](#) espoused by other philosophers such as [Immanuel Kant](#), thereby laying the foundations for [totalitarianism](#). According to Hegel, human society could only achieve its highest state and mankind its highest spiritual consciousness through endless self-perpetuating ideological struggles and conflicts between bipolar extremes. This conflict of opposites when applied to social, political and economic systems would result in the synthesizing of opposites which would inevitably lead mankind to final perfection.

Evidence of the [invisible dialectic](#) controlling the daily narrative can be found everywhere: Environmentalists against private property owners, democrats against republicans, communists against capitalists, pro-choice versus pro-life, Christians against Muslims. No matter what the issue, the invisible dialectic controls both the conflict and the resolution yet it now seems that Hegel's progress toward perfection has led only to new and more deadly cycles of conflict. The Hegelian dialectic works as a powerful tool for legitimizing whatever dialogue advances the global elite's interest and looking back over the past 100 years, it is almost impossible not to see how its deliberate use has created a corrupted synthesis of state power. At a micro-level, this phenomenon can be observed now taking over America's politics.

Today's Hegelians claim that their objective is to create a more egalitarian society. But in practice they merely manipulate and subvert the existing order with the ultimate goal of a utopian world government i.e. "New World Order" which they themselves will rule. The system of designed social conflict to break down individual rights was spelled out by Hegel himself when he said: "...the State' has the supreme right against the individual, whose supreme duty is to be a member of the State... for the right of the world spirit is above all special privileges."

By this definition, state power requires the rule of law, minimal corruption, judicial independence and state monopoly over the means of coercion; as well as a political culture of some trust and compromise rather than distrust and conflict. But when the state's monopoly on coercion ultimately leads to distrust and conflict, then Hegel's method has reached a contradiction which it cannot escape. When democracies cling to legitimacy based solely on the use of coercion on its own citizens, they are no longer democracies but a fascist/totalitarian state.

Economist and historian [Antony Sutton](#) belittled the Hegelian method by writing that at its best, "the Hegelian doctrine simply replaces the divine right of kings with the divine right of states." So, based on America's failures in Afghanistan and Iraq, the tumult in the Greater Middle East and now in Eastern Europe, has the Hegelian dialectic run its course? The American empire is at a turning point politically, economically and socially. The Hegelian dialectic of endless conflict

and competition has proved ruinous to the health of Western civilization. Will its course lead to a synthesis of its best elements or into a further disintegration of what has traditionally been known of as society?

The only way to defeat the downward progression of Hegel's hypothesis is to step outside the dialectic and free ourselves from the limitations of controlled and guided thought. By moving away from a reliance on the monopoly of coercion and reaffirming our belief in the natural rights of all humans, we will return the foundations of legitimacy to the American government. Sutton frames the Hegelian dialectic as against the spirit and letter of the Constitution of the United States by stating how "We the people" grant the state some powers and reserve all others to the people and not self-appointed elites running the State.

If Americans truly believe the rights of the state are always subordinate and subject to the will of the people and consent of the governed, and truly believe that all people are endowed with inalienable rights and are created equal, then the time has come to reevaluate the dialectic and return to our time-worn natural rights.

The West can be restored, but only if Westerners rediscover their individual human right to those principles and traditions they claim to uphold. It is time for Western leaders to understand that the dialectic, which demands perpetual conflict, is a losing cause that has become self-defeating wherever applied. Ultimately it can only lead to self-annihilation. It is critical to establish a new and positive narrative for the American people. This is a key point in our effort to resurrect President John Fitzgerald Kennedy's [dream of world peace](#). We are putting JFK's positive power to work transforming today's toxic international scene into a movement to bring about positive change that all people around the world desperately need and want.

As difficult as it may be for Westerners to grasp, the West's future lies in a process of re-humanization so it can address its own identity crisis. To quote from world renowned philosopher [Marshall McLuhan](#): "... we're standing on the threshold of a liberating and exhilarating world in which the human tribe can become truly one family and man's consciousness can be freed from the shackles of mechanical culture and enabled to roam the cosmos. I have a deep and abiding belief in man's potential to grow and learn, to plumb the depths of his own being and to learn the secret songs that orchestrate the universe. We live in a transitional era of profound pain and tragic identity quest, but the agony of our age is the labor pain of rebirth."

We believe our future can be built based on President John Fitzgerald Kennedy's Dream of World Peace. Doing so will promote the rights of all people around the world to move away from War to the genuine Peace following its phenomenally long absence as a new standard for the West.

-Chapter 8 Afghan human rights expert Sima Wali (4/7/1951 – 9/ 22/2017)



Afghan human rights activist Sima Wali delivers her acceptance speech for Amnesty International's Ginetta Sagan Fund Award in San Francisco, CA, 1999. [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International](#) [Author Wikisi117](#)

Sima Wali was the first Afghan refugee to arrive here in 1978 hosted by former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan, Theodore Eliot. As a cousin to the 1920s Afghan King Amanullah, Sima came with the authority of the royal family. We met her in 1998 and after asking us why the Afghan problem had gotten worse instead of better following the Soviet withdrawal in 1989 we found ourselves being drawn back into the Afghan story.

Sima's challenge renewed our belief that something had to be done and we were soon assisting her by writing articles and speeches which she delivered to the most prestigious audiences. But despite Sima's importance the media had no interest in the issue of Afghanistan from the perspective of the Afghan people and so began a new chapter in the saga.

In 2009 our book *[Invisible History Afghanistan's Untold Story](#)* was published and we asked her to write the introduction. In a penetrating voice filled with hope and despair Sima presented her case on behalf of the forgotten Afghan people. Sima's words reveal how her Homeland of Afghanistan was willfully destroyed by American practitioners of the Hegelian Dialectic.

Introduction by Sima Wali

Invisible History Afghanistan's Untold Story is a phenomenal compendium of history, research and analysis of the complex dynamics that led to the death of my home country Afghanistan—a nation as old as history itself. For Afghanistan, the aftermath of the Cold War resulted in a genocide of more than two million civilians, five million war victims, a million handicapped and scores of internally displaced people. I had spent two decades seeking an explanation for why Afghanistan was sacrificed in the war against the Soviet Union. This book unravels that great mystery as it bears testimony for all humanity about one of the great invisible injustices of our time.

I fled Afghanistan for the US in 1978 after a Marxist coup overthrew the last member of a dynasty that ruled my country for nearly 250 years. My family was put under house arrest because, as allies to the West, we were on the wrong side of Afghan politics. My family was very close to the Americans. We believed Americans shared our vision of Afghanistan, where all Afghans could live in a bright future through education, cultural exchange and economic development. Despite the obstacles inherent in moving an under developed Afghanistan into the twentieth century, it was a time of great promise. Kabul was a peaceful international city with ancient ties to the East and the West. Tourists flocked from all over the world to enjoy a cosmopolitan Islamic culture, free from the strictures of extremism.

I left behind a culture that was on the path of democracy. It had been a golden era, where the voices of women were included as necessary to the development of our country. Back then I was accustomed to the active role of women in politics. I was exposed to empowered women in my family and the larger society who held cabinet posts and worked alongside men. I promised to remain a voice for these people, and dedicated myself to their memory. I still grieve for the Afghanistan I left behind and the lost opportunities for the democratic-minded Afghan people.

In 1981 I established Refugee Women in Development, an organization dedicated to helping displaced women and victims of war from around the world to make a new way of life. For many years preceding the downfall of the Taliban, my organization was unable to conduct programs inside Afghanistan. We were centered in Pakistan. There, I listened to the voices of increasingly desperate men and women. I anguished over how to explain what I learned—that despite the growing awareness of the total destruction from the war, the Afghan people were mostly absent from campaigns waged on their behalf by the US. I realized that this callous treatment of my people, who had served the US in the war against the Soviet Union, would leave them vulnerable to a far more pervasive enemy. That enemy emerged as the Taliban.

During my visits to Pakistan prior to 9/11, the women of Afghanistan and their male escorts braved minefields and mountain passes to secretly meet with me. I listened to the women who ran schools, provided health, human rights and social services for Afghans inside Afghanistan and Pakistan. Traumatized and desperate, they spoke of the poverty, suicide and growing hopelessness that saw their dreams for a free Afghanistan swallowed by an army of Islamist mercenaries from all over the world armed by Pakistan. How did the world community allow such heinous crimes to be committed against a nation of twenty-six million people?

