

Beyond War Study Guide

Readings and Preparation

for

Session 1

The Hopi Letter

"You have been telling the people that this is the Eleventh Hour.
Now you must go back and tell the people that this is the Hour.
And there are things to be considered:

Where are you living?
What are you doing?
What are your relationships? Are you in right relation?
Where is your water? Know your garden.
It is time to speak your Truth.
Create your community. Be good to each other.
And do not look outside yourself for the leader.
This could be a good time!

There is a river flowing now very fast.
It is so great and swift that there are those who will be afraid.
They will try to hold on to the shore.
They will feel they are being torn apart, and they will suffer greatly.

Know the river has its destination.
The elders say we must let go of the shore, push off into the middle of the
river
Keep our eyes open and our heads above the water.
See who is in there with you
And celebrate.

At this time in history we are to take nothing personally.
Least of all, ourselves.
For the moment that we do, our spiritual growth and journey comes to a
halt.

The time of the lone wolf is over. Gather yourselves!
Banish the word "struggle" from your attitude and your vocabulary.
All that we do now must be done in a sacred manner and in celebration.

We are the ones we've been waiting for."

The Elders / Oraibi, Arizona / Hopi Nation

Reading list for Session 1

Essential Reading

- Essay: Context for Beyond War
- Focus Questions and Activities for Session 1
- The Foundational Ideas of Beyond War
- The Personal Implications of Beyond War's Foundational Ideas
- Categories Of Responses By Peoples And Nations Congruent With The Foundational Ideas And Personal Implications of Beyond War
- Beyond War's History
- Beyond War, A New Way of Thinking (a paper written in 1985)
- Summary of the Beyond War Long Term Strategic Plan
- Recent Beyond War History
- Beyond War's plan for 2006
- Beyond War Action Teams
- Brochure: Beyond War Germany

Optional Reading: Descriptions of Current Teams:

- Beyond War Team (C-P-R): Ventura, California [current team]
- Beyond War Team: Rogue Valley, Oregon [current team]
- Beyond War Team (BW/PSR): Lane County, Oregon [current team]
- Beyond War Team (CEAT): Lane County, Oregon [current team]

Descriptions of 1980s Teams:

- Beyond War Team: Palo Alto in 1988
- Beyond War Team: Rogue Valley 1982-1989

CONTEXT FOR BEYOND WAR

We are working to end war, and we understand that the timeline for this achievement may be long. Meanwhile, we believe that the progress we make results in increased safety and prosperity for citizens around the world and more available resources to build community and international partnerships. Participation in Beyond War results in citizens changing the way they think. Citizens must understand that war is obsolete—and potentially fatal to the human species in this nuclear age. When enough citizens understand that the systemic change necessary must be based on the Foundational Ideas that we all live on one planet (no more “us and them” thinking) and the means are the ends in the making (we cannot expect to use violence to address international and intranational conflicts and expect nonviolent outcomes), then they will require themselves and their governments to resolve conflicts nonviolently. Then peoples and nations will use means such as nonviolent diplomacy and structured dialogues, appropriate foreign aid, adherence to and development of international law and cooperation and collaboration between peoples and nations.

Beyond War provides participants and groups working in Action Teams with information, skills, tools and coordination to advocate for activities that peoples and nations can undertake instead of war. The tangible change from our work is significant numbers of educated, active citizens and groups advocating persistently for these ideas with an attitude of goodwill.

The readings for Session 1 present a picture of Beyond War, the organization past, present and future. Beyond War's Foundational Ideas and Personal Implications are listed first in the readings. They are the “DNA” of Beyond War--everything Beyond War participants do is based on them. As we replicate ourselves in this growing movement, we know that these Foundational Ideas (FIs) will be the basis for a “new way of thinking” in Beyond War Action Teams everywhere. Then the Personal Implications (PIs) of the Foundational Ideas are listed. An essay written in 1985 for Beyond War about the Personal Implications is next. Then, you will find categories of responses that peoples and nations can make that are congruent with the FIs and PIs of Beyond War.

