
The Great Hunt of today takes various forms with the whole world as hunting grounds: there are fishing expeditions to identify domestic enemies, hunts to apprehend undocumented people and suspected terrorists, and hunts for declared enemies in other countries.

The Great Hunt: Return of the Burning Times

by Mary Beaudoin

Today we consider it ridiculous that people once believed human beings possessed supernatural powers and should therefore be burned alive, hung, or broken on a wheel to destroy the devil within. But, demonic possession was once a deeply held belief that spread throughout Europe from Italy to Scandinavia. According to recent scholarship, 40,000 to 60,000 people alleged to practice witchcraft were put to death—the majority between approximately 1550 and 1650, in what historians call the Great Hunt, or the Burning Times.*

In that era, fantastic ideas were put forth to justify belief in the irrational. When the suspected witches of old had airtight alibis, ways were invented to get around them. An accused witch's spouse might testify that she had been sleeping soundly beside him all night in bed, but she could still be found guilty of going abroad in the dark to perform diabolic deeds. This was explained by the idea that a person's spirit could leave her body and take the form of an animal, or a doppelganger (her double or evil twin) and thus she could be in two places at once. The image of witches on broomsticks traversing the night sky was borne of the idea that spirits were leaving their bodies and going off to participate in devil worship, or black sabbaths.

This horrific period gave us the "witch hunt" as a metaphor to describe a frenzied search for perceived enemies, with little regard to their actual guilt or innocence. However, today's politically motivated hunts are no longer predicated on the fear that people actually possess supernatural powers—or are they? The modern mentality no longer holds such irrational beliefs as demonic possession—or does it? It might be worth reflecting on some characteristics of that era when we think about what's happening today—characteristics such as:

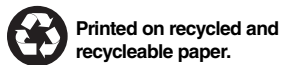
Demonology. The Great Hunt of contemporary times was initiated by U.S. authority and is accompanied by the rising power of NATO. It takes on various forms with the whole world as hunting grounds: there are fishing expeditions to identify domestic enemies, hunts to apprehend undocumented people and suspected terrorists, and hunts for declared enemies in other countries.

A declared enemy in another country often takes the form of an "evil dictator," characterized by possessing such enormous capacity for evil that his power and reach is super-human, far beyond that of mortal men. These dictators are portrayed as able to threaten the best equipped military in the world. It's an oft-repeated mantra that these leaders are "killing their own people." While it's only realistic to acknowledge that some heads of nations do deal harshly with domestic enemies, reports can also be embellished to contribute to a demonic image. Some foreign leaders have even been alleged to perform actions akin to the rituals said to have been observed at witch's sabbaths—killing babies and conducting sexual orgies. In 1991, the 15-year-old daughter of the Kuwaiti ambassador to the U.S. testified that Saddam Hussein's soldiers were dumping babies out of incubators, something that was later proved to be

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"Cat's Cradle" by artist/photographer Janieta Eyre. From a series called "Incarnations," in which she explored her doppelganger through photographic doubles of herself.



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The statements and opinions reflected in this newsletter are the views of the author and not necessarily official positions of WAMM. We encourage a diversity of opinion to represent the range of perspectives that coexist under the banner of WAMM's mission statement.

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The Great Hunt, from front cover

blatantly false. Muammar Gaddafi was reported to have ordered Viagra for his soldiers so that they could supposedly rape the women of Libya, while simultaneously defending their country and themselves against 20,000 NATO sorties.

We are told that the only way to stop these “evil doers” is by “hunting them down” and murdering them in cold blood as was done to witches of old, destroying their tremendous power (“cutting off the head of the snake”). Among those leaders described as diabolic are the late Sadaam Hussein, the late Osama bin Laden, Kim Jong-il, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and Muammar Gaddafi, and to a lesser extent Hugo Chavez and Fidel Castro, who both have escaped multiple assassination attempts. Groups are also described as possessing super-human evil traits: Hamas, Hezbollah, the FARC, the Taliban, Al Qaeda and more recently, Al-Shabaad in Somalia. Evil seems to dwell especially in geographic regions where the U.S. and NATO have “interests.” (Ironically, some of these leaders or groups were originally given or sold weapons and empowered by the U.S. And, in some cases, the U.S. policy of military aggression has been creating more real enemies with potential for blowback, though not on the scale of U.S. military.)

