Reflections for Nonviolent Community

The University of Tennessee

#Love Thy Neighbor (No Exceptions)

Nuclear Weapons Are Illegal

A Peaceful, Nuclear-Free Future

Reflections for Nonviolent Community

A Book of Readings

The Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance

April - May 2021
This booklet grows from an intentional exploration of nonviolent community embarked upon by members of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance. It has since expanded to embrace many members of our peace community.

Our intention is to use the booklet to build spiritual community. Those who are using the book are asked to participate by contributing readings to it.

The common thread in these reflections is the struggle of human beings to improve the world. In OREPA, our struggle to end bomb production is part of that struggle. In these reflections, we join ourselves with the larger community that works to heal the world.

The reflection booklet has been provided free of charge to all who request it. We welcome donations—$20 would cover the cost of paper, printing and mailing for one year—but they aren’t required.

Each Thursday you will find the name of a member of the community who is using this booklet. This is an opportunity to think a little about that person and all those who work for peace on her/his day.

‡ contributions, suggestions, requests can be sent to OREPA, P O Box 5743, Oak Ridge, TN 37831 or by e-mail to orep@earthlink.net

sources

Mary Dennis Lentsch, Linda Ewald and Chante Wolf contributed readings for this reflection booklet. Readings were also taken from Gods Among Us, an article by Terry Tempest Williams in the Autumn 2019 issue of Orion magazine, and The Best Spiritual Writing of 2002, edited by Philip Zaleski.
As people of faith, we believe that the possession, development and threat to use nuclear weapons is immoral. There are no safe hands for these weapons. The accidental or deliberate detonation of a nuclear weapon would cause severe, long-lasting and far-reaching harm on all aspects of our lives and our environment throughout the world. Further, these technologies are part of structures and systems that bring about great suffering and destruction. We commit, therefore, to the ethical and strategic necessity of working together for economic and social justice, right relationship with the Earth, and accountability and restoration where there is violence and harm. We rejoice at the possibilities of a new world that this Treaty ushers in. At a time when the world desperately needs fresh hope, the TPNW inspires us to continue to work to fully eliminate the threat of nuclear weapons, and to create conditions for peace, justice, and well-being.

We recognize the legacy of the global hibakusha, survivors whose courage and perseverance serve as our inspiration, guidance, and moral foundation in the quest for a world free from nuclear weapons. This quest will continue until all nuclear weapons are eliminated from our planet. We invite everyone, especially those in communities of faith, to join us in this work for peace, justice, and respect for life—against which nuclear weapons stand in complete opposition—in ways that are meaningful and authentic to your traditions and how you are inspired to participate. We urge all States to join the growing community of States which have rejected nuclear weapons and to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

At this historic moment, we must act decisively to strengthen the TPNW, and to work for peace, cooperation, and common security.

~ Joint Interfaith Statement on the Entry into Force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons signed by more than 170 faith communities
Friday, April 2

Nature and art are too sublime to aim at purpose, nor need they, for relationships are everywhere present, and relationships are life.

~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Saturday, April 3

Humanity’s relation to the rest of life is unimaginably complex and includes the deepest mysteries on this planet. Those who embrace it own the gift of a bottomless well of hope.

~ E.O. Wilson

Sunday, April 4

1968 :: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR ASSASSINATED, MEMPHIS, TN

The challenge now is to create an entirely new, vital revolution that takes the whole of life into its sphere. We have never dared embrace the whole of life in all its awesome beauty; we’ve been content to perpetuate fragments, invent corners where we feel conceptually secure and emotionally safe. Today, we can no longer go on with this game of fragmentation.

~ Vimala Thakar

Monday, April 5

It has been said that great ideas come into the world as gently as doves. Perhaps, then, if we listen attentively, we shall hear amid the uproar of empires and nations a faint flutter of wings, a gentle stirring of life and hope.

