

1: The Power Of Conscience Sermon by Marcel Odimgbe, 1 Timothy - www.enganchecubano.com

Conscience and Power is the first full-length study to systematically consider the problem of "dirty hands" among political leaders. It will be of interest to students, teachers, and researchers in the fields of history, philosophy, and international relations.

Your conscience largely determines the events of your life. You need a healthy conscience to avoid a shipwreck. Apart from the Holy Spirit, you are the greatest help you need to live a holy life. No policy can police your destiny like your conscience. Paul the apostle said to his son in the gospel, Timothy, in 1 Timothy 1: You should possess a good conscience, not an evil conscience, or a conscience that adapts to evil and interprets evil as good. You need a good conscience, which some have put away concerning faith. In other words, they think faith can substitute for a good conscience. So, they confess, profess, declare, and nothing manifests, because faith without a good conscience is heading for a shipwreck. The enemy constantly guns for your conscience, because he wants to rule your conscience and ultimately ruin your life. How he can rule your conscience is by making you see evil as good and even celebrate it. The kind of conscience you have determines whether your life is orderly or disorderly. I, therefore, decree that every dead conscience comes back to life, in the name of Jesus. For your body to stay alive, you have to exercise it. Likewise, for your conscience and my conscience to stay alive, we need to exercise it. Your conscience is positioned by God to serve as the custodian of your destiny. It sends warning signals, so you are careful what you do. But when your conscience pricks you again and again, you begin to grieve the conscience; and when the grieving is not healed, you kill the conscience. It leaves you to do as you want. Also in Romans 9: A healthy conscience will always culminate in a great destiny because the integrity of the upright shall preserve them, but the wickedness of men shall destroy them Prov. Integrity is only made possible by an active conscience. Your conscience is actively alive to constantly send warning signals, so you can tread the right path. The area you will need to guard against, if you must keep your conscience alive, is to not join others in doing evil simply because you think others are doing it. The Bible highlights some of such evils in 2 Timothy 3: For men shall be lovers of their own selves not concerned about what matters to the next person; children will be organizing the death of their fathers; they will be lovers of their own selves. Also, they will be covetous, such that they want what belongs to someone else by all means; boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, constantly faking it, operating mechanized love. False accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. They deny the reality of the power of God that works in the midst of men, so they want to cut corners; they want to go through other means to get it. The Bible warns that from such turn away, otherwise they will tear you apart. Every child of God should be allergic to these evils. When you stay in an environment where these things are being perpetrated and you join them, you may not have a way of escape, except by an act of deliverance. Remember one day we are going to stand before the throne of judgment and everyone will give account of what he has done in the days of his flesh.

2: Strategy & Conscience: Subverting Elite Power To End Human Violence | The Liberty Beacon

The Power of Conscience. Every Man's Conscience Is The Custodian Of His Destiny. Your conscience largely determines the events of your life. You need a healthy conscience to avoid a shipwreck.

Tap here to turn on desktop notifications to get the news sent straight to you. We have this tragic misperception that humanity is predisposed to violence. The truth is that humanity is predisposed to peace. The default position for humanity is that of conscientious objector to war and violence. Science has proven it, too. This tendency for cooperation over competition is evident in daily life: And most of it is so commonplace, we barely even notice it. We take our nonviolence for granted. And so does the news. What makes the news is violence, not cooperation. Particularly, on our local news programs, the top stories are the ones that depict street crimes and "home invasions. We all make decisions based on patterns we observe, and if the patterns we observe are highlighting violence, we are going to decide that humanity is violent. How does this relate to war? If we believe that violence among humans is natural, we will believe that war is inevitable. But violence is not natural. Our conscience tells us killing another human being is wrong. And it is the military that knows this better than anyone. The military has taken notice that, over time, and through the history of war, the vast majority of individuals refuse to shoot to kill. That means, instead of firing directly at an "enemy," soldiers used here to cover all members of the Armed Forces: Today, that number could be even higher. There is a science that examines the mental and physical effects of killing and combat on the human psyche; it is called killology. It is the science of circumventing the conscience. Our conscience knows that taking another human life is wrong. So the training has been developed to teach a soldier to kill without thinking, without filtering through the conscience. When we take the time to think -- to filter through the conscience -- we make better decisions. And in the case of war and killing, the vast majority of us already have decided. And did volunteers join the military with a desire to kill, or for some other purpose? In my experience, talking as I do to members of the military everyday, people that volunteer hold a sincere desire to serve and protect and to do something bigger than themselves. We call it "the service," after all. The people who join the military are some of the most beautiful, selfless, and loving people you could know. And they suffer consequences for the same reasons. Military training dulls the conscience, but not forever. Very likely, the conscience is going to come back. We all can relate to that just through our normal experiences of life. Now, put that on the scale a million times greater: Even being trained to kill can and does cause trauma because it is so foreign from what our instincts tell us is right. This trauma, these wounds to the soul - moral injuries - are caused by transgressions against the conscience. Hundreds of thousands of veterans are struggling with this trauma, which is different than the trauma that is experienced by a rape survivor or a hijack survivor. Moral injury is an inner conflict. The Marines did a study in that revealed that much of the trauma the service members were experiencing was about guilt and betrayal of conscience. So, is humanity predisposed to violence? They all tell us that violence is human nature. Even the peace movement falls victim to this myth. We think, "people who join the military are different from me. Between 22 and 35 veterans -- depending on who is counting -- and an average of one active duty service member are killing themselves every day. Remember, 22,, men and women have served in the armed forces, and the suicide rate among veterans is double the national average of Too often, soldiers in crisis believe they have only two choices: Of the two, violating their orders is a piece of cake. But the violation of the conscience? We are just beginning to understand its consequences, and they can be immeasurable. Based in Washington, D. You may reprint this article in whole or in part. Please credit any text or original research you use to Other Worlds.

3: The Power of Conscience | Revolv

If the conscience of this nation, of the world is to be strengthened and given adequate nourishment to continue to grow into maturity, it is up to the Power of each of us to exercise our consciences in the use of the democratic process.

Or that if a congressman had helped a fellow legislator refuse a bribe, the tide of corruption might have been stemmed? If citizen after citizen had said no to fascism, would the monolithic forces of World War II have gathered? Terrorism, corruption, despotism, have to trample individual conscience in order to dominate society. Is individual conscience defenseless? Not if we realize that it is supported by divine law. And as for me, thou upholdest me in mine integrity, and settest me before thy face for ever. Christ Jesus is the best example of the power of spiritual integrity that is the essence of conscience. He challenged the very root of these destructive forces -- the unquestioning acceptance of a life supposedly born into matter, dependent on matter, and dying out of matter. The spiritual integrity of the Christ, the immortal power that moved Jesus, cut to the quick this despotism of materialism. Neither the threats of those who would misuse their temporal power nor the threats of disease and deformity cowed Jesus. He obeyed the voice of Truth. The result of his obedience was healing -- not only healing of disease but also transformation of character through the healing of sin. An adulteress was given new direction and saved from stoning. Zacchaeus changed his greedy ways. And in his final proof of his Christly nature, Jesus defeated his enemies with his resurrection from the grave. Could you pass a US citizenship test? That law gives each of us the direction and courage to act with spiritually impelled integrity. It is not naive, therefore, to consider that all of us, wherever we are -- at the conference table, on the battlefield, in the streets, in prison -- can exercise our right to conscience. Though we may think we are not in a seat of power or place of influence, each of us commands attention through his or her obedience to spiritual integrity. In our thoughts and lives we contribute to the atmosphere of integrity -- to the recognition of the right of conscience in our world. The quality of our life and the quality of our prayers offer solutions to a world in need of the purity that a deeply inspired integrity assures. Then is the power of Truth demonstrated, -- made manifest in the destruction of error. As we pray with the knowledge of the scientific divine law creating and backing individual integrity, we help counteract the mental malaise that would keep us and others from exercising the right of conscience and halting despotism of any kind.

