I. Three Questions

A. Where are we now?

B. How did we get here?

C. What can we do?

II. Where are we now?

A. Three existential crises

1. nuclear annihilation

2. ecocide

3. pandemics

B. Global system of power: militarized corporate capitalism

1. universalizing power: creates and exacerbates the crises

2. "benevolent empire," the system, the crisis

C. people of the world, especially those at the center of the global system of power, have lost touch with reality

1. inhabit the post-modern cave

a. empire of illusion

b. main stream media/social media

2. "amusing ourselves to death"

III. Where are we now? Nuclear Annihilation

A. Doomsday Clock 100 seconds to midnight

1. 9 nuclear countries, 90% U.S. and Russia

2. Russia/US:6000 each, multiple platforms, 1500 ready to launch, multiple platforms, MIRVs, "hypersonic rocket systems"

3. Nuclear War between U.S. and Russia:

a. 500 billion dead, you don't want to be living

b. all other living things that didn't create this nightmare

B. U.S.

1. Nuclear Posture Review: abandon commitment to no first strike

2. National Security Strategy: no longer subject to international law

3.treaties U.S. has withdrawn from

a. IMF Treaty

b. Open Skies Treaty

c. Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty

d. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

e. Comprehensive NuclearTest Ban Treaty

f. JCPOA

g. Outer Space Treaty

4. "Modernization" of nuclear arsenal

a. $2 trillion

b. GBSD (Ground Based Strategic Deterrent)

c. B21 bomber, Columbia class submarine

d. W87-1 warhead

e. NNSA expand plutonium pit production

f. modernization of current nuclear systems

5. U.S. State Department will no longer publish World Military Expenditures

and arms transfers WMEAT last published 2021 U.S. 2009-2019 79% of world arms trade

B. U.S/NATO/Ukraine and Russia

1. Russia invades the Ukraine

2. U.S./NATO support Ukraine with money/weapons

3. Ukraine asking for missiles with longer range Army Tactical Missile Systems

4. Russian response of U.S. provides missiles: Russia/US at war

5. Russia mobilization and emphasized use of nuclear weapons 9/21

C. U.S./Taiwan and China (and Russia, N. Korea)

1. China: one China, Taiwan part of China

2. U.S.: Taiwan Relations Act 1979

3. U.S. Provocations

a. Biden

b. Pelosi

c. Congress, new legislation

4. Both nuclear powers (+Russia)

D. U.S./South Korea and North Korea

1. US/SK war games include mock "decapitation strikes"

2. NK

a. not going give up nuclear weapons

b. changed policy on when it will use nuclear weapons

c. closer relations with Russia/China

3. In case of non-nuclear war between North and South Korea,

U.S. general will be in command of both SK/US forces

E. Great Britain: new PM Liz Trus prepared to push the button

F. Framing of the absurd with absurdities: U.S. government, main stream media

1. democracy vs authoritarianism

2. Good (benevolent empire w/ moral leaders affirming universal values) vs Evil (Russians, Chinese, N. Koreans w/Hitlers, crazed with power, against freedom and other life affirming values)

a. can't negotiate with evil, negotiating with evil is appeasement (Chamberlain)

b. atrocity propaganda and dehumanizing the other.

"Killing the enemy makes everything better. Food tastes better. Marriage is better."

c. must confront them despite their threats and the possibility of nuclear war

3. how to survive a nuclear attack?

4. social media

IV. How did we get here?

A. WWII and development and use of atom bomb

1. From saturation bombing to firebombing to Hiroshima and Nagasaki

2. Oppenheimer and the resistance of scientists

"Now, I am become death, the Destroyer of worlds."

3. On use

a. Military commanders: serves no military goal, the war is over

b. Scientists: use is crime against humanity and guarantees it will proliferate

c. Japan surrendering

B. Nuclear arms race

1. Russia gets atomic bomb

2. U.S. develops hydrogen bomb then Russia gets hydrogen bomb

3. Cold war

a. Democracy/Freedom vs Communism

b. Good vs Evil

c. Good: America and American Century

d. Evil is everywhere

e. It will be ok

i. bomb shelters

ii. duck and cover

iii. atoms for peace and progress

4. arms race: develop lots more bombs, missiles, bombers, ICBM

a.. deterrence as rationalization, MAD (*Presupposes time to react*)

b. CIA: "gaps" US behind, need to catch up. John Kennedy 1960 election

c. Strategic Air Command ( SAC) Curtis Le May and Dr. Strangelove

d. nuclear war planning

Single Integrated Operational Plan

3200 warheads/1000 targets/130 cities (wipe off planet)

e. 60, 000 warheads

C. Cold War and Its Victims

1. victims of the arms race, during the arms race

a. 1000+ nuclear tests, 216 above ground, underwater, and space

b. U.S. soldiers, Native Americans, indigenous people of Pacific Islands,

people growing up in the 1950s

c. environment

i. mining uranium

ii. sacrifice zones

2. Cold War not so cold!

3. Permanent War Economy and Military-Industrial-Complex and American Democracy

a. MIC: we have been compelled to create a permanent armaments industry of vast proportions. . . . This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. . . .Yet we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications. . . . In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

D. The End: Dissolution of Soviet Union / No: Project for a "A New American Century"

E. What can be done?

1. UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

2. Geneva Conventions and International Criminal Court

3. Understand what is going on in terms of global system of power.

a. Chalmers Johnson: American Empire

b. Charles Derber: militarized corporate capitalism