Today, those identified as enemies are hunted with bullets, aerial bombings and unmanned drones. Drone operators in the U.S. refer to targets they site on their scopes, from thousands of miles away, as “scorchers” when they are instantly incinerated by Hellfire missiles. The wicked ones are to be stopped by any means necessary, even if that entails killing innocent people in the process. Hundreds, thousands, even more than a million people have been killed in foreign countries—supposedly to stop these evil dictators and groups. This rationale is reminiscent of the belief that it was better to kill many innocent people than let one witch escape—“Kill them all and let God sort them out.”

Unfair trials, military tribunals, torture, and imprisonment of political enemies are other contemporary practices for dealing with super-human evil. Innocent until proven guilty does not apply.

Satanic forces: Witches of old were thought to be at the command of Satan. While controlling financial entities plunge today’s world into global crisis, the fear of some economic systems is so great that such systems are demonized—communism with its shared resources, socialism with its public ownership, and Islam, which is both a religious and economic system, with laws that include the forgiveness of debt and prohibition of usury (a great inconvenience for the World Bank and the IMF).

“The sleep of reason brings forth monsters.”
 (“El sueño de la razón produce monstruos.”)
 by Francisco Goya,
 1799. From the series
 Los Caprichos.



Fear mongering: In the Burning Times, allegations of witchcraft were supported by the elite in secular society and institutionalized in secular courts, conveniently serving as a means to control the population. But common people often initiated the persecution of alleged witches. Anyone stepping out of line could be under suspicion. The Great Hunt today is dependent on inculcating the U.S. populace with a belief that we must live in constant fear of evil forces. Recently, it was even reported that we should be concerned that our neighbor on the block could actually be a “lone wolf terrorist,” an image evocative of a werewolf. It’s the business of corporate media, Fox News, and Clear Channel radio to generate fears like this.

Vulnerability of victims: In the Burning Times, men were also accused of witchcraft, but 75-80% of people accused of witchcraft were women. Vulnerability increased the possibility of being targeted. Today, people from the Middle East and Somalia, people of color, dissidents, antiwar and union organizers, peace activists, international solidarity activists—those who object to U.S. foreign policy—have been targeted for their beliefs. Most of the people recently subpoenaed to appear at a federal grand jury investigation of “material support for terrorism” were women in the Midwest. Two Somali women, naturalized American citizens from Rochester, Minnesota, are currently facing trial in a U.S. district federal court with this accusation.

Much of the hunting in the Burning Times took place in border regions between nation states. Today, the southern border of the United States is a main focus for hunting undocumented Latinos. In Maricopa County, Arizona, a notorious sheriff even boasts of a partnership with local citizens to hunt down the undocumented.

Teachers and nurses and their unions, welfare recipients, Social Security and Medicare recipients aren’t blamed for crop failure or a cow dying, but they were blamed for the country’s economic woes. Although there are certainly men in all of these categories, the majority are women.

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The Great Hunt, from page 2

Kill lists: In the twenty-first century, the executive branch has expanded the hunt to include killing unarmed people without trial. Supposedly, Navy Seals killed Osama bin Laden in a house in Pakistan. And now even American citizens living abroad can be killed without a trial. Most recently the cleric Anwar al-Awlaki was hunted and killed in Yemen, not for actual acts but for “inspiring acts.” Also, killed was another American citizen, Samar Khan, the editor of an internet publication, who was said to be influencing un-American acts. Many of those accused of witchery in the past centuries were at least given trials.

Torture: In the Burning Times, suspected witches were often tortured in attempts to extract confessions. In the contemporary world, torture has been used for the same purpose. But, it is just as irrational to expect anything but a confession of guilt because it is well known that people will confess to anything when tortured. Torture is used to create evidence that isn't there.

Hunters with economic and career motives: Witch hunting was an occupation with a monetary reward during the Great Hunt. In July of 2010 in an investigative series for the *Washington Post*, Dana Priest and William Arkin reported that, after 9/11 “some 1,271 government organizations and 1,931 private companies work on programs related to counterterrorism, homeland security and intelligence in about 10,000 locations across the United States.” This means thousands of careers and jobs, in both public and private sectors, are dependent on producing results, and that means the hunt is greatly expanding. The weapons industry and related war profiteers have overarching economic motives, as well.