4: Strategy and Conscience: Subverting Elite Power So We End Human Violence | Dissident Voice

The Power of Conscience is a silent film short film directed by Theodore Wharton and starring Francis X. Bushman. It was produced by the Essanay Film Company and distributed through General Film Company.

My girl I appoint with you an appointment, and I charge you that you make preparation to be worthy to meet me, And I charge you that you be patient and perfect till I come. It is better to plant seeds than to accuse the earth. The world needs all of our power and love and energy, and each of us has something that we can give. The trick is to find it and use it, to find it and give it away. So there will always be more. Each of us is a seed, a silent promise, and it is always spring. Maybe not each of us individually could pull this off, but the means exist for someone or someones to destroy everything from the smallest microbe to every animal, plant, and human on the planet. What an absolutely remarkable Power we have as a species! There is no such threat of such power against us as a species from any other species – except, perhaps, from ourselves. And I would venture to say that this Power to kill has served us well as a species in order to perpetuate our survival as a species. To kill or be killed has been the modus operandi in lieu of being able to flee what threatens our survival. You can see this in our evolution: And even the eventual attack on and killing of bacteria and viruses that have threatened our survival is witness to our excellent capacity for killing that which threatens us. Killing has been an effective way of assuring the survival of a human individual, a tribe, a society, a culture. But along the way in our cultural evolution the use of violence, of killing each other for the perpetuation of our human survival, has given way to other means of existence that are not so dependent on violence and killing of other human beings; the unfolding discovery, if you would, of human groups being able to survive using less violence to sustain a group began to emerge. This is not the time to explore that in depth for it is a study in itself, but suffice it to say that violence as the preferred means for survival has given way to social order and some established structure of values within human communities that has reduced the use of violence, of killing as the expected norm of sustaining human survival. He essentially shows in his research that: Why brutality is declining and empathy is on the rise is what his work is about. Pinker contends that violence has declined because historical circumstances have increasingly favored our better angels. No longer do we the majority of humans simply accept killing as the default survival tool. So we are tuned into killing, into violence in a heightened way, because we see the threat of the use of this survival tool anywhere in the world as an increasing threat to us! And this is especially true where the ideal of true democracy is the practice of the social group! For the killing of another human being for the purpose of power is an anathema to the practice of a healthy democracy, and we, in the United States, are not immune to still addressing that threat from within our own idealized Democracy! But what gives rise to these better angels? If these better angels, such as the rise of democracy as a more effective means for fostering human survival, are emerging against the preponderance of violence and killing as survival tools, from where has this been given birth? Well it is not something that has come to us from outside of ourselves; it comes from the only place it can come from; it comes from us as human beings. It is our practice our behavior our choices that have given birth over the ages to the emergence of our better angels. This emergence comes from within us as human beings, for not only has violence been a useful survival tool in ages past, but something else in us as human beings has been there but not able to fully express itself in its role for our survival as human beings. And that something else is also found in the statement of our fifth Principle. That of course is the Right of Conscience. And the references to conscience in the professional medical, psychological, and sociological literature is abundant! One of the strong references he and others maintain is that psychopaths and sociopaths have no conscience, so violence and killing are often, but not always, default modes of addressing human relations. This lack of conscience could be the result of brain damage, substance abuse, trauma, or simply the genetic makeup of the individual. I recently read a story in the New Yorker about a child soldier who was in the Sierra Leone Civil War for several years and subjected to abuse, trauma, and substance abuse cocaine and gunpowder injections called Brown-Brown. What do you think he has turned out to be like? How do you think his conscience has developed? He barely has an understanding of what a conscience might be, so riddled is his psyche with fear

and trauma. But the presence of a conscience in being human does seem to be almost universal, if only in some small degree. The suggestion is that there is somewhere within the human brain itself the locus of conscience; that it is something that is there within our being human but most importantly conscience requires cultivation so that it can be exercised. At some point Evolution has allowed or even selected for the presence of a conscience as a tool for survival, although it has seems to be something in the brain that requires nurturance in order for it to be effective in what it has to offer. In my searching on this topic I came across 2 websites that offer some perspective on what a conscience is. The Christian site, of course, tries to tie the presence of a conscience with the presence of God within us, which is not something I necessarily believe. But I did appreciate this from the writings: Conscience is not an outside voice. It is an inward capacity humans possess to critique themselves! The critique conscience exercises related to the value system which a person develops! God desires that his creation conform to divine values by a process of rational my emphasis renewal. The Scriptures provide the content for this renewal. And yet conscience dares to pronounce on matters of morality, often highly serious matters with profound implications. That voice comes from within our very human selves: Thus the role of conscience is of utmost importance to being a healthy human being. And that leads me to frame it this way. That the most mature conscience is that which asks: Is what I am doing or what others are doing healthy for me and for all others? A simple but a being-shaking question that goes to the core of our survival as human beings. But what does seem apparent to me is that in order for us to cultivate, nurture, and mature the conscience in ourselves we have to create and seek out value systems, cultures that allow the conscience to grow, not suppress and even kill it. The conscience yearns for those environments that allow the conscience to live and prosper. So we are a Powerful species, and each of us is a powerful cell in this species. But our survival is strongest in numbers, thereby we do live in social orders, and within those social orders we give or are forced to give a certain amount of individual power to a limited number of people "whom many call politicians. And in our culture and in many other cultures, now, we also give a LOT of power to corporations "including the media corporations. I have a presentation devoted an entirely to this topic see link reference , but suffice it to say, here, that between the politicians and the corporations who are increasingly locked at the hip, much of our power as human beings is in the hands of the politicians and the corporations. And if our better angels are to prevail and serve the survival of humanity "perhaps all of life rather than exercising of our Power to Kill, it is the presence of a mature Conscience in our political leaders and by extension our police force as well and corporations that is absolutely essential. For such Power without Conscience is to allow the immature conscience, even allowing the psycho-paths and the socio-paths to continue to foster violence as the option of choice for our survival and spell our demise of honoring the inherent worth and dignity of every person, of using the democratic process, to foster a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all and thereby our future as a species. Because our survival as a species is fully dependent upon such a community! We are fortunate that in this country, the wealthiest and most technologically advanced country in the world, we have the better angel of democracy as our ideal for a healthy government. But this does not by itself assure a healthy conscience within ourselves, and certainly not within our politicians and our corporations. I saw that happen in a UU congregation, where apathy and resignation allowed a person who was hell-bent on being President walked into the leadership role unopposed resulting in the breakdown of the integrity of the congregational process. Our nation is faced with probably the most significant Presidential election in our history. The planet is faced with the forces of Climate Change and the violent clashes of human cultures in ways never known by humanity before. Although the degree of human violence has been diminishing its reaching affect has only been growing, especially since the weapons of violence are all the more powerful. It is paramount that our next President reflects a person of a mature conscience, someone who comes closest to displaying what I mentioned earlier: Asking the question, Is what I am doing or what others are doing healthy for me and for all others? That person must come as close as possible to affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person, to fostering a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all, by using a democratic process to get there! And in doing so, calling to be his or her allies the other politicians and corporations to make it happen. A formidable task indeed, but, I think an unavoidable one. And it is our job as UUs, as US citizens, as World citizens to engage our own consciences in