~ Albert Camus
Tuesday, April 6

Just as the wave cannot exist for itself, but must always participate in the swell of the ocean, so we can never experience life by ourselves. We must always share the experience of life that takes place all around us.

~ Albert Schweitzer

Wednesday, April 7

An old nettle digs at almost every human heart: the urge to give oneself to the world rather than to only a few close people. In the end, unable to bear the personal cost, most of us find a way to ignore the prickle, comforting ourselves that so little can be changed by one woman or one man anyway.

~ Gary Smith

One hundred twenty-two yellow Xes accompanied the banner at the Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Complex in Oak Ridge, TN — one X for every nation that voted to approve the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in July 2017. Nearly two dozen people came to Y-12 on January 22 for a COVID-safe gathering and to deliver the message to the bomb plant.
From now on there really is a legal instrument in the international arena that specifies the aspirations that for decades have been overshadowed in many countries and citizens of the planet.

The preamble to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons highlights the risks posed by the existence of nuclear weapons and the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from their use. States that have ratified the treaty and those that have acceded highlight this danger and consequently define their commitment towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

To this positive and enthusiastic start we must now add that the ratifying states develop and approve legislation that implements the spirit of the agreement: including prohibitions on the transit and financing of nuclear weapons. Only prohibiting financing, putting an end to investments in the nuclear weapons industry, would have a high symbolic and effective value, of great significance in the nuclear arms race.

Now the path is set and we aspire for the number of countries that support the TPNW to increase in an unstoppable stream. Nuclear weapons are no longer a symbol of technological progress and power, now they are a symbol of oppression and danger for humanity, first of all, for the citizens of the countries themselves with nuclear weapons. Because the nuclear weapons of an “enemy” are aimed at the cities of other countries that possess them, not those that do not. Nuclear weapons are weapons created and designed to create terror. Their targets are big cities.

~ Statement of World Without Wars and Violence
January 22, 2021, Madrid, Spain
Friday, April 9
1898 :: PAUL ROBESON BORN

I do not go to Mass to make myself “better.” I go because, in the
dimmest reaches of my scattered, angst-ridden mind, there is something
that wants me to get down on my knees and, in spite of my own
suffering and all the suffering around me, give thanks. I go because I am
beginning to believe that heaven is not in some other world, but shot
through the broken world in which we live.

~ Heather King

Saturday, April 10
1930 :: DOLORES HUERTA BORN
1988 :: NORTHERN IRELAND PEACE AGREEMENT SIGNED

Life is mostly froth and bubble
Two things stand like stone
Kindness in another’s trouble
Courage in your own.

~ Adam Lindsey Gordon

Sunday, April 11
MAWLID AL-NABI, MUHAMMAD’S BIRTHDAY
1996 :: AFRICAN NATIONS BAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS
1963 :: PACEM IN TERRIS, JOHN XXIII ENCYCLICAL OPPOSES NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Benjamin Kidd said force is something you use in the present—you
cut down a tree, you build a bridge, you do something. That’s force.
But power—it’s something you can use in the future, and the greatest
power in the world is the emotion of an idea. And he said that women
had a greater capacity to work for an ideal in the future. That it was the
women who persuaded the men to stop the chase and wait for the crops
to mature; and that seems to me to be recognized everywhere, with the
beginning of agriculture and the beginning of the home. Women are
always working for something in the future.

~ Jeannette Rankin

Monday, April 12

My old Zen teacher once interrupted me as I was about to
complain about my marriage. “I see you’re Buddha. You don’t see it. You
look around and see the goodness in others. When you see it in yourself,
that’s what being awake is.”

~ Natalie Goldberg
Tuesday, April 13
1919 :: EUGENE DEBS IMPRISONED FOR WAR OPPOSITION

I recognize that in the first place peace is a gift of God to us. However, this gift is left to the responsibility of humanity, called by the Creator to contribute to the building up of peace in this world. This is a universal responsibility which concerns all creation. We must begin by achieving mastery over ourselves. We must be responsible for the spirit that our words produce; this should be a spirit that gives rise to harmony, friendliness and kinship. Peace will then have a favorable ground in which to grow among people.