The four page “Beyond War: A New Way of Thinking” pamphlet was published in 1985 and is still relevant. Twenty years is a short period of time in the context of social change. The Summary of the “Beyond War Long Term Strategic Plan” is included in order to share the long-term vision. “Beyond War's History” is included as context. Information that describes Beyond War's recent progress and plans for the near future are also included.

The final reading is a brochure, published in 2003 in both German and English, from Beyond War Germany. The German team has continued to participate in Beyond War without a break during the 1990s. The Optional Readings describe two Beyond War team activities from the 1980s and what four 2005 Beyond War teams are doing now.

Focus Questions for Session 1

1. What is the “DNA” or what are the core concepts and culture of Beyond War?
2. What are the long term strategic plans of Beyond War?
3. What are Beyond War’s near future plans?
4. How do Beyond War participants work to build a world beyond war?

Focus Activities for Session 1

1. As you read for this session, make notes about what you understand about Beyond War, the organization. Also make notes about what you would like to understand better. Plan to share them in discussion at the first session.

“With the unleashed power of the atom, everything has changed, save our modes of thinking, and we thus drift toward unparalleled catastrophe.”

Albert Einstein 1946

“We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking that we used when we created them.”

Albert Einstein

The Foundational Ideas of Beyond War that
are the basis of a

“new mode of thinking.”

War is Obsolete

We All Live on One Planet
We are One

The Means are the Ends in
the Making

These Personal Implications are the individual's response to the Foundational Ideas of Beyond War:

- I will resolve conflict. I will not use violence.
- I will not preoccupy myself with an enemy. I will maintain an attitude of goodwill.
- I will take initiative and respond to conflict within these Foundational Ideas and Personal Implications even when others are confused or lost in their fight or flight reflexes.
- I will work together with others to build a world beyond war.

PERSONAL IMPLICATIONS

A world beyond war is possible only if we make a personal commitment to live our lives in accordance with the new mode of thinking. The message and the messenger must be consistent. We each must be living proof that a world beyond war is possible.

The personal implications inherent in the decision to adopt the new mode of thinking can be summarized as follows:

- **I will resolve conflict. I will not use violence.**
- **I will maintain a spirit of good will. I will not preoccupy myself with an enemy.**
- **I will work together with others to build a world beyond war.**

Maintaining a spirit of good will toward someone means I have a deep and active caring for his or her well-being. Recognizing that all life is totally interdependent — recognizing that we are one — I cannot have good will toward anyone, myself included, without maintaining a consistent spirit of good will toward all of life. It is enlightened self-interest. While it is enlightened self-interest, maintaining a spirit of good will requires a conscious choice to identify with the whole. It also requires constant vigilance against relapses into the all-too-familiar patterns learned in the old mode of thinking.

Good will and ill will are two mutually exclusive modes of being. I cannot have good will sometimes, or toward part of the system; it must be total. If I have a spirit of ill will, I add to the hostility already present on the planet; I am part of the problem. If I maintain a spirit of good will, I become a catalyst for positive change — I am part of the solution.

It is much harder to maintain a spirit of good will than most people think. To maintain a spirit of good will I must recognize that people, myself included, have an overwhelming tendency not to see their own faults, to blame others. It is hard to recognize when I bear ill will toward another. Whenever someone else is disturbed — especially if they disagree with me — and I have little sympathy for his or her predicament, I must recognize that I bear ill will. I will then move from ill will to good will, from blame to responsibility, from problem to solution.

