**“Glen’s Parallax Perspectives”** is a series of TV programs offering **fresh ways for people to see issues** such as foreign policy, social and economic justice, the environment, governmental functioning, and so forth. We provide **voices and viewpoints that are rarely heard in mainstream media**.

**Mainstream media, politicians, and culture see the world in conventional ways. Therefore, in order to solve problems, we need to see things in fresh ways.** Glen Anderson created this TV series to help people see things differently so we can solve problems at all levels from the local to the global.

This series title refers to “***parallax***,” which is the view you get by looking from a different perspective. For example, put one finger in front of your nose and another finger farther away. Close one eye. Then open that eye and close the other. Your fingers will seem to move. This is called a “parallax” view. **This TV series invites you to look at issues from fresh perspectives.**

Each program airs three times a week (currently every Monday at 1:30 pm, every Wednesday at 5:00 pm, and every Thursday at 9:00 pm) for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for cable TV subscribers in Thurston County, Washington. TCTV is part of Thurston County Media. You can see their schedule at [**www.tcmedia.org**](http://www.tcmedia.org)

**You can also watch the program summarized below through your computer** at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). All episodes of “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” are posted on this blog’s “TV Programs” part and also in one or more of the categories listed in the right side of the blog home page. Also, see information about various issues at the category headings at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).

Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 **[glen@parallaxperspectives.org](mailto:glen@parallaxperspectives.org)**

**🡪 This document provides a clear summary of what we said in the one-hour TV program. I encourage people to watch the great interview – and ALSO to read this document for a great amount of additional information and many links to more sources of information.**

**🡪 I saved this document in Word format with live links.** If this document does not load or print properly for you, please e-mail me at [**glen@parallaxperspectives.org**](mailto:glen@parallaxperspectives.org) and I’ll promptly send you the links you request.

**🡪 Please invite other people to watch this video and/or read this thorough summary through these parts of my blog,** [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)**, including the categories for “TV Programs” and “Peace.”**

**“U.S. Empire Hurts the World – and Hurts Us Too.”**

Glen’s Parallax Perspectives TV Series

March 2024

Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 [**glen@parallaxperspectives.org**](mailto:glen@parallaxperspectives.org)

**Glen welcomed viewers & introduced this month’s topic and guest:**

The March 2024 interview on “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” TV series provides information about some parts of the world that are in the news. Glen and his guest help you understand those realities in some fresh ways. Later in the interview, we pulled the pieces together and see how they fit into a larger – and deeper – way of understanding what the U.S. is doing to the rest of the world – and how the U.S. government’s behavior also hurts ourselves.

You might dismiss this TV episode’s title about “U.S. Empire” as merely left-wing rhetoric. **Actually, during this hour we build a solid case that “empire” is a very accurate description of how the U.S. treats much of the world**.

We wanted to share more information than we could squeeze into this one-hour TV interview, so now you are reading the document Glen typed up that includes that additional information – blended into a thorough summary of what we said during the TV interview. This document also includes some live links to even more information.

This document and the video are at the “TV Programs” category of Glen’s blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). Please invite your friends to visit the blog, click the link for “TV Programs, and see these posted there under this episode’s title about U.S. empire.

Glen welcomed the knowledgeable guest who helped us explore this topic.

**Khury Petersen-Smith** is an expert on today’s TV interview topic. Khury works for the Institute for Policy Studies, an amazingly high-quality organization dealing with foreign policy, economics, and many other big issues. Glen said he has been reading their materials and donating financial support since the 1970s.

Khury Petersen-Smith researches U.S. empire, borders, and migration. His advanced degree dissertation focused on militarization and sovereignty. He was a leader in the 2015 Black Solidarity with Palestine statement, which was signed by over 1,100 Black activists, artists, and scholars. Currently he is focusing on Gaza – and also the broader crises throughout the entire Middle East region.

Glen said that even though we will be dealing with some heavy, serious information, this interview is also fun because we enjoy helping people learn.

**We briefly introduced the concept of “empire” – traditionally and nowadays:**

Glen said most Americans do not think of the U.S. as having an “empire.” We think of the centuries-old British Empire and Spanish Empire, which had colonies in many places around the world.

Today’s interview brings the concept of “empire” up to date. We see how the U.S. dominates other nations as if they are under a U.S. empire. We see how the U.S. treats many other nations in subservient ways for the benefit of the U.S.’s overall agenda – which often includes military power over them, political power over them, and economic power over them.

Before we got into specifics, Glen invited Khury to share some basic overall insights into the concept of “empire” as he understands it.

Khury said “empire” is a system of control over large parts of the world’s territories. He said that includes political, military and economic control. He said it is a way to make sure that the political and economic systems of the world’s dominant powers are favored. The system involves the most powerful countries and also countries that are less powerful but that still have some control over countries with far less power. Glen said this sounds like a hierarchy, and Khury agreed. Khury said the disparities of power exist across nations and also within some nations. Empire even is relevant to those internal disparities.

Glen said that later in this interview we will discuss how we replicate within the U.S. some of the unjust policies that the U.S. imposes at the international level.

**Israel – Palestine – Gaza:**

We started with Khury sharing information and insights about the major global crisis in Israel and Palestine. He discussed the U.S.’s total support for Israel against Palestinian people – both on the West Bank and especially in Gaza, to the southwest. Glen showed on the TV screen the map you can see in the next column.

Khury said the U.S. has strongly supported Israel for decades. The U.S. has given Israel billions of dollars – especially in weapons and other kinds of military and economic support. This is very long-standing. Recently the U.S. has been giving at least $3.8 billion every year in military assistance. In recent years, Israel has been asking for even more, and the U.S. has been giving even more.

He said now (we produced the program in mid-February 2024) Israel is conducting a truly horrific assault upon Gaza. Gaza is part of Palestine. Israel has been blockading Gaza for the past 16 years. Israel is bombing Gaza and forcing its population to become refugees [from their homes, which Israel has been destroying.]



Khury said the U.S. has – besides providing military support for this – also been providing political support. He said the U.S. supports all of that, despite the fact that Israel is clearly violating international law. Indeed, Israel had already been violating international law before October 2023, when the latest military escalation began.

He said during these past months of bombardment, Israel has been openly and blatantly cheering its bombardment of Palestine. He said the U.S. recognizes no “red lines” that would limit U.S. support for Israel’s war crimes. Israel has attacked hospitals, mosques, United Nations facilities – and has killed medical personnel. He said the U.S. has supported Israel – both militarily and politically – even while Israel has been doing all of this.

Glen added that just recently – in early February 2024 – President Biden said very weakly that he wished Israel would not commit genocide, but he has continued to vigorously and lavishly fund Israel’s genocide of the Palestinian people anyway. Glen said no only does Biden look like a war-hawk, but he also looks like a hypocrite. Biden said he wishes Israel would not do the kinds of extremely violent cruelty for which the U.S. knowingly keeps providing huge amounts of money and weapons.

Khury agreed. He said U.S. officials have mentioned the idea of concern for the humanitarian crisis for Palestinian people – and have mentioned international law – but they keep supporting the U.S.’s funding and weapons that allow Israel to commit that violence and violate international law. He said the U.S. has shipped tens of thousands of bombs and tank shells since October 2023 that have enabled Israel to conduct their bombardment.

Glen said some people might think that the past few months of violence in the region came out of nowhere, but actually, there is a long history behind it. He said his December 2023 TV program clearly explained previous decades of background and the context for the most current conflict in Israel and Palestine. He interviewed two expert guests: Cindy Corrie and Larry Mosqueda. People can watch the TV interview and/or read a thorough summary of what they said (with links to additional information) here: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/israel-and-palestine-background-and-context**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/israel-and-palestine-background-and-context)

**We did not have time to say this during the hour:**

On March 16, 2003, Glen’s close friend Rachel Corrie was murdered by an Israeli military bulldozer while she was nonviolently protecting a Palestinian family’s home from demolition in Rafah, Gaza. Rachel was volunteering with the International Solidarity Movement. She was standing tall on a mound of dirt, wearing a bright orange vest, and shouting through a bullhorn urging the bulldozer driver to stop. Instead of stopping, he bulldozed over her, lowered his blade, and backed over her. It was deliberate murder, but Israel’s government refused to hold him accountable.