~ Chief Gasseto, Benin

Wednesday, April 14
1986 :: US BOMBS LIBYA

To be mortal means it is possible to give one’s life, not only in one moment, say, on the field of battle, but also in the many other ways in which we are able in action to rise above attachment to survival. Through moral courage, endurance, greatness of soul, generosity, devotion to justice—in acts great and small—we rise above our mere creatureliness, spending the precious coinage of the time of our lives for the sake of the noble and the good and the holy.

~ Leon Kass
The Inter-Parliamentary Union welcomes the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which sets a new international norm whereby the development, possession, and use of nuclear weapons are not only immoral, unethical, and inhuman, but are now also illegal.

The TPNW is the result of humanity’s long-standing efforts and ceaseless desire to realize a peaceful world community. It is the result of the work and collaborative efforts of dedicated stakeholders, from survivors of nuclear explosions and tests to the younger generation who does not understand why, in today’s world, we would still need nuclear weapons. Committed civil society, visionary governments and forward-thinking parliaments, as well as devoted international organizations and NGOs around the world, have managed to partner up to make this important step towards a safer and more peaceful world.

It is time to turn the Second World War and Cold War pages once and for all and work towards a brighter future where money would be spent on meaningful social and economic policies instead of weapons. Vaccines are not the answer to a nuclear holocaust. When it comes to deadly nuclear weapons, prevention by elimination is the only option.

22 January 2021 marks the start of a new era for nuclear disarmament: it puts the issue back on the global security agenda and brings humanity a step closer to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. But more needs to be done, starting with the number of countries that must join the treaty. In a world of increased international tensions, with worrying signs of a new nuclear arms race and pressure on multilateral processes, solidarity will be key.

~ Statement of the Interparliamentary Union
January 22, 2021
Friday, April 16

Life is a series of collisions with the future.

~ Jose Ortega y Gasset

Saturday, April 17

1960 :: STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOUNDED, GREENSBORO, NC
1961 :: US INVADES CUBA (BAY OF PIGS)

Valor is a gift. Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes.

~ Carl Sandburg

Sunday, April 18

We are not rich by what we possess but rather by what we can do without.

~ Immanuel Kant

Monday, April 19

1948 :: COSTA RICA ABOLISHES ARMY

Kindness is more important than wisdom. And the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom.

~ Theodore Isaac Rubin

Tuesday, April 20

Gratitude is born in hearts that take time to count up past mercies.

~ Charles Jefferson

Wednesday, April 21

At the moment I was hit on the bridge and began to fall, I really thought this was my last protest, my last march. I thought I saw death. And I thought, “It’s okay. It’s all right. I am doing what I am supposed to do.”

~ John Lewis
“We must not sleepwalk into a crisis of even greater proportions than the one we have experienced this year.”

These are the words of over fifty high-ranking officials from NATO states in an open letter, calling on their governments to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. They understand that the existence of nuclear weapons poses an unacceptable risk to global health and security. They understand that global threats require multilateral solutions.

We live in a world with over 13,000 nuclear weapons, many of which are ready to be used at a moment’s notice. Just nine countries possess the destructive power to end life on earth as we know it. To unleash devastating humanitarian consequences and plunge the world into a nuclear winter.

But we also live in a world where the voices of the many can stand up to the powerful few. Living during a pandemic has taught us to heed the warnings of scientists and medical professionals about the risks of global threats. And to listen to the lived experiences of survivors to understand the dangers we face.

Once the treaty enters into force, states parties and civil society will lead the way to its full implementation and universalisation. Around the world, countries, companies and people will see the treaty’s impact. It will be a major milestone toward the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

Seventy-five years have passed since the founding of the United Nations. Seventy-five years have passed since the world first witnessed the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. The TPNW builds on decades of disarmament activism and multilateral diplomacy. We are at a pivotal moment.