this democratic process to hold our politicians and our corporations responsible and accountable, and for them to show remorse or regret if the exercise of their power is harmful. This is still a violent world, but the use of violence must not be done without deep reflection and self-confrontation. As the Christian website put it: Without this actively happening with our politicians and corporations we are simply fodder for their acts of immature, unhealthy, and exploitive behavior. I truly think one of the Republican candidates for the Republican nomination is a psycho-path and I think another one might be borderline. Both have been insulated by their material wealth, but there is bankruptcy when it comes to conscience. What of course is most important about this and of greatest concern is the number of people who can vote and who support these prospective leaders of Power. If the conscience of this nation, of the world is to be strengthened and given adequate nourishment to continue to grow into maturity, it is up to the Power of each of us to exercise our consciences in the use of the democratic process. Hatred, oppression, bigotry, punishment, arrogance, denigration, to name a few behaviors, will not save us from ourselves. And as the poem Better to Light Candles put it:

5: Conscience Power Meet, Sep 3 | Video | www.enganchecubano.com

Conscience is a cognitive process that elicits emotion and rational associations based on an individual's moral philosophy or value system. Conscience stands in contrast to elicited emotion or thought due to associations based on immediate sensory perceptions and reflexive responses, as in sympathetic CNS responses.

Of course, you might say that the rush to extinction is being slowed. Not only are we destroying the rainforests — currently at the rate of 80, acres each day: Before we blame impoverished people for their destruction however, it is the consumption by those of us in industrialized countries that is generating the adverse circumstances in which they are forced to survive. Of course, you might object that it is not activist efforts that are responsible for the failure to halt elite violence and our complicity in it. It is the failure of corporatized society to seriously consider and respond intelligently to the scientific and other evidence in relation to all of the violence in its many manifestations. However, any explanation of this nature fails to understand and appreciate why progressive change has always occurred in the past. Social progress is the result of people of conscience strategically challenging elite power in such a way that new norms become so widely accepted that elites are compelled to work within them. This has always been essential for the simple reason that elites are insane and have never acted sensibly, whatever the issue. Elites have only ever orchestrated events to maximize their own power, profit and privilege whatever the cost to the rest of us and the Earth itself. Hence, violence, war, grotesque economic exploitation and ecological destruction are rampant across the planet; that is the way elites want it; that is what maximizes elite power, profit and privilege. Some informed and thoughtful analysts believe this could lead to an elite coup to remove Trump from the US presidency. So, to consolidate the information presented above, let me encapsulate the nature of geopolitics in one paragraph: The military forces of the United States are not intended to defend the United States against military attack. The military forces of the countries in NATO are not intended to defend the respective member countries against military attack. The military forces of the United States and NATO are controlled by the global elite and used by the global elite to aggressively attack, in violation of all relevant national and international laws, any country that seeks independent control and development of its resources, particularly fossil fuels, strategic minerals and water. The global elite, which is in total control of the global economy and world affairs generally, does this in order to expand its own power, profit and privilege. It does this no matter what the cost to any individual outside the elite, people, country and the biosphere. Why does the global elite do all of this? The global elite does this because it is completely insane. Hence, to return to my point about the driver of social progress historically: Did the trans-Atlantic slave trade end because elites decided to halt the practice? Did gains for some women during the 21st century occur because elites committed themselves to ending patriarchal privilege? Did the British walk out of their colony in India because the British elite suddenly perceived the injustice of their violence and exploitation? In essence, strategic lessons learned by earlier generations of activists are forgotten or ignored as we stumble powerlessly to the extinction that is shortly to claim us all. While I could write at some length about our shortcomings as activists in the era of perpetual violence and war, grotesque economic exploitation and pervasive climate and environmental destruction, I would like to focus on what I regard as the two key issues: The global elite is deeply entrenched and manages world affairs, particularly through its capitalist economy. Phillips goes on to note that the global elite develops and coordinates its policies through a variety of private planning fora such as the Group of Thirty, the Trilateral Commission and the Atlantic Council which determine the policies and issue the instructions for their implementation by transnational governmental institutions like the G7, G20, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization and the World Bank. Elite policies are also implemented following instruction of the relevant agent, including governments, in the context. These agents then do as they are instructed. Or, if they do not, they are overthrown. Just ask any independently-minded government over the past century. As a result of coordination through the above elite fora, for example, gigantic media, public relations and entertainment corporations are used to reinforce elite dogma promulgated through national educational institutions so that most western humans become powerless consumers of elite product,

informational and material, as the elite pursues ever-increasing profit, power and privilege. Oblivious to the way in which they are caught up in the elite drive to make us consume, even most western activists are major consumers, failing to limit their consumption in line with some appreciation of the per capita ecological carrying capacity of the Earth. In other words, if we want to end war or even just one war, halt exacerbation of the climate catastrophe in a region, country or the world, end environmental destruction on a vast range of fronts, terminate economic exploitation including modern slavery, end the sex trafficking of women and children, end the military occupation of Palestine, Tibet, West Papua— then we are going to have to think, plan and act strategically, which includes engaging and mobilizing, in a focused way, a significant proportion of the human population. Campaigning without strategy — and all that strategic thinking, including a penetrating analysis of the very nature of society and its power structure, entails — is a waste of time. By participating in elite-controlled processes, our dissent is absorbed and dissipated, as the elite intend. At a more mundane level, elite-sponsored delusions propagated through its corporate media promote everything from genetically-mutilated, poisoned and junk food to psychiatric drugs. These products are also highly profitable but because their insanity includes lacking any sense of morality, elites are unconcerned about the damage they inflict on us in these regards just as in all others. Some grassroots activist groups are more politically savvy than NGOs but usually still lack comprehensive and sophisticated strategies. On rare occasions, it should be noted, one of these campaigns or national liberation struggles succeeds, because of such factors as the raw power of nonviolent action even without strategy or because they could rely on the NIMBY Not In My Back Yard effect to facilitate mobilization of significant numbers of people in a local area. The law is designed to intimidate and impede us; it is rarely used in an attempt to hold elites accountable and has little, if any, impact when it does: Fundamentally, elites are above the law: But to reiterate the main point: And this applies equally to those national liberation activists in occupied countries such as Palestine, Tibet and West Papua, as well as those activists living in the many countries, such as Cambodia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, run by dictatorships or where the elected government, such as that of Brazil, has been removed in a coup. As touched on above, however, lack of sound strategy including the structural analysis on which it must be based is not the only shortcoming in our efforts to halt elite or even our own violence. In the past, a primary motivator of activists, and particularly the great ones such as Mohandas K. Gandhi, was their conscience: But there is more to conscience than being called to action. So what is so important about conscience? This includes making strategic choices to take significant or, occasionally, even great risks when elite violence threatens to intimidate a struggle into submission and silence. It was his unyielding conscience, deeply guiding his personal and political behaviour including his commitment to nonviolence and his extraordinarily austere lifestyle, and his superlative understanding of strategy that made Gandhi the great activist that he was. He is always taking into account the ultimate end of all nonviolent struggle — a just, peaceful and ecologically sustainable society of self-realized human beings — not just the outcome of this campaign. He wants each campaign to contribute to the ultimate aim, not undermine vital elements of the long-term and overarching struggle to create a world without violence. So what do we do? If you are interested in acting in ways that maximize the chance that elite opponents and their agents will reflect, deeply, on what they are doing, while fundamentally changing the power relationship between you and your opponents, then you are welcome to consider acting strategically in the way that Gandhi did. Whether you are engaged in a peace, climate, environment or social justice campaign or a national liberation struggle, the point strategic framework and principles are the same. If you anticipate violent repression by a ruthless opponent, make sure that you plan and implement any nonviolent action as history has taught us: After all, capitalism and other dysfunctional political, economic and social structures only thrive because of our dysfunctional parenting which robs children of their conscience and courage, among many other qualities, while actively teaching them to over-consume as compensation for having vital emotional needs denied. Why this emphasis on children you might ask? It is dysfunctional human behavior that got us into this civilizational mess and allowed the emergence of exploitative social, political and economic structures. So if we do not emphasize the importance of profoundly changing the way in which we nurture children so that they behave functionally in context, everything else we do to preserve humanity and the biosphere must ultimately fail. The onslaught of