Removal of people for gain: While people actually believed in witchcraft during the Burning Times, there were also times when real power struggles and land issues were involved. Some historians have concluded that societal instability was a factor in Europe: Most of the executions occurred



Recent scholarship, based on actual court records, estimates that 40,000 to 60,000 people were executed as witches in the Burning Times when the Great European Witch Hunt was on.

in central Europe: in the German states, the Swiss Federation, parts of France, and in border regions between nation states during the Reformation when there were power struggles between Catholicism and Protestantism. Today, the U.S. and its allies conduct hunts on foreign soil to capture land, resources and power. Eliminating defenders of the land allows the land and its resources to fall into the hands of occupiers or prevents other powers from gaining access. Those who try to defend a geographic area, its people and resources are considered evil and enemies. Those in sympathy with the defenders may also be considered suspect and are sometimes persecuted.

When will it end? The Great Hunt in Europe finally was nearly over at the end of the seventeenth century. When will the Great Hunt of this era end? The people's occupations taking place in public squares are a hopeful sign.

We must put a stop to the insanity of our day before more of our fellow human beings here and around the world are incarcerated, or incinerated. While people in other countries are burned alive from Hellfire missiles and white phosphorous, protesters here may risk temporary trauma from having their eyes burned with pepper spray. But allowing the Burning Times of our era to continue is far more risky.

*Witch panics spread to the American colonies, where an estimated 35 to 37 people were put to death.

Sources for historical information about the Burning Times from Behringer, Wolfgang (2004) Cambridge, UK: Parity Press. *Witches and Witch-Hunts: a global history*; Briggs, Robin (1996) *Witches & Neighbors: The Social and Cultural Context of European Witchcraft*. New York: Penguin Books; Cohn, Norman (1975). *Europe's Inner Demons*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press; Gibbons, Jenny (1998) <http://draeconin.com/database/witchhunt.htm>. “Recent Developments in the Study of the Great European Witch Hunt”

Mary Beaudoin is the editor of the WAMM newsletter.

Stop A Witch Hunt!

See stopfbi.net and mnStopFBI.wordpress.com, or call (612) 379-3585



Photo: Fight Back News

Drop the Charges on Carlos Montes

A raid on the Los Angeles home of long-time Chicano activist Carlos Montes was instigated by the FBI as a part of their ongoing campaign against anti-war and international solidarity activists. Arraignment court appearance was October 17. Read about Carlos at www.fightbacknews.org. Sign the petition to support him at stopfbi.net



Photo: Ross Rowley

Freedom Plaza Encampment, Washington, D.C.

Tent in the foreground pitched in Freedom Plaza, Washington, D.C., October 2011, by Coleen Rowley.

People are empowering themselves to the end wars. The park permit is extended for four months; there will be more opportunity to participate. FFI: www.october2011

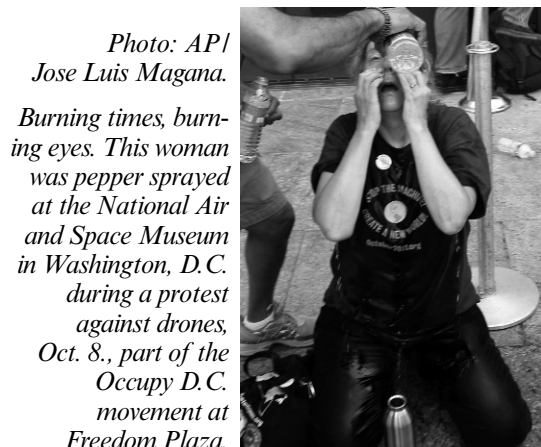


Photo: AP/ Jose Luis Magana.

Burning times, burning eyes. This woman was pepper sprayed at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. during a protest against drones, Oct. 8., part of the Occupy D.C. movement at Freedom Plaza.



A "Wall Street" street sign is superimposed on the image for the Commerce, Insurance, and Economic Development link on ALEC's web site.

Being Smart about ALEC

by Carol Masters

What Is ALEC? The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC.org) comprises not only legislators but "members of the private sector who share ALEC's mission." Its mission? "To advance the Jeffersonian principles of free markets, limited government, federalism, and individual liberty."

What's wrong with that? There may be clues in ALEC's self-descriptions, its constituencies, and the ways the organization works.

ALEC's function is to write, or rewrite, legislation and facilitate passing certain "model bills" that have far-reaching effects on many aspects of people's lives and have, as well, many benefits to certain corporations' bottom lines. Corporate executives appear to be the driving force in ALEC's shaping of public policy. Behind closed doors, corporate representatives give state legislators changes they desire to laws and members "vote" on changes to be brought to state legislatures. That's why similar bills are introduced into the legislature of all 50 states.