Rachel’s experience shows that being an American does not protect us from Israel’s military violence.

Her family and friends created the Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice ([**https://rachelcorriefoundation.org**](https://rachelcorriefoundation.org)). It is continuing her work of solidarity for peace and human rights and activities in Rafah and elsewhere.

Also, Biden’s support for Israel’s violence against Palestinians has been provoking violence against Arabs and Muslims in the U.S. – and also violence against Jews in the U.S.

See more information about the Middle East region at this part of Glen’s blog: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/international-affairs-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions/middle-east**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/international-affairs-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions/middle-east)

A great many non-profit organizations are working for peace in the region. If you want some referrals, contact Glen at (360) 491-9093 or [**glen@parallaxperspectives.org**](mailto:glen@parallaxperspectives.org)

**How is the concept of “Empire” relevant to Israel and Palestine?**

Glen asked Khury how he sees the concept of “empire” relevant to Israel and Palestine. Khury said that a moment ago we had said that “empire” is a system of control. That control can take many forms. He said that Americans tend to think of “empire” in terms of the old British, Spanish and French empires and their respective colonies, “which were directly administered by the imperial powers.”

He said Israel is repeating that centuries-old pattern now in the 21st century. They commonly use the word “settlers” to refer to Israelis who have taken Palestinian lands and are living on it. He said many Israelis – especially in the West Bank – self-identify as “settlers” and embrace the communities they built on stolen Palestinian land as “settlements.”

Khury said that recently Israel’s Prime Minister Netanyahu wrote an article for the New York ***Post*** in which he described Israel’s current war against Palestinians as a battle for civilization against barbarism. Khury said those stereotypes are “classical imperial-colonial understanding” of power. Khury said this is “not accidental.” He said Netanyahu wrote this article “in English for an American newspaper for an American audience.” He said this indicates that Netanyahu’s support for this colonialism is part of a 21st century American outlook on the world.

Glen added that some of the top people in Netanyahu’s government have referred to Palestinian people as “animals.” Actually, the Palestinians are the indigenous people who have lived there for thousands of years. But now Israelis feel entitled to steal their land and kill as many Palestinians as they feel like killing.

For more information, please see the op-ed that Khury wrote recently about Israel and Palestine. It is relevant to our discussion of empire: [**https://inthesetimes.com/article/united-states-imperialism-israel-gaza-palestine-lessons**](https://inthesetimes.com/article/united-states-imperialism-israel-gaza-palestine-lessons)

**Iran – Mossadegh, the shah, the Nixon-Kissinger model of arming the shah to control the region for the U.S., the nonviolent revolution in 1979, updates since:**

Glen said most Americans are poorly informed about many parts of the world because of the propaganda we receive from politicians and mainstream media.

He said American politicians and mainstream media often talk about Iran – but they refuse to acknowledge the most important facts about the U.S.’s decades-long abuse of Iran – and they keep claiming that Iran is a threat, when really the U.S. keeps hurting Iran in many ways.

Most Americans do not know that Iran had a democracy in the early 1950s. Iran’s voters elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh, but he had served only a few years before Britain and the US overthrew Iran’s democracy in 1953 because he wanted Iranian people – instead of British stockholders – to benefit from Iran’s oil wealth.

The British oil company BP, which recklessly spilled oil in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, was making huge profits by extracting oil from Iran’s oil fields, but it paid Iran less than the fair value. Prime Minister Mossadegh wanted to nationalize the oil business and use the profits to help the Iranian people.

But Britain and the U.S. overthrew Iran’s democracy and installed a brutal dictator, a monarch whose title was the Shah of Iran. The U.S. provided weapons so he could violently repress the Iranian people who wanted democracy and human rights. The U.S. kept arming this **extremely brutal** dictator and keeping him in power for 26 years.

By the early 1970s the Vietnam war turned US public opinion against deploying US troops into foreign wars, so Nixon and Kissinger decided to **maintain U.S. empire** without sending U.S. troops to fight on the ground in other countries. Nixon and Kissinger provided many powerful US weapons to regional thugs who would **enforce the U.S. empire** in their regions of the world. Nixon and Kissinger provided massive amounts of the U.S.’s most sophisticated weapons, including jet fighter planes, so the Shah of Iran could dominate that region on behalf of the U.S. empire.

Indeed, in the 1970s a subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee investigated the extent of U.S. weapons sales to Iran’s dictatorship. The Senate committee and declared our weapons sales to be “out of control.” Calling our weapons program to Iran’s dictator “out of control” is a very heavy judgment to come from a Senate committee!

Also, in the 1970s Amnesty International declared that Iran had the **very worst** human rights of **any** nation in the world. But the U.S. kept that dictator heavily armed and violently abusive for 26 years.

Indeed, the U.S. kept providing deadly weapons to enable the Shah to violently repress his people and – as the U.S.’s client in the U.S.’s empire – use violence elsewhere in that region on behalf of the U.S. This is a strong example of how the U.S. empire functions in the world.

But in 1979 a great many Iranians rose up in a very broad-based **nonviolent** movement to oppose the Shah. When huge numbers of Iranians were nonviolently protesting in the streets there, the Shah used helicopters provided by the U.S. to fly low over the streets and machine-gun the people who were nonviolently protesting for human rights.

In 1979 the popular, broad-based movement actually did **nonviolently overthrow** the Shah, even though he was so heavily armed by the U.S. **This shows that nonviolence is stronger than military violence.**

Since then, the U.S. has used many different methods to impose cruelty upon Iran. The U.S. has tried to make us afraid – and keeps threatening to make a war against Iran. Glen said we did not have time to share that information now, but he encouraged people to visit the “Iran” part of his blog. Here is the direct link to that: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/international-affairs-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions/iran**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/international-affairs-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions/iran)

The U.S. government and mainstream media have continuously tried to make the American people afraid of Iran – and keep threatening war against Iran.

Iran’s nuclear program has been about energy and nuclear medicine, but the U.S. kept lying and claiming that Iran was trying to build nuclear weapons. Actually, Iran was fully complying with international inspections, which kept proving that Iran’s nuclear program was peaceful. But American politicians and mainstream news media have been lying about this and trying to demonize Iran so the American people will fear Iran and use violence against them.

**Saudi Arabia, etc., in the concept of “empire”:**

Glen said that he wanted to explain another “subcontractor” in the region that has been enforcing U.S. empire.

He said that after the U.S.’s 1953 coup against Iran – the first big “war for oil” – the U.S. has conducted several other “wars for oil,” including two in Iraq. We don’t have time to mention much of this during this TV interview, but he did want to help our TV viewers understand how Saudi Arabia fits into this. (*See the map below, which Glen showed when Khury mentioned some of those nations*.)

Saudi Arabia is a monarchy, not a democracy. Their rulers are extremely, extremely rich because they control their nation’s oil, and they are extremely cruel to women and to anyone who disagrees with their brutal dictatorship.

In the early 1970s when Israel and Saudi Arabia were in conflict with each other – and Saudi Arabia sharply reduced their oil sales to the U.S. – President Nixon cut a deal that would have the U.S. actually provide a lot of highly sophisticated military weapons to Saudi Arabia in exchange for restoring their oil exports to the U.S.

The U.S. encouraged that nation’s dictator – just like the Shah of Iran – to use the U.S.’s deadly military weapons to control that region of the world.

In recent years we have seen the U.S. allow Saudi Arabia’s extreme violence against nearby nations, including Yemen, which Khury explained next.