It is time for each and every member state of the United Nations, including nuclear-armed states, to ask themselves if they will be a part of the solution or a part of the problem.

We urge all states to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and stand on the right side of history.

~ Linnet Ng’ayu
International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
**Friday, April 23**

The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today.

~ Franklin Roosevelt

**Saturday, April 24**

1965 :: US invades Dominican Republic

As we take risks for the sake of something greater than our separate and individual lives, we are graced by other beings and by Earth itself.

~ Joanna Macy

**Sunday, April 25**

We are made for something cosmic and will not fit peacefully into anything much smaller.

~ Matthew Fox

**Monday, April 26**

The first principle of nonviolent action is that of non-cooperation with everything humiliating.

~ Mohandas Gandhi

**Tuesday, April 27**

The highest reward for a person’s toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it.

~ John Ruskin

**Wednesday, April 28**

1967 :: Muhammad Ali refuses induction into US army
1977 :: First demonstration of mothers of the disappeared, Buenos Aires

Let no one keep you from your journey. You are the only explorer. Your heart, the unreadable compass. You soul, the shore of a promise too great to be ignored.

~ Mark Nepo
Australia does not support the “ban treaty” which we believe would not eliminate a single nuclear weapon. Additionally, it creates parallel obligations to the NPT, has not engaged any state that possesses nuclear weapons in its negotiations and none have signed or ratified, ignores the realities of the global security environment, has weaker safeguards provisions than called for by the existing NPT framework, fails to set out how disarmament would be verified or enforced in practice, and it would be inconsistent with our US alliance obligations. As a non-signatory, the treaty’s entry into force on 22 January 2021 does not create legal obligations for Australia.

~ Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Experience has taught us that the threat of mutual destruction – with the possibility of the total destruction of humankind and our common home – cannot provide a foundation for peace and security in the multipolar world of the twenty-first century. Nuclear weapons are incapable of addressing terrorism, asymmetrical conflicts, cybersecurity, ecological problems, or poverty. Any use of nuclear weapons is clearly immoral as they are inherently indiscriminate and their impact is uncontainable in time and space. The continued availability of nuclear weapons poses an unacceptable risk of deliberate or accidental use, and it diverts resources from the things that positively foster peace.

~ Bishop Terry Brady to the Prime Minister of Australia on behalf of Catholic Bishops of Australia
Friday, April 30

I suddenly knew I was looking at it from the wrong angle and I gave the cloth in my hand a quarter turn. Immediately I saw a beautiful and coherent golden pattern. In wonder, the pattern had emerged, to be seen in all its beauty by those who could learn to make the quarter turn.

~ Helen Luke

Saturday, May 1

Paradoxically enough, it is all that turbulence and fluctuation in the cosmos that does this, that gives all of nature’s maybes and might bes a chance to become true. Danger and risk there is. But in its own tacit, latent way, it is as if the universe dreams big, promises big, and stands fully behind human hope.

~ David Toolan

Sunday, May 2

Too often, the day in which we live is filled with regrets over the past and uncertainty about the future. What a happy outlook it would give us if we could find some way to convince ourselves that the limitations of the past need not be carried into the future.

~ Ernest Holmes

Monday, May 3

Earth is dirt, all dirt. But here we find what dirt can do when it is self-organizing under suitable conditions with water and solar illumination. This is pretty spectacular dirt.

~ Holmes Rolston III
Tuesday, May 4
1970 :: NATIONAL GUARDSMEN KILL FOUR STUDENTS AT KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

how many minutes before midnight
do your hands sit
close to the center
of the sun
a gift from it

larger than a gun
tick tock your clock
Father Son Holy flock
Trinity or Penetrator
will plunge deep with glee

Fat Man Little Boy
destroys beyond you and me
snap crackle pop
Nagasaki Hiroshima didn’t stop
the minutes to midnight

of the doomsday clock

~ Chante Wolf
Doomsday Clock

Wednesday, May 5
1991 :: LAST CRUISE MISSILES REMOVED FROM GREENHAM COMMON BASE IN UK

Compassion is the radicalism of our time.