our dysfunctional species will simply overwhelm the biosphere, sooner or later, whether it is this generation or the next. We can improve our own functionality and access our conscience and courage too. You may believe that you can halt elite violence without engaging your conscience and the deep internal search that this requires and without using Gandhian nonviolent strategy. Even if you are right, the key question is then this: Is the world you will get any better than this one? Major historical struggles, including those noted above, took decades whatever the merits and shortcomings of their strategies or, as in most cases, are ongoing. How long do you want to wait before you invest time in learning how to think, plan and act strategically when the future of humanity and the biosphere is now at stake? The global elite controls all significant human affairs and even exercises almost total control over the individual lives of human beings. Because the global elite is insane and its psychological and hence behavioral dysfunctionality is of a particular kind, it cannot pull back from its existing regime of violence and exploitation, even in response to imperatives from the biosphere. In this circumstance our choice is simple: This will require a significant number of interrelated nonviolent strategies that each tackle elite violence in one context or another. You are welcome to consider the options presented just above for your own involvement. He has done extensive research since in an effort to understand why human beings are violent and has been a nonviolent activist since He is the author of *Why Violence?* Editorials and articles originated on TMS may be freely reprinted, disseminated, translated and used as background material, provided an acknowledgement and link to the source, TMS:

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Item consists of a digitized copy of an audio recording of a Dal Grauer Memorial Lecture delivered at the Vancouver Institute by Geoffrey Parker on February 2, Original audio recording available in the University Archives (UBC AT).

Of course, you might say that the rush to extinction is being slowed. Despite the extraordinary growth in renewables in recent years, and the huge policy efforts to encourage a shift away from coal into cleaner, lower carbon fuels, there has been almost no improvement in the power sector fuel mix over the past 20 years. Before we blame impoverished people for their destruction, however, it is the consumption by those of us in industrialized countries that is generating the adverse circumstances in which they are forced to survive. How big meat and dairy are heating up the planet. It is the failure of corporatized society to seriously consider and respond intelligently to the scientific and other evidence in relation to all of the violence in its many manifestations. However, any explanation of this nature fails to understand and appreciate why progressive change has always occurred in the past. Social progress is the result of people of conscience strategically challenging elite power in such a way that new norms become so widely accepted that elites are compelled to work within them. This has always been essential for the simple reason that elites are insane and have never acted sensibly, whatever the issue. Elites have only ever orchestrated events to maximize their own power, profit and privilege whatever the cost to the rest of us and the Earth itself. Hence, violence, war, grotesque economic exploitation and ecological destruction are rampant across the planet; that is the way elites want it; that is what maximizes elite power, profit and privilege. Some informed and thoughtful analysts believe this could lead to an elite coup to remove Trump from the US presidency. So, to consolidate the information presented above, let me encapsulate the nature of geopolitics in one paragraph: The military forces of the United States are not intended to defend the United States against military attack. The military forces of the countries in NATO are not intended to defend the respective member countries against military attack. The military forces of the United States and NATO are controlled by the global elite and used by the global elite to aggressively attack, in violation of all relevant national and international laws, any country that seeks independent control and development of its resources, particularly fossil fuels, strategic minerals and water. The global elite, which is in total control of the global economy and world affairs generally, does this in order to expand its own power, profit and privilege. It does this no matter what the cost to any individual outside the elite, people, country and the biosphere. Why does the global elite do all of this? The global elite does this because it is completely insane. Hence, to return to my point about the driver of social progress historically: Did the trans-Atlantic slave trade end because elites decided to halt the practice? Did gains for some women during the 21st century occur because elites committed themselves to ending patriarchal privilege? Did the British walk out of their colony in India because the British elite suddenly perceived the injustice of their violence and exploitation? In essence, strategic lessons learned by earlier generations of activists are forgotten or ignored as we stumble powerlessly to the extinction that is shortly to claim us all. While I could write at some length about our shortcomings as activists in the era of perpetual violence and war, grotesque economic exploitation and pervasive climate and environmental destruction, I would like to focus on what I regard as the two key issues: The global elite is deeply entrenched and manages world affairs, particularly through its capitalist economy. More precisely than this, as explained in his forthcoming book *Giants*: Phillips goes on to note that the global elite develops and coordinates its policies through a variety of private planning fora such as the Group of Thirty, the Trilateral Commission and the Atlantic Council which determine the policies and issue the instructions for their implementation by transnational governmental institutions like the G7, G20, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization and the World Bank. Elite policies are also implemented following instruction of the relevant agent, including governments, in the context. These agents then do as they are instructed. Or, if they do not, they are overthrown. Just ask any independently-minded government over the past century. As a result of coordination through the above elite fora, for example, gigantic media, public relations and entertainment corporations are used to reinforce elite dogma promulgated through national educational institutions so that most western humans become powerless consumers of elite