I still hear their cries. During this time I carried with me their pleading voices and ultimately their screams, while the world looked away. Now, as we conclude another decade of war, their screams rise again within me as I witness the Taliban resurgence. The draconian Taliban rule stripped women of their basic human rights. Their edicts against women led to a new form of violence termed “gender apartheid.” Strict limitations on women’s public space and education did galvanize American Feminists on behalf of Afghan women. This solidarity with the most oppressed women in the world *itself* was novel. That women’s alliance and their influence on foreign policy became a powerful factor in the resolution of the worldwide refugee problem. I can state for the record that Afghan women were the canaries in the mineshaft, bearing witness to the inhumanity of a regime against its own citizens.

Still, in the US today there remains a profound lack of understanding about the Taliban, what political forces they represent and what their objectives are. The dearth of accurate information on their origins has resulted in a succession of dangerous policy initiatives from Washington. The consequences have negated any chance for a successful restoration of an Afghan republic. It opened Afghanistan to cross-border raids from Pakistan while at the same time providing a platform for the resurgence of the Taliban.

Once the Soviets departed and the Americans deserted Afghanistan, desperate Afghans living in Pakistan became indoctrinated into the Taliban's fundamentalist mentality. Due to the dismal conditions following the war, many young Afghan men were forcibly recruited to join the Taliban. Over the years as I witnessed the breakdown of civil society due to the long term effects of war on the people, I also witnessed the growth of the madrassa system of fundamentalist education in Pakistan. Many refugee families confirmed to me that the only way for their boys to receive education was through the madrassas. During that time, the Taliban's influence grew over the Afghan refugees in Peshawar as well as in Afghanistan as the war continued to drain resources required to maintain civil society. Encouraged by Pakistan while Americans looked the other way; the Pakistani madrassas continued to provide indoctrination and recruitment for the Taliban as it grew stronger by the day.

To set the record straight, the term "Taliban" and the movement itself were unheard of in Afghanistan until 1996. Prior to that year the Taliban mentality and the madrassa structure did not exist. As an invention of Pakistan's military intelligence with outside help, the Taliban were recruited from Pakistani madrassas. This process was funded, not by Afghans, but by the Saudis and other Arab countries who continue to seek their long term goal of a political and religious transformation of South Asia combined with the dissolution of Afghanistan as a nation state. Historically the version of Islam practiced by Afghans was moderate. The Taliban version of Deobandi Islam practiced in Pakistan and the Wahhabism practiced in Saudi Arabia were alien to Afghanistan. Suicide bombings did not exist in Afghanistan until after the Soviet occupation. The Afghan people never willingly embraced extremist Islam. These ideas were forced upon them under circumstances beyond their control.

Regardless, during the debates establishing the post-Taliban government for Afghanistan in 2001, Islamist principles that had never been a part of previous constitutions were infused into the new constitution. Many leaders in the new government of Afghanistan subscribe to extremist Islamic ideologies that were never a part of Afghan politics. And so, where in the past, extremism held little sway within the political process, the conflict between moderates and extremists has now become the norm.

After years of being driven from power by the American military intervention of 2001, today the Taliban enemy is once again reemerging as a tenacious and relentless insurgent force. But even with a military occupation the US and the West still do not perceive that their failure in Afghanistan remains as a direct result of their long-standing inability to adjust to the realities of what needs to be done. It is the failure to listen to the voices of the many Afghans who are capable of ushering in democratic change. This bias permeated American thinking before 9/11. Despite a wealth of new empirical evidence, misconceptions about Afghanistan remain in place today.

Following the fall of the Taliban, our effort was to build a democratic civil society. Our philosophy at Refugee Women in Development has been that the grassroots leadership found in local NGOs should play a vital role in promoting a balanced and tolerant society. We developed networking opportunities for local Afghan organizations by strengthening their institutional and leadership capacities through training programs. At first we were confident that, with a combination of American aid and security, the civil society that I had known in Afghanistan could be restored and expanded throughout the country. This was not to be.

Today, Afghanistan is again depicted in the worst possible light—as a haven for extremists who have hijacked Afghan cultural and religious traditions. The media often promote this misconception, and fail to recognize that the Afghan people have themselves been held hostage to external invading forces. These forces have a vested interest in keeping Afghanistan destabilized and weak. They benefit from maintaining misconceptions that prevents Afghanistan from getting enough western commitment to realistically establish democratic institutions. The international system of law and diplomacy broke down once over Afghanistan. It must not be allowed to break down again.

Following 9/11 we had the semblance of a new society, but the Afghan people are again seeing the glimmer of hope dissipate. I no longer fear that Afghanistan will be abandoned. My fear today is that despite all the good intentions, America's overreliance on targeted missile strikes, chemical spraying, and imprisoning and torturing suspected militants has turned popular opinion in the wrong direction. Combined with an inability to improve the lives of Afghans by even a small measure, America is now viewed as an occupier, instead of the friend and ally we want her to be.

While many strides have been made to bring women along in reconstruction schemes these advances are tempered by rampant poverty, violence, lack of water, electricity, and unemployment. Under current circumstances women are abducted, even jailed, for refusing to accept forced marriages. Honor killings continue and physical violence have not been adequately addressed especially in the provinces where warlords rule. Today, the common Afghan man and woman have fear in their hearts and uncertainty about their future.

Although we now have a new constitution that claims to guarantee the rights of both men and women, the advances are tempered by rising repression of women's social and political prominence. We, as women, are at peril from anti-modernist forces that are committed to rolling back the gains by resorting to the so-called "Islamic" argument. The protection of women as equal citizens does not figure prominently enough in the constitution. The world community must not be acquiescent with tokenism or symbolic assurances. What Afghanistan and its people desperately need is not misplaced charity but long-term strategies for sustainable democracy. This can only be done if the international community makes a permanent commitment to: 1) staying the course of nation building; 2) committing enough finances to sustain long-term development; 3) heeding the voices of the moderate Afghan people; and 4) involving Afghan women who constitute 67 percent of the population. Building on a ravaged nation with only 33 percent of its human resources is simply not sound economics.

The world community and especially the US realize that Afghanistan is a country of special interest. But it still remains a country whose history and struggle for democracy is largely obscured by propaganda. Afghans have endured and continue to endure unspeakable trauma. To this day, I am exposed to the impact this war has on women, men and children, and bear witness to their families' lifelong trauma. It has led me to question why anyone can claim the right to sacrifice innocent victims while pursuing their own political agendas and economic interests.

Invisible History clarifies and corrects the record, and builds a foundation upon which the whole story of Afghanistan's past can be appreciated. It is filled with ground-breaking analysis, not only of the more recent politics of Afghanistan, but the larger historical context necessary to grasp the immensity of this tragedy. It will stand as a twenty-first century guide not only to what was lost in the destruction of Afghanistan but to what can still be done to reconstruct a future where all Afghan women and men can live with the peace and plenty they deserve.

-CHAPTER 9 A Nature-Based Perspective on Peace by [Don Trent Jacobs](#), Ph.D., Ed.D.

I have never seen it in writing (and don't know how to spell it), but the Lakota word, *wolokokiciapi*, conveys a way of understanding the essence of what it means to walk in flowing balance on *chanku-luta* (the red road). It means, as best as I can define it, as having an inner peacefulness that automatically nurtures the potential for out peace in the world. Like most Indigenous words, it expresses a verb more than a noun. It is not a state of being but a process in action. It comes from languages our ancient ancestors created from the sights, sounds and feelings of the landscape and all its life forms. The Potawatomi author Robin Kimmerer [writes](#) "Birds, bugs, and berries are spoken of with the same respectful grammar as humans are, as if we were all members of the same family. Because we are. There is no *it* for nature. Living beings are referred to as subjects, never as objects, and personhood is extended to all who breathe and some who don't. I greet the silent boulder people with the same respect as I do the talkative chickadees. It's no wonder that our language was forbidden."

