

CLIMATE CHANGE, MILITARISATION AND WORLD PEACE

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Presented at the Spring Conference of Uniting for Peace

2nd April 2022

I've ten minutes! Challenging but hopefully, the mess we're in and the urgent need for a solution, is finally getting through to people.

Imagine you hear what sounds like violence coming from your neighbour's house. Do you get a group of fellow neighbours to beat them up and trash their house? No, you invoke the law and call in the police. Where is this law internationally, under which every nation is accountable?

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

In the 18th and early 19th Century, Britain did indeed rule the waves, with naval and industrial supremacy. But the 19th century saw the emergence of a greater industrial force in the United States. Since then, their overwhelming military domination has been backed by control of the world's finances and more recently, the world's culture, think Hollywood, think McDonalds, think of the BBC now talking "militáarily not 'militarily'. And don't be fooled, these were never real democracies, as before 1800 '*electoral representation*' would not have been considered '*demo-cracy*' (rule by the people) anyway (1). Even in Ancient Greece, participation in rule came irrespective of wealth.

With the triumph of modern consumerism, came the great deceit; that capitalism and democracy were synonymous, while in reality, ruthlessly overthrowing any nation showing interest in evolving democratically (2). So, where we are now was predictable and predicted by many.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Any vestige of the spirit of democracy has been left simply to the vacuous speech of politicians, little more than agents for big business, while the revolving door spins off its hinges. Let's not fool ourselves, we live in a global plutocracy.

- **Evidence;** There were electric cars on the roads in the 1830s but powerful lobbies have systematically undermined public transport systems (3).
- **Evidence;** Reminding us of the *'smoking doesn't risk cancer'* lobby, the climate change deniers overwhelmed Glasgow's COP26 with lobbyists in their rush to destroy our environment (4).
- **Evidence:** According to Madeleine Albright; any attempts to broker peace during the Iran-Iraq War, were undermined by all 5 permanent members of the UN Security Council selling arms to both sides.
- **Evidence:** While the rich find the loopholes to avoid tax, the welfare state is dismantled before our eyes, our streets littered and potholed, no police in sight.
- **Evidence:** The majority of the world's adults now believe violence appropriate, pacifism 'weakness' and compromise 'appeasement'.

As a result, our minds are now in big trouble. Industrialisation made us more compliant and narrow-minded, while advanced consumerism made the world a 'commodity' to be bought and sold, profit always before integrity. Marketeers, lawyers and politicians, are now our professional deceivers, for whom the truth an irrelevance. In the words of Albert Maysles; *"Tyranny is the deliberate removal of nuance."*

In effect, our brains have now been hacked (5) - not so much by old-fashioned propaganda but robots, with the algorithms to know more about us than we do ourselves. It's a fact that these automatons may well decide if you get a mortgage, access to social services or even to speak with another human. Social media, far from bringing us together, has exacerbated division and hostility. Nuance has indeed been the victim in this truly binary age, resulting in what Alan Bennett has called a *'diminution of magnanimity'* (6), that is: we're meaner.

This is a serious problem because without many noticing, Eisenhower's *'Military Industrial Complex'* has developed into a *'monolithic and ruthless conspiracy'*, the words of JFK, shortly before his assassination (7) . Since the Reagan / Thatcher revolution, the right has gained control of almost every platform of power, from government, finance and law, to education and the media. The global stranglehold of this creeping proto-fascism is ruinous and all too evident in the indefensible disparity of wealth, catastrophic environment degradation and rampant militarisation.

It's also evident in a 'Wild West' disregard for any international law, led by the U.S.: (whether in the ICC the ICJ, to limit landmines or protect children) (8). Which means - the world is now ruled by a rogue state. The so-called *'rules-based order'* is a posse sent out to enforce imperialistic unilateralism. According to the former Chief of the General Staff, Lord Dannatt, in only one year since the end of the 2nd

World War has Britain not been involved with boots on the ground somewhere in the world (9). And the incessant wars no longer even need to be won – providing capital flows from the public sector (our taxes) to the likes of Lockheed Martin and Halliburton - leaving in their wake starving, failed states. Meanwhile inspiring individuals and worthy organisations scramble desperately to find solutions and unite but without much success. Humanity's hourglass is running out . .

IS THERE ANY HOPE?

If we act fast, very possibly. While this '*empire*' has us '*divided and conquered*', the issue is finding a way to unite to form a powerful consensus. Current peace initiatives are laudable but woefully inadequate. We need to get radical and fundamental, in spirit not dogma.

So how do we unite peoples of different religions, cultures and political persuasion? Well, it's a question of redefining what we mean by 'adult' behaviour and sticking to it. Put it this way: recently, I saw someone write on their online profile; "*My attitude is based on how you treat me*". Understandable perhaps from a child but surely an adult says; "*My positive attitude is unaffected by how you treat me.*"

And deep down, we all share this understanding: That love is not a commodity to be allotted according to whim but a limitless force of nature (or God if you prefer), that cannot be withheld. Again, consumerism has confused us because this isn't about 'falling in love' (that's fantasy) or love of chocolate (that's craving) or making love (that's sex). All these you can buy - but true love isn't a commodity because the more you give the more you'll have to give.

This love is closely related to universal, unconditional respect, the crucial component of democracy. This respect is not to be confused with admiration but the fundamental right of all to thrive - and yes, even the likes of Adolph Hitler and Harold Shipman. It's not for us to judge the motives of others but ensure their actions are accountable. That's why the rule of law matters, both nationally and internationally.

We know instinctively that this is how adults should behave, and that avoiding artificial separation makes war impossible. Sounds straight forward but in practice it's profoundly revolutionary.

SO WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?

We need a mechanism to truly unite us in this ethos, so we can operate in what we must recognise as an extremely hostile environment.

CIVIL-ISATION ⁽¹⁰⁾ is simply a template that was proposed by a disparate group of individuals, as a way we could all come together. Not another worthy organisation, controlled by any individual, vulnerable to hubris or even attack but a mechanism to unite us all. A simple, circular logo, sharable by those of all Faiths or none, can symbolise the reunification of humanity and ultimately all matter.

Regardless of culture, it would create a global community of likeminded advocates that in their solidarity represented a powerful lobby, able, to support, elect or censure, depending simple on adherence to this principle. As part of a great murmuration irrespective of national borders, we'll move against the abuse of individuals and communities, of agreed laws and the environment or anything promoting division, violence or war.

We believe, only on this foundation of respect is a truly global, rules-based democratic order possible, where standing armies are replaced by global peace-keeping, for humans and for our precious planet. Only then are we uniting for peace by knowing what we share so we can we celebrate how we differ.

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## Notes

1. Ivo Mosley: *'In the Name of the People'* - Imprint Academic 2013
2. Example, the US overthrow of democratic Iran in 1953
3. National Grid *'The (surprisingly long) history of electric vehicles'*
4. Cop26: Over 500 lobbyists: The Independent (8/11/21)
5. 'Hacked' – Prof. Yuval Noam Harari *'Sapiens'* (2011)
6. Alan Bennett of the National Trust – in The Guardian (30/10/12)
7. President John F. Kennedy's speech on secrecy and a free and democratic society (1961).
8. List of treaties unsigned or unratified by the U.S (Wikipedia)
9. Richard Dannatt: *'Boots on the Ground'* Profile Books (2016)
10. [www.civil-isation.com](http://www.civil-isation.com)