product, informational and material, as the elite pursues ever-increasing profit, power and privilege. Oblivious to the way in which they are caught up in the elite drive to make us consume, even most western activists are major consumers, failing to limit their consumption in line with some appreciation of the per capita ecological carrying capacity of the Earth. In other words, if we want to end war or even just one war, halt exacerbation of the climate catastrophe in a region, country or the world, end environmental destruction on a vast range of fronts, terminate economic exploitation including modern slavery, end the sex trafficking of women and children, end the military occupation of Palestine, Tibet, West Papua— then we are going to have to think, plan and act strategically, which includes engaging and mobilizing, in a focused way, a significant proportion of the human population. Campaigning without strategy “ and all that strategic thinking, including a penetrating analysis of the very nature of society and its power structure, entails “ is a waste of time. By participating in elite-controlled processes, our dissent is absorbed and dissipated, as the elite intend. At a more mundane level, elite-sponsored delusions propagated through its corporate media promote everything from genetically-mutilated, poisoned and junk food to psychiatric drugs. These products are also highly profitable but because their insanity includes lacking any sense of morality, elites are unconcerned about the damage they inflict on us in these regards just as in all others. Some grassroots activist groups are more politically savvy than NGOs but usually still lack comprehensive and sophisticated strategies. On rare occasions, it should be noted, one of these campaigns or national liberation struggles succeeds, because of such factors as the raw power of nonviolent action even without strategy or because they could rely on the NIMBY Not In My Back Yard effect to facilitate mobilization of significant numbers of people in a local area. The law is designed to intimidate and impede us; it is rarely used in an attempt to hold elites accountable and has little, if any, impact when it does: Fundamentally, elites are above the law: But to reiterate the main point: And this applies equally to those national liberation activists in occupied countries such as Palestine, Tibet and West Papua, as well as those activists living in the many countries, such as Cambodia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, run by dictatorships or where the elected government, such as that of Brazil, has been removed in a coup. As touched on above, however, lack of sound strategy including the structural analysis on which it must be based is not the only shortcoming in our efforts to halt elite or even our own violence. In the past, a primary motivator of activists, and particularly the great ones such as Mohandas K. Gandhi, was their conscience: But there is more to conscience than being called to action. So what is so important about conscience? This includes making strategic choices to take significant or, occasionally, even great risks when elite violence threatens to intimidate a struggle into submission and silence. It was his unyielding conscience, deeply guiding his personal and political behaviour including his commitment to nonviolence and his extraordinarily austere lifestyle, and his superlative understanding of strategy that made Gandhi the great activist that he was. He is always taking into account the ultimate end of all nonviolent struggle “ a just, peaceful and ecologically sustainable society of self-realized human beings “ not just the outcome of this campaign. He wants each campaign to contribute to the ultimate aim, not undermine vital elements of the long-term and overarching struggle to create a world without violence. So what do we do? If you are interested in acting in ways that maximize the chance that elite opponents and their agents will reflect, deeply, on what they are doing, while fundamentally changing the power relationship between you and your opponents, then you are welcome to consider acting strategically in the way that Gandhi did. Whether you are engaged in a peace, climate, environment or social justice campaign or a national liberation struggle, the point strategic framework and principles are the same. If you anticipate violent repression by a ruthless opponent, make sure that you plan and implement any nonviolent action as history has taught us: After all, capitalism and other dysfunctional political, economic and social structures only thrive because of our dysfunctional parenting which robs children of their conscience and courage, among many other qualities, while actively teaching them to over-consume as compensation for having vital emotional needs denied. Why this emphasis on children you might ask? It is dysfunctional human behavior that got us into this civilizational mess and allowed the emergence of exploitative social, political and economic structures. So if we do not emphasize the importance of profoundly changing the way in which we nurture children so that they behave functionally in context, everything else we do to preserve humanity and the biosphere must ultimately fail. The onslaught of

our dysfunctional species will simply overwhelm the biosphere, sooner or later, whether it is this generation or the next. We can improve our own functionality and access our conscience and courage too. You may believe that you can halt elite violence without engaging your conscience and the deep internal search that this requires and without using Gandhian nonviolent strategy. Even if you are right, the key question is then this: Is the world you will get any better than this one? Major historical struggles, including those noted above, took decades whatever the merits and shortcomings of their strategies or, as in most cases, are ongoing. How long do you want to wait before you invest time in learning how to think, plan and act strategically when the future of humanity and the biosphere is now at stake? The global elite controls all significant human affairs and even exercises almost total control over the individual lives of human beings. Because the global elite is insane and its psychological and hence behavioral dysfunctionality is of a particular kind, it cannot pull back from its existing regime of violence and exploitation, even in response to imperatives from the biosphere. In this circumstance our choice is simple: This will require a significant number of interrelated nonviolent strategies that each tackle elite violence in one context or another. You are welcome to consider the options presented just above for your own involvement. Robert Burrowes has a lifetime commitment to understanding and ending human violence. He has done extensive research since in an effort to understand why human beings are violent and has been a nonviolent activist since He is the author of *Why Violence?* He can be reached at:

7: Conscience - Wikipedia

The Christian Science Monitor is an international news organization that delivers thoughtful, global coverage via its website, weekly magazine, daily news briefing, and email newsletters.

Burrowes Given the overwhelming evidence that activist efforts are failing to halt the accelerating rush to extinction precipitated and maintained by dysfunctional human behavior, it is worth reflecting on why this is happening. Of course, you might say that the rush to extinction is being slowed. Not only are we destroying the rainforests – currently at the rate of 80, acres each day: Before we blame impoverished people for their destruction however, it is the consumption by those of us in industrialized countries that is generating the adverse circumstances in which they are forced to survive. Of course, you might object that it is not activist efforts that are responsible for the failure to halt elite violence and our complicity in it. It is the failure of corporatized society to seriously consider and respond intelligently to the scientific and other evidence in relation to all of the violence in its many manifestations. However, any explanation of this nature fails to understand and appreciate why progressive change has always occurred in the past. Social progress is the result of people of conscience strategically challenging elite power in such a way that new norms become so widely accepted that elites are compelled to work within them. This has always been essential for the simple reason that elites are insane and have never acted sensibly, whatever the issue. Elites have only ever orchestrated events to maximize their own power, profit and privilege whatever the cost to the rest of us and the Earth itself. Hence, violence, war, grotesque economic exploitation and ecological destruction are rampant across the planet; that is the way elites want it; that is what maximizes elite power, profit and privilege. Some informed and thoughtful analysts believe this could lead to an elite coup to remove Trump from the US presidency. So, to consolidate the information presented above, let me encapsulate the nature of geopolitics in one paragraph: The military forces of the United States are not intended to defend the United States against military attack. The military forces of the countries in NATO are not intended to defend the respective member countries against military attack. The military forces of the United States and NATO are controlled by the global elite and used by the global elite to aggressively attack, in violation of all relevant national and international laws, any country that seeks independent control and development of its resources, particularly fossil fuels, strategic minerals and water. The global elite, which is in total control of the global economy and world affairs generally, does this in order to expand its own power, profit and privilege. It does this no matter what the cost to any individual outside the elite, people, country and the biosphere. Why does the global elite do all of this? The global elite does this because it is completely insane. Hence, to return to my point about the driver of social progress historically: Did the trans-Atlantic slave trade end because elites decided to halt the practice? Did gains for some women during the 21st century occur because elites committed themselves to ending patriarchal privilege? Did the British walk out of their colony in India because the British elite suddenly perceived the injustice of their violence and exploitation? In essence, strategic lessons learned by earlier generations of activists are forgotten or ignored as we stumble powerlessly to the extinction that is shortly to claim us all. While I could write at some length about our shortcomings as activists in the era of perpetual violence and war, grotesque economic exploitation and pervasive climate and environmental destruction, I would like to focus on what I regard as the two key issues: The global elite is deeply entrenched and manages world affairs, particularly through its capitalist economy. Phillips goes on to note that the global elite develops and coordinates its policies through a variety of private planning fora such as the Group of Thirty, the Trilateral Commission and the Atlantic Council which determine the policies and issue the instructions for their implementation by transnational governmental institutions like the G7, G20, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization and the World Bank. Elite policies are also implemented following instruction of the relevant agent, including governments, in the context. These agents then do as they are instructed. Or, if they do not, they are overthrown. Just ask any independently-minded government over the past century. As a result of coordination through the above elite fora, for example, gigantic media, public relations and entertainment corporations are used to reinforce elite dogma promulgated through national