~ The Dalai Lama

Corporations were put on notice across the country—here, Lockheed Martin in California gets the word. The Treaty prohibits providing assistance in the design, development, production, testing, deployment of nuclear weapons.
Thursday, May 6
Jeff & Diane Gerst

We reaffirm our commitment to the preservation and strengthening of arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation. As the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, or ban treaty, nears entry into force, we collectively reiterate our opposition to this treaty, as it does not reflect the increasingly challenging international security environment and is at odds with the existing non-proliferation and disarmament architecture.

~ North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Nuclear weapons states have already been stung by the TPNW’s imminent entry into force. Last October, the Trump White House urged those governments that had ratified the Treaty to withdraw their ratifications. Happily, none did so.

Today, the vast majority of public opinion supports abolition, and the Treaty heralds a new global, civil, diplomatic and economic environment in which nuclear weapons are banned. When the first NATO country still using the US nuclear bombs demands their removal, others are expected to follow suit.

Elsewhere, financial divestment campaigns in Europe are succeeding, pressing hundreds of institutions to get out of the business of genocidal atomic violence. The Dutch pension fund APB, fifth largest of its kind in the world, has announced it will exclude companies involved in production of nuclear weapons. It joins more than seventy other European banks, pension funds, and insurance companies that have already adopted divestment policies.

January 22 marks the culmination of the effort led by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, civil society, and non-nuclear-armed states to create the Treaty. It is also the beginning of a new movement that will, in the end, see the elimination of the existential nuclear threat.

Given the need to stop the Biden Administration from continuing the $2 trillion commitment to “modernize” US nuclear weapons, the Treaty and its message could not be timelier or more compelling.

As supporters the world over have noted, this Treaty is the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons

~ from an op-ed by John LaForge and Ralph Hutchison
Friday, May 7

When you get over yourself and you see beyond your own ego, you discover that who you are is not separate from the very impulse that is driving the creative process, and you begin to understand that you are definitely here for a reason.

~ Andrew Cohen

Saturday, May 8

Let me seek then the gift of silence and poverty and solitude, where everything I touch is turned into prayer; where the sky is my prayer, the birds are my prayer, the wind in the trees is my prayer.

~ Thomas Merton

Sunday, May 9

We have lost our own sense of what it is to be human, We have lost our sense of where the deep roots of humanity lie, and hence we have lost touch with the source of our own efficacy as personal and moral agents.

~ Danah Zohar

Monday, May 10

1994 :: SOUTH AFRICA INAUGURATES PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA

Evolution is no mechanical law, but a complex set of processes, sensitive and symbiogenetic, in part resulting from the choices and actions of evolving organic beings themselves. Natural selection is often said to “favor” this or that trait. But the nature that selects is largely alive. Nature is not a black box, but a kind of sentient symphony.

~ Lynn Margulis
Tuesday, May 11
1998 :: INDIA CONDUCTS 3 UNDERGROUND THERMONUCLEAR TESTS

Relativity, quantum theory, and the gauge principle all are based in one way or another on the point of view that the properties of things arise from relationships.

~ Lee Smolin

Wednesday, May 12

The body is suffused with wild and vital energy. Essentially, we belong beautifully to nature. The body knows this belonging and desires it. The human body is at home on the Earth.

~ John O’Donohue
My belief in nature is the nature of my faith as a human being humbled before the gods we live among. The god made in my own image that I was introduced to as a child now circles the fire with all the other gods—those with feathers, fins, and fur, scales and tails and multiple legs that crawl among the flowers, plants, and trees. Stories can be understood in a myriad of languages. Translation becomes a matter of listening to what one feels as well as to what one hears. I do not view this communion with other species as acts of idolatry or witchcraft or momentary madness, but rather the practice of good manners among neighbors, where peace is maintained through mutual respect and consideration. We learn from one another. Without manners, violence enters the room. Without the decency of imagination, narcissism leads.

