

225 N 70th St, Seattle WA 98103 206-789-5565 <http://www.wvfor.org>

WWFOR seeks to replace violence, war, racism and economic injustice with nonviolence, equality, peace and justice. It links and strengthens FOR members and chapters throughout Western Washington in promoting activities consistent with the national FOR statement of purpose. WWFOR helps members and chapters accomplish together what we could not accomplish alone.

2018 WWFOR FALL RETREAT

Displacement, Resilience, and Healing: Bridging Our Diverse Communities with Respect, Understanding, & Solidarity

Desired outcomes for the day:

1. Deepen our understanding of the intersectionality of issues, values, and interests shared by Native, immigrant, refugee, and unhoused communities -- and how this might influence our activism.
2. Deepen our understanding of how colonization, trauma, "otherizing," resilience, and healing have shaped, and continue to shape, the struggles for human rights for Native, immigrant, refugee, and unhoused communities.
3. Explore ongoing ways for Retreat participants to network and collaborate in building bridges of respect, understanding, and solidarity with and among Native, immigrant, refugee, and unhoused communities.

Time: Saturday, November 17, 2018 coffee and tea at 9 am, program from 10 am to 5 pm

Location: Gwinwood Conference Center, 6015 30th Ave SE, Lacey, WA

Preregister by Wed. Nov 14 if possible. COST: \$20 per person, but no one turned away.

FOOD: Lunch will be provided, vegan and gluten-free options available.

See <http://www.wvfor.org/fall-retreat-2> and www.olympiafor.org

OR contact Kerri at 360-751-5980 or Regon 360-349-1168 or runsoeld@gmail.com

The Myth about Hiroshima

by John M Repp

Of all places to hear someone talking about Hiroshima and implying that the atom bomb caused the Japanese to surrender. But that's what I heard in Seattle at the 2018 event "From Hiroshima to Hope". <http://fromhiroshimatohope.org/> I heard it not from the organizers, not from the speakers or musicians, but from a person standing around waiting for the lantern-lighting ceremony to begin. I also once heard the same myth from an old man who told me his life was saved by the bomb. He was about to be drafted when Japan announced their intent to surrender on August 15, 1945.

The dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 and on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945 did not force the Japanese to surrender. This myth was created in February 1947 by an article in Harpers written by McGeorge Bundy but attributed to the Secretary of War Stimson. The article said the a-bombs saved thousands of American lives by forcing Japan to surrender, abrogating an invasion where the Japanese military was expected to fight to the last man. These ideas were reported widely in the American press at the time. The White House was justifying its decision to use the bombs as that decision was starting to be criticized. The myth has had great staying power because it helped the foreign policy establishment convince the American people that their government was wise. It salved the American conscience.

It is simply not true. It is a big lie. The Japanese were ready to surrender before the bombs were dropped. In the summer of 1945 the Americans controlled the airspace over Japan and firebombed and destroyed over 60 cities. The Americans had cracked the Japanese code so they knew the Japanese were ready to surrender. The only condition the

Japanese wanted was that their Emperor remain on the throne and not be charged with war crimes. The American military leaders accepted that condition because they knew that without the Emperor it would be difficult to maintain control during an occupation.

It was Truman's White House political advisors who overruled the military advice. After the first atomic bomb test in the desert of New Mexico on July 16, 1945, the U.S. had two more bombs and indeed some scientists and a few of the military leaders in charge of developing the bomb wanted to use them in the war. And the Secretary of State Byrnes wanted to use them to increase diplomatic leverage in setting up the post-war world. It would allow Truman to go on a diplomatic offensive and strengthen the American position vis-a-vis the Soviet Union. And that is what happened. At the Yalta conference in February 1945 with FDR, Churchill and Stalin the U.S. pushed the Soviets to enter the war against Japan and Stalin agreed. At the Potsdam conference from July 17 to August 2, 1945 with Truman, Churchill and Stalin, Truman and the Secretary of State took out a clause about Japan being able to keep its Emperor despite Churchill and Stalin support for that clause. It is almost like Truman's advisors wanted to prolong the war in order to be able to use the bombs and demonstrate to the Soviets what power the U.S. had.