A list of the policy areas in ALEC's sights shows how comprehensive the policy interests are: Nine task forces serve as the "laboratories" where public policies are developed and shaped. Each task force has a chair from the public and the private sector, and corporations are well represented on every committee. The task forces are:

- Civil Justice
- Health and Human Services
- Commerce, Insurance, and Economic Development (A street sign, "WALL ST" is superimposed on the image for this link.)
- Education; Energy, Environment, and Agriculture
- Telecommunications and Information Technology
- Tax and Fiscal Policy
- the oddly conjoined Public Safety and Elections (the background on this link is a yellow CRIME SCENE barrier tape).
- International Relations. With uncommon candor and/or arrogance, the organization states that the members of the International Relations Task Force assert "the power of free markets and limited government to propel economic growth not just in the United States but around the globe."

Who Are These People? ALEC says that it's non-partisan. You can judge that for yourself. Alumni include John Boehner, Eric Cantor, Congressman Joe Wilson (the infamous shouter who called the President a "liar" during the State of the Union address), former House Speaker Dennis Hastert, former House Speaker Tom DeLay, Andrew Card, Donald Rumsfeld (1985 chair of ALEC's Business Policy Board), Governor Scott Walker, and more (www.alecexposed.org).

Corporate-Funded. Corporations fund almost all of ALEC's operations. The Center for Media and Democracy reports that 98 percent of ALEC's funding comes from companies like Exxon Mobil, corporate "foundations" like the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation, or trade associations like the pharmaceutical industry's PhRMA. Legislators pay dues, which, however, account for less than two percent of the operating expenses. The funds subsidize legislators' trips to ALEC meetings, where they are wined, dined, and handed the model legislation to make law in their state.

Koch Industries (pronounced "coke") is one of the largest privately owned companies in the United States and owns companies involved in refining; pollution control equipment and technologies; minerals; fertilizers; polymers and fibers; commodity trading and services; forest and consumer products; and ranching. Co-owners Charles Koch and David Koch, through their representation on ALEC's governing boards, have considerable influence over ALEC bills and thus shape legislation, particularly in environmental matters and education, that touches every state.

According to Lisa Graves, in *The Nation*, August 1-8, 2011, "the Kochs have a penchant for paying their way out of serious violations and coming out ahead." A Texas ALEC model bill, now law, gives corporations immunity from penalties if they tell regulators about their environmental violations. There are dozens of such ALEC bills that limit environmental regulations in ways that would benefit Koch.

Profits are as much behind ALEC's agenda as ideology, *Nation* reporter John Nichols told *Fresh Air's* Terry Gross. "[ALEC's] goal is the advancement of an agenda that seems to be dictated at almost every turn by multinational corporations. . . . ALEC is very, very active in [the] opening up of areas via privatization for corporations to make more money, particularly in places you might not usually expect, like public education."*

Education. Parents United for Public Schools (www.parentsunited.org) provides an exhaustive list of ALEC-sponsored bills that have undermined K-12 public education, including:

- Promoting voucher programs that drain public schools of resources
- Creating a scheme to deem public schools "educationally bankrupt" to rationalize giving taxpayer dollars to almost completely unregulated private schools, rather than addressing any problems
- Certifying individuals with no education background as teachers—a move that would weaken the quality of education. This policy is one



Photo: Twin Cities Daily Planet/Ibrahim Hirsi

The People's Plaza, Minneapolis Empowered people renamed the Hennepin County Government Center Plaza the "People's Plaza," as movements sprang up from Wall Street in New York to San Francisco and from Minneapolis to Dallas.

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flyer goes here--sent separately

October 2011 WAMM Calendar

Please note that WAMM's provision of information on other group's events is not meant to convey or endorse any action contrary to public policy that would be inconsistent with exempt purposes under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) i.e., charitable purposes.

Ongoing WAMM Vigils for Peace

Vigil to End the War on Iraq:

Every Wednesday, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge spanning the Mississippi River between Minneapolis and St. Paul. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

Vigil Outside of Weapons Merchant Alliant Techsystems: Every Wednesday, 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. at 7480 Flying Cloud Drive, Eden Prairie. "Who Profit\$? Who Dies?" Sponsored by: Alliant ACTION. FFI and directions: call 612-701-6963 or visit www.alliantaction.org.

Vigil to End the Occupation of Palestine: Every Friday, 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. at Summit and Snelling Avenues, St. Paul. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

For information on additional peace vigils in Minnesota and Wisconsin, call the WAMM office at 612-827-5364 or visit www.worldwidewamm.org.