**Middle East region overall – Iraq, Syria, Yemen, etc.:**

Glen showed this regional map on the TV screen:



Glen said Khury is an expert in the greater Middle East region, including Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and other nations that the U.S. has been abusing.

Glen invited Khury to tell us about Syria, which the map shows in a dark color at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea, south of Turkey, west of Iraq, and north of Saudia Arabia.

Khury said Syria has been suffering a civil war. He said Syria’s internal political struggle has made it vulnerable, so it quickly became deeply entangled in a regional power struggle involving regional powers Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey – and also global players including the U.S. and Russia.

He said Syria’s people have seriously suffered. Many millions of them have been displaced within Syria – and also displaced to other countries.

He said the U.S.’s relationship with Syria has been interesting. On the one hand, the U.S. government has demonized Syria’s government and criticized its problems.

But also, in the context of the U.S.’s so-called “War on Terror,” Syria was an early ally during the Bush-Cheney era. He said the U.S. subcontracted its torture program to occur in other countries outside of the U.S., including Syria. The U.S. called this aspect of its transnational torture program “extraordinary rendition.” The U.S. would detain people elsewhere, but could not torture them inside the U.S., because that would violate U.S. law, so the U.S. sent them to other countries – including Syria – where they would be tortured on behalf of the U.S. In this way, Syria’s government acted as an ally of the U.S. – a subcontractor for torture.

He said more in the context of Syria’s civil war. He said Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad – who is really a dictator – has said he is fighting an array of opposition forces in the name of “fighting terrorism.” Khury said a variety of forces oppose Assad’s dictatorship. Some of these are popular opposition forces – and overwhelmingly nonviolent.

Some others are rooted in the Kurdish population. The Kurds are an ethnic group that extends throughout the region, including Syria, Iraq and Iran, but they have never been allowed to have a nation of their own. Khury said they are oppressed wherever they live. Kurds fight against Assad in their long-standing pursuit of their own freedom and autonomy. Assad keeps accusing his opponents of being “terrorists.”

Glen added that this accusation is used often by the U.S. government to demonize its enemies. He said using this accusatory label seems sufficient to cause the American people to oppose whoever has been labeled “terrorist.” The facts don’t matter; the accusatory label is sufficient.

Glen also added that most Americans don’t know that for a number of years the U.S. military has stationed many troops in Syria, where they are fighting a number of factions in order to control Syria’s oil for the U.S.’s benefit.

Recently he saw a list of 15 factions that were fighting each other in Syria. The U.S. was **funding and arming** **several** of those factions – and these were **fighting each other**, in addition to fighting the supposed “enemies,” whoever those were. He said the U.S. is fighting with itself and arming multiple sides and adding to the chaos.

Khury said this is a recurring theme in several other countries in addition to Syria. He said Syria is a tragic example of shifting alliances. The U.S. sometimes sanctions the Syrian government and sometimes allies itself with the Syrian government against various other enemies. Likewise sometimes the U.S. and Syria work with Kurds and sometimes the U.S. and Syria betray and oppose Kurds.

Glen said the U.S. keeps thinking it is being strategic, but really the U.S. is stupidly and incompetently playing games.

Next Glen asked the TV viewers to see Yemen, south of Saudi Arabia (*shown in dark brown near the map’s bottom*).

Khury provided some basic information about Saudi Arabia’s war in Yemen – and the U.S.’s support for that cruel war. He expressed appreciation for Glen’s summary of how Saudi Arabia became an ally of the U.S. He said in the past two decades Saudi Arabia has become a very powerful player in its region. In 2015 it launched a powerful air war against Yemen as a way to meddle in an internal Yemeni power struggle on behalf of one faction there. He said Saudi Arabia waged a horrific war against the poorest nation in the Middle East. Their catastrophic attacks have devastated Yemen’s infrastructure. Their blockade of Yemen has hurt Yemen very badly because Yemen depends on exports.

He said a political-military-religious force in Yemen (commonly known as the Houthis) has survived and maintained power there, despite Saudi Arabia’s years-long onslaught. He said these two opponents were trying to negotiate a peaceful settlement until Israel’s October 2023 attacks on Gaza reignited this conflict in Yemen. The Houthis started attacking ships entering the Red Sea (*west of Yemen on the map*), which is a major shipping lane for the world’s economy. The Houthis said they will continue attacking ships bound for Israel until Israel stops its bombardment of Gaza. The U.S. intervened and currently is bombing Yemen. Khury added that – after Saudi Arabia failed to defeat Yemen – the U.S. is bombing Yemen and the Houthis in an attempt to “re-litigate” the end of the recent war. But, he said, this will only lay the groundwork for further wars.

Glen said this kind of behavior by the U.S. is part of a pattern that has been occurring over and over again for many decades. He said that our current President Joe Biden seems to respond to international problems by bombing more countries and killing more people. Glen said we do not have a thoughtful foreign policy based on wisdom, compassion, or international law – or anything other than military violence.

Glen pointed to the map showing Iraq north of Saudi Arabia and west of Iran. He encouraged people to visit the “Iraq” part of his blog. The direct link is [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/international-affairs-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions/iraq**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/international-affairs-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions/iraq)

He said we were short on time, so he asked Khury to mention Iraq just briefly in the context of U.S. empire.

Khury said the U.S. has a history of using violence against Iraq. The U.S. launched two huge invasions and air wars against Iraq in 1991 and 2003. The U.S. occupied Iraq for many years, and – although that occupation is supposed to be over – the U.S. still keeps more than 2,000 troops there. He said Iraq’s current government really is the legacy of the U.S.’s occupation of that nation. He said many Iraqis resent the U.S.’s ongoing presence in their nation – in addition to their resentment of the corrupt and repressive government that the U.S. cultivated and armed.

He said in a way similar to Yemen’s Houthis responding to Israel’s bombardment of Gaza by attacking ships serving Israel, so also some Iraqi people respond to the U.S.’s continued military presence in Iraq by attacking U.S. troops in their country. They also are angry at the U.S.’s violent support for Israel’s war against Palestinians. Instead of sensibly stopping the U.S.’s abuses of Iraq’s people, President Biden responded by bombing Iraq yet again.

Glen said that when the U.S. occupies some country or abuses a country in various ways, the U.S.’s cruelty turns that country’s population against the U.S. He said he and other people in his age bracket remember the U.S.’s war in Vietnam.

The U.S. occupied that nation with half a million troops who committed horrible crimes that killed millions of people in Southeast Asia and seriously hurt their environment. Despite that overwhelming cruelty against the Vietnamese people, U.S. President Johnson – who kept waging and escalating the war – kept saying “we are winning the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese people.”

Glen said that approach was incredibly bone-headed. It showed how utterly clueless the U.S. government was to the actual realities.

**Afghanistan – CIA – Osama bin Laden – Mujahideen – Taliban – Sept. 11, 2001:**

Glen referred our TV viewers to the map, which was still on the screen. On the right side of the map – shown in dark purple – is Afghanistan. Glen shared this information about the U.S. empire there.

He said that in the Cold War’s final decade – from 1979 to 1989 – the Soviet Union occupied and controlled Afghanistan. The U.S. reacted by making the CIA recruit, organize and arm a group of terrorists – the Mujahideen – to fight against the occupied government of Afghanistan. The CIA’s top leader there was Osama bin Laden.

After expelling the Soviet Union, the CIA’s Mujahideen evolved into the Taliban, which became Afghanistan’s brutal government. The Taliban ruled with extreme cruelty and repression – especially against women.

So then after that – ironically – the U.S. waged a 20-year war against the terrorist group that the CIA had created.

The CIA’s puppet – Osama bin Laden – later became famous for organizing some men from Saudi Arabia (our ally) to hijack American passenger planes on September 11, 2001, and destroy the World Trade Center’s twin towers – and they attacked and damaged the Pentagon too.