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If you anticipate violent repression by a ruthless opponent, make sure that you plan and implement any nonviolent action as history has taught us: After all, capitalism and other dysfunctional political, economic and social structures only thrive because of our dysfunctional parenting which robs children of their conscience and courage, among many other qualities, while actively teaching them to over-consume as compensation for having vital emotional needs denied. Why this emphasis on children you might ask? It is dysfunctional human behavior that got us into this civilizational mess and allowed the emergence of exploitative social, political and economic structures. So if we do not emphasize the importance of profoundly changing the way in which we nurture children so that they behave functionally in

context, everything else we do to preserve humanity and the biosphere must ultimately fail. The onslaught of our dysfunctional species will simply overwhelm the biosphere, sooner or later, whether it is this generation or the next. We can improve our own functionality and access our conscience and courage too. You may believe that you can halt elite violence without engaging your conscience and the deep internal search that this requires and without using Gandhian nonviolent strategy. Even if you are right, the key question is then this: Is the world you will get any better than this one? Major historical struggles, including those noted above, took decades whatever the merits and shortcomings of their strategies or, as in most cases, are ongoing. How long do you want to wait before you invest time in learning how to think, plan and act strategically when the future of humanity and the biosphere is now at stake? The global elite controls all significant human affairs and even exercises almost total control over the individual lives of human beings. Because the global elite is insane and its psychological and hence behavioral dysfunctionality is of a particular kind, it cannot pull back from its existing regime of violence and exploitation, even in response to imperatives from the biosphere. In this circumstance our choice is simple: This will require a significant number of interrelated nonviolent strategies that each tackle elite violence in one context or another. You are welcome to consider the options presented just above for your own involvement. He has done extensive research since in an effort to understand why human beings are violent and has been a nonviolent activist since

8: TRANSCEND MEDIA SERVICE Â» Strategy and Conscience: Subverting Elite Power So We End Hum

Conscience Quotes I love those who can smile in trouble, who can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink, but they whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves their conduct, will pursue their principles unto death.

This article has been cited by other articles in PMC. Abstract While consciousness has been examined extensively in its different aspects, like in philosophy, psychiatry, neurophysiology, neuroplasticity, etc. Conscience and consciousness are part of a system of information that governs our experience and decision making process. The intent of this paper is to define these terms, to discuss about consciousness from both neurological and quantum physics point of view, the relationship between the dynamics of consciousness and neuroplasticity and to highlight the relationship between conscience, stress and health. The five senses 2. The reasoning ability of the mind 3. Imagination and emotion 4. Memory The five senses enable the mind to receive information, then imagination and emotion process it, reason judges it, and memory stores or rejects it. The exact parts of the human brain [1] where those functions take place are supposedly defined by neurophysiology [2]. Awareness and wakefulness represent the two main components of consciousness. Awareness is defined by the content of consciousness, and arousal is defined by the level of consciousness. Awareness contains self-awareness, which perceives the internal world of thoughts, reflection, imagination, emotions, and daydreaming, as well as external awareness, which perceives the outside world with the help of the five senses. From a neurological point of view, consciousness comprises a spectrum of states that range from physiological states to states of impaired consciousness that are monitored by specific criteria included in the Glasgow Coma Scale but also comprises modified states either by self-training transcendental meditation or by drug intake. An essential structure that mediates the arousal is the ascending reticular activating system ARAS that comprises neurotransmitter-specific fibres from the reticular nuclei of the brainstem that are connected to the cortex via thalamic and extra-thalamic pathways and projecting to the hypothalamus and basal forebrain [4,5]. Following the ARAS, other important structures in consciousness are the amygdala, which modulates memory, attention, emotion and higher cognitive functions, as well as the cerebellum, which modulates executive function, cognition and emotion [6]. Both the prefrontal cortex and precuneus seem to be correlated with self-perception and metacognition [7,8]. Frontoparietal connectivity and the thalamus are considered the most important neural correlates of consciousness. Frontoparietal connectivity is implicated in maintaining awareness, in attention and in behavioural selection of incoming and stored information [10]. The thalamus is the final relay station for perceptual data before reaching the cortex. It also plays a key role by modulating cortical activity [11]: Moreover, the thalamic reticular nucleus TRN appears to control thalamocortical synchronization [12]. A very different theory from that of a neural correlate of consciousness, which assumes that consciousness is a single unified entity, is the theory of multiple consciousnesses with three hierarchical levels: One of the multiple theories of micro-consciousness considers that the functional unit of consciousness consists of a triangular neuronal configuration, the assembly of which is unconstrained by conventional anatomical boundaries. These assemblies vary in size from one moment to the next, with every moment being correlated with different degrees of consciousness. The complexity and dimension of these assemblies depend on the synchronicity of their synapses known as Malsburg synapses , the strength of the trigger that initiates their transient synchrony, and on the availability of neurotransmitters [3,14]. Beyond the neurological descriptions of consciousness that consider that consciousness is generated at the neuronal level is the quantum physics approach, governed by classical physics, which confers a more dynamical vision but which also gives rise to several controversies [15]. According to the quantum physics view, consciousness depends on self-observation. It is continuously self-creating by unconscious processes that are constantly coming into existence through self-awareness, such as the act of observing an electron, which concretizes that electron by collapsing the wave function [16]. Neuroplasticity and consciousness are bi-directionally connected: The conscious brain is in a perpetual state of learning. It learns how to describe and re-describe its own activity to itself, developing complex systems of metarepresentations [19]. Also, the