Ongoing WAMM Committee Meetings

Board Meeting: Third Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m. at the Sabathani Community Center, 310 East 38th Street, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

Book Club: Second Saturday of each month, 10:00 a.m. FFI and Location: Contact Suzy, 651-451-8627 or suzykoch@comcast.net.

Iraq Committee: First Monday of each month, 5:30 p.m. FFI: Call Marie, 612-522-1861.

Middle East Committee: Second Monday of each month, 9:30 a.m. at the Sabathani Community Center, 310 East 38th Street, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

Media Committee: FFI: Email the committee, wammmedia@gmail.com.

St. Joan of Arc/WAMM Peacemakers: Fourth Tuesday of each month, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church, Parish Center, 4537 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Barbara, 612-722-4444

Tackling Torture at the Top (T3): Second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, 10:00 a.m. at Afro Deli and Coffee, 1939 5th Street South (Riverside and 20th Avenue), Minneapolis.

Ongoing Events

Committee to Stop FBI Repression. Every other Thursday, 7:00 p.m. at Walker Church, 304 16th Ave. South, Minneapolis. Stand with the people subpoenaed in a witch hunt, defend civil liberties. Learn what you can do. All who stand up and act for justice and solidarity are welcome. FFI: See stopfbi.net and mnStopFBI.wordpress.com, or call (612) 379-3585.

People of Faith Peacemakers Breakfast: Second and fourth Wednesdays, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. at new location: African Development Center, Riverside and 20th Avenues. A resource and support group for those concerned about peace with justice from a faith perspective. FFI: www.justview-point.org or call 763-784-5177

Grandmothers for Peace: First Wednesday 12:45 p.m. at Edina Public Library, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina. Program around justice issue that helps us to understand our role in changing unjust systems. FFI: 952-929-1566

Tea Time Conversational Salons: Most Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Mad Hatter's Teahouse, 943 West Seventh St., St. Paul. Salons are open to all. Suggested donations \$3-\$5 include tea, treats. FFI: 651-227-2511 or 651-227-3228.

Third Thursday Global Issues Forum: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Hennepin Ave. United Methodist Church, Groveland at Lyndale Ave., Minneapolis. FFI: globalsolutionsmn.org

Middle East Peace Now: Usually 2nd or 3rd Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Refreshments, 10:00 a.m. Program. Location may vary. FFI: Call 651-696-1642 or see www.mepn.org

MN 9/11 Truth: Second Tuesday of each month, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Rondo Community Outreach Library, 461 North Dale Street, St. Paul. Meets to educate and discuss the events of 9/11/2001. FFI: Visit www.mn911truth.org.

Active Nonviolence Training: Interactive session (non-lecture and non-reading) in social change analysis, community-building and project planning to strengthen our group for action. FFI and to register, visit www.creatingacultureofpeace.org

Special Events

Grand Jury Indictment Emergency Action: If the Federal Grand Jury indicts Sarah Martin, Ahn Pham or Tracy Molm, or if other activists are re-subpoenaed, there will be an emergency action held at 4:30 p.m. at the U.S. Federal Building, 4th St & 4th Ave, Downtown Minneapolis. Watch for action alerts. FFI: See stopfbi.net and mnStopFBI.wordpress.com, or call (612) 379-3585.

WAMM Speak-Out! Enough is Enough! Saturday, October 29, 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon, African Deli & Coffee, Meridel LeSueur Conference Room, 1939 5th St S., Minneapolis. Start of ongoing WAMM meetings to include new people, discuss current peace, justice issues. This one a Speak Out! Voice what's upsetting you about the state of our country. We'll discuss actions, resistance, take action as part of the meeting. All WAMM members, interested non-members urged to attend.

Save the Date: Sing the Great Songs of Peace Community Sing Saturday, November 5, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Minneapolis Eagles Club, 2507 East 25th St., Minneapolis. Details see flyer page 5. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

National Conference of Committee to Stop FBI Repression November 5, Chicago, IL. Featuring Carlos Montes, Chicano leader, immigrant rights activist, facing trial after FBI/ LA Sheriffs' raid and Midwest Grand Jury Resisters: 23 anti-war and international solidarity activists subpoenaed to U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald's Grand Jury in Chicago after FBI raids Sept. 24, 2010. Speakers: Steve Downs, Project Salam; Arab, Muslim, other groups facing U.S. government repression. Speakers on: civil rights, civil liberties, the law, organizing against war, occupations. Organized by: Committee to Stop FBI Repression. Questions? Write to info@stopfbi.net.