We are losing such languages rapidly and the cultures they support. While we do what we can to stop this, we can embrace the common understandings common to all uncolonized people (and those relatively few able to hold on to them after colonialization). Such "Indigenous worldview" with a "capital I" for respecting these remaining cultures, belongs to all of us who are "indigenous to Earth" (small i). The worldview precepts we hold from a post-colonial worldview is not in balance with the nature-based or Indigenous one. So we can use our original cosmologies that remind us what it means to

be human. For example, with them we remember that we are truly equal to our other-than-human life forms. We become aware there is a spiritual force in the universe that permeates all that exists. Each person's mission, then, is to live in harmony with how this force expresses itself. We pay attention to the visible and invisible energies that dwell in a particular place and live according to the truth that we are all related.

This is why, for Indigenous peoples, non-human lifeforms are considered to be our teachers. Walking a path to learn this way requires a courage (*wohetike*) and respectfulness that gives significance to the self and to all that is other than oneself (*wowayuonihan*). We have a difficult time because of our anthropocentric (human-centered) worldview. A worldview is simply a foundational understanding we have been taught to have about the human-nature-spirit connection. Such a worldview has created unnatural hierarchies, rationalized by misinterpretations of Darwin who well understood that life on earth was ultimately about "mutual aid." Unfortunately, educational and cultural hegemony keep us from knowing the truth about why we were able to sustain water sources, air, climate and bio-diversity. We also have been taught that pre-colonized culture were more war-like than post-colonial ones. Yet the scholarship shows that peacefulness was once normal in human groups. A growing body of research has emerged to explain how a nature-based, relatively non-hierarchical worldview is not only responsible for ecological sustainability, but also for the normalcy of peacefulness. (Contact me if you wish to be sent examples of such scholarship). It is not a coincidence that 80% of the biodiversity on Earth is on the 20% of landmass still occupied by Indigenous peoples. It comes from a worldview that emphasizes *wolokokiciapi* through its worldview and the teachings that keep it alive. It is an antidote to war. War is adaptive to an anthropocentric, materialistic worldview, one focused on hierarchy and profit that began when we started waging war against Nature. To make peace within ourselves then is to make peace with all of Nature, recognising that we are part of it. From the Indigenous perspective, this begins with establishing a relationship with the energies surrounding the particular environment one finds oneself occupying.

Peace sees the Earth as a microcosm of the universe. It sees the human body as a microcosm of the Earth. Contemplative practices and spiritual traditions like yoga or tai chi have emerged when Indigenous worldviews became overshadowed by our dominant hierarchical worldview. Practices such as those in various yogic traditions allow one to work towards a mystical participation with the Earth by working on one's body/mind/ spirit, which is a mirror of it, even within doors and apart from the outside world. Thus, with the intentionality that connects personal body/mind/spirit work with the 'Oneness of All' and the deep respect for the gift of life on Earth, we can re-envision our appropriate responsibilities

to the land, even when we are not necessarily where we can interrelate with the living soul in Nature, such as near trees or rivers – although, even in big cities, one can usually find other-than or more-than human entities with which to interact.

Imagine that each of us starts with our own commitment to the harmony of our body/mind/spirit, and then we connect this to our local place and the community that occupies it, and realise the interconnectedness with all. What would it look like if an organization dedicated to peace on Earth intentionally and fully employed this formula in its work. This may well be a stimulus for our much needed transformation.

One organization that may be starting to imagine such transformation is Veterans for Peace. Dedicated by its vision to peace on earth, I know many of its members attended the Standing Rock protest. They learned from the Indigenous people a different way of negotiating the challenges facing our world. Even in the face of dangerous attacks, the Indigenous and the Indigenous-trained water protectors maintained their loving, prayerful and contagious peacefulness within and without. They have always (or mostly) spoken with authentic love to their ‘brothers’ in riot gear, in spite of the police officers’ snarling faces and threatening words. At worst, the protectors lectured the police as being ‘misguided by the priority of a pay check’. They told them to their faces and in the throes of military violence that they are not ‘bad people’. The protectors prayed for the police, even while being pepper sprayed, or shot at with rubber bullets. I know of more than a dozen of the police lay down their shields and weapons and walk away.

Throughout the weeks I spent there, whether on an action or in camp, commentary from the water protectors, the Indians and non-Indians alike, reflected a love of the land and the creatures of it, especially of a love of the mighty Missouri River itself which they were there to protect. The Standing Rock movement is, indeed, one that is full of a love that flows like the river, a love that can only flourish when we truly *love* the flow of the river itself as being part of the flow of our own blood and with the same essence. Many learned from their time at Standing Rock. It initiated an awakening of consciousness around the world. Like many other Indigenous-led movements to protect land and water around the globe, it reveals the power of *wolokolkiciapi* and its relationship to prayerful ceremony. It shows how complementarity and alternative consciousness work together, with love and compassion to seek and take responsibility for what is truthful. Those who have worked with the many First Nations people at Standing Rock have learned a very different way of communicating, a way that emphasises interconnectedness with all, including the many other-than or greater-than human entities. This is

beautifully expressed by the words of my friend and a fellow member of Veterans for Peace, Tarak Kauff. They are from his interview by Dennis Trainer, Jr., the producer of Acronym TV:

DENNIS: So, why are you here?

TARAK: Well, this is the third time I've been to Standing Rock. The reason I'm here? I guess there's multiple reasons. I feel what is going on here is so important nationally and internationally. It's not just about the water. It's not just about the pipeline. But it is about the sovereignty of the Indian nations. This is really important. As a member of Veterans for Peace, we have a commitment to stop war, all wars. This war against Indigenous Peoples has been going on for 500 years! And it is a genocidal war. And don't forget that the armed forces participated in the genocide. We are all part of it, that genocide, and we need to make up for it.

This pipeline and the disregard for sacred native land and for the water is part of that war. And I saw it as such. I mean, this is warfare right here in America. And the people are standing up to it. It is a heroic stand and community is coming together. It's a great manifestation of community that transcends what happened – what we tried to do in the Occupy Movement. And the reason it transcends other movements is because (thousands of years of) wisdom and a sense of community with all manifest here. It's a collective consciousness that is absolutely incredible. The first time I came here, I was just amazed that I, as a long-time activist, learned and absorbed from the native leadership here as I have. So I'm here to learn. I'm here to be part of it. I'm here to serve as much as I can as a veteran.

I also see what's happening here, this Indigenous-led, this First Nation thing, as so important because there are people here in America who are still, and who have always been, in touch with the Earth. The Earth is sacred to them. And we – generally white society, white Western society – have lost that sense of sacredness. If we are going to survive as a human species, we need to redevelop that. We need to reawaken that in our consciousness. And here it's awake. It's very, very much awake. They talk about, and to, Mother Earth. They talk about the land, the water. It's a living thing and we need to get that – they've had that for thousands of years. We're relearning it, but it is in all of us. If we are going to survive as a species, we need to remember. They still do, and we are all starting to get it. So, this is a very important reason we are here, maybe transcending anything else that's going on.

An idea is brewing with one organization for restoring the Indigenous worldview in pursuit of *wolokolkiciapi*. It is the Veterans for Peace that was well-represented at Standing Rock. How wonderful it would be if this organization, already dedicated to peace on earth and already believe that the war against

Nature is a priority, could be the first non-Indigenous group in the world to truly decolonize and Indigenous!

-Chapter 10 The Marriage of Economic Justice and World Peace Will Create Heaven on Earth from *The Council of Georgist Organizations*

To liberate production from taxation, the earth from monopoly, and humanity from poverty

The term “Georgist philosophy” refers to the economic analysis and social philosophy advanced by the North American economist Henry George. The Georgist philosophy advocates equal rights for all and special privileges for none. It affirms a universal right for all to share in the gifts and opportunities provided by nature.

Central to this philosophy is the conviction that social problems must be traced to their root causes and remedied at that level, rather than by dealing with mere symptoms. The science of political economy, whose task is to explore such root causes, can and must be understood not just by experts but by everyday people, so that injustice and corruption cannot be foisted on an unwitting public. Economic analysis shows that land values, which are due to natural and social processes, should be the source of public revenue, and that taxes on labor, thrift and industry should be eliminated. Properly understood, economics is not a “dismal science” but a guide for achieving justice and sustainable prosperity.