dynamic impact of consciousness upon brain connectivity continues beyond wakefulness, with dreaming also having an important impact upon neuronal networks [3,20]. Another important aspect of neuroplasticity in consciousness is represented by the modified state of consciousness during mindfulness process. From the neuroscience point of view, focusing attention practice produces measurable changes in spontaneous brain activity by increasing gamma frequencies [21,22]. These electromagnetic changes are substantiated by imaging studies that demonstrated both dynamic white matter changes like increased myelination and connectivity [23] and increased cortical thickness [24]. Consequently, conscience ranks higher than consciousness and, in addition, has the ability and the authority to decide how information will be used, either for good or for evil. In other words, conscience determines our final decisions for action after evaluating, in a split second, all of the above parameters [7]. If any part of these functions is defective or ceases to exist, the whole system will suffer or may even collapse. Free will We can decide to act in accordance with or against our conscience at any given moment. Indeed, those are our only options. Such is the effort of all truly spiritual people. Eventually, anxieties and phobias manifest, and they are the prodromal symptoms of a harassed health state. This happens in our contemporary societies, in which many initially healthy individuals who have become prominent figures, such as politicians, journalists, police officers and judgesâ€”those who have power over others in their hands but not enough moral strengthâ€”succumb to the widespread corruption of our times. Instead of using their power for the benefit of the people, they use it only for their own personal gain. This is not the case for all of them, of course, but those who want to go against such a trend find themselves eventually isolated and powerless. If conscience comes under pressure from the basic instincts and becomes dulled, then the human being will descend more and more into an animal-like state and will then be forced to exclusively serve his own lower instincts. If any of the basic functions, like imagination, reason or memory, are diminished or lost due to some illness or injury, then the process of awareness suffers, and the whole system may eventually collapse. In such a case, conscience can no longer function. This leads us to the conclusion that the overall functional ability of the brain information-consciousnessâ€”conscience leads to decision and to actions. It has a unique character due to its infinite complexity, it is integrated if a part collapses, the whole system may suffer or collapse , and it is continuously changing new information is constantly absorbed, affecting and differentiating levels of conscience. The hierarchical capacity of the human brain to make final and meaningful decisions is responsible for whether a person decides to commit himself to the quest for God, as do the monks, adepts and mystics, or to the quest for Truth, as do the philosophers and scientists, or to deceiving others, as do the criminals. In this way, conscience formulates every level of experience, from the lowest to the highest, even to the transcendental and sublime. These transcendental, extramundane experiences of spiritual people can take place while the person is still in relatively good health and, at the same time, can understand and realize the ever-complex incoming information and thus make decisions and actions in split seconds. It is through such a process that a new quality of conscience eventually emerges to sacrifice self-interest for the common good. Experience has shown that those individuals who were raised in families with strong moral attitudes can very seldom bypass the dictates of their conscience. Conscience, being the noblest function of our existence, constitutes the thread that keeps us in contact with our universal nature or with the objective Truth or with God or whatever one wants to call it [9]. Realistically speaking, humans cannot reach the absolute. They can only come closer to or go further from the absolute depending on the quality of their conscience. Unfortunately, this relative approaching of the Truth can change within the same person, sometimes in dramatic way. The degree of conscience, or how close the awareness of the person is to the Truth, depends, unfortunately, on two factors: The assessment of the information received b. This happens in an almost deterministic way. Examples of high conscience are the adepts of all times, with their transcendental experiences, and all those who managed to tame their passions and pursue the search for Truth or all those who sacrificed their lives for the societies in which they lived. Examples of low conscience are those who managed to deceive, oppress and take advantage of not only a few people but of whole societies or nations for their own personal benefit. Such individuals are primarily the corrupted politicians whose actions may affect the whole nation. We, the common people, are somewhere between these two categories, and we fight tooth and nail to keep a somewhat balanced condition and not to shut down our conscience

completely. It is a daily struggle, and we usually lose many battles; consequently, our health decreases until death completes the picture. Here, it should be noted that the action that brings the greatest catharsis and inner release is confession in a kind of public situation. The effects of psychological and psychotherapeutic treatments are based in this reality, whether it is admitted or not. The same fact has given power to all religions that have in their practices the act of confession. After an honest and deep confession, people have admitted that they felt rejuvenated and in better health. The decisions of people in positions of authority of all kinds depend on this individual state of conscience, whether their decisions will be destructive or constructive, affecting sometimes a whole nation or the whole of the planet. The dulling of their conscience is necessary for those in authority to find excuses for promoting their destructive measures as needful and constructive. Many aggressive wars, especially within the last 50 years, have been executed in the name of democratic ideals, while their victims included millions of people and they have caused innumerable others to suffer. This shows how unhealthy our leaders have become. An impressive book written by Prof. Illness in heads of Government in the last years", depicts this idea exactly, as does the speech of Prof. Consequently, the more human beings tame their passions by distancing themselves from their basic instincts, the more their conscience evolves, reaching its highest level and giving the sense to the individual that they are living in a state of bliss. This evolution of conscience is an endless effort, one that goes on for as long as one lives; thus, in my opinion, conscience will never be defined as belonging to a certain part of the brain or as a chemically complex compound because the brain changes and evolves exactly because of those processes. However, all cultures know and agree on some basic concepts regarding morality. It was formulated through a complicated process of observation, experience in general, and suffering in particular. This particular stimulus for the development of disease should be a main theme in the teachings of medical institutions for learning and understanding diseases and their role in shaping conscience. While conscience is a dictate of practical reason deciding that any particular action is right or wrong, synderesis is a dictate of the same practical reason that has for its object the first general principles of moral action [25]. In the first case, though, the person may be jailed and can survive the ordeal without health consequences. The second person, however, will have to suppress their conscience from bothering them and will therefore have health consequences, as they fear that they may be discovered and have anxieties over what they have done. Vischer of the University of St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis explores the legal notion of civil society as a moral marketplace where competing moral convictions and claims of conscience are allowed to operate and compete without invoking the trump of state power, thus allowing for a healthy and engaged public life [26].

On the Neurophysiology of Consciousness: Constraining the Semantic Problem. The Temporal Factor in Consciousness. Harvard University Press; Towards an integrative theory of consciousness: Edlow BL, Takahashi E. Neuroanatomic connectivity of the human ascending arousal system critical to consciousness and its disorders. J Neuropathol Exp Neurol. The ascending reticular activating system from pontine reticular formation to the thalamus in the human brain. The cerebellum and neuropsychiatric disorders. The Journal of Neuroscience. Fleming SM, Huijgen J.

9: Conscience and power: Philip II of Spain, history and legend - UBC Library Open Collections

Consciousness. The meanings of the two terms "conscience" and "consciousness" are often confused and are misunderstood by many people. This article is an effort to clarify these meanings and to show the role of a "clear conscience" or a "troubled conscience" in health and disease.