Move to Amend: End Corporate Rule and Build Democracy Tuesday, November 8, 7:00 p.m., Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, 511 Groveland at Lyndale. Hear David Cobb, inspiring spokesperson. "We aren't against corporations, just their 'personhood.'" Big money combined with corporate "personhood" is hijacking democracy, influencing elections and the legislative process. What to do. Sponsored by Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers. Tickets: \$5 at the door, or in advance at 612-338-1548 or 612-871-2229. Petition and FFI: MovetoAmend.org

Reserve Your Spot Today: Protest the School of the Americas November 18 through 21 Fort Benning, GA. Veterans for Peace, Chapter 27, has openings on their bus for the annual trip to close the School of the Americas (SOA). Rally to close the infamous SOA renamed Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHIMSEC). Cost: \$200.00 (transportation); \$100.00 (hotel room for one night—up to four persons per room). Space is limited. FFI and Reservations: Call Jim Steinhagen, 612-722-1112 or Wayne Wittman, 651-774-4008.

Additional upcoming events are listed at www.worldwidewamm.org, or you may call the WAMM office for more information: 612-827-5364. Other peace and justice events can be found on Minnesota Alliance for Peacemakers at www.mapm.org.

PM Kansas City, Missouri vs. the Nuclear Industry

by Polly Mann

Some Kansas City residents are opposing plans of Centerpoint Zimmer (CPZ) to build a 1.5 million square foot nuclear plant in their city that would provide 85% of the components of U.S. nuclear weapons at a cost of \$673 million. The federal government will lease the site and plant for 20 years after which CPZ will buy it for \$10. The Kansas City Council will issue \$815 million in bond subsidies from urban blight funds to build the complex.

Opponents have questioned the government's need for building more nuclear weapons as the U.S. already possesses 8,500 nuclear weapons: What of the government's commitment to engage in treaties for nuclear disarmament? How does the new plant fit into the administration's pledge to free the world of nuclear weapons? And, why should they be forced to subsidize the U.S. military-industrial complex with their tax dollars?



Peace Planters join hands in an action opposing a nuclear plant in Kansas City.

The city's peace and disarmament community have stepped into the fray and formed a coalition, Kansas City Peace Planters, which has initiated a petition campaign to place a proposition on the November 8, 2011 election ballot that would reject building a plant for weapons and instead support "green energy" technologies.

In June 2011, the U.S. Council of Mayors voted for a resolution instructing the president to join leaders of other nuclear states in implementing UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's plan for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by 2020. It includes modernization of nuclear weapons.

Archbishop Francis Chullikatt, the Vatican's ambassador to the U.N., in a speech made in Kansas City in July of 2011 said, "Viewed from a legal, political, security and most of all—moral perspective, there is no justification today for the continued maintenance of nuclear weapons." *The Catholic Reporter's* comment was that "The U.S. trudges unheeding down the nuclear path. Now more than ever we need to attend to the messages of the often marginalized peacemakers in our midst." Actually they aren't so marginalized: Nearly 5,000 signed the petition to reject the nuclear weapons plant.

On August 25th the Kansas City Council voted 12 to one to bar the proposition from the ballot. The petitioners then sued to block Council interference. CPZ and its contractor, the Honeywell Corporation, and its rinds secured a court decision to delay action for years. In response, Peace Planters crafted a new petition that would cut off city funding for the plant.

Whatever the outcome, the struggle itself is hopeful—indicating that many Americans are appalled by the prospect of more nuclear weapons.

Polly Mann is a co-founder of Women Against Military Madness and a regular contributor and columnist for the WAMM newsletter. She serves on the WAMM Newsletter Committee.

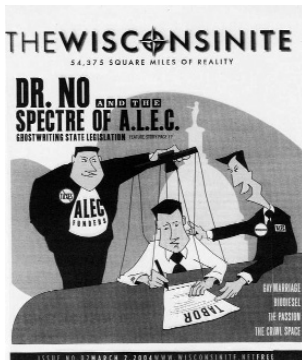


It is beyond ironic, in fact numbingly stupefying, that our nation can decry Iran's attempt to enrich uranium for a potential bomb while we continue to modernize our illegal nuclear weapons and extend the life of present bombs for another 40-60 years—all at a time when our President claims a goal of zero nuclear weapons, beginning with the New START Treaty.

—Steve Clemons, Minneapolis peace activist, who joined the protest in Kansas City, MO.