Born in Philadelphia in 1839, Henry George went on to San Francisco and became a newspaper editor who addressed the social problems of his day. On a visit to New York, he was shocked by the contrast between wealth and poverty. He resolved to find a solution, if he could and the result was *Progress and Poverty* in 1879, which is said to be the all-time bestselling book on economics.

George’s fame led him to be drafted by the United Labor Party to run for Mayor of New York in 1886. George lost to Abram Hewitt (and Theodore Roosevelt came in third). He traveled and lectured extensively around the world, and wrote several more influential books, including *Social Problems, Protection or Free Trade* (which was read in its entirety into the US Congressional Record) and *The Condition of Labor*, an open letter to Pope Leo XIII in response to his encyclical *Rerum Novarum*. George died in 1897 at the height of his second campaign for Mayor of New York. His last book, *The Science of Political Economy*, was published the following year.

George’s masterwork, *Progress and Poverty* is subtitled “an inquiry into the cause of industrial depressions and the increase of want with increase of wealth the remedy.” He begins his analysis by showing that poverty cannot be caused by any lack of productive power either of people or of nature. The cause of poverty must stem from the way in which wealth is distributed among the basic factors that produce it: land, labor and capital.

Land which includes all locations, natural resources and opportunities is fixed in supply. It is not the product of human labor, but it is needed for all production indeed, for all life. The owners of land do

nothing to contribute to production, yet they collect an income for allowing land to be used and if they choose, they may withdraw land from use, waiting for higher returns. When good land is held out of use, labor must resort to less productive sites. Rents inexorably rise at the expense of wages and productive investment, creating unemployment and chronic boom/bust cycles.

The solution George proposes is the public appropriation of land rent. This would return to society the values that society and the earth itself have created. It would remove the disastrous tendency for valuable sites to be held out of use. More land would become available, lowering rents and prices, allowing producers to keep more of what they produce. Finally, relying on land rents to finance public services would free labor and capital from the burden of taxation.

George's proposal "to abolish all taxation save that upon land values" became known as the *Single Tax*. The term itself goes back to the French Physiocrats almost 100 years before George. Although presented as a "tax" for practical purposes, it is actually a user fee a payment to society for the use of land whose value is determined by the market. It is not an arbitrary levy upon the fruits of labor, as is the case with most taxes.

Today, advocates of land value taxation (LVT) seek to shift taxation from buildings and commerce to land and natural opportunities. Since this reliance upon land or site values for public revenue rewards those who put land to its most appropriate uses (encouraging improvements and employment), it is often advocated as "incentive taxation". Land value taxation provides a "green tax shift" that promotes conservation of natural resources and encourages sustainable economic development.

Solving today's Social Problems

Poverty and Unemployment — By discouraging land speculation, public collection of land rent opens up opportunities to labor and capital, creating a renewed demand for labor and raising wages. Fully applied, it can eliminate involuntary unemployment.

Urban Problems — Decent housing is scarce and costly. Many have simply become resigned to the perpetuation of an "urban underclass". And, as bad as urban problems are in the West, they have become far worse in the developing world, where cities lack even the most basic services for poor people. A land value tax shift encourages the improvement of property, making good housing more affordable.

Tax Reform — Citizens today groan under the weight of taxes on wages, property and commerce. People's taxes increase with every effort they make to improve the quality of their lives. The land value tax, on the other hand, is unique in that it does not penalize those who work and produce. Since better public services increase site values, the land value tax shift is a self-financing alternative to oppressive taxation.

Urban Sprawl — By encouraging efficient and appropriate use of land, public collection of land rent eliminates urban blight and rural overdevelopment. The "leap-frog development" that characterizes urban sprawl is replaced by a more efficient development that preserves the clean and green countryside.

Energy and Conservation — The monopoly of natural resources is the root cause of high energy prices, widespread waste and inefficiency of energy use, and possibly irreversible changes in the earth's climate. Acknowledging that all individuals have the right to these resources is the first step toward sustainable energy production and better conservation policies.

Inflation — Many factors contribute to inflation: government waste, deficit spending, monopolistic and speculative rises in the price of land, and over-expansion of the money supply. Most of these problems stem from the unhealthy incentives of today's tax systems. To the degree implemented, the Single Tax would eliminate these causes of inflation.

Development and Land Reform —The world's resources, if used wisely and efficiently, will comfortably and sustainably support all people. Instead, these resources are squandered by a small minority. Georgist reforms would give landless people an opportunity to produce for themselves instead of for a privileged few, ending the hunger and poverty incorrectly ascribed to overpopulation.

War and Peace — The world is in transition. The "Cold War" no longer dominates international politics, but still the social problems remain. World security is disturbed by struggles over territory and natural resources. These problems cannot be solved until we recognize that the Earth belongs to all. The Georgist philosophy offers a practical way to achieve equal access to nature, true free trade, cooperation and peace.

Application and Influence The Single Tax movement wielded considerable influence, and led to numerous partial applications of George's reform. Early Georgists spurred reforms in the assessment and taxation of real property, especially the scientific assessment of land. George's ideas also influenced public land policy.

The three townships of Arden in Delaware are Single Tax communities where only land rent is paid for local revenue. Today's growing use of the Community Land Trust as a means of providing access to rural and urban land is a direct continuation of these and other Single Tax experiments.

Monopoly was originally designed to teach Georgist economics. Elizabeth Magie Phillips first patented her Landlord's Game in 1904. It was identical in layout and rules to today's Monopoly — with one big difference: players could vote to switch, and play the game by single tax rules. Called "Prosperity," it resulted in; every player winning money anytime another gained a property. And the game was won by everyone playing only when the person with the least doubled their resources. It was a game of collaboration and social good. The second set of rules was called "Monopoly", where players succeeded by taking properties and rent from those with less luck rolling the dice. The winner was the person who used their power to eliminate everyone else. Magie's mission was to teach how different we feel when playing Prosperity vs Monopoly, hoping that it would one day change national policies.

Pittsburgh and nineteen other Pennsylvania cities tax land at higher rates than buildings with good economic results, as do some cities in Western Canada, Australia and New Zealand. In Denmark, local

and national “land dues” helped to keep agricultural land holdings small, decentralized and highly productive. Georgist principles also figured in the land reforms of Taiwan and Japan. Alberta and Alaska are outstanding examples of public collection of rents and royalties on natural resources, notably oil, to the benefit of all citizens.

Land value taxation has been endorsed by organizations such as the Urban Land Institute, the Heartland Institute, the American Institute for Economic Research, and others.

In 1991, Nobel prize-winners Franco Modigliani, James Tobin, Robert Solow and William Vickrey joined 26 other prominent economists in signing an open letter to Mikhail Gorbachev which urged the Soviet Union to retain land in public ownership, and to raise government revenue by charging rent for its use.

The Georgist movement is unlike other “advocacy groups” in many interesting ways. Adherents come from across the political spectrum. The Georgist philosophy can be viewed as a fundamental synthesis of the best of “left” and “right”: a reconciliation of justice and efficiency in economic relations. Due to the far-reaching implications of this philosophy, activity is pursued on many fronts, including activism in support of local property tax reform, popular education, research, publishing, and community and global networking.

Various organizations, groups and periodicals exist to promote Georgist philosophy and/or public revenue based on land values. These organizations are engaged in various types of programs, most notably:

- Education in the fundamentals of Georgist philosophy and analysis.
- Activities to promote public support for land value taxation and the legislation necessary to implement this reform.
- Research into the role of land in the economy, the techniques of assessment and the suitability of rent as a tax base.
- Publication and exchange of ideas, to develop alliances, ideas and programs.

This chapter is from *The Council of Georgist Organizations* [website](#). A 6 minute video about Earth Rights Economics can be viewed [here](#).

-CHAPTER 11 A Brief History of How We Lost the Commons by Jay Walljasper

In the beginning, the commons was everywhere. Humans roamed through it, hunting and gathering to meet their needs. Like other species, we had territories but these were communal to the tribe, not private to the person.

Agriculture arose about ten thousand years ago and along with it came permanent settlements and private property. Rulers granted ownership of land to loyal families. Often, military leaders distributed conquered land to their soldiers.