One of the hard realities about violence – which the U.S. government and mainstream media **never** seem to understand – is that **violence unleashes more violence in more places**. **Cruelty comes back to bite us!**

In the 1950s the CIA recognized this reality and called it “blowback.” When the U.S. military or CIA conducts violence anywhere, we anger those people, and very often they will retaliate against the U.S. through terrorism or other methods. This has happened many times. This is one of many ways in which **the U.S. Empire actually hurts the American people**.

George W. Bush and Dick Cheney reacted to the 9-11 attacks with a “war on terror” that they promised would be worldwide – and would continue forever. For more than two decades since 2001, presidents and Congresses of **BOTH** political parties have continued, escalated, and lavishly funded this reckless, violent, and counter-productive scheme of endless war.

**Terrorism – “fighting terrorism” – backlash:**

Next Glen asked Khury – who has extensively studied the U.S.’s “war on terror” – to share some insights about what has happened in the two decades since 9-11-2001.

Khury said the “war on terror” never ended. It has become institutionalized into having become a permanent feature of the U.S.’s participation in “the world order.”

He said the U.S. continue to wage many activities – military violence, surveillance, and so forth under the guise of “fighting terrorism.”

He said that – in addition to what the U.S. has been doing – the U.S. also gave all other nations around the world this gift of being allowed to use “fighting terrorism” as an excuse for carrying out their own agendas of suppressing internal dissent and fighting external enemies. This gimmick is very convenient form them to justify cruelty and violence by simply saying they are “fighting terrorism.”

Glen said this also is a way for them to “get onto the gravy train” and get U.S. funding for “fighting terrorism” when they are really just fighting their internal and external enemies. The U.S. uses this as an excuse for arming dictators and other repressive governments around the world. This is a way for the U.S. to expand the U.S. empire, which is the topic for today’s TV interview.

Glen provides much more information at the “Terrorism” part of his blog. The direct link to that is [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/terrorism-and-9-11-attacks**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/terrorism-and-9-11-attacks)

Khury co-authored an article explaining that Israel has learned from the U.S.’s imperialism and calling for “a critical look at the past two decades of war making that the United States has led in the name of ‘fighting terrorism.’” Read it here: [**https://inthesetimes.com/article/united-states-imperialism-israel-gaza-palestine-lessons**](https://inthesetimes.com/article/united-states-imperialism-israel-gaza-palestine-lessons)

Khury said that – soon after the 9-11-2001 attacks – the very first head of state who reached out to President George W. Bush with offers of sympathy and support was Russia’s Vladimir Putin. Putin said Russia also has suffered from terrorism. Khury said Russia was – at that time – waging a horrific war in Chechnya. After 9-11, Putin was able to characterize and justify their brutal war in Chechnya as a war against terrorism.

Likewise, he said, Israel has a long history of destroying Palestinian people’s political power and killing many Palestinians. He said after 9-11, Israel’s Prime Minister Ariel Sharon denounced Yasser Arafat (the leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization at that time) by proclaiming, “Arafat is our bin Laden.” This was Israel’s new propaganda excuse for waging war against Palestinians in the name of “fighting terrorism.”

Khury said other nations have jumped onto that bandwagon too.

He said he does not like to use the word “terrorism” in a descriptive way because it does not really describe anything. “It’s more of an epithet.” It’s mostly just a label for painting your enemy.

He offered El Salvador as his closing example of this particular topic. He said El Salvador once again has an extremely repressive national government. It says it is targeting gangs, but it is actually very repressive against much of the population. El Salvador recently build the very largest prison in the world – and officially named it “The Center for the Confinement of Terrorism.” He said the prison has absolutely nothing to deal with “terrorism” as the U.S. uses the term, but the U.S. has incubated that term as useful for any government to say, “this is our enemy, and therefore we will use violence and dehumanize people.”

Glen said he remembered that during the Cold War of the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, if anyone raised an issue that challenged the status quo, anybody else could shut that person down by loudly accusing them of being “a communist.” This actually stopped discussions of important issues. Mainstream news media would not report on what the person had said because they were afraid of being labeled “communist sympathizers.” This seriously suppressed public discussion of important issues.

Now, he said, people can easily demonize someone by labeling them “a terrorist.”

**See this information about terrorism and ISIS:**

We did not have time for Glen to share information showing that the “terrorist” group ISIS actually had its origins in the U.S.’s war in Iraq. If the U.S. had not been so cruel to Iraq, ISIS never would have been created. Here are some articles:

* Obama + Hillary Clinton at ISIS's beginning: [**http://www.opednews.com/articles/Hillary-s-Media-Shills-Joi-by-James-Jatras-Al-Qaeda\_Hillary-As-Warmongering-Hawk\_Isis\_Media-Corruption-160824-690.html**](http://www.opednews.com/articles/Hillary-s-Media-Shills-Joi-by-James-Jatras-Al-Qaeda_Hillary-As-Warmongering-Hawk_Isis_Media-Corruption-160824-690.html)
* How the American Invasion Unleashed Jihad: Journalist Anand Gopal on Islamism, ISIS, and the role of the United States in Iraqi politics in 2023: [**https://jacobin.com/2023/07/how-the-american-invasion-unleashed-jihad**](https://jacobin.com/2023/07/how-the-american-invasion-unleashed-jihad)
* ISIS Grew Out of US Invasion of Iraq. What Will Happen Next? [**https://truthout.org/video/isis-grew-out-of-us-invasion-of-iraq-what-will-happen-next/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=177551ee-b430-44b8-afe2-cbe78a6a6b09**](https://truthout.org/video/isis-grew-out-of-us-invasion-of-iraq-what-will-happen-next/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=177551ee-b430-44b8-afe2-cbe78a6a6b09)
* Glen’s December 2007 TV program provides fresh information and insights about terrorism, which has been described as “asymmetrical warfare” conducted by “have-not” people against militarily powerful adversaries. Glen interviewed Steve Niva, Ph.D., who explained terrorism as “asymmetrical warfare.” Steve is one of the nation’s top experts on the Middle East region, and he has been a guest on about 9 of the TV programs Glen has produced since 1987, because he is highly knowledgeable and highly skilled at explaining complex information clearly so even novices can understand the issues. Glen produced that TV program 6 years after the 9-11 attacks to help viewers understand the context, reasons, etc. It is still very much worth watching. Watch it here: [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7-36x\_JAHU&feature=youtu.be**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7-36x_JAHU&feature=youtu.be)
* Also, this news item was posted on February 18, 2024: Headline: **Terrorism in Africa increased 100,000% during “war on terror.”** Summary of article: In 2003, the United States military embarked on a self-appointed mission to fight “terrorism” in Africa, building bases, conducting bombings, training militaries, and fighting with militants on the ground without much attention from Congress or the public at large. Since then, with billions of dollars spent and hundreds of civilians killed, deaths from terror attacks have INCREASED by 100,000%. In 2003, there were just nine terror attacks in all of Africa that killed 23 people. In 2022, over 23,000 people were killed in terror-related attacks. On top of that, at least 15 officers who benefited from US security assistance have been involved in 12 coups. Terrorists, bombings, and massacres seem to follow wherever the American imperial machine treads — conveniently justifying the expenditure of more taxpayer money and the sale of even more weapons to perpetuate endless conflicts that heap death and terror on some of the world's poorest people. Source: [**https://responsiblestatecraft.org/africa-terrorism/?link\_id=8&can\_id=e62e762c26877f0fe538cb355533a954&source=email-judge-hits-trump-with-colossal-punishment-in-fraud-trial-2&email\_referrer=email\_2210010&email\_subject=supreme-court-signals-disaster-for-trump**](https://responsiblestatecraft.org/africa-terrorism/?link_id=8&can_id=e62e762c26877f0fe538cb355533a954&source=email-judge-hits-trump-with-colossal-punishment-in-fraud-trial-2&email_referrer=email_2210010&email_subject=supreme-court-signals-disaster-for-trump)
* But the horrible news in the paragraph above is NOT a defeat for the Pentagon; it’s a great victory! Now the Pentagon has created even more enemies to fight, so the Pentagon can demand a much bigger budget to expand its “war or terrorism”!