To build a world beyond war, I must focus my energy on that task. Preoccupying myself with an enemy drains my energy, spawns ill will, and takes away my initiative. Therefore, I will not preoccupy myself with enemies — not the Soviets, the President, the government, or those who disagree with me. In-

Today, most conflicts are not resolved. We have not been trained to resolve conflict, so we usually try one of several unsatisfactory approaches. Most often, we ignore the conflict, hoping it will go away. But it just simmers, waiting to explode. Then we tend to debate and fight — each party trying to impose its will on the other through the use of physical or psychological violence.

If one party is strong enough to impose its will, this only creates resentment and additional conflict. If neither party is strong enough to impose its will, the conflict is temporarily suppressed, only to reemerge with a vengeance sometime in the future.

So the first personal commitment needed to build a world beyond war is that I will be courageous enough to face conflict, dedicated enough to stay with it until resolved, and open-minded enough to allow that to happen. Because violence does not resolve the underlying source of conflict, it follows that I cannot use violence of any kind — physical, verbal or psychological. To resolve conflict, I must have a spirit of good will.

stead, I will preoccupy myself with what I can do to help bring about a solution. I cannot preach peace while waging war at a personal level. If I do, I communicate a double message which contributes to the alienation and hostility already on the planet.

Working together, we can accomplish goals that could not be accomplished by working separately: the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. Working together is also demanded because, to be beyond war, I cannot impose a solution on others: the path to a world beyond war must be developed through building agreement. I therefore will work together with others to build a world beyond war.

Agreement on these personal implications binds us together and gives the movement power through coherence. People living and teaching Beyond War will transform the idea into tangible reality.

The success of the Beyond War movement depends on enough individuals understanding the personal implications of "We Are One" and making a decision to live their lives accordingly. While the decision occurs at a point in time, it is a lifelong process to learn to live our lives consistently with that decision. While I hold a life beyond war as my personal ideal, I must accept my human fallibility, pick myself up when I err, and put myself back on the path with renewed determination.

These personal implications represent an unprecedented shift in human behavior, matched only by the unprecedented threat to our survival. Only a few rare individuals in human history have held to these high principles. Now, more than a few unique individuals must behave differently. The future of the world depends on many people holding to these principles and working together.

The categories below include responses of peoples and nations that are congruent with the Foundational Ideas and Personal Implications of Beyond War:

- **Nonviolent conflict resolution processes**

such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of South Africa, nonviolent diplomacy, and dialogue projects

- **Appropriate Foreign Aid**

such as work done by the Peace Corps, Rotary International, and the Central Asia Project

- **International Law**

such as the Antiballistic Missile Treaty, laws regulating safe airline travel, and the Comprehensive [nuclear] Test Ban Treaty

- **Cooperation and Collaboration between peoples and nations**

such as protection of aging nuclear stockpiles in the former Soviet Union, eradication of polio, and cooperation in telephone communications worldwide

Beyond War's History

Beyond War is a revitalization of an organization of the same name which, at its peak in the mid-1980s, had over 24,000 members active in twenty-three states and several countries. During the 80s, at the height of the Cold War, Beyond War hosted thousands of "Interest Evenings" and hundreds of "Orientation Meetings" in living rooms across the United States and in Canada and Germany. Through the work of Beyond War, citizens learned about the possibility of "nuclear winter", which could have resulted if even a portion of American or Soviet missiles had been fired. This threat of nuclear annihilation formed the core of the idea, "war is obsolete." Beyond War's response to this threat was developed in reaction to Albert Einstein's statement: "Everything has changed, save our modes of thinking, and we thus drift toward unparalleled catastrophe." The most appropriate solution, Beyond War leaders asserted, was to promote a new mode of thinking based on the principle "We are one."

Thousands of people adopted this new mode of thinking and people from all walks of life joined the movement, doing everything from giving presentations to researching the logistics of "space bridges" -- the presentation of the 1985 Beyond War Award to the Five Continent Peace Initiative was the first event to ever link five continents by satellite. The Beyond War Award was given annually in recognition of outstanding efforts to resolve conflict nonviolently. The award's nomination and selection process attracted national and international attention, and many distinguished people, including Jonas Salk, Rosalyn Carter, and Andrew Young served on the selection committee.

