

Peace Is The Way For Fairbanks, Alaska

DICAEOPOLIS.

Yet I know that these our foemen,
Who our bitter wrath excite,
Were not always wrong entirely,
Nor ourselves entirely right.

CHORUS.

Not entirely, shameless rascal?
Do you such opinions dare
Openly to flaunt before me?
Shall I then a traitor spare?

DICAEOPOLIS.

Not entirely, not entirely!
I can prove by reasons strong
That in many points the Spartans
At our hands have suffered wrong.

(From Acharnians, The Complete Plays of Aristophanes, Edited by Moses Hadas, Bantam Books / July, 1962)

Myth Vs. Fact: War and Militarism*

MYTH: *It is impossible to eliminate war.*

FACT: To say this is to submit fatalistically to determinism, to believe that we humans do not make our history but are the helpless victims of forces beyond our control, that we have no free will. In fact, it was once said that it was impossible to abolish legalized slavery, dueling, blood feuds and other institutions that were deeply embedded in societies of their time, practices that are now, if not fully in the dustbin of history, universally understood to be eliminable. War is a social invention, not a permanent feature of human existence. It is a choice, not something imposed by a law of nature.

MYTH: *War is "natural".*

FACT: It is very difficult to get people to kill in warfare. A great deal of psychological conditioning is required even to get them to fire their guns and very often they are traumatized by the experience and suffer post-traumatic stress disorder. Many veterans of combat end up chemically dependent and many commit suicide, unable to live with what they have done. Mass killing is not a part of our nature - quite the opposite is true.

MYTH: *War is inevitable because of crises beyond our control like resource scarcity, environmental crises, over-population, etc.*

FACT: Humans are capable of rational behavior. War is always a choice and other choices are always possible if humans use their genetically endowed imaginations and inventiveness. Nonviolent resistance is always a choice, as are negotiation, and many other responses to aggression.

*"Myths" Reprinted with permission from "A GLOBAL SECURITY SYSTEM: AN ALTERNATIVE TO WAR" www.worldbeyondwar.org

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly on Dec. 10, 2015 will bring up for public hearing and action an ordinance that designates a large portion of our community as a military noise area. Once this is done you will have little to no recourse if your property value, privacy, and right to live in peace is seriously harmed. This ordinance was written with little to no public input. Please attend the FNSB meeting (6:00 PM, 809 Pioneer Rd.) Sign up and testify. Tell the assembly that this ordinance needs complete review and approval of the entire community before being voted on.

US "investment" in military solutions from 2001 to the present total over 8.7 trillion dollars. The world is no less broken today. If your car were malfunctioning, how long would you go on paying a mechanic to beat it with a sledgehammer, 14 years plus? The world "invested" over 75,000,000 lives to WWII. That's the equivalent to 40,000 violent deaths a day for 5 years. Do we really want to go there again? We cannot even begin to address those issues that we need to deal with, like global climate change, while we remain on this deadly path. **Let's begin forging swords into ploughshares by demilitarizing our local economy.** As the ever spiritually mindful A. J. Muste said, **"There is no way to peace. Peace is the way."**


Alaska Peace Center

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