We will never get from Hiroshima to hope if the myth of Hiroshima continues to have credence. Even today, the myth is taught in most history textbooks and classes all over the world, usually by just casually stating the dates of the atomic bombing and that Japan surrendered less than a week later. This assumption has real destructive power. (sources)

<https://www.thenation.com/article/why-the-us-really-bombed-hiroshima/> <https://harpers.org/blog/2016/05/unjust-cause/>

Larry Kerschner's letter to the editor of 6/20/18

The Trump Administration's ripping children from their parents is a heartless method of blackmail to gain leverage against immigrants who come to the US for asylum. Trump makes this plain in his statement of "No Wall – No Children"

The ACLU released a report documenting the abuses that minors face in US detention facilities including being sexually assaulted, denied medical care, and run over by vehicles. Actor George Takei stated that the situation in these internment camps are worse than the camps he and his family were forced into during WWII.

Jenn Budd, 47, a US Customs and Border Protection officer from 1995 to 2001 says there is no excuse for current officers not to lay down their weapons and refuse to detain children separated from their parents.

White House officials continue to lie about the reason for the detentions, saying they are just following a law — except no law ordering immigrant families to be separated exists. Attorney General Jeff Sessions defended the Trump administration's policy of separating immigrant children from their families at the border by citing a passage from the New Testament "I would cite you to the Apostle Paul and his clear and wise command in Romans 13, to obey the laws of the government because God has ordained them for the purpose of order." Sessions neglects to finish the passage which goes on to say that those who do right will be commended and those who do wrong should be afraid.

After Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850, this passage was used to justify allowing slaves who had escaped to the North to be forcibly returned to their owners in the South. The Nazis in Germany and apartheid South Africa quoted Romans 13 to give religious authority to genocide and apartheid.

There is also evident hypocrisy of anyone claiming to be "pro-life" or "pro-family" while doing nothing about this mistreatment of children and families at the border. Ilyse Hogue, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America wrote "Trump, the GOP Congress that refuses to stand up to him, and their followers' weak attempts to claim the 'pro-life' and 'pro-family' mantle dissolve in the face of this latest dictate. Not only do they believe the lives of immigrant and brown children don't matter, they campaign on racism and use these children as pawns."

The US talks the talk about valuing children but we are the only UN member state not to have signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Like Boko Haram and the Lords Resistance Army, the US wants to be able to have children under 18 as members of its military.

Two conservative groups, the Chamber of Commerce and the Business Roundtable have issued statements which plainly and directly appeal to the Trump administration to immediately cease stripping young children from their parents.



TRUTH TO POWER

Reporting Project

A researcher has found that for every \$1 million the government spends, the number of jobs created varies a lot, depending on where the money goes.

ECONOMIC SECTOR	JOBS PER \$1 MILLION
Education	19.2
Health care	14.3
Energy efficiency retrofits	10.6
Infrastructure	9.8
Construction of Wind and solar projects	9.5
Military	6.9

from NEW CLEAR NEWS

President Trump's tariffs are not really the point:

China isn't "cheating" on trade. They are playing a different game: advancing the interests of their nation, rather than global corporations. America's new trade policies should advance the interests of our people.

by Stan Sorscher first published in *The Stand* August 6, 2018 <http://www.thestand.org/2018/08/trumps-tariffs-are-really-not-the-point/>

We pay too much attention to President Trump's tariffs. We've missed the point of what China is doing, and what we want.

Ronald Reagan told us that markets are good, government is bad, and we should let free markets solve all our problems. Winners will prosper, and gains will trickle down to workers and communities. At the global level, this meant free trade policy that blurs national boundaries, and merges or integrates our economy into the global economy. This approach shifts power in favor of global corporations, while reducing policy space for governments, workers, communities, and the environment.

China has never accepted our free-trade free-market model. Zhang Xiangchen, China's ambassador to the WTO, made this clear a few days ago.

"China has been vigorously exploring a road of market economy, which suits China's own national situation and circumstances, and we have made remarkable progress in this endeavor. Whatever others may say, we will march along this road unswervingly. ... As for those who speculated that China would change and move onto a different path upon its WTO accession, ... that was their wishful thinking."

China has their form of mixed economy – partly market-oriented with significant national industrial policies. Their strategic plan is vast, comprehensive, and compelling. China's One Belt One Road strategy is part of a huge infrastructure program to extend influence and move their products to Africa, Europe, the rest of Asia, and South America. Their industrial strategies are designed to dominate ten industries of the future.

China's leaders understand that free trade blurs national boundaries and national identities. That is the exact opposite of China's unswerving march to becoming a dominant economic and political power.

From our free-market perspective, China is cheating. It's more realistic to say they are playing a different game with different rules. Trump tariffs are meant to get China to "play fair" – to follow our rules.