Beyond War was actively involved in the Contadora /Arias peace process in Central America, and also sponsored several international task forces creating multinational citizen diplomacy and facilitating cultural exchanges. In an event sponsored by Beyond War, American astronomer Carl Sagan and Soviet physicist Sergei Kapitsa presented the concept of nuclear winter to more than eighty United Nations ambassadors. International teams sponsored by Beyond War also collaborated on several publications, including *Breakthrough: Emerging New Thinking*, a book written jointly by American and Soviet scientists about the dangers of nuclear war, envisioning a future free of war and the process for change.

As the Cold War came to an end and the Berlin Wall fell, Beyond War shifted its focus toward cultural and environmental issues and formally became the Foundation for Global Community in 1991.

In June of 2002, a group of citizens, some of whom had been active in Beyond War in the 80s, and who were concerned about the events of September 11, 2001 and the "war on terrorism" that was the U.S.'s response, met to explore the possibility of restarting Beyond War. Foundation for Global Community trustees and others supported this effort with grants, advice, and access to contact information for formerly active Beyond War participants.



Inner Work: the Individual

Peace is a state of being that each individual must manifest

- Dialogue with oneself, assess one's personal motivation, identify enemy projections, free oneself from exclusive attitudes and prejudices
- Practice inclusive attitudes, perception and thinking
- Explore the significance of identification with the whole for one's own life
- Be conscious of one's own love for life and practice thankfulness

Outer Work: the Group, the Society

We need allies

- Work together with others
 - Build an organization or structure, no matter how small, so that as many people as possible can participate in the process of change
 - Enable dialogue, bring people together so that they can perceive the threat to life, study it together and learn from each other
 - Work to acquire concrete knowledge and competence in order to be able to present these insights credibly
 - Practice non-violent conflict resolution and apply these methods in everyday situations
 - Learn about and support efforts for peace, social justice and environmental protection at home and in the developing world.
 - Express concerns and the vision for a world beyond war clearly
- Use presentations, information and media and letters, etc. to inform the public

Beyond War Outline, August 2003, "Philosophy, Guidelines, Principles"
Sources include:
personal experience, especially in conjunction with the Foundation for Global Community, California, USA
<http://www.globalcommunity.org>
and with Beyond War, e.V., Germany, and Neues Denken, Switzerland.
Notes from Craig Barnes' lecture to the Foundation for Global Community 2003,
Notes from Gayle Landt, Beyond War 2003 Coordinator

"Beyond War, a New Way of Thinking" manual and "Beyond War, Communicator's Guide", © 1985,

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We Are One

Our survival in the 21st century depends upon how well we understand this basic reality. We must see clearly that we are one global family (global community) and that our lives are profoundly connected with the earth and its resources.

All our choices—whether we make them or not, and whether they have to do with the economy, the environment, or society—affect the entire global balance. For this reason, our future depends upon our decision to behave in a conscious and consistently responsible manner with regard to the earth's resources and to the common well-being of all living things and of the generations that will come after us.

This situation has definite and compelling consequences for each and every human being. They are based on the following perceptions

PERCEPTIONS:

War/Threat:

- Our modern weapons are able to destroy the world.
- The Inevitability Principle's implications for armed conflict are that continued dependence upon military solutions will unavoidably result in humanity's downfall.
- War is obsolete.
- Peace is essential for our survival, and commitment to non-violent conflict resolution is a fundamental requirement for lasting peace.

Survival:

- Survival is the goal of all life.
- The future belongs to those with the fitness for change.
- The environment dictates the nature of the change required.

A New Way of Thinking — We are One:

- Identification with the whole, extending our concern in space and in time to include the entire globe and to learn from past generations and care for future ones.
- Expanding our search for truth through openness, willingness to learn, coming together with others, and freeing ourselves from prejudice.
- Ignorance is the source of the problem. Our enemy projections must

not determine our behavior. Behavior based on prejudice is obsolete.