**Cold War – NATO – Ukraine, etc.:**

Glen said that especially after World War II, the U.S. became the world’s dominant military and economic power. In several ways the U.S. treated other nations as if they must be subservient to the U.S.’s military and economic empire.

The U.S. created NATO – the North Atlantic Treaty Organization – and has always dominated it. But NATO was not content to militarily control only the North Atlantic region. When Obama was president, he allowed his Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to convince Obama to use NATO to overthrow the government of Libya, which is SOUTH of the Mediterranean Sea, on the north coast of Africa. The 2011 Clinton-Obama-NATO overthrow of Libya has subjected it to violent, oppressive rule by competing warlords for more than a dozen years since then.

President Biden has been looking for ways to use NATO in other parts of the world too.

Glen said this is an example of what is called “mission creep.” You create an entity and allow its mission to expand far beyond what it was created to do.

Similarly, President Truman created the Central Intelligence Agency to provide honest, accurate information about the world. But the CIA quickly began developing its own foreign policy, conducting foreign wars, violating international law, and doing many horrible things on its own – in secret, because it won’t even let Congress or the President know everything it’s doing.

Glen said the war in Ukraine is extremely serious – and recklessly dangerous. President Biden is pursuing a land war against Russia – and his administration has publicly said their war really is intended to weaken Russia. This is dangerous because Russia has nuclear weapons, and Putin has threatened to use them.

He invited Khury to share his insights with us.

Khury said Russia unjustly and violently invaded Ukraine recently, and there is a long history of Russia controlling Ukraine. He said Ukrainians have a right to decide for themselves what they want. But he said that legitimate right of self-determination has become entangled in a larger geo-political struggle between the U.S. and Russia. The U.S. sees Ukraine as the front-line of the U.S.’s opposition to Russia. He said U.S. officials in Washington DC refer to Ukraine as “the eastern flank of NATO.” He said the U.S. is disrespecting Ukraine’s people in our government’s dehumanizing and condescending attitude that they are simply a strategic region for the U.S. and NATO to mess with.

All of this has led Ukraine’s government to see the U.S. as its main patron for weapons and power.

He said there are two wars. One is whether Ukraine will be controlled by Russia or by the Ukrainian people. The other is a proxy war between Russia and Western nations led by the U.S. and NATO.

Glen said he has heard people say that the U.S. is willing to pursue the Ukraine War against Russia until the last Ukrainian has been killed. So he agreed with Khury in criticizing the U.S.’s very dismissive attitude toward Ukraine.

**Latin America – Chile – Central America:**

Glen said he has more information about Latin America than we have time to share on TV now, so some of the information in this part of the document includes material he did not have time to say on TV, along with what he did say.

In the late 1700s our nation’s founders strongly wanted to avoid the endless wars that Europe had been suffering for centuries. George Washington and others spoke strongly against “foreign entanglements.”

Therefore, our nation’s founders did NOT want a “standing army.” Instead, they relied on “well-regulated” state militias, and they created the Second Amendment to protect militia members’ rights to store their guns at home, so we did not need to create a national army. In case of invasion, the “well-regulated militia” members could be mobilized for defense, but there was NO “standing army.”

But 200 years ago – in 1823 – President James Monroe unilaterally issued the Monroe Doctrine, which says the U.S. considers all of Latin America to be subject to the will of the U.S., so the U.S. will aggressively prevent any other nation from interfering in our back yard.

The U.S. has repeatedly interfered in many Latin American nations – and violently overthrown many governments there – for the sake of U.S. business and political interests.

Since the 1840s Chile had Latin America’s oldest and longest-running democracy — until President Nixon, Henry Kissinger, the CIA, and Chile’s military and mining companies overthrew it on September 11, 1973. They installed General Pinochet, an **EXTREMELY BRUTAL dictator** who murdered and “disappeared” thousands of Chile’s people and imposed brutal fascism in order to serve big business and the military. **The U.S. supported the EXTREMELY BRUTAL dictatorship for 17 years** until 1990, when a referendum restored democracy.

In the 1980s Ronald Reagan’s CIA created an extremely cruel terrorist organization in Nicaragua – the “Contras” – that violently tried to overthrow Nicaragua’s new democracy. The CIA even published a manual teaching the “Contras” how to assassinate local government officials.

Many Americans appreciated Nicaragua’s Sandinista Party and their grassroots efforts to promote local education, health, and other sensible projects. One of those activities was organized by Ben Linder, a young man from Portland, Oregon, who was building very small-scale hydroelectric projects in rural areas so people could get locally produced electricity. Reagan’s CIA’s “Contras” murdered Ben Linder for doing that. Glen knew the older man from Shelton, Washington, who went there to finish building the small project that Ben Linder had been building.

Also during Reagan’s administration, the “Iran-Contra” scandal occurred. The U.S. government had already passed a law prohibiting selling any military weapons to Iran, but Reagan broke that federal law, illegally sold military weapons to Iran, and illegally used that revenue to further fund the “Contras” in their terrorist war against Nicaragua’s democracy.

The U.S. committed many other programs of violence in Central America, including funding the “death squads” that murdered Catholic Church leaders who were in solidarity with poor people’s efforts for social and economic justice in El Salvador.

We did not have time to discuss Venezuela, which stopped obeying the U.S. government – or Cuba, which the U.S. has been vigorously and cruelly punishing for more than 70 years in a chronic Cold War mania.

See more information at the “Latin America” part of Glen’s blog. The direct link is [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/international-affairs-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions/latin-america**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/international-affairs-see-foreign-policy-and-specific-nations-and-regions/latin-america)

**Korea:**

Korea is yet another example of U.S. empire.

Glen said the Korean War has **never ended**. A ceasefire has been in effect since 1953, but no treaty was ever signed to actually end the war. The U.S. has militarily occupied South Korea consistently since the early 1950s and has dominated its politics in a number of ways.

The U.S. has built and armed many military bases there – and filled them with many thousands of U.S. troops.

The U.S. has supported right-wing governments in South Korea that allowed all of this and stifled public opposition to the U.S.’s empire there. The U.S. supported the Korean CIA, which brutally repressed dissent a few decades ago.

The U.S. has used South Korea as a launching pad for war against Vietnam and threatening war against China.

**We did not have time for Glen to add this:**

Less than 20 years ago, North Korea became one of the nine nations that currently have nuclear weapons. North Korea has between 20 and 40 of them. The U.S. has more than 5,400. But American politicians and mainstream news media want us to be afraid of North Korea.

We need to understand why North Korea has them. Ever since the 1800s, the U.S. has been overthrowing other nations’ governments. But since other nations started acquiring nuclear weapons, the U.S. has NOT overthrown the governments of any nations that have nuclear weapons.

The U.S. has been threatening North Korea since the early 1950s – including threatening them with the U.S.’s nuclear weapons. In light of the “deterrence” theory, it is perfectly reasonable for North Korea to feel that it must protect its own “national security” by having a few nuclear weapons and missiles that could deliver them to the U.S. North Korea feels it needs its nuclear weapons to protect itself from the U.S. empire.

**Okinawa:**

Glen said that for half a century, the U.S. military has maintained military bases throughout Okinawa – an island south of Japan, *See the next page for the map of Okinawa that Glen showed on the TV screen. It shows the many U.S. military bases occupying the island*.