Zhang Xiangchen is telling us, "That dog won't hunt." China will not abandon their highly successful vision, become model capitalists, and fall into line with the neoliberal free-trade principles at the core of NAFTA and the WTO model for globalization. ("Liberal" in this sense means free or liberated from regulation.)

Ironically, Donald Trump himself broke the spell of free-

trade orthodoxy. That is a political fact. Trump's success with disenfranchised voters can be traced directly to the fact that the neoliberal free-trade model is exhausted, socially, politically, and economically. Robert Kuttner makes the definitive statement to that effect, in his new book.

President Trump is using tariffs to achieve his goal of balanced trade. OK. Exports should equal imports, more or less. A country that runs large chronic trade deficits – us, for instance – will have serious problems.

However, balanced trade is not a strategy.

Since the mid-1970's, our neoliberal policies have de-industrialized our economy, and underinvested in infrastructure. Student debt is over a trillion dollars and rising. Resentment over wage stagnation is destabilizing of our political system. These are all market failures. Correcting market failures demands some form of mixed economy with strong public policies that express our values as a country.

Most of us want public policies that create stronger communities, opportunity and fairness, invest in the future, and raise living standards.

That requires investments in infrastructure, education, and research and development. We need answers to inequality and climate change. We need good jobs and economic security.

China's industrial policies reflect their values. Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Germany, Canada, and Scandinavia all have some form of mixed economy with industrial policies that recognize their national interests and reflect their values. In our own history, we developed national strategies that industrialized our economy in the 19th century and made America pretty good, if not great, in the 20th century.

In China, the purpose of their economy is to acquire the means of production, consistent with their Marxist tradition.

In our failed neoliberal model, the purpose of an economy is to make business succeed, particularly global companies that produce offshore.

In a more balanced approach, the purpose of an economy would be to improve the quality of life and raise living standards.

No country in the world is pure free trade or pure protectionist

Every country in the world has an industrial strategy – ours is particularly bad

We need effective industrial strategies of our own

Our new trade policy will follow directly from an industrial strategy

President Trump's negotiators are updating NAFTA. The new agreement may include stronger labor rights in Mexico, more U.S. content in autos and government procurement, and higher wages for some Mexican workers. It may reverse the corporate-centric power distortions in NAFTA's dispute settlement system. These improvements are sometimes called "harm reduction." This is good, but not inspiring, since it accepts the underlying harm, just less of it.

If we see improvements in NAFTA that reduce harm, we should regard those improvements as turning points. Each positive step builds momentum for fundamentally rethinking the way we manage globalization to favor workers and communities. In that case, all three NAFTA countries would want a sunset or review provision in NAFTA so we can each adjust our economic and trade policies as strategic goals develop.

President Trump leads the rancorous Republican rethinking of how we manage globalization. Democrats may or may not be able to articulate an alternative. The sooner we start this national conversation, the better.

UN Report Says US is a "Shithole Country"

Instead of corporate media basically ignoring the UN report, there should be screaming headlines.

By John M. Repp, first published on Common Dreams, Friday June 15, 2018

<https://www.commondreams.org/views/2018/06/15/un-report-says-us-shithole-country>

Philip Alston is the UN special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. He traveled to the United States last December to some of our most destitute communities such as Skid Row in LA, poor African American areas in the Alabama, impoverished coal communities in West Virginia and to Puerto Rico. He issued his report on June 1, 2018. It should be front page news.

Five million live in the absolute deprivation we usually associate with the developing world.

The report is a terrible indictment of our country and of the Trump Administration. Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel prize winning economist told The Guardian "This administration inherited a bad situation with inequality in the U.S. and is now fanning the flames and worsening the situation. What is so disturbing is that Trump, rather than taking measures to ameliorate the problem, is taking measures to aggravate it." The U.S. has one in four of the world's billionaires. But we also have 40 million citizens who live in poverty. Five million live in the absolute deprivation we usually associate with the developing world. Four in ten Americans are so broke that they could not cover an emergency expense of \$400 without selling something or borrowing.

The symptoms of the devastating inequality here include Americans now living shorter and sicker lives than citizens of other rich democracies. Life expectancy is down two years in a row. Tropical diseases are on the rise. Our incarceration rate remains the highest in the world (yes, we are exceptional!). Voter registration levels are among the lowest in industrialized countries: 64% of our citizens are registered (fewer vote) compared to 91% in Canada and the UK and 99% in Japan.