Being Smart, continued from page 4

The cover of the Madison-based newspaper *The Wisconsinite*, 2004: evidence that ALEC has haunted the state for some time. Current governor, Scott Walker, then a legislator, is depicted on the right.



inroad for military personnel to teach in public schools, even in primary grades

- Eliminating tenure for teachers in favor of "performance," allowing districts to fire professionally trained older teachers in favor of lower-cost young people who may begin teaching without professional training
- Undermining teacher's unions

ALEC in Minnesota. All three Minnesota education chairs—Rep. Pat Garofalo, Farmington; Rep. Sondra Erickson, Princeton; and Sen. Gen Olson, Minnetrista—are members of the ALEC Education Task Force. And currently there are many more Minnesota legislators in both the House and Senate who belong to ALEC.

Carol Masters is a long-time WAMM member and activist. She serves on the WAMM Newsletter Committee.

*Quoted in Beth Hawkins, "Parents United collection catalogs influence of secretive ALEC," *MinnPost*, August 8, 2011



Photo: Tom Bottolene

ATK Leaves Minnesota
Vigilers at the door of the Minnesota headquarters of weapons manufacturer Alliant TechSystems (ATK). Years of vigiling ended in October when ATK moved its headquarters to Washington, D.C. These dedicated vigilers will continue to work for peace in another way.

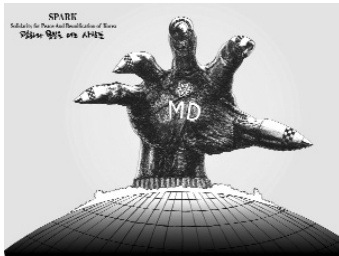


Photo: Solidarity for Peace & Reunification of Korea (SPARK)
Japanese poster depicting missile defense's destructive threat over the world.

RESOURCES

Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space

Proposed treaties, key space issues such as the EU and China's steps toward militarization of space, NASA's activities, corporations involved in weapons, military expenditures, missile defense and space lobbies, video of "Strategic Command: 2011 and Beyond: One-Stop Dominance," *Space Alert!* newsletter, *This Issue* online audio and video program, resistance actions, events and more. space4peace.org

CLASSIFIED ADS

Not a Nursing Home

Sheridan House provides 24-hour care for five elderly in a home setting. Private rooms, loveable dog, fellowship and community. Licensed. Operated by WAMM member Sally Kundert. Dementia and general care. County funds or private. 612-866-4637.

Marla Kennedy, M.A., L.M.F.T.

Licensed marriage and family therapist, parent educator, speaker on parenting for peace and justice. Call 651-645-3303

Stealing from Our Future: Space Militarization

by Bruce Gagnon

Native Americans tell the story of how the white man came to be named Wasichu, the fat-taker. "You shall know him as washi-manu, steal-all, or better by the name of fat-taker, wasichu, because he will take the fat of the land. He will eat up everything. . . . This new man is coming, coming to live among you. He will lie, and his lie never ends. He is going to make a dark, black hoop around the world."

Today the fat-taker lives in the White House, the Congress, the Pentagon, and inside the aerospace industry.

The weapons industry wants increases in military spending during the coming year and is blaming the nation's fiscal crisis on "entitlement programs" like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Social progress in America is being destroyed to fatten the weapons corporations and their rich allies.

Barack Obama has been associated with the Crown family in Chicago, who were majority stockholders in General Dynamics. Once in office, Obama rejected George W. Bush's version of "missile defense" and instead changed course to primarily rely on the version of missile defense that is based on Navy Aegis destroyers, made by General Dynamics at Bath Iron Works in Maine. These ships are outfitted with "missile defense" interceptor missiles that are having the most success in their testing phase. Obama has increased the building and porting of these ships—and is using them to surround Russia and China by deploying them in waters off the coasts of both nations. Thus Obama is recreating the Cold War, as Russia and China are forced to take serious countermeasures. (Missile defense systems are used as the shield to take out a nation's nuclear retaliatory strike after the U.S. has launched a first-strike attack on their nuclear forces.)

Russia has the world's largest supply of natural gas and significant supplies of oil. China has the world's leading economy, and the Pentagon has made the decision that while the U.S. won't be able to compete with China monetarily, if we can encircle it with our military then we can control its access to resources that fuel its economy. China imports 80 percent of its oil on ships via the Yellow Sea. The U.S. is now doubling its military operations in the Asia-Pacific in order to develop the ability to choke off China's shipping lanes—thus the Pentagon believes the U.S. would hold the keys to China's economic engine.