Despite the growth of private property, much land remained part of the commons. In Roman times, bodies of water, shorelines, wildlife, and air were explicitly classified as *res communes*, resources available to all. During the Middle Ages, kings and feudal lords often claimed title to rivers, forests, and wild animals, often to have such claims periodically rebuked. The Magna Carta, which King John of England was forced to sign in 1215, established forests and fisheries as *res communes*.

In the 17th century, English philosopher John Locke sought to find a balance between the commons and private property. He believed that God gave the earth to “mankind in common,” but that some private property is justified because it spurs humans to work. The trick is to get the right balance. People should be able to acquire private property, but only up to a limit. That limit is set by two considerations: first, it should be no more than they can make productive through their labor, and second, it has to leave “enough and as good in common” for others. This was consistent with English common law at the time, which held, for example, that landowners could draw water from a stream or river for their own use, but couldn’t diminish the supply available to others.

Despite Locke’s quest for balance, the great majority of the English commons was later enclosed, which is to say privatized. Local gentry, backed by Parliament, fenced off village lands and converted them to private holdings. Impoverished peasants then drifted to cities and became industrial workers.

One observer of this transformation was Thomas Paine, the pamphleteer who spoke so eloquently for American independence. Seeing how enclosure of the commons benefited a few and disinherited many others, Paine proposed a remedy—not a reversal of enclosure, which he considered necessary for economic progress, but compensation for its loss.

Like Locke, Paine believed nature was a gift of God to all. “There are two kinds of property,” he wrote. “Firstly, natural property, or that which comes to us from the Creator of the universe—such as the earth, air, water. Secondly, artificial or acquired property—the invention of men.” In the latter, he reasoned, equality is impossible, but in the former, “all individuals have legitimate birthrights.” Since these birthrights were being diminished by enclosure, there ought to be a compensation for that loss. Paine proposed a “national fund” that would do two things:

[Pay] to every person, when arrived at the age of twenty-one years, the sum of fifteen pounds sterling, as a compensation in part, for the loss of his or her natural inheritance, by the introduction of the system of landed property: And also, the sum of ten pounds per annum, during life, to every person now living, of the age of fifty years, and to all others as they shall arrive at that age.

A century and a half later, the U.S. created a national fund to do part of what Paine recommended—we call it Social Security. We’ve yet to adopt the other part, but its basic principle—that enclosure of a commons requires compensation—is as sound in our time as it was in Paine’s.

The Fate of the Commons in America

In the years since European settlement, America developed its own relationship with the commons, which in our case included the vast lands we took from native people and Mexico. Some Americans, exemplified by Thomas Jefferson, saw our commons as the soil from which we could build a nation of prosperous small farmers and proprietors. This philosophy led to passage of laws such as the Land Ordinance of 1785, the Homestead Act, the Morrill Land Grant College Act, and the Reclamation Act, which allocated family size plots to settlers and financed schools to educate them. Many Americans, exemplified by Teddy Roosevelt, also cherished these lands for their wildness and beauty, which led to the establishment of national parks, wildlife preserves and wilderness areas.

At the same time, others in America viewed our common wealth as the means to their personal fortune, and lobbied or bribed government officials to give away priceless lands to railroads, mining and timber interests, and speculators.

If an accounting could be made of all the private appropriations of commons through the years—not just land but other valuable resources—it would total trillions of dollars. The plot is almost always the same: when a certain commons acquires commercial value, someone tries to grab it. In the old days, that meant politically connected individuals; nowadays, it means politically powerful corporations.

In 1995, for example, Congress decided it was time for Americans to shift from analog to digital television. This required a new set of broadcast frequencies, and Congress obligingly gave them—free of charge—to the same media companies to which it had previously given analog frequencies free of charge, despite the fact that the airwaves belong to all of us. Republican Senate leader Bob Dole opposed the giveaway. “It makes no sense,” he said, “that Congress would create a giant corporate welfare program. . . . The bottom line is that the [broadcasting] spectrum is just as much a national resource as our national forests. That means it belongs to every American equally.” But, just as before, the media companies got their free airwaves anyway.

What’s astonishing about these takings isn’t that they occur, but how unaware of them the average citizen is. As another Republican, former Secretary of the Interior and Alaska governor Walter Hickel said, “If you steal \$10 from a man’s wallet, you’re likely to get into a fight, but if you steal billions from the commons, co-owned by him and his descendants, he may not even notice.”

Enclosure, in which property rights are literally taken or given away by government, is half the reason our commons is in such a steep decline today; the other half is a form of trespass called

externalizing—that is, corporations shifting their costs onto the commons. Externalizing is as damaging as enclosure, yet much less noticed, since it occurs quietly and continuously, as in the case of pollution seeping into a river.

The one-two punch of enclosure and externalizing is especially destructive. With one hand, corporations take valuable stuff from the commons and privatize it. With the other hand, they dump bad stuff into the commons and pay nothing. The result is profits for corporations but a steady loss for everyone else, to whom the commons belong.

Capitalism Enters the Fray

Humans began ravaging nature long before capitalism was a gleam in Adam Smith’s eye. Modern capitalism, however, has exponentially enlarged the scale of that ravaging.

A century ago, land, resources, and places to dump wastes were abundant; capital itself was the limiting factor. That’s why rules and practices were developed that prioritized capital above all else.

In the 21st century, however, this is no longer the case. As economist Joshua Farley has noted, “If we want more fish on our dinner plates, the scarce factor isn’t fishing boats, it’s fish. If we want more timber, the scarce factor isn’t sawmills, it’s trees.”

The world today is awash with capital, most of it devoted to speculation. By contrast, healthy ecosystems are increasingly scarce. If anything deserves priority today, it’s nature’s capital, yet capitalism rolls on driven by the profit-maximizing demands of financial capital.

As a businessman and investor, I believe we can evolve to a new stage of capitalism, envisioned centuries ago by Locke and Paine, where corporations and the commons work in balance. But we have no time to waste.

Excerpted from *Capitalism 3.0 A Guide to Reclaiming the Commons* (Berrett-Koehler). Barnes, an entrepreneur who co-founded Working Assets, is co-founder of On the Commons.

-Chapter 12 The foundation of The Economics of Peace Campaign based on “Sacred Rule Economics” by Alanna Hartzok

To summarize, the first step to building peace as the platform of life is recognizing that the Earth belongs to everyone. The wide activation of the Earth Rights principles and policies will aid our goal of creating World Peace by dramatically reducing the struggles over territory and resources that tend to trigger wars. It offers ways to achieve equal access to nature that ultimately will lead to peace on earth.

Alanna Hartzok delivered a PowerPoint presentation on *Sacred Rule Economics* at TrineDay's Roundtable #16 that laid out the deep history of perennial wisdom teachings about land, money and public finance. When land and natural resource values – Commons Rent – become the primary source for raising public revenue; it will lay the foundation for economic justice that will lead to world peace. View the *Sacred Rule Economics* presentation [here](#) or read the pdf file [here](#).

For more information on Earth Rights Economics Contact:

Alanna Hartzok the author of *The Earth Belongs to Everyone*, a collection of 30 of her articles and essays and recipient of the *Radical Middle Book Award*. A pdf file of the book can be accessed [here](#). She is Co-Founder, Earth Rights Institute, administrator for [The International Union for Land Value Taxation](#) and Baltimore Thrive Project. She has given lectures and seminars on Land Rights and Public Finance Policy in 18 countries. Contact Alanna Hartzok at alannahartzok@gmail.com

Wendell Fitzgerald has been a student and teacher of Georgist economics since 1972. He was executive director of the Northern California Henry George School of Social Science 1976-1979 and president of the board until 2019. He has lectured and taught classes in Ashland Oregon at Southern Oregon University. He was elected to the Board of Schalkenbach Foundation, publisher of Henry George's books 2019-2020. For more information visit the [Henry George School](#) of New York, the [Council of Georgist Organizations](#) and the [Schalkenbach Foundation](#). Contact Wendell Fitzgerald at wtfitzgerald84@gmail.com

-Chapter 13 An Open Letter to King Charles III on his Coronation, an Earth Rights Manifesto by Alanna Hartzok



[Charles III, King of the United Kingdom Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic](#)

AN OPEN LETTER TO KING CHARLES III ON HIS CORONATION

An Earth Rights Manifesto

from Alanna Hartzok, Earth Rights Visionary and United Nations NGO
Representative for the International Union for Land Value Taxation

His Majesty King Charles III
Buckingham Palace
London SW1A 1AA

Your Majesty,

I write to you as your “astrological twin sister”. Yes, we were both born on the fourteenth day of November 1948. And as the stars appear, within 10 minutes of each other. My mother sometimes laughingly said this about the day she and your mother gave birth to us: “That woman is doing the same thing as I am, why is she getting all the attention?”