As another measure of how much of an outlier in the advanced world the U.S. has become, we can look at the fact that in 1980 the top 1% of the population in the U.S. and Europe held about 10% of the national income. But in 2017, the top 1% in Europe edged up to 12% of national income, but in the U.S. the top 1% grabs up to 20% and rising.

The Trump Administration is making inequality worse. First, with the tax cut that rewarded the wealthiest individuals and companies. Then, Trump and the Republicans are stripping healthcare benefits, food stamps and cutting housing subsidies for the poorest Americans. The UN report says the assumption among the politicians who support these cruel policies is that the poor are lazy, don't want to work, and are dedicated to defrauding the welfare system. Several officials in the government told Alston that scamming the system was rampant but presented no evidence for this assertion.

Instead of the corporate media basically ignoring the UN report, there should be screaming headlines. This report is a wakeup call. **We need mass and vocal support for policies such as a Federal job guarantee (locally administered), free healthcare and education for all and help for former prisoners to reintegrate back into society.**

NEW CLEAR NEWS



Work by ICAN, which led to the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, has top executives at companies like Boeing fearing international prosecution. Pictured are three ICAN "Treaty Enforcers."

To see the whole newspaper, copy the link below into Google and click

<http://www.wfor.org/wp-content/uploads/banthebomb-edited7-27-18-3.pdf>

The things going on in Gaza are really bothering me. An Opinion

By Carl Nakajima Carl is a Catholic Worker and has been part of Earth Care not Warfare and the Tuesday Downtown Peace Vigil.

The things going on in Gaza are really bothering me. Jewish people should understand better than many of us about people losing their land or being without the necessities of life because they have gone through similar circumstances.

Native American and black people were persecuted for hundreds of years, but Jewish people have been persecuted for thousands of years and everywhere they went. (pogroms, inquisitions, Holocaust, etc.) People can usually understand better about other people’s pain if they experience the same pain – like a rape survivor can empathize with a rape victim. So, to me, Jewish people could be the most compassionate people in this world because they went through all kinds of human suffering. Maybe after the Holocaust they were very close to attaining some kind of insight that only can be acquired through tremendous suffering. It is too bad that thousands of years of Jewish literary work was destroyed by the Holocaust and war. It would have helped humanity.

After the huge victory of the 6 Days War Jewish people’s attitude changed a lot, in a good way and also in a very bad way. I think more bad than good, unfortunately. I’m not saying that they should have lost the 6 Days War. It is good that they defended themselves but it is like sheep suddenly turned into wolves. Spiritually they lost a lot more than they gained. I believe, for God, one may be persecuted but it is not right to persecute someone else. We will all die, sometimes in war and by someone else’s hand, but it is not right by God to take someone else’s life.

When Abraham left his native land and went to the land that God promised to give him, he never violently invaded the land, even though people stole his well. He had men that could defeat four kings’ allied armies, but still he lived his entire life in peaceful coexistence with native peoples as did his son and grandsons Isaac and Jacob. Now a few kids of Jacob did not follow non-violence. However, Abraham was so peaceful like God, that they gave him any land he wanted for his wife’s burial. So this idea of violent invasion of illegal settlements is surely

not coming from the God of Abraham.

Jewish people were assimilated well with every culture of the world and became part of the culture; yet kept their own identity. They lived together in mutual prosperity with Palestinians and their culture. In race and culture, many Palestinians are more akin to Jewish people than European, Asian or African people. Jewish people are very intelligent and many believe in the creator of the universe and all humankind which were made in God’s image. So it is very sad to see that they are depending on military and physical might to keep Palestinian people occupied and with few or no rights.

It took the Jewish people a long, long time to get their land back. I understand that they get very defensive and do whatever it takes to protect the land; but no matter how big and strong their military, if they mistreat and oppress other people another Babylon will come and another Diaspora. I really don’t want to see that happen again. I wish the Jewish people and Israel would start to observe what is right and do what is just for Palestinian people before God runs out of patience.



SOURCE for the MAP: <https://israelpalestineneews.org/israel-never-recognized-palestinian-right-self-determination/>



A book review of Wilkinson, R. and K. Pickett (2018). [Inner Level: how more equal societies reduce stress, restore sanity and improve everybody's wellbeing.](#) London, Allen Lane.

By Stephen Bezruchka MD, MPH, Departments of Health Services & Global Health, School of Public Health, University of Washington

What is your world view and what is important to you, your family and friends? To what do you want to devote your time and energy in order to change in society?

