Finding Hope Amid Existential Threats

Welcome to the Anthropocene! Or as some say, “The Eocnoic Era.” Either way, scientists globally in the past 75 years have come to realize that we are in the 6th mass extinction, and that there’s more carbon in the atmosphere, and that human activities contribute to the raised temperature of several degrees in the past 100 years or so. The planet has gone through massive changes since it was created billions of years ago. Some of the changes are categorized in geologic eras (including five mass extinction periods). The nuclear age, so far, is synonymous with the Anthropocene/Eocnoic Era. The creators of the Anthropocene documentary follow the science indicating that the most ubiquitous demarcation of this Anthropocene/Eocnoic Era is the radioactive evidence of nuclear bomb tests. It’s both science and symbol—the ultimate violence of nuclearism threatening to end life as we know it has already damaged ecosystems, representing a foolish lethal tendency of industrialism where arrogance and ignorance leads to myriad mega-violence.

As far as human responsibility goes, we need mass movements of folks agreeing on good tactics for minimizing and/or reversing damage. Millions have joined mass movements against nuclearism, even as the motivation for activism against existential threats gets categorized differently (e.g. environmental justice, anti-racism, spiritual activism, anti-capitalist mutual aid, etc.).

An interesting article in the Atlantic (March, 2020) exposed the connection of two kinds of carbon footprints. The article reminded us of terribly intertwined issues: (1) nuclear weapons-caused annihilation and (2) mass extinction due to climate chaos. The first threat (nuclear) had one kind of footprint—a global spike in the “carbon 14 isotope” and the second threat is the current massive carbon dioxide footprint surrounding the age of nuclearism (which started to spike prior to nuclear weapons). I’ll explain just a little (read the Atlantic article for more info). Berkeley scientists in 1940 discovered they can calculate the age of fossils and the planet by tracking the amount of carbon 14 in many samples, because it was decaying by half every 5,000 years or so. Called radiocarbon dating, the analysis shows that we have released enormous amounts of new carbon 14 via nuclear bomb detonations (primarily tests from 1952 to 1962). That stuff got into everything globally—the animals, plants, oceans, fungus, etc. Before the nuclear age, our earth’s carbon 14 was sourced elsewhere in the.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3
NUCLEAR WINTER AND THE DEFENSE BUDGET

By Mark Bird

If either the U.S. or Russia used less than 10 percent of their nuclear weapons against the other nation, and the attacked nation did not retaliate, both nations would be destroyed. In the attacked nation, over 25M people would have an instant or quick death; in the non-attacked nation, over 25M would experience a slow and agonizing death.

According to the 2020 World Almanac, page 738, the U.S. and Russia have over 6,000 nuclear weapons. If one volcano can change global climate for years, what would 500 radioactive volcanoes do to global sunlight and farms? NASA reported smoke circled the globe after the recent Australian fires.

In the attacked nation, thousands of tons of radioactive ash and dust from hundreds of cities would be in the atmosphere. Dozens of forest fires and destroyed nuclear power plants would send more radioactivity into the atmosphere.

The non-attacked nation, humans would experience fallout over months or years. Rivers, reservoirs, and farms would acquire radioactive material. Thousands of species would have fetal abnormalities. The food chain would be disrupted. Billions of bees, other insects, and animals would die. Rotting corpses would not be buried. Epidemics would spread. The ozone shield would be severely damaged or disappear. Certain societal collapse would occur in both nations and elsewhere.

After the Chernobyl power plant disaster in 1986, levels of radioactivity were estimated for over a dozen European nations. Radioactivity circled the northern hemisphere. According to Wikipedia, clean-up is "scheduled for completion in 2065." If one percent of nukes were used, clean-up would take centuries. Deniers of nuclear winter theory deny photosynthesis, clean-up would take centuries. In the attacked nation, over 25M people would die. In the attacked nation, over 25M would experience a slow and agonizing death.

NDE once again was a revolutionary presence on the Las Vegas MLK Day parade, January 21st 2020.

FROM THE JAPANESE ACTIVISTS:

Together with peace movements in the USA and Europe, etc, we at Gensuikyo (the Japanese movement against A and H bombs) will organize the "World Conference—Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Resist and Reverse Climate Change, for Social and Economic Justice" ... As the UN Secretary-General Guterres noted in High-Level Week in 2019, "The perils posed by nuclear weapons are not merely hypothetical or in some far-off future; they are present and real." ... The year 2020 marks the 75th year since the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The earliest desire of the Hibakusha [nuclear bomb survivors] is to get nuclear weapons abolished in their lifetime. Tens of the Hibakusha and more than 1000 Japanese people will go to NY and submit more than 10 million signatures in support of the Hibakusha Appeal for the elimination of nuclear weapons. We call on all nations to join the petitions in your countries and bring them to NY for joint submission. Let’s echo our voices for abolition of nuclear weapons to pressurize nuclear weapon states and nuclear umbrella states.... We call for your support and action to make a success of these NY actions. We welcome your support messages, ideas and action plans, etc. Please send them to us (Gensuikyo) via email to Japan Council against A & H Bombs 2-4-4 Yushima, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8464 Japan http://antinatom.org/english

Minimizing Our Postal Footprint

Dear Readers of Desert Voices:

Our newsletter began in the 1980s, pre-digital age, and NDE needs to pivot to modern modes of communication. Our National Council has thus decided to shrink back our paper-based distribution of our Desert Voices newsletter for postal mailing purposes. In other words, if you are one of the few who still want these paper copies to continue coming via snail-mail to you, then you are going to have to let us know, akin to saying, "I want the hard copy delivered via snail-mail!" We’ll keep printing smaller batches of hard-copy newsletters, and we love using tree-free paper, so we’re happy to keep printing enough to hand deliver at events. Based on past surveys, we figure that fewer than 300 people want this in their postal boxes.

To get the bulk postal rate, we’ll still keep about 300 names on our mailing list, but we will transfer the remaining 3,700 names to being electronic-communications only, if you no longer receive a paper copy, then which mode of communication do you prefer? Please answer: Yes or No:

1> Do you want to receive emailed newsletters? (we send these out at least twice per year)
2> Do you want to follow us on social media? (we post heavily during our events, twice/year)
3> Do you want to receive SMS/texts from us? (once/month max, linking you to online versions)

You can tell us by phoning 702.646.4814, or emailing peace@NevadaDesertExperience.org your answer to those 3 questions. Otherwise please let us know if you are instead seeking to continue receiving paper copies of Desert Voices in your postal mail box!