- We need nonviolent ways of resolving conflict that result in win-win solutions for all concerned.
- We have reason for hope: humanity can learn and change. This process requires that we not allow our personal involvement to be influenced by the following 3 illusions:

1. "They" (God, the government, the UN, etc.) will not let "it" (war, the destruction of life on earth) happen
2. The human species can continue to make war and survive.
3. One person cannot make a difference.

These perceptions must be followed by clear decisions:

DECISION:

We must make a conscious choice between life and death. The decision for life requires that we

- Identify ourselves with the whole
- Reject war because it can destroy life on earth.
- Act according to the Beyond War principles:

1. I will resolve conflict. I will not use violence.
2. I will not preoccupy myself with an enemy. I will maintain a spirit of good will.
3. I will take initiative. I will work together with others to build a world beyond war.

SUMMARY:

- We are one world.
- If we want to survive, we must understand what kind of change our environment requires us to make.
- War is waged by human beings and is a product of their way of thinking.
- War is obsolete.
- We need a new way of thinking that makes survival and peace possible.
- The means are the ends in the making.

HOW DO WE BUILD A WORLD BEYOND WAR? — FIRST STEPS TOWARDS CHANGING OUR WAY OF THINKING AND APPLYING THE BEYOND WAR PRINCIPLES

OPTIONAL READING

FOR

SESSION 1

Historical Team Activity from the 1980s

A Beyond War Team

Palo Alto, California 1988

A Palo Alto based Beyond War team sent people to United Nations. Richard Rathbun and other Palo Alto team members supported Carl Sagan and Sergei Kapitsa (of the Soviet Union) in their presentation to many U.N. representatives about the ideas that war is obsolete in the nuclear age and "we are one."

This kind of high level work was possible in part because Beyond War had spent years educating and enlisting participants. Beyond War had extensive participation by dedicated people who thoroughly understood the Foundational Ideas. To achieve this, Beyond War had held many meetings and conferences in Palo Alto, in cities and areas where Beyond War participants were active (primarily in 11 "bellwether" states), and at Sequoia Seminar Conference Grounds in the mountains near Santa Cruz. Beyond War's participants had discussed at length the ideas underpinning the actions that the organization was taking, and there was extensive agreement and support for those actions.

Historical Team Activity from the 1980s

Beyond War Team

Rogue Valley, Oregon 1982-1989

The Rogue Valley Beyond War Team gave more than fifty introductory presentations (called "Interest Evenings") to more than 400 people during seven years. The team also hosted "Orientations," a day long meeting in which participants conversed at length about "War is obsolete, we are one, the inevitability of widespread nuclear war if humanity didn't learn to move beyond war, and "knowledge, decision, and action."

The team hosted six Soviet physicians with their spouses when they visited the United States through a program sponsored by Beyond War and Physicians for Social Responsibility. The program was a part of a citizen diplomacy initiative building friendships between citizens of the United States and what was then the Soviet Union.

The Rogue Valley Team also hosted a downlink for the annual Beyond War Award Ceremony, as well as contributing team member involvement to a national dialogue project directed by the Beyond War office in Palo Alto, California.

Current Beyond War Team Activity

Beyond War Team: Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions (C-P-R)

Ventura, California

The Ventura, California Beyond War Action Team sponsors a monthly speaker/film series at the Ventura City Library. The series includes a range of topics related to the costs of war, actions that can be taken instead of war, and more.