One new port for these Navy Aegis destroyers, with missile offense systems on board, would be in the small fishing and farming village of Gangjeong on Jeju Island in South Korea. Villagers are

fighting to prevent the destruction of their way of life, but Jeju sits at the strategic entryway of the Yellow Sea and would be a prime naval facility in the U.S. effort to surround China's coast.

The U.S. Space Command predicts that because of "corporate globalization" the gap between "haves" and "have-nots" will widen worldwide in coming years. With space "control and domination" in place, the Space Command will become the military arm of the multinational corporations, enabling the U.S. to suppress those who stand against corporate global dominance.

The fat-takers now have a global strategy. Suppress all the people around the world. Lower the standard of living for everyone. Cut social spending and increase profits for the few. Control the people of the world by controlling space. With space "full-spectrum dominance" in place, the military will be able to hear everything, see everything, and target everyone on Earth.

Each October since 2001, the Global Network has organized an international week of protest to stop the militarization of space, called "Keep Space for Peace Week." Groups organize local events in order to build consciousness about space issues and to help create a global movement to deal with the militarization of the heavens.

We are back to the days of kings, queens, lords, and castles protected by knights in shining armor. The time has come for the peasants to organize and revolt. Our children's future depends on it. If we want to stop space militarization and endless war, we must fight for social progress. Guns and butter are no longer possible. It's coming down to one or the other.

Bruce Gagnon is the coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space (www.space4peace.org) and has worked on space issues for more than 20 years. He organizes and speaks internationally, has written for Earth Island Journal, CounterPunch, Z Magazine, Space News, National Catholic Reporter, Asia Times, Le Monde Diplomatique, and Canadian Dimension, and has been featured on 60 Minutes. He edits the newsletter Space Alert, and is host of This Issue, a cable TV program that airs in his home state, Maine.

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Coalition Against NATO/G8 War & Poverty Agenda

by Meredith Aby

Chicago will host the NATO/G8 summit from May 15-22, 2012. Simultaneously, the U.S.-financed 28-nation military alliance, NATO, is meeting with a summit of the G8 world powers, the main economic council of wealthy nations. The G8 includes the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, U.S., Canada, and Russia. NATO has been a leading force conducting war on Afghanistan and Libya. Similarly, the G8's austerity measures have been a recipe for poverty across the globe. Acting together—with NATO as the enforcer and G8 as the economic lever—these two entities work to control the distribution of the world's resources.

In response, the Coalition Against NATO/G8 War and Poverty Agenda was formed and gathered in Chicago to organize protests. More than 200 people representing 73 organizations from across the country met this past August to plan major protests to be held on May 15 and May 19, at the beginning and end of the NATO/G8 summit. Twelve activists from Twin Cities organizations participated in the conference, bringing experience gained and lessons learned from organizing protests at the 2008 Republican National Convention in St. Paul.

It is important for the antiwar movement to seize the opportunity of this historic NATO/G8 summit to demand that our public money be used for human needs, not war.

Let's respond to the call to organize Minnesotans to travel to Chicago in May to demand an end to NATO warfare and G-8 enforced poverty. We will march, with tens of thousands of people under the banner: "Jobs, Housing, Healthcare, Education, Pensions, the Environment—Not War!"

What to do right now: Say no to police repression now. Sign a letter to Chicago Mayor Rahm Emmanuel to demand that the City of Chicago grant us permits to rally and march to the NATO/G8 summit, guarantee our civil liberties, guarantee that there will be no spying, infiltration of organizations, or other attacks by the FBI or partner law enforcement agencies. See: <http://www.stopfbi.net/get-involved/nato-g8-police-repression>

Meredith Aby is a founder of the Twin Cities Antiwar Committee, long time participant in the Minnesota Peace Action Committee (formerly Iraq Peace Action Coalition) and was an organizer of the antiwar march during the 2008 RNC in St. Paul.

WAMM THANKS

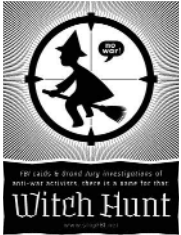
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Beginning of ongoing WAMM meetings to include new people, discuss current peace and justice issues. This first meeting is a Speak Out! —to find out what you are most concerned about.

Voice your outrage about what's upsetting you about the state of our country: endless wars, the loss of our freedoms, Wall Street gambling, the economic crisis and growing inequality of wealth, climate change and denial, voting on gay marriage, defunding of public services and attacks on workers, the corporate takeover of politics . . .

We'll discuss actions and resistance, and we'll take action as part of the meeting. All WAMM members and interested non-members are urged to attend.