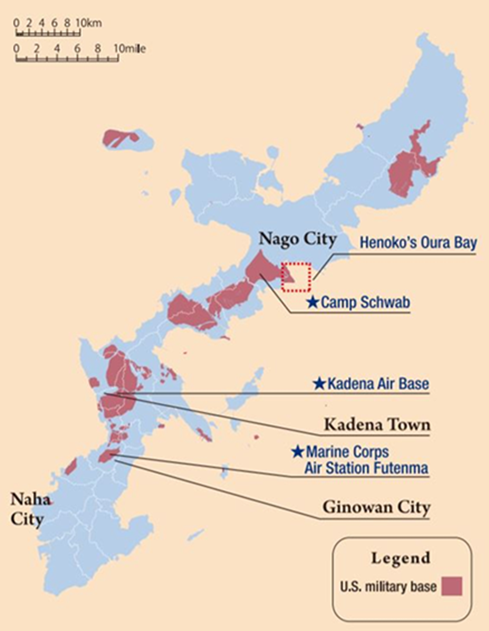
Over the years, U.S. troops have assaulted and raped many Okinawan women and girls. When the U.S. bases its troops in other countries, the U.S. imposes “Status of Forces Agreements” that prevent the governments where U.S. has stationed troops from using their own national and local laws to prosecute U.S. troops who commit crimes there.

The crimes might be reported only to the U.S. military chain of command, which routinely fails to hold troops accountable for assaulting and raping local women and girls. The excuse is that “boys will be boys,” and – because the U.S. military knows it is stressful to be stationed in foreign countries, the U.S. military routinely allows troops to “blow off steam” by raping the local women there.

Many Okinawans want the U.S. to get out, but the U.S. still feels entitled to continue its military occupation of Okinawa for more than half a century.

The map in the right column is what Glen showed on the TV screen.

You can see how many U.S. military bases the U.S. keeps maintaining – decade after decade – on Okinawa, an island south of Japan.



**Obama’s “pivot toward Asia” – China as next target:**

In November 2011 President Obama announced the U.S.’s “Pivot to Asia,” so Glen asked Khury how he understands what President Obama’s “pivot to Asia” really means in the context of U.S. empire.

Khury began his answer by referring to our interview’s overall topic of U.S. empire. He said that after World War II when the U.S. emerged as the world’s most powerful country, the vision of “Pax Americana” – a U.S.-dominated world order – emerged and took hold. This vision says the U.S. should control how global politics – and global economics and global commerce – should function around the world, and that it would be good for everybody. Actually, he said, this has only been self-serving for the U.S.’s elites.

He said this helps to explain what the U.S. has done throughout the Middle East, throughout Latin America, and in Asia and in the Pacific region too.

He said the fear in Washington DC is that any other power could emerge and challenge “Pax Americana” – and challenge the U.S.’s role as the “super-power” that calls the shots. Our national government is worried about Russia in this regard. This partly explains what the U.S. is doing in Europe now, where the U.S. is using Ukraine as a proxy conflict for fighting Russia.

The U.S. government is **especially** worried about China, which is practically tied with the U.S. for having the world’s largest economy. China has huge economic power – and huge political power too, especially in its region. [Also, we did not mention that China has been making huge economic investments in Africa, Latin America, and elsewhere, so this gives it political leverage too.]

Khury said that in 2010-2011 the Obama Administration developed their “pivot to Asia” policy in order to explicitly shift our nation’s focus from fighting wars in the Middle East toward now focus on protecting U.S. power in the Asia-Pacific region. This means “containing the rise of China,” he said. He said the “pivot” means moving more Navy ships and more Air Force plans and more U.S. troops to that region. Previously, he said, these had been split 50-50 between the Atlantic and the Pacific. Obama shifted that to be about 60-40 in order to counter China.

Glen thanked Khury for putting all of this in context, so instead of cheering “USA! USA!” to counter our fear of communism in the Soviet Union, now we are told to cheer “USA! USA!” to promote fear of China. The U.S. is shifting its military strategies accordingly.

We did not have time to say that the U.S.’s demonization of China has led to violence against Asian Americans within the U.S.

See the article titled, “The Pivot to Asia Was Obama’s Biggest Mistake”: [**https://thediplomat.com/2017/01/the-pivot-to-asia-was-obamas-biggest-mistake/**](https://thediplomat.com/2017/01/the-pivot-to-asia-was-obamas-biggest-mistake/)

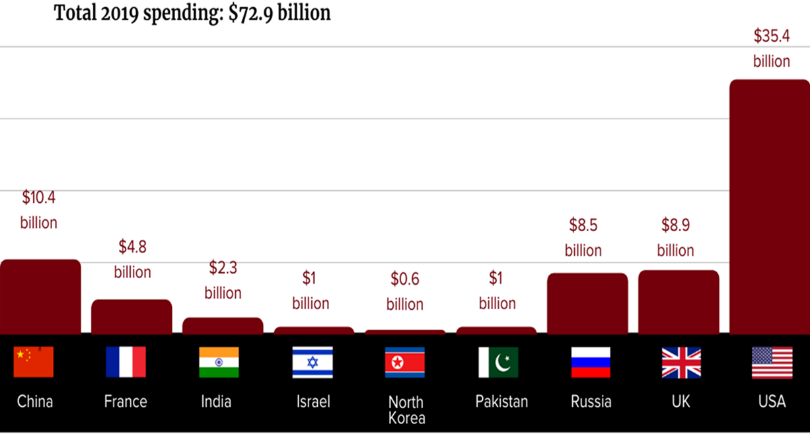
**Nuclear weapons are both a symptom and a method for enforcing US empire.  
Non-Proliferation Treaty – and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons:**

Glen’s information here expands upon what he had time to say during the TV interview.

Nuclear weapons are a **huge** part of the U.S.’s behavior as an empire. Nuclear weapons are both a **symptom** of the U.S.’s mania for empire – and also a **method of enforcing** our empire on the rest of the world.

The U.S. was the first nation to develop nuclear weapons in the 1940s – and the only nation to actually use them against innocent civilian populations in Japan in 1945.

Since then, the U.S. has aggressively invented and built each successive escalation of the nuclear arms race. This has caused other nations to react by building their own too. Currently nine nations have them. Glen showed on the TV screen this graph showing how much the 9 nations with nuclear weapons spent on nuclear weapons in 2019. The U.S. spent about as much as all other nations combined:

****

China spent less than 1/3 of the amount the U.S. spent. The U.K. and Russia spent less than China, and all other nations spent significantly less.

Glen said this is not even in the Pentagon’s budget. Nuclear weapons are in the Department of Energy’s budget.

The U.S.’s nuclear weapons enforce our empire worldwide. For a number of decades, when some international crisis would occur and the President would go on TV and publicly address our nation – and the nation the U.S. is angry at. The president would likely say, **“All options are on the table.”** That is a direct threat in which the President is telling the other nation in the conflict that they must do whatever the President tells them to do, or the U.S. might destroy them with our nuclear weapons.

The official U.S. propaganda claims that we need nuclear weapons to protect our “national security.” But instead of actually providing security, the U.S. actually keeps threatening to destroy the world with our nuclear weapons. We aim ours at Russia, China and North Korea. Therefore – by the U.S.’s own logic (the “deterrence” theory) – those nations **need their own** nuclear weapons in order **to protect their own “national security”** from attack by the U.S.

This is not a sustainable policy. If anything goes wrong, we’ll all die. Ironically, instead of providing “security,” a nuclear war could destroy human civilization. The only way to be **truly secure** would be to **abolish all** nuclear weapons!

The 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis extremely frightened the world. The world’s people protested and accomplished the 1963 Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and some other treaties that were great steps toward peace.

In the 1960s the whole world was terribly afraid that many more nations would build nuclear weapons. This led the whole world to create and pass the 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in order to stop spreading nuclear weapons into more countries. **The NPT was a grand bargain** in which the non-nuclear nations agreed never to get them – and **the nations that already had them agreed to promptly stop the nuclear arms race and pursue disarmament** under strict and effective international control.