Another key activity of the Ventura team for Spring 2005 is supporting the activities of *Mayors for Peace*. *Mayors for Peace*, an international organization of mayors and other elected officials from 131 countries was founded by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The central purpose of *Mayors for Peace* is the worldwide abolition of nuclear weapons. During the first week of May, *Mayors for Peace* members will converge at the United Nations during a review of the Nuclear NonProliferation Treaty in order to advocate for support for the treaty. Ventura team members have communicated with citizens, opinion leaders, mayors and other elected officials via letters, emails, telephone calls and presentations about the *Mayors for Peace* initiative. Ventura's mayor and several mayors in surrounding cities have been convinced to attend the meeting at the United Nations.

In addition, team leaders, especially Dr. Robert Dodge, have written numerous opinion editorials such as the one in the readings for this session of the Study Guide.

Current Beyond War Team Activity

Beyond War Action Team

Rogue Valley, Oregon

Rogue Valley's Beyond War Action Team is has tested the Beyond War Study Series. Team is scheduling at least one study series in Fall 2005.

The team participants plan to build agreement and understanding about "war is obsolete, we all live on one planet/we are one, and the means are the ends in the making" in their community. As their team grows, the Rogue Valley Beyond War Team intends to develop more activities.

Current Beyond War Team Activity

The Beyond War/Physicians for Social Responsibility Team Lane County, Oregon

Since both organizations collaboratively addressed the dangers and costs of nuclear war during the 1980s, their current collaboration seems like a natural fit .

The team has focused its efforts on developing and presenting a PowerPoint presentation called "The Health Effects of War and a Sensible Approach for a Safe America." This program has three messages: first, it points out the many terrible and long-lasting health effects of war – not just the physical and psychological -- but also the detrimental effects on the environment, a region's infrastructure, and on the economy when money is allocated for the military instead of needs at home. Second, the program explores what the U.S. response to the 9-11 attack has been, and why this approach to dealing with terrorism won't work. Third, and most importantly, it discusses what peoples and nations can do instead of war to deal more effectively with the terrorist threat. This is PSR's SMART Security platform, the planks of which almost exactly correspond to Beyond War's categories of what to do instead of war.

Ten team members have given nineteen presentations to more than 700 people in the first three months of 2005. The presentation has been well received at Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs, other service organizations, churches, schools and universities in the Eugene/Springfield area. Many more are being scheduled. A video for wider distribution is under development.

Team members have also written Op-Ed pieces, introduced and passed a resolution supporting SMART at the state medical society, and are collecting endorsements for the SMART platform, introduced as House Resolution 392.

Current Beyond War Team Activity

Beyond War Civic Education & Action Team (CEAT) Lane County, Oregon

The team sponsors regular potlucks for all Beyond War participants in Lane County, Oregon. The potlucks include a short presentation and a longer conversation with someone knowledgeable in a relevant field of interest. Topics have included how to influence the thinking of elected officials (given by congressional staff members), the psychology of fear related to war and peace (given by research psychologists), and the health effects of war (given by BW/PSR Team physician members).

CEAT members researched the paper on preemptive strikes found on the Beyond War web site, entitled: "Preemptive Strike Doctrine: The National Security Strategy of the United States of America." This paper has been widely distributed at Beyond War and public events.

The team is currently researching a paper related to nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. In addition, the team is planning to advocate that the United States re-ratify the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and not deploy the ABM defense system.

In 2003, the CEAT Team developed a chart comparing the presidential hopefuls' positions related to war and peace. This survey was distributed at public events in Lane County, OR, and widely through the internet.

In summer 2005 the CEAT Team sponsored "The Wall" project which was coordinated by Aktion Voelkerrecht of Germany. People in ten countries decorated and signed small wood tiles which were woven into four foot high walls. Each signed tile represented the endorsement for using international law instead of violence to create national and international security. The CEAT Team attended public events and gathered signed tiles from almost 3,000 people. Then CEAT Team member (and Beyond War Office Manager) Kate Wearn took Lane County's tiles to Hiroshima, Japan to the 60th Year Anniversary Commemoration of the bombing of Hiroshima. Kate worked with many Japanese Youth and the Mayor of Hiroshima in setting up the wall for the event.