I faced that question almost 30 years ago after working as an emergency physician for decades, essentially putting bandages on people that were removed when they left the ER. I also came to see that health in the U.S. was getting worse compared to many other countries. As we spent more on health care than the rest of the world combined, something didn't compute.

Happenstance, I was exposed to the concept that economic inequality in society was linked to higher mortality. The concept was remote from treating individual patients. Changes in income inequality required treating society. I began teaching, writing and speaking about these ideas. More and more killer facts emerged with the sound science to legitimize them. Life in the United States had lost the glitter that once made me proud to be a citizen. We were dying younger and younger than people in 30 to 60 other nations, depending on the death rate considered. Today our chance of dying is increasing. Unprecedented among nations this century.

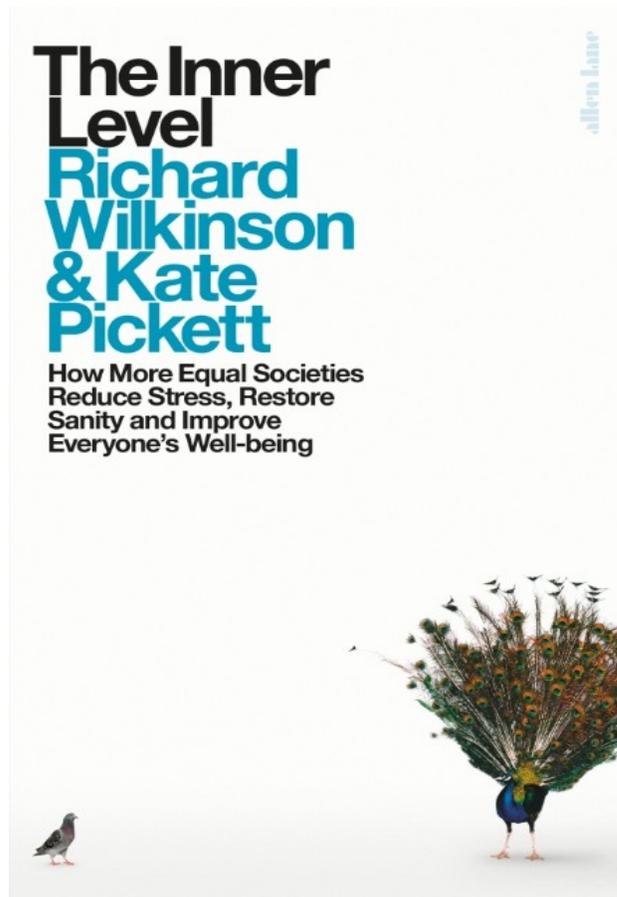
[The Inner Level: how more equal societies reduce stress, restore sanity and improve everybody's wellbeing](#) by epidemiologists Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett looks at aspects of society that have a socioeconomic gradient, that is where richer folk have better outcomes than those poorer. This gradient applies to so many issues we value. Stress, mental issues (including anxiety depression, schizophrenia, narcissism), as well as bullying, homicide, mass shootings, child abuse, household debt. The list goes on and on. More unequal societies have worse outcomes on the many factors we value in society.

The book is organized into three parts, what is going on in one's mind because of economic inequality, what is going on in society related to economic inequality and finally what is the prescription needed to heal. The chapters in each part read similarly, beginning with insightful cartoons, presenting data presented in easy to read graphs, and clear writing. The authors point out that this is not a self-help book, but one that seeks to change the world from its current individualistic focus. If you are like me and regularly turning to the citations for the evidence, Wilkinson and Pickett have put references in order from number 1 to 512. This makes the foundations on which the book is built easy to track. This is a companion volume to

their previous work: [The Spirit Level: why more equal societies almost always do better](#) which had the US version with a slightly different subtitle: [why greater equality makes societies stronger](#), perhaps watered down for this side of the Atlantic. The American version will be released in January but those wishing to get a head start can order the book from the U.K.

What needs to be done to heal the planet? Wilkinson and Pickett stress the need for more economic equality and a transition to a different political economic structure with worker-owned corporations.

How is this going to happen? We are by nature an altruistic species that for most of human existence practiced vigilant caring and sharing. That changed with the development of agriculture and a hierarchy arose. Economic inequality, whether wealth or income, is at the highest levels in history. To decrease it big-time requires creating awareness, and mobilizing for change. We have to cast off the individualist mentality that has strait-jacketed us. It won't be easy but must be done. The Inner Level gives you arguments for transforming society.



The American edition will be released in January 2019