~ Terry Tempest Williams
Friday, May 14

1970 :: TWO STUDENTS KILLED IN ANTI-WAR PROTESTS AT JACKSON STATE

Unlike the previous static views of the world, evolution invites us to picture nature as the unfolding of a promise, a promise that has been internal to the universe since its inception.

~ John Haught

Saturday, May 15

1958 :: JAPANESE STUDENTS PROTEST PACIFIC TESTING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Any “discovery” we make about ourselves or the meaning of life is the coming to conscious recognition of something we really knew all the time, but, because we were unwilling or unable to formulate it correctly, we did not know we knew.

~ W.H. Auden

Sunday, May 16

Peace comes from being able to contribute the best that we have, and all that we are, toward creating a world that will support everyone. But it is also securing the space for others to contribute the best that they have and all that they are.

~ Hafsat Abiola

Monday, May 17

1954 :: BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION RULING OUTLAWS SCHOOL SEGREGATION
1968 :: CATONSVILLE 9 BURN DRAFT RECORDS IN VIETNAM WAR PROTEST

One is called to live nonviolently even if the change one works for seems impossible. It may not be possible to turn the United States around through nonviolent revolution. But one thing favors such an attempt: the total inability of violence to change anything for the better.

~ Daniel Berrigan
Tuesday, May 18
1974 :: INDIA EXPLODES FIRST NUCLEAR WEAPON IN RAJASTHAN DESERT

In all the years I have spent standing or sitting on the banks of this river, I have learned this: the more knowledge I have, the greater becomes the mystery of what holds that knowledge together, this reticulated miracle called an ecosystem.

~ Barry Lopez

Wednesday, May 19
1925 :: MALCOLM X BORN

Since the earliest days of this nation’s history, students attending its schools have achieved competence in the four, not three, Rs: Reading, ‘Riting, ‘Rithmetic, and Racism.

~ Malcolm X

On an overpass in Washington state, Ground Zero sends the message to the nuclear forces there. The Kitsap Naval Base serves the US nuclear-armed submarine fleet.
For many of us raised in Christian traditions, a personalization of God in human form is eroding. Human exceptionalism is destroying the living world. For me, a providential faith rooted in religion has evolved into a cosmic faith that supports a conscious unity with all creation. When I held the rescued bluebird in my hands, I was also holding my own liberation. This is not a metaphor but “an ecology of the mind,” where we can change the nature of reality by our focused attention, which is another form of prayer.

Earth has always been a sphere of geologic forces capable of rupturing the surface of things, but now we, too, are force fields of consciousness capable of shifting patterns of thinking. This is the enlightened Anthropocene, not just the destructive one.

If we are to flourish as a species, an erosion of belief will be necessary, one that says we are not the center of the universe, but a dynamic part of an expanding and contracting future that celebrates and collaborates with uncertainty.

~ Terry Tempest Williams
Friday, May 21

What then is surely most new about our modern understanding of life is the idea of evolution. It enables us to see life not as an eternally repeating cycle, but as a process that continually generates and discovers novelty.

~ Lee Smolin

Saturday, May 22

1838 :: Trail of Tears forced march of Cherokees begins; 4,000 will die

A map of our past is the pathfinder to our destiny. Thus, if we misread the map of our past, or consult an incorrect map, we will misdirect our efforts in shaping our future.

~ Nokuzola Mndende

Sunday, May 23

The key to realizing a dream is to focus not on success but on significance. Then, even the smallest steps and the little victories along your path will take on greater meaning.