However, over the past half century, **all** of the nuclear nations have continued escalating instead of disarming. A few treaties have helped, but George W. Bush, Trump and Putin destroyed many of the treaties. **All** of the nuclear nations that had signed the NPT have been **violating** it.

**The non-nuclear world is sick and tired of being held hostage by nine nuclear nations**, so they boldly challenged those nations by developing a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN, [**https://www.icanw.org**](https://www.icanw.org)) led a growing movement (largely from the global South) leading to the creation of the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)**.

In July 2017 the TPNW passed the United Nations General Assembly by an overwhelming vote of 122 of the 193 nations. ICAN won the Noble Peace Prize that fall. The Treaty entered into force on January 22, 2021. By early February 2024, 70 nations have ratified the TPNW. This prohibits in those nations any activities supporting nuclear weapons.

**“Addicted to War”:**

The information Khury and Glen have been sharing here provides strong evidence that the U.S. really is “addicted to war.” Yes, the U.S.’s behavior really is an **addiction**!

Glen showed on the screen two booklets. One was titled, ***WEAPONS ADDICTION***. Its subtitle is, “The Arms Race as a Behavioural Dependency.” It was written by Dr. Ron D.C. Aspinall, a Canadian medical doctor and published in 1989. Soon after that, the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation brought him to Olympia WA for a public speaking engagement. Recently Glen typed up a summary of his booklet. If you want Glen to send you the document I created, e-mail him at [**glen@parallaxperspectives.org**](mailto:glen@parallaxperspectives.org)

Glen also held up a booklet in comic book format, titled ***ADDICTED TO WAR***. Its subtitle is, “Why the U.S. Can’t Kick Militarism.” It is an illustrated exposé by Joel Andreas. See [**www.addictedtowar.com**](http://www.addictedtowar.com) for information about buying it. Veterans for Peace has also been distributing it.

The medical doctor who wrote the first booklet said people are wrong to think the nuclear arms race is merely “crazy” or a psychosis. He makes a solid case for recognizing it as an actual addiction. Curing it needs some of the strategies and therapies that are used for curing other kinds of addictions.

Everyone knows that when someone is seriously addicted to gambling or alcohol or illegal drugs, the addiction dominates their life and prevents them from living a normal, healthy life. They can’t hold a steady job. Their health goes bad. Instead of paying their rent or feeding their family, the money goes for gambling, alcohol or illegal drugs.

The U.S. has been doing exactly that. Instead of spending to provide health care, end poverty, protect our environment, or accomplish other goals that we really need, the federal government has been hurting America by spending that money on military violence.

The U.S. empire is directly hurting the American people – along with the rest of the world.

**The U.S.’s perverted priorities have hurt Americans’ health. Glen showed these facts on the screen:**

* In 2016, the U.S. lifespan ranked 43rd among 195 nations.
* Recently the U.S. infant mortality rate ranked 50th in the world.
* Our maternal mortality rate is bad too – especially for Black mothers.

**The U.S.’s health ranks very badly among the world’s rich nations:**

These facts came from this source: [**https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2023/jan/us-health-care-global-perspective-2022**](https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2023/jan/us-health-care-global-perspective-2022)

* + The U.S. is the only rich country in the world that does not guarantee health coverage.
  + The U.S. life expectancy at birth is lower than the world’s other 12 rich nations in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
  + Avoidable deaths per 100,000 population in the U.S. are higher than the OECD average.
  + The U.S. has the highest rate of infant and maternal deaths.
  + Deaths from assault are highest in the U.S. In the OECD nations, the U.S. rate is about 6 times as high as the second-highest nation.
  + The U.S. obesity rate is nearly double the OECD average.
  + Adults in the U.S. are the most likely to have multiple chronic conditions.

**We did not have time for Glen to add these facts:**

Health in the U.S. is bad because the government lets giant insurance companies run our health system instead of prioritizing actual health care.

The problems really are long-standing and bi-partisan, but President Biden’s foreign policy is especially bad.

President Biden has filled his administration with some of the worst war-hawks. His Secretary of State (in charge of the agency that should be promoting honest diplomacy) came from a career selling U.S. military weapons to other countries. He appointed to powerful positions some absolutely horribly extreme Cold War hawks with histories of opposing human rights. Recently he hired for a powerful position someone notorious for wanting to start a war against China.

The U.S. spends more on its military than the next 10 countries combined.

The U.S. has about 750 military bases in about 80 other countries. Russia and China have very few foreign military bases.

**Weapons manufacturers fund candidates in both political parties:**

Glen said the problems we have been discussing are **deeply rooted** – and **systemic** within U.S. politics and U.S. culture. Many Americans feel we have an inherent right to dominate the world – just because we are U.S.A.

During the Vietnam War, Senator J. William Fulbright (the long-standing chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations) denounced what he called the U.S.’s “arrogance of power.” See information about this savvy senator: [**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J.\_William\_Fulbright**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._William_Fulbright)

**Both of our big political parties are absolutely and deeply committed to U.S. empire.** Don’t let anyone tell you that replacing one big party with the other one would solve the problems. The U.S.’s empire persists regardless of which party has the President or which party controls Congress.

Over the decades, the gigantic business corporations that make military weapons – including nuclear weapons – have been giving gigantic amounts of money to U.S. political candidates of BOTH parties. Those business corporations get huge returns for their investments – ever-increasing funding. Very recently, both parties in both parts of Congress gave EVEN MORE money to the Pentagon than the Pentagon had requested!

These big-money campaign donations **really are bribes**, but in recent decades the U.S. Supreme Court has increasingly allowed extremely rich people and gigantic business corporations to bribe political candidates legally through huge campaign donations.

We will NOT solve this crisis until we STOP letting “BIG MONEY” CORRUPT our elections. Glen’s June 2022 TV interview focuses on how BIG MONEY CORRUPTS our elections. He interviewed a nationwide expert (the director of Common Cause’s Money in Politics & Ethics Program, [**www.commoncause.org**](http://www.commoncause.org)). You can watch the interview video and/or read what we said through my blog at this link: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/big-money-in-elections-corrupts-our-government**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/big-money-in-elections-corrupts-our-government)

**We really must slash the Pentagon budget.  
We must use those savings to fund human needs + environment.**

The U.S. uses our gigantic military to enforce U.S. empire upon other nations. This is NOT sustainable for the world – and it is NOT sustainable for the U.S. either.

Humanity needs us to slash the Pentagon budget – and slash the nuclear weapons budget – and use the savings to fund human needs and to protect the environment.

Here is the link to the “Military Spending” section of Glen’s blog: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/military-spending**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/category/military-spending)

**Economics: Global capitalism promotes empire by promising “jobs,”  
But we’d have more & better jobs if we were to convert to peace:**

Time was tight, so Glen said only some of this on TV, but here is more information in addition to what he did say.

Centuries ago, some rich European countries created colonies in other parts of the world in order to exploit those areas’ natural resources and other economic wealth.

Nowadays, the U.S. empire serves similar purposes in the globalized economy. The U.S. and other rich nations have developed global economics rules that allow them to continue doing that. The U.S. Empire serves the interests of big U.S. businesses and global capitalism – against workers, democracy, and the environment. Rich nations wrote and enforce those rules in order to allow those injustices.

The Establishment keeps saying the military spending “creates jobs,” but the truth is that ever since the 1950s, economists have been proving that military spending actually REDUCES jobs that we could create for education, housing, health care, and the environment. We could create MORE jobs and BETTER jobs by slashing the Pentagon budget and using the savings to fund what the American people really need.

Also, Glen’s extensive research in 1976-1977 showed that – even apart from the budget trade-offs – military spending PERVERTS how our economy functions. It makes our economy dysfunctional in several systemic ways. We need to **convert our war economy to a peace economy**. This would actually help our nation – and Washington State’s economy – and the American people – in many ways. He did not have time to explain this further. Contact Glen if you want to know more about this.

