

At doom's doorstep: It is 100 seconds to midnight

By: *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* published on Jan. 20, 2022

The members of the Bulletin's Science and Security Board find the world to be no safer than it was last year at this time and therefore decided to set the Doomsday Clock once again at 100 seconds to midnight.

This decision does not, by any means, suggest that the international security situation has stabilized. On the contrary, the Clock remains the closest it has ever been to civilization-ending apocalypse because the world remains stuck in an extremely dangerous moment. In 2020 we called it the new abnormal, and it has unfortunately persisted.

To read the full statement and further information on this organization go to: <https://thebulletin.org/>



Association of United Ukrainian Canadians urges Canadian government to reduce tensions.

From: Association of United Ukrainian Canadians: Winnipeg, January 27, 2022

The Association of United Ukrainian Canadians has been watching with great concern developments in Ukraine.

The danger of war between NATO and Russia is very real and would be devastating for Ukraine, Europe and possibly the entire world.

Ukraine has already suffered tremendously from almost 10 years of internal war in the Donbass.

The AUUC views the recent statements by Foreign Minister Joly in support of Ukraine membership in NATO as contributing to the tensions and contrary to finding a peaceful and diplomatic solution to the crisis in Ukraine.

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Minister Joly's statements are part of a multi-pronged policy pursued by Canada that has heightened not lessened tensions over Ukraine. The Canadian government has emphasized hard power and boots on the ground over diplomacy.

The Government in Ukraine is urging calm and Canada should do the same.

There is a path to peace and stability in Ukraine and a role for Canada to play but it must begin by deescalation and using diplomacy not confrontation to bring about solutions. This would certainly be welcomed in Ukraine and Europe.

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The Elders warn civilians will pay the price if diplomacy fails in Ukraine crisis

The Elders today warned that innocent civilians will pay the price for political failure if the current tensions over Ukraine continue to escalate, and urged all parties to work in good faith for a peaceful solution through dialogue.

The Elders affirmed their support for Ukraine's sovereignty, its territorial integrity, its democracy, and its people's right to live in peace and security.

Ban Ki-moon, Deputy Chair of The Elders and former Secretary-General of the United Nations, said:

"This crisis cannot and must not be resolved through the use of force. It would be a moral outrage if innocent civilians who have already suffered in the past paid the price for a failure of diplomacy. Resolution of the Ukraine crisis requires both current tensions and their root causes to be addressed. Russia's concerns can be heard without the threat of war. This is a test that diplomacy must not fail."

The current tensions should be resolved within the framework of the rules-based international order that has existed since the end of the Second World War,

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(From page 1) **The Elders warn**

with all parties abiding by the principles of the UN Charter to which they have subscribed.

The first thing necessary to diffuse the tension is for President Putin to reverse the build-up of troops on Russia's Ukrainian border.

Further escalation leading to military action will cause needless deaths, create long-term insecurity for all parties, and have destabilizing consequences beyond Ukraine.

The Elders urged the leaders involved to act in their citizens' wider interests, rather than pursuing short-term nationalist agendas. All parties should approach dialogue constructively, understanding each other's legitimate security concerns and increasing the space for a peaceful solution.

About The Elders

The Elders are independent leaders using their collective experience and influence for peace, justice and human rights worldwide. The group was founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007.

The Elders are Ban Ki-moon (Deputy Chair), Gro Harlem Brundtland, Zeid Raad Al Hussein, Hina Jilani, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Ricardo Lagos, Graça Machel (Deputy Chair), Juan Manuel Santos, Mary Robinson (Chair) and Ernesto Zedillo.

Martti Ahtisaari, Ela Bhatt, Lakhdar Brahimi, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, and Jimmy Carter are Elders Emeritus.

Desmond Tutu (1931-2021) and Kofi Annan (1938-2018) were founding members of The Elders and served as Chairs from 2007 to 2013 and 2013 to 2018 respectively.

Why Russia Is Crazy

By: David Swanson <https://davidswanson.org/why-russia-is-crazy/>

The full extent of Russia's lunacy is hidden from us by a considerate Western press careful of our delicate sensibilities. The demands that Russia made back in December are described by numerous news articles, but the list of demands itself is found in very few places. When you see it, you quickly understand why. The horror of it could shock you right off your sofa. We're told by our newspapers how aggressive and vicious the list is, how it would start a new Cold War, and so on, yet articles much longer than the list itself choose not to tell us what exactly it is, clearly for fear that we couldn't handle it.