~ Oprah Winfrey

Monday, May 24

Rediscover in nature your own biology. Write and speak with appreciation for all you have been gifted. Recognize that a politics with no biology, or a politics without field biology, or a political platform in which human biological requirements form but one plank, is a vision of the gates of hell.

~ Barry Lopez
Tuesday, May 25

I believe that every human being is an incarnation of the holy, that we all have the potential to live out that holiness. But a holy life is not merely a life of individual greatness. It is a life that evokes the power inherent in the community we have with one another.

~ Parker Palmer

Wednesday, May 26

The Universe is a unity—an interacting, evolving, and genetically-related community of Beings bound together inseparably in space and time. Our responsibilities to each other and to all of creation are implicit in this unity. Each of us is profoundly implicated in the functioning and fate of every other being on the planet, and ultimately, perhaps, throughout the universe.

~ Chet Raymo
We have not yet begun to gauge the damage to human beings—as a species, entitling themselves sapiens—inflicted by events since 1914. We do not yet begin to grasp the coexistence in time and in space, a coexistence sharpened by the immediacy of graphic and verbal presentation in the global mass media, or Western superfluity, and the starvation, the destitution, the infant mortality that now batten on some three-fifths of humankind. There is a dynamic of clear-sighted lunacy in our waste of what is left of natural resources, of fauna and flora. The south col of Everest is a garbage dump. Forty years after Auschwitz, the Khmer Rouge bury alive an estimated hundred thousand human beings. The rest of the world, fully apprised of the fact, does nothing. New weapons soon start flowing from our factories to the killing fields. To repeat: violence, oppression, economic enslavement, and social irrationalism have been endemic in history, whether tribal or metropolitcan. But this century has give despair a new warrant. It has raised the distinct possibility of the reversal of evolution, of a systematic turnabout toward bestialization.

~ George Steiner
Friday, May 28

1961 :: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDED
1998 :: PAKISTAN TESTS THERMONUCLEAR WEAPONS

My erosion of belief is asking me to let go of what is confortable, the familiar, and to be open to possibilities I haven’t dared to consider, even the acceptance and devotion to other gods outside of my own image, no matter how dangerous.

~ Terry Tempest Williams

Saturday, May 29

The scandalous move right now is to have hope, to look out at the world in love in order to discover it anew in whatever way you can, in whatever form you can, and with love, risking your own heart.

~ Bret Lott

Sunday, May 30

It must be remembered that during most of the past 200 years, the Constitution, as interpreted by this court, did not prohibit the most ingenious and pervasive forms of discrimination against the Negro. Now, when a Senate acts to remedy the effects of that legacy of discrimination, I cannot believe that this same Constitution stands as a barrier.

~ Thurgood Marshall

Monday, May 31

Words like freedom, justice, and democracy are not common concepts. On the contrary, they are rare. People are not born knowing what these are. It takes enormous and, above all, individual effort to arrive at the respect for other people that these words imply.

~ James Baldwin
The United States has neither signed nor ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and declares that the Treaty has no force in the US. In the narrowest legal sense, that is true. The Treaty does have compelling moral force, however, having been approved at the UN by 122 nations, formally signed by 86, and ratified by 54. As adoption of the Treaty spreads across the globe, the pressure on nuclear weapons states to abandon their nuclear stockpiles will grow. Our job is to build on the historic energy of January 22 to build a movement that maintains a growing pressure on the US to sign and ratify the Treaty through a variety of strategies. For more information, check out Nuclear Ban Treaty EIF on Facebook.

At right: top to bottom: At the entrance to Lawrence Livermore National Lab in California; at the Raytheon site in Tucson, Arizona; at the University of Arkansas; and at the Nevada Test Site in Nevada.
Top to bottom:
January 22, 2021 at the entrance to Kings Bay Trident Submarine Base in St. Marys, Georgia; at the Idaho National Lab in Idaho Falls, Idaho; outside the Pentagon in Washington, DC; at the Trinity Test Site in New Mexico.