**How else does U.S. empire hurt ordinary Americans?**

Khury agreed with Glen’s economic insights, and he also explained further how the U.S. Empire actually hurts the American people.

Khury said that the global power hierarchy is accomplished through violence. He said that’s why the U.S. became the world’s most powerful country – and why the U.S. maintains that status.

He said much of the violence that the U.S. uses in other countries “is actually piloted here” against indigenous people, against Black people, and against migrants. We see this in the U.S.’s militarization along the border, and in the long-standing and systemic police violence against Black communities. He said that now when indigenous people protest against oil companies’ abuses of their lands and waters (for drilling, pipelines, etc.), now those indigenous people are being designated as “terrorists.”

He said these kinds of violence by the government here also get implemented in other countries.

He also said the converse also is true. He said some of what the U.S. military does in other countries is copied by police departments in the U.S. and used against people here.

Glen said he checked the time and discovered that we are quite late, so instead of saying the rest of our information on TV, he will simply post it to the blog document that thoroughly summarizes what we said on TV. *You are reading that document now*.

***He said that before we end this interview, he wants to tell our TV viewers about the excellent organization for which Khury Petersen-Smith works. See that information on page 16.***

**We did not have time for Glen to say this on TV:**

The U.S. empire hurts our troops and our entire society in a number of ways.

Many veterans return home from war addicted to alcohol and drugs – and with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a result of what they had experienced in war. These veterans cannot maintain their families, so their families break up. They can’t hold jobs. Many veterans have become homeless. They suffer for the rest of their lives, and American society suffers too for ongoing decades.

The U.S. military trains its troops to torture people in other countries. One method is called “waterboarding.” In order to terrorize a person into telling you what you want to hear (*e.g*., the names of “terrorists”), you tie the person to a plank and tilt it so the person’s head is under water. Just before they die from drowning, you tilt the board back up and order them again to tell you the information you want to hear.

An army troop returned to Tacoma, Washington, after learning how to do this in Afghanistan. He was frustrated that his 5-year-old daughter was having difficulty learning her ABCs, so he waterboard her by tying her to a board and laying it on the kitchen counter. He tilted it so her head was under water in the kitchen sink. This torture did not help her learn her ABCs.

The U.S. has imposed its empire even upon our own continent. Early in our history arose the concept of “Manifest Destiny” – the assumption that God had given White European Americans the right to dominate all of the lands and waters here – all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This assumption allowed White European Americans to steal lands and waters from the millions of Native Americans living here. We killed as many of them as possible and put many of the rest on tiny “reservations” where we allowed them to govern themselves to some extent.

**Race – in context of U.S. empire internationally – and within the U.S.:**

We did not have time during the TV interview to share some additional information about the blatantly racist aspects of U.S. empire in other countries – and parallels that are applied within the U.S.

When Trump was president, he wanted to mobilize the U.S. military and deploy them against Black protesters who objected to racism in the U.S..

Currently, Biden’s support for Israel’s violence against Palestinians has been provoking violence within the U.S. against Arabs, Muslims and other people perceived as such.

We must not let anyone divide us.

Abolishing U.S. empire will help heal racism in the U.S.

**Replace U.S. empire with better values – and better foreign policy:**

Our TV interview discussed many problems, but we did not have enough time to propose solutions.

Both of us encourage the American people to lift up better values that we want to guide U.S. foreign policy. These include rejecting ego, greed, racism and violence.

Instead, we want the American people to lift up and affirm basic fairness, compassion, and respect for international law.

Let’s help the American people envision the kind of world we want to live in – and demand the federal government take positive steps in that direction.

**Read the Institute for Policy’s excellent materials. Support their efforts.**

Glen said he is delighted to be interviewing an expert from the Institute for Policy Studies. Glen showed IPS’s website on the TV screen:

Institute for Policy Studies

[**https://ips-dc.org**](https://ips-dc.org/)

He said he has been reading the expertly researched and written materials from the Institute for Policy Studies since the 1970s – and he has donating substantial financial support for their work.

Their website shows the important issues they focus on with great expertise (peace, economics, and much more).

IPS’s website posts many of their reports and also lists the experts working there.

The bottom of their website’s home page lists some sister organizations whose materials Glen receives by e-mail.

He encourages people to sign up to receive their materials. He encouraged people to join him in supporting their work through voluntary donations.

**Sources of information:**

Glen recommends many excellent sources of information about the issues we have been discussing:

* The Institute for Policy Studies – [**www.ips-dc.org**](http://www.ips-dc.org) – has published many excellent reports. See them at their website.
* He also very much appreciates the organization World Beyond War, whose e-mails and articles are smart and wise. See [**www.worldbeyondwar.org**](http://www.worldbeyondwar.org). Click this link to sign their Declaration of Peace: [**https://worldbeyondwar.org/individual/?link\_id=18&can\_id=e62e762c26877f0fe538cb355533a954&source=email-wbw-news-action-the-fierce-urgency-of-ending-war-now&email\_referrer=email\_2111657&email\_subject=wbw-news-action-stop-killing-people**](https://worldbeyondwar.org/individual/?link_id=18&can_id=e62e762c26877f0fe538cb355533a954&source=email-wbw-news-action-the-fierce-urgency-of-ending-war-now&email_referrer=email_2111657&email_subject=wbw-news-action-stop-killing-people)
* Glen’s blog – [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) – has a category for **“Peace.”** Visit [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) – and then click the category for **“Peace”** and some categories for other aspects of today’s topic that we mentioned.
* Some other relevant TV programs are posted on his blog. You are currently reading the document Glen typed up to thoroughly summarize what he and Khury said during our TV interview – and to include much additional information. This blog post also includes the video link for our one-hour TV interview. Please invite your friends to visit Glen’s blog at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), and click the link for **“TV Programs.”** Scroll down and click this TV episode’s title, **“U.S. Empire Hurts the World – and Hurts Us Too.”**

**Military violence does NOT work! Glen’s closing encouragement for peace:**

Glen thanked Khury Petersen-Smith for sharing his knowledge and insights for this interview.

He also thanked the people who have been watching this TV program.

The current crises happening in the world did not come out of nowhere. They have historical context. That context includes the U.S.’s long-term assumption that the U.S. is entitled to have an empire that controls the world.

For many decades, U.S. politicians and U.S. news media have been assuming – and declaring – that the U.S. must “lead the world.” Somehow they appointed the U.S. to be the one nation that must “lead the world” and tell other nations what to do.

What if Paraguay were to declare itself the “leader of the world” and boss the other nations around?

What if Zimbabwe were to declare itself the “leader of the world” and boss the other nations around?

History proves that U.S. military violence does **not** work. After World War II, the U.S. has LOST or STALEMATED all of our big wars: Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, and so forth.

Military violence does **NO**T achieve its stated goals. Instead, it causes “blowback” that hurts us.

Actually, the U.S.’s mania for militarism has been hurting our own nation – along with hurting the rest of the world.

The U.S. has conducted many, many, many wars all over the world since the 1940s, but the most recent time the U.S. actually “declared war” – as the Constitution requires – was for World War II.

We need to STOP the U.S.’s out-of-control militarism and our U.S. empire. We need to replace them with a wise, compassionate, and nonviolent foreign policy.

Some of Glen’s recent TV programs and blog posts have fleshed out how practical that would be. Visit his blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), and click “TV Programs” category and also the categories for “Peace” and “International.”

You can get information about a wide variety of issues related to peace, social justice and nonviolence through my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)or by phoning me at   
(360) 491-9093 or e-mailing me at [**glen@parallaxperspectives.org**](mailto:glen@parallaxperspectives.org)

I end each TV program with this invitation to help make progress:

**We're all one human family, and we all share one planet.**

**We can create a better world, but we all have to work at it.**

**The world needs whatever you can do to help!**