You've been warned. Here is the list:
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Why Russia Is Crazy

Article 1: the parties should not strengthen their security at the expense of Russia's security; This is the central substantive stupidity, right at the top — a classic Shock and Awe strategy from the Evil Dr. Putin. The United States and NATO have gone to great lengths to strengthen their security. They've added nations to NATO, marching ever eastward. They've torn up treaties including the Anti-Ballistic Missiles Treaty. They've built missile bases in Romania and Poland. They've staged major war rehearsals near Russia's border. They've shipped weapons to Ukraine despite honestly not caring for the Nazi elements in the government there. You can imagine if Russia had done all of this in Ontario how important that would be to Russia's security, and how irrelevant and offensive it would be to suggest that it really mattered if it was at the expense of someone else's security. Insanity!

Article 2: the parties will use multilateral consultations and the NATO-Russia Council to address points of conflict; This is a purely gratuitous atrocity. Imagine suggesting that everybody sit down and talk. Truly, Moscow should be bombed just for this alone.

Article 3: the parties reaffirm that they do not consider each other as adversaries and maintain a dialogue; Holy !% @^# \$& ^! Can you imagine the impact just on NATO's demand that European nations all spend more on weapons? Not consider Russia an adversary?! This has been the top money-maker since 1917 (WWII notwithstanding). Putin wants to toss it out, just like that. The audacity! An indictment for the crime of aggression ought to be introduced at the International Criminal Court immediately.

Article 4: the parties shall not deploy military forces and weaponry on the territory of any of the other states in Europe in addition to any forces that were deployed as of May 27, 1997; Now we get into truly certifiable territory. To begin with there is the level of disrespect for the fine job NATO has done in Afghanistan or Libya for example — surely this does not originate in a sane mind. Then there's the loss in weapons sales that's simply unfathomable. Consider the economic impact: thousands of people would have to get better-paying, more-sustainable jobs they could feel better about. Incredible. The fact that Putin's minions allow this stuff to make it into print simply shows the extent of the power he wields over them.

Article 5: the parties shall not deploy land-based intermediate- and short-range missiles adjacent to the other parties; Off the deep end! I live in the United States and want nothing more than missiles in
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Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents people of diverse backgrounds officially brought together in 2002 because of our mutual concern for the rise in world conflict. Our mandate is to participate in multilateral non-violent conflict resolution in support of global human rights, ecological and environmental sustainability and international law through education, sharing of information, dialogue and activism locally and globally. We encourage and seek your participation in our mutual work for true peace based on social justice, equality, accountability, integrity, honour, respect, etc in order to build a better world today and future generations.

**BPI web site: www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org
For info contact Laura at (250) 444-0524 or (250) 442-0434 or email: L4peace@telus.net.**

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Mexico and Canada. I'm not old enough to remember it, but there was a time when the United States famously welcomed missiles in Cuba. Let's be rational about this. Russia is playing one doll short of a Matryoshka.

Article 6: all member States of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization commit themselves to refrain from any further enlargement of NATO, including the accession of Ukraine as well as other States;

Should we be offended or understanding of the addled brain that produces such insults? The expansion of NATO has proven incredibly effective. For 30 straight years the Warsaw Pact has not only been contained but actually shown no signs of existing. And you want to mess with that success?

Article 7: the parties that are member States of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization shall not conduct any military activity on the territory of Ukraine as well as other States in the Eastern Europe, in the South Caucasus and in Central Asia; and Need I say more? This would be like asking Russia not to stage war rehearsals in British Columbia. Who doesn't want that? Ridiculous! Think of the tourism benefits!

Article 8: the agreement shall not be interpreted as affecting the primary responsibility of the Security Council of the United Nations for maintaining international peace and security.

The final note. Classic. They're practically openly admitting to sending helicopters full of globalist aliens to take our guns and turn us homosexual. Why are straightjackets for all Russkies not the proper solution?