Burrowes July 30, " Information Clearing House " - Given the overwhelming evidence that activist efforts are failing to halt the accelerating rush to extinction precipitated and maintained by dysfunctional human behavior, it is worth reflecting on why this is happening. Of course, you might say that the rush to extinction is being slowed. Not only are we destroying the rainforests – currently at the rate of 80, acres each day: Before we blame impoverished people for their destruction however, it is the consumption by those of us in industrialized countries that is generating the adverse circumstances in which they are forced to survive. Of course, you might object that it is not activist efforts that are responsible for the failure to halt elite violence and our complicity in it. It is the failure of corporatized society to seriously consider and respond intelligently to the scientific and other evidence in relation to all of the violence in its many manifestations. However, any explanation of this nature fails to understand and appreciate why progressive change has always occurred in the past. Social progress is the result of people of conscience strategically challenging elite power in such a way that new norms become so widely accepted that elites are compelled to work within them. This has always been essential for the simple reason that elites are insane and have never acted sensibly, whatever the issue. Elites have only ever orchestrated events to maximize their own power, profit and privilege whatever the cost to the rest of us and the Earth itself. Hence, violence, war, grotesque economic exploitation and ecological destruction are rampant across the planet; that is the way elites want it; that is what maximizes elite power, profit and privilege. Some informed and thoughtful analysts believe this could lead to an elite coup to remove Trump from the US presidency. So, to consolidate the information presented above, let me encapsulate the nature of geopolitics in one paragraph: The military forces of the United States are not intended to defend the United States against military attack. The military forces of the countries in NATO are not intended to defend the respective member countries against military attack. The military forces of the United States and NATO are controlled by the global elite and used by the global elite to aggressively attack, in violation of all relevant national and international laws, any country that seeks independent control and development of its resources, particularly fossil fuels, strategic minerals and water. The global elite, which is in total control of the global economy and world affairs generally, does this in order to expand its own power, profit and privilege. It does this no matter what the cost to any individual outside the elite , people, country and the biosphere. Why does the global elite do all of this? The global elite does this because it is completely insane. Hence, to return to my point about the driver of social progress historically: Did the trans-Atlantic slave trade end because elites decided to halt the practice? Did gains for some women during the 21st century occur because elites committed themselves to ending patriarchal privilege? Did the British walk out of their colony in India because the British elite suddenly perceived the injustice of their violence and exploitation? In essence, strategic lessons learned by earlier generations of activists are forgotten or ignored as we stumble powerlessly to the extinction that is shortly to claim us all. While I could write at some length about our shortcomings as activists in the era of perpetual violence and war, grotesque economic exploitation and pervasive climate and environmental destruction, I would like to focus on what I regard as the two key issues: The global elite is deeply entrenched and manages world affairs, particularly through its capitalist economy. Phillips goes on to note that the global elite develops and coordinates its policies through a variety of private planning fora such as the Group of Thirty , the Trilateral Commission and the Atlantic Council which determine the policies and issue the instructions for their implementation by transnational governmental institutions like the G7, G20, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization and the World Bank. Elite policies are also implemented following instruction of the relevant agent, including governments, in the context. These agents then do as they are instructed. Or, if they do not, they are overthrown. Just ask any independently-minded government over the past century. As a result of coordination through the above elite

fora, for example, gigantic media, public relations and entertainment corporations are used to reinforce elite dogma promulgated through national educational institutions so that most western humans become powerless consumers of elite product, informational and material, as the elite pursues ever-increasing profit, power and privilege. Oblivious to the way in which they are caught up in the elite drive to make us consume, even most western activists are major consumers, failing to limit their consumption in line with some appreciation of the per capita ecological carrying capacity of the Earth. In other words, if we want to end war or even just one war, halt exacerbation of the climate catastrophe in a region, country or the world, end environmental destruction on a vast range of fronts, terminate economic exploitation including modern slavery, end the sex trafficking of women and children, end the military occupation of Palestine, Tibet, West Papua, then we are going to have to think, plan and act strategically, which includes engaging and mobilizing, in a focused way, a significant proportion of the human population. Campaigning without strategy and all that strategic thinking, including a penetrating analysis of the very nature of society and its power structure, entails is a waste of time. By participating in elite-controlled processes, our dissent is absorbed and dissipated, as the elite intend. At a more mundane level, elite-sponsored delusions propagated through its corporate media promote everything from genetically-mutilated, poisoned and junk food to psychiatric drugs. These products are also highly profitable but because their insanity includes lacking any sense of morality, elites are unconcerned about the damage they inflict on us in these regards just as in all others. Some grassroots activist groups are more politically savvy than NGOs but usually still lack comprehensive and sophisticated strategies. On rare occasions, it should be noted, one of these campaigns or national liberation struggles succeeds, because of such factors as the raw power of nonviolent action even without strategy or because they could rely on the NIMBY Not In My Back Yard effect to facilitate mobilization of significant numbers of people in a local area. The law is designed to intimidate and impede us; it is rarely used in an attempt to hold elites accountable and has little, if any, impact when it does: Fundamentally, elites are above the law: But to reiterate the main point: And this applies equally to those national liberation activists in occupied countries such as Palestine, Tibet and West Papua, as well as those activists living in the many countries, such as Cambodia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, run by dictatorships or where the elected government, such as that of Brazil, has been removed in a coup. As touched on above, however, lack of sound strategy including the structural analysis on which it must be based is not the only shortcoming in our efforts to halt elite or even our own violence. In the past, a primary motivator of activists, and particularly the great ones such as Mohandas K. Gandhi, was their conscience: But there is more to conscience than being called to action. So what is so important about conscience? This includes making strategic choices to take significant or, occasionally, even great risks when elite violence threatens to intimidate a struggle into submission and silence. It was his unyielding conscience, deeply guiding his personal and political behaviour including his commitment to nonviolence and his extraordinarily austere lifestyle, and his superlative understanding of strategy that made Gandhi the great activist that he was. He is always taking into account the ultimate end of all nonviolent struggle a just, peaceful and ecologically sustainable society of self-realized human beings not just the outcome of this campaign. He wants each campaign to contribute to the ultimate aim, not undermine vital elements of the long-term and overarching struggle to create a world without violence. So what do we do? If you are interested in acting in ways that maximize the chance that elite opponents and their agents will reflect, deeply, on what they are doing, while fundamentally changing the power relationship between you and your opponents, then you are welcome to consider acting strategically in the way that Gandhi did. Whether you are engaged in a peace, climate, environment or social justice campaign or a national liberation struggle, the point strategic framework and principles are the same. If you anticipate violent repression by a ruthless opponent, make sure that you plan and implement any nonviolent action as history has taught us: After all, capitalism and other dysfunctional political, economic and social structures only thrive because of our dysfunctional parenting which robs children of their conscience and courage, among many other qualities, while actively teaching them to over-consume as compensation for having vital emotional needs denied. Why this emphasis on children you might ask? It is dysfunctional human behavior that got us into this civilizational mess and allowed the emergence of exploitative social, political and economic structures. So if we do not emphasize the

importance of profoundly changing the way in which we nurture children so that they behave functionally in context, everything else we do to preserve humanity and the biosphere must ultimately fail. The onslaught of our dysfunctional species will simply overwhelm the biosphere, sooner or later, whether it is this generation or the next. We can improve our own functionality and access our conscience and courage too. You may believe that you can halt elite violence without engaging your conscience and the deep internal search that this requires and without using Gandhian nonviolent strategy. Even if you are right, the key question is then this: Is the world you will get any better than this one? Major historical struggles, including those noted above, took decades whatever the merits and shortcomings of their strategies or, as in most cases, are ongoing. How long do you want to wait before you invest time in learning how to think, plan and act strategically when the future of humanity and the biosphere is now at stake? The global elite controls all significant human affairs and even exercises almost total control over the individual lives of human beings. Because the global elite is insane and its psychological and hence behavioral dysfunctionality is of a particular kind, it cannot pull back from its existing regime of violence and exploitation, even in response to imperatives from the biosphere. In this circumstance our choice is simple: This will require a significant number of interrelated nonviolent strategies that each tackle elite violence in one context or another. You are welcome to consider the options presented just above for your own involvement. Burrowes has a lifetime commitment to understanding and ending human violence. He has done extensive research since in an effort to understand why human beings are violent and has been a nonviolent activist since

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