I write to you as someone who also raised two children, who loves to garden and ride horses as you do (and both our mothers did), and as one who cares deeply about the state of our world, as you do.

As your astrological twin sister, I write this open letter to you in the hope that you might be moved to engage in a conversation with people from around the world. Together, as King and Commoners, I think that we can find clarity for a way forward, a way to end poverty, homelessness and hunger, and to build a world that works for everyone including the animals and plants, indeed for life itself. Through our sincere conversation I am certain right action will follow and we will create a world where justice will keep the peace and thus will we end the scourge and abomination of war once and for all.¹

UK resident and Irish scholar Kevin Cahill wrote a magnificent book titled Who Owns the World² which is the first compilation of landowners and landownership structures in every single one of the world’s 197 states and 66 territories. Who Owns the World covers the history of landownership as far as written history allows and shows the division of landownership in every region of the globe. Cahill identified the person who owns the largest proportion of the world’s land and documents that person’s landholdings.³ That person was your mother. Now it is you, my dear astrological twin brother.

With the Crown comes your leadership role in the governments and thus the people of the British Commonwealth. You will bear an enormous responsibility in your vested legal ownership of over one-sixth of the planet’s surface. You will reign in 32 countries and territories having a total land mass of 6,698 million acres which will bear your name as superior, or ultimate owner. In contrast, the United States as a country has 2,400 million acres while Russia has 4,200 million acres. As Cahill says, this is “a phenomenon never to be seen elsewhere on earth.... The word

¹ Ownership of Land and Control of the Earth <https://worldservice.org/issues/febmar96/letter.html>

² Cahill, Kevin. *Who Owns the World: The Hidden Facts Behind Landownership*. Edinburgh: Mainstream Publishing Company Ltd. 2007. First published 2006.

³ *Ibid.* 42-48.

“own” is used deliberately, being the word her Canadian Attorney General’s office used to describe the legal status of all of Canada’s vast territory.”⁴

What we commoners know about what you as now King Charles III owns in personal property in the UK is this: “private, or near private, landed possessions in the home territory come to about 637,000 acres.”⁵ This makes my three-and-a-half acre family homestead quite minuscule indeed, yet we are so grateful to have it for our beautiful flower, vegetable and water gardens, pasture for animals and woodlot.

In Who Owns the World, Cahill describes in great detail the legal machinations of the Crown’s ownership rights. He says that these are a “manifest continuation and legitimisation of feudalism in the modern world”. Of the rights asserted in Magna Carta I he tells us that the barons “did not question the King’s feudal superiority and his overall ownership of the land of the realm...”⁶

You bear an enormous responsibility as you are technically and legally the ultimate owner and controller of by far the greatest proportion of the earth’s territory compared to anyone else. Thus a stunning opportunity will be placed upon your shoulders as the crown is placed upon your head on May 6, your coronation day. You will have a highly visible capacity to ask one of the most important questions of our time, that of not just who owns the world, but of how SHOULD the earth be “owned”? And this question of earth ownership has been central to my own life’s quest. I want to share with you some of what I have learned in this regard, as detailed in my award-winning book, The Earth Belongs to Everyone.⁷

During my time since we were born I have come to the realization that the ultimate claim of ownership of the earth’s land and natural resources cannot be made on the basis of prior claim, discovery, purchase, military conquest, ability to maintain and secure possession, constitutional law, or length of residency.

Ultimately the only rational, supportable, moral, just and ethical basis upon which a claim of ownership can be made is by birthright to the gifts of nature and that cannot be an exclusive claim. The claim by birthright can only be legitimate if it is acknowledged that all other human beings have an equal claim to land and natural resources. The deepest ethical dimension of territorial rights recognizes that humanity is one and indivisible in its fundamental claim to the earth as the birthright of all.⁸

We people of the planet owe a great debt of gratitude as well as profound apologies for the manner in which we have treated indigenous people who have lived longer and closer to the

⁴ Ibid. 43.

⁵ Ibid. 52

⁶ Ibid. 45

⁷ <https://theiu.org/books/>

⁸ Hartzok, Alanna. *The Earth Belongs to Everyone*. The Institute for Economic Democracy Press, 2008.

precepts of natural law than most of the several billion of us. Colonization declared their lands “terra nullius” meaning void of human habitation as church and state considered native people to be savages and subhuman.⁹ We can understand the Native American word *wetiko*¹⁰ to mean those whose consciousness is that of being separate from the earth and from each other, whereas native people viewed the world as a whole and all human beings as related to all of nature. They said in their greetings and prayers *Mitákuye Oyás’iŋ* meaning “all my relations.”

John Mohawk,¹¹ a Native American leader and university academic, said this in his essay on *The Problem of the Modern World*: “When land became a “commodity” and lost its status as provider and sustainer of life, Western civilization began its history of subjugation and exploitation of the earth and earth-based cultures. For five centuries people have been coerced from their landholdings. The problem, in the English-speaking world, has its roots in the sixteenth century.”¹²

Mohawk was speaking of the Enclosures Period,¹³ when masses of common people in Britain, Scotland, Ireland, and elsewhere were forced off of their customary commons and other landholdings.

Enclosure could be accomplished by buying the ground rights and all common rights to accomplish exclusive rights of use, which increased the value of the land. The other method was by passing laws causing or forcing enclosure, such as parliamentary enclosures. The latter process was sometimes accompanied by force, resistance, and bloodshed, and remains among the most controversial areas of agricultural and economic history in England.¹⁴

As King Charles III you have a profound opportunity to address and redress massive wealth inequality and also reverse several hundreds of years of Enclosures by welcoming the Commoners back to the Commonwealth for the Common Good. You have in your power several ways to restore the birthright to the Earth of multi-millions of people.

(1) In my favorite interview with you, you talk about the importance of preserving the smallholder way of life, exalting “the combination of natural ecosystems, the forests and the agricultural areas, together with the human cultural systems.”¹⁵ You could act the wizard and with the wave of your scepter place a substantial portion of your landed wealth into public trusts to establish these kinds of ecological villages where people can create beautiful places to dwell, plant nutritious vegetable gardens and orchards, pasture a few animals and maintain woodlots for

⁹ <https://www.theindigenousfoundation.org/articles/the-doctrine-of-discovery-and-terra-nullius>

¹⁰ <https://www.innertraditions.com/blog/wetiko-in-a-nutshell>

¹¹ Mohawk, John (1945-2006) <http://www.pbs.org/warrior/content/historian/mohawk.html>

¹² *Thinking Indian: A John Mohawk Reader*. <https://birchbarkbooks.com/products/thinking-in-indian>

¹³ Hartzok, Alanna. “Democracy, Earth Rights and the Next Economy” E. F. Schumacher Lecture 2001 <https://centerforneweconomics.org/publications/democracy-earth-rights-and-the-next-economy/>

¹⁴ <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-hccc-worldhistory2/chapter/the-enclosure-act/>

¹⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAcHyl62hoU>

home building and furniture making material. Your own estates are well managed and from their hubs you can teach and train people in organic farming and other homesteading skills. People can also learn from the Global Ecovillage Network¹⁶ and permaculture movements.¹⁷

You have probably heard of the community of Findhorn in Scotland, one of the original “planetary light centers” emerging worldwide that are based on harmonization with the laws of nature.¹⁸ I find of great inspiration the Russian Ringing Cedars movement launched by an amazing wise woman, Anastasia, the avatar of Siberia.¹⁹ Her movement succeeded in its efforts to secure land for the people for ecological family domains, actualized by acts passed by the Duma, the Russian Parliament. Thousands of people have been leaving the cities to find their livelihoods in direct connection with Mother Earth.²⁰ You may be aware of the Lammas ecovillage in Wales.²¹

(2) A relatively few ultra-wealthy people own a disproportionate share of urban lands worldwide. Your own metropolitan acreage in London has a notional value of over 4,600 million British pounds.²² In urban areas where land values are greatly concentrated, you can address the increasing poverty and wealth inequality via fundamental tax reform. You could work with Parliament to remove the tax burden from people who work for a living (earned income) while shifting the tax base to the “land rent”, which is unearned income as land value is created by society as a whole. This will remove the urban bits of Mother Earth from speculation, hoarding and private profiteering. This tax shift off of labor and onto land rent would procure ample funds for needed infrastructure and other public goods. As Dr. Paul Collier, Professor of Economics, Oxford University and author of The Bottom Billion says:

Density is valuable and that value is reflected in the price of land. In the urban centers there are enormous rents on rising land values. The taxation of land appreciation offers huge scope for financing the cost of urban infrastructure.

¹⁶ Global Ecovillage Network <https://ecovillage.org> Rob Wheeler is GEN’s United Nations NGO Representative.

¹⁷ Permaculture <https://www.permaculturenews.org> also see many permaculture design courses online.

¹⁸ <https://www.findhorn.org>

¹⁹ <https://anastasia.foundation> and <https://www.ringingcedarsofrussia.org/Main/English/index.php>

²⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_on_the_Far_Eastern_Hectare

²¹ <https://lammas.org.uk/en/ecovillage/>

²² Cahill, Kevin. op.cit. 52.

In “A Place to Live – Barriers to Affordable Housing in UK and Worldwide”²³ Heather Wetzel, Chair of the UK Labour Land Campaign, discusses the primary reasons why housing is out of reach to rent or buy for so many. She shares her concerns about our increasingly divided society of rich and poor and consequent social and economic problems. Heather puts forward land value tax and other fundamental policy proposals that can solve the housing and land problem and at the same time address environmental challenges.

Land rent for public finance (aka land value taxation) can be traced back thousands of years, as far in fact as the Vedic period from which came Hinduism and Buddhism.²⁴ It also threads through the Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The tax history of China²⁵ tells us that Mencius strongly supported this form of public finance.²⁶

Land value taxation is the golden thread of perennial wisdom teachings on land justice that when implemented has yielded balanced, harmonic and fair societies that are attuned to Natural Law. Charles Avila, a leader in the Philippines and good friend of mine, is the author of the now classic work titled Ownership: Early Christian Teachings.²⁷ Avila tells us that Christianity lost its original economic teachings of Jubilee Justice when it became the religion of the Roman Empire. Land as “the koina” is held as a sacred trust in the Abrahamic faith tradition but under imperial rule became “dominium” which entailed the legalization of land acquired by conquest and plunder.

The American political economist Henry George rediscovered these key economic teachings about land justice and set them forth in his *magnum opus* Progress and Poverty,²⁸ which launched him to worldwide recognition. His lectures throughout the United States and in the UK, Ireland and Australia made a lasting impact as there are numerous organizations working today to implement land value taxation. Among them is the International Union for Land Value Taxation, a United Nations NGO, for which I serve as Administrator.²⁹

Sun Yat-Sen, considered by many to be the “Father of Modern China”, built his Three Principles of the People in part upon the teachings of Henry George. Sun Yat-sen said that land value tax as

²³ Wetzel, Heather. <https://theiu.org/a-place-to-live-barriers-to-affordable-housing-in-uk-and-worldwide/>

²⁴ <https://www.exoticindiaart.com/book/details/economic-principles-in-vedic-tradition-nan104/>

²⁵ <http://globalartscollective.org/China-land-tax-history.htm>

²⁶ Taxes were also progressive, meaning the families that owned larger, more fertile pieces of land would pay more than the families with uniform land allotments. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mencius>

²⁷ Avila, Charles. *Ownership: Early Christian Teachings*. Jointly printed by Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books and London: Sheed and Ward Limited 1983.

²⁸ George, Henry. Progress and Poverty. <https://www.henrygeorge.org/pcontents.htm>

²⁹ <https://theiu.org> The International Union for Land Value Taxation

"the only means of supporting the government is an infinitely just, reasonable, and equitably distributed tax, and on it we will found our new system."³⁰

Leo Tolstoy was another fan of Henry George. He had a large portrait of him by his writing desk where he wrote several letters to Tsar Nicholas urging him to implement land value taxation. Tolstoy feared that if the land problem was not addressed a violent revolution could break out. In his last novel Resurrection³¹ there is a scene wherein a nobleman is giving land to his serfs. Asking them how they would fairly share the land, the nobleman reads to them a passage from Henry George's Progress and Poverty.³²

When the universal wisdom teachings of "sacred rule economics"³³ are not put in place, wealth and power inequality grows along with numerous other social problems. Violent revolution is often the result. Such was the case in France after King Louis XIV asked his court physicians, as they had knowledge of how the blood circulates through the body, to study how wealth was circulating throughout his kingdom. Later to be known as The Physiocrats, these founders of classical economics coined the phrase³⁴ "*l'impot unique*" ("the single tax") and urged the French kings to levy taxes on land instead of labor.³⁵

Mirabeau the Elder said that if enacted the "*l'impot unique*" would be a "social advance equal to the inventions of writing and money." Alas, the French Kings paid no heed. The monarchy was formally abolished during the French Revolution (1789-99). Louis XVI died at the guillotine in 1793. His death marked the end of a thousand years of uninterrupted French monarchy.³⁶

The insights of classical economics beginning with the Physiocrats continued forward through the next one hundred years when the work and writings of Henry George launched a major movement for land value-based tax reform with his book Progress and Poverty. George was one of the leading figures at the end of the 19th century, being as well-known at the time as Mark Twain and Thomas Edison. His lectures drew great crowds throughout the US, Britain, Ireland and Australia. He was twice a candidate for mayor of New York City.³⁷

But power elites who drew vast amounts of wealth from unearned income derived from land and natural resources saw this movement as a threat to their interests. They financed departments of economics at Columbia, Princeton, Cornell and the Chicago School. Hence the inability of the current reigning body of economic thought – neoliberal economics – to solve the problem of

³⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Principles_of_the_People Sun Yat-Sen and Henry George

³¹ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resurrection_\(Tolstoy_novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resurrection_(Tolstoy_novel))

³² https://www.cooperative-individualism.org/tolstoy-leo_on-the-land-policy-of-henry-george-1899.htm

³³ <https://brucedetorres.substack.com/p/roundtable-16-sacred-rule-economics>

³⁴ https://www.worldhistory.org/Louis_XVI_of_France/

³⁵ <https://www.landandliberty.net/the-physiocrats-and-the-meaning-of-their-single-tax/>

³⁶ https://www.worldhistory.org/Louis_XVI_of_France/

³⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_George

gross wealth inequality while still maintaining the benefits of individual freedom.³⁸ Neoliberal economics corrupted the field of economics as it denies that Land, the classical economics term for all the gifts of nature, is a specific factor of production and considers the Earth itself to be a mere subset of Capital. Classical economics has three factors – Land, Labor and Capital – while neoliberal economics has only two - Labor and Capital. The corruption of economics was the great intellectual crime of the 20th century.³⁹

The principles and policies of land value tax are based on Natural Law. Just consider the territorial ways of nature whereby parent birds claim a space (location) in a tree (natural resource), to build a nest out of mud and twigs (natural resources) and once the baby birds are hatched, they labor on land by flying round and about to find worms and insects (nature) to feed and care for their baby birds until they are fully launched into the wide world.

The reason that there is hunger and homelessness on the planet is because humanity is out of step with Natural Law. As King Charles III you have a magnificent opportunity to put in place these principles and policies based on Natural Law. And I, your astrological twin sister, know the very top experts in the world who can be counted on to do the best job of implementing land value taxation throughout the vast areas of land for which you are now responsible. “Your wish is my command” as the saying goes.

(3) Let us consider the problem of the exploitation of oil, minerals, gold, silver, diamonds and other gifts of nature. Millions of people have died in fights over land and natural resource control.⁴⁰ Oil and other natural resource extraction should be made strictly on the basis of (1) agreement of those living near the extraction sites; (2) on a not-for-profit basis yet with fair returns to labor and capital; (3) clearly detailed environmental rules and regulations and (4) full socialization of the resource rents (surplus value/unearned income). Natural resources and their rents should be carefully utilized and fairly distributed in order to uplift the standard of living of all. Careful stewardship of mineral resources would entail maximum efforts for recycling as well as using the resource rents to fund renewable energy and other needed public goods local to global.⁴¹

The Alaska Permanent Fund (APF) is an important model for establishing fair share rights to oil and other mineral resources.⁴² The APF, with a current total fund value of over \$75 billion,

³⁸ Universal Declaration of Individual and Commons Rights to Earth <https://theiu.org/international-declaration/>

³⁹ Gaffney, Mason. *The Corruption of Economics*. London: Shephard-Walwyn Ltd. 1994.

⁴⁰ <https://www.addictedtowar.com/about-what-ive-learned> and The recent Cree Massacre in Saskatchewan <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gMGhrkoncA> and children’s animation <https://www.netflix.com/title/81354432>

⁴¹ Hartzok, Alanna. *op.cit.* 109-133.

⁴² <https://apfc.org>

collects substantial oil royalties based on the Alaska State Constitution⁴³ as the state retains the rights to all minerals and other natural resources.⁴⁴

The APF Dividend Program⁴⁵ gives each person in Alaska an annual payment based on an equal share of the dividend amount. The 2022 Permanent Fund Dividend was \$3,284, the highest ever in the history of the Fund. For a family of four this would be over \$13,000.⁴⁶

(4) Many tax havens are controlled by the Crown for which you now bear major responsibility. Tax havens as you would know are generally small islands with mostly immigrant foreigners engaged in the trades of banker, lawyer and accountant. These “Crown Dependencies” operate out of the control of the UK Government and Parliament.

Cahill’s research shows us that these territories “handle most of the trillions of dollars held outside the main financial systems...” He informs us that the UK and the world as a whole has lost countless billions in tax revenue due to these tax havens.⁴⁷ Tax havens should not exist. UK chancellor Gordon Brown asserted that he would “return the tax havens to the status of holiday resorts”.⁴⁸

John Christensen, a forensic auditor and economist who chairs the board of the UK based *Tax Justice Network* (TJN),⁴⁹ tells us that tax havens enable the “systemic looting of oil and mineral resources and of the syphoning of proceeds of embezzlement and fraud to the financial markets of London, New York and Zurich.” He estimates that up to \$36 trillion of privately owned financial assets are managed from tax havens which enable the laundering of multi-billions of dollars, pounds and Euros acquired from illicit activities such as drug dealing and human trafficking.⁵⁰

As King you are in a key position to stop the kleptocrats from continuing in their nefarious world damaging ways. John Christensen would surely be delighted to receive your assistance in addressing the multifarious inequities of the tax haven system. I urge you to contact him at the *Tax Justice Network*. Since unearned income derived from tax cheating and the looting of natural resources is so often used to buy real estate, land-based taxes can capture significant amounts of this money and use it to advance the common good.

⁴³ <https://www.adn.com/opinions/2021/11/20/alaska-must-remain-the-sole-owner-of-its-natural-resources/>

⁴⁴ <https://www.adn.com/opinions/2021/11/20/alaska-must-remain-the-sole-owner-of-its-natural-resources/>

⁴⁵ <https://pfd.alaska.gov>

⁴⁶ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265647236_Alaska%27s_Permanent_Fund_Dividend_Examining_its_Suitability_as_a_Model

⁴⁷ Cahill, Kevin. *op.cit.* 49-57.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.* 50.

⁴⁹ Tax Justice Network <https://taxjustice.net>

⁵⁰ <https://newint.org/features/2020/02/10/thief-ways-stealing>

At the World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty I presented a paper titled “Socializing Land Rent while Untaxing Production.”⁵¹ This paper begins with this succinct statement from the founding document for the UN Center for Human Settlements (Habitat): “The unearned increment resulting from the rise in land values resulting from change in use of land, from public investment or decision or due to the general growth of community must be subject to appropriate recapture by public bodies (the community).”

“Socializing Land Rent while Untaxing Production”⁵² is a good summary of the key ideas I am writing to you about and presents a clear way forward beyond right and left that harmonizes the needs of both the individual and society. The sufficiency of rent from unearned income for funding public goods is set forth in both theory and practice.

I hereby request that you consider playing a major role in the 2024 Earth Day celebration held at the United Nations on the Spring Equinox. We will bring forth the key principles and policies of Earth Rights – both caring for and sharing Mother Earth.

John McConnell was the founder of this original equinox Earth Day, first proclaimed by the City Council of San Francisco in 1970. McConnell was clear about principles for the global economy and for an economics of peace. When he spoke of justice he meant “economic justice” which he defined as “an equal sharing in all the worlds’ natural resources.” In his “Planetary Inheritance Declaration” he wrote:

Among the equal rights of men is the right to an equal share in nature’s bounty, a right of each man to his planetary inheritance – his share of land, water, minerals... No one can, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity or any other man’s posterity, of the right to his portion of Earth.⁵³

We can address and remedy the systemic roots and intent of organized violence, of what my colleague and UK author Fred Harrison calls The Predator Culture. “Understanding the territorial basis of political power and wealth is the pre-requisite,” he says, “for making sense of issues as diverse as genocide, narco-gangsterism, terrorism and fascism. The struggle over land and resources is at the root of all of today’s global crises.”⁵⁴

Charles, my dear astrological twin brother, will you help the Commoners of the world turn the world away from the forces of dispossession, depopulation, and destruction and to move into a consciousness of profound respect for the creative forces unfolding evolution, of harmoniously

⁵¹ Hartzok, Alanna. *Socializing Land Rent while Untaxing Production*. Presented at the World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty, 2013. <https://theiu.org/socializing-land-rent-untaxing-production-2>

⁵² <https://www.earthsharing.org.au/2013/04/hartzok-socialising-land-rent-and-untaxing-production/>

⁵³ Weir, Robert M. *Peace, Justice, Care of Earth: The Vision of John McConnell, Founder of Earth Day*. Kalamazoo, Michigan: Press On Publishing, 2007. 198.

⁵⁴ Harrison, Fred. *The Predator Culture: The Systemic Roots and Intent of Organised Violence*. London: Shephard-Walwyn, Ltd. 2010. (quote from back cover)

blending with the “autopoiesis”– life’s capacity to be self-organizing. There is a universal wisdom that is so much deeper than any human science. This wisdom can help us put in place an economic system that will enable each and every member of our human family to secure basic material needs while protecting the earth’s ecosystems for future generations. Everyone can then enjoy the adventure of mental, creative and spiritual expansion during their brief sojourn on Mother Earth.

You come from the bloodlines of the *ancien regime*. I ask that you stand with all of humanity. I ask that you use your power of good will for all by joining with us with the clear intention of securing the birthright of all people to the Earth, our planet home, that we may ALL take responsibility for her care and protection. How we hold the earth is how we hold each other. Securing the birthright to the Earth for each and every one of us is part and parcel of the environmental sustainability that you espouse.

Billions of us know that this life on our small planet has brought you to a position of enormous privilege and power. You have vast potential to set the world aright. In closing, I trust you will use all that you have been given with great care and wisdom.

With warm regards and my very best wishes,

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1-717-357-7617 (*Hartzok speaking at the UN about Financing Public Goods can be viewed [HERE](#) and the Declaration of Individual and Common Rights to Earth can be viewed [HERE](#)*)

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*Launched in 2021 by Kris Milligan, the monthly [Roundtable Series](#) was inspired by VALEDICTION: Three Nights of Desmond and VALEDICTION: Resurrection, a two volume memoir by co-authors Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould

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Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould are authors of *Invisible History: Afghanistan’s Untold Story*, published by City Lights (2009), *Crossing Zero The AfPak War at the Turning Point of American Empire*, published by City Lights (2011). Their novel *The Voice*, was published in

2001. Their memoir, *The Valediction Three Nights of Desmond* (2021) and *The Valediction Resurrection* (2022) was published by TrineDay. For more information visit valediction.net