Reflections on Black Lives Matter 2

By: Robert M. Macrae, Castlegar, BC

If you plan to read one book this year, I recommend *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* (2020) by Isabel Wilkerson: a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, a Howard University graduate, writer for major American newspapers, journalism professor, and Chicago Bureau Chief for *The New York Times*.

Caste is well-written, scrupulously researched, meticulously edited. It leads logically through a progression of ideas, each thoughtfully explained and illustrated by example. Some examples are historic, others personal to Wilkerson. Most are deeply disturbing. For example, there were decades when African-Americans were being lynched every three to four days. The word lynch conceals its barbaric truth: widely accepted mob-torture and murder of innocent African-Americans.

Wilkerson describes the American caste system. She differentiates between caste and class. While we can be born into both, there is no mobility between castes, regardless of our effort, successes, wealth, wit, or friends. From birth to death, we are locked into a caste. If that caste is the lowest, our opportunities are grossly limited, our life expectancy plummets, justice and joy are meaningless.

As Wilkerson explains, lower castes are dehumanized and stigmatized on the basis of a wilful corruption of divine and natural law. Deliberate cruelty and terror ruthlessly enforce castes. Wilkerson examines the American caste system based on skin colour. As she explains, scientifically, the concept of human races is nonsense, but since 1619, skin colour has rigidly defined life in America.

She quotes Alexander H. Stephens, vice president of the American Confederacy, "the negro is not equal to the white man." Negro slavery, said Stephens, is natural and normal. He proudly proclaimed the Confederate government as the first in history based on this great moral truth.

Confederate general Robert E. Lee said, "blacks are immeasurably better off here than in Africa" ... "the painful discipline they are undergoing is necessary for their instruction as a race" and "slavery is a greater burden to slave owners than to the enslaved."

Following the Civil War, amnesty allowed Confederate president, Jefferson Davis, to retire comfortably to a Mississippi plantation. Robert E. Lee was never summoned to account for his treasonous acts nor his abuses to slaves. He served no prison time, but became a college president. Scores of memorials and

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WHAT'S UP?

United Nations International Days of Action

Feb. 1st: World Interfaith Harmony Day

Feb. 6th: International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilations

Feb. 20th: World Day of Social Justice

Feb. 21st: International Mother Language Day

Nelson Mandela purpose of The

Elders group: to work for peace and human rights without fear or favour and give a voice to the voiceless.

You can bomb the world to pieces but you can't bomb the world to peace.

Michael Franti

Why do people like to blame others so much? He who casts blame on another person is quick to think that he would not do the very same thing. It is the same with people who like to listen to the fault-finding of their neighbors.

Leo Tolstoy

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all MPs. Free postage: {Name of MP}, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

Go to the Government of Canada website for MP contact information at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>

The BPI welcomes your input.

Articles may not be common consensus of members. To submit articles contact Laura at **250-444-0524 or 250-442-0434** or email **L4peace@telus.net**.

The BPI is an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Peace Pledge Union, Stop Ecocide Canada, Abolition 2000 & CNANW and works with local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.

Reflections on Black Lives Matter 2

and statues to Davis, Lee, Stephens, and the Confederate leadership were erected while former slaves continued impoverished, miserable, fear-filled lives to this day.

Wilkerson contrasts post-US Civil War romanticizing of the Confederacy, its heroes and symbols with post WWII German prosecution and execution of Nazis and the criminalization of Nazi symbols.

Wilkerson's analysis of the election of President Trump is insightful. Data shows his base was poor, white, unemployed or under-employed men. All they had to give themselves dignity was their white skin. Trump, argues Wilkerson, reassured his base of their special white status without any additional promises for a better life. His base, in turn, elected Trump. Such is the strength of America's caste system.

Complementary to Wilkerson's book is *Between the World and Me* (2015) by Ta-Nehsi Coates. It's a letter by the author to his son describing the persistent, stressful fear that all African-Americans endure 24/7. African-Americans justifiably fear that police or white-skinned people may at any moment, groundlessly stop them, and in an instant, end or completely overturn their life without consequence. Wilkerson and Coates tell the same story. Coates writes in a rapping cadence, capturing the endless fear, grief, and pain that erodes the souls and shortens the lives of African-Americans.

Paraphrasing, Dr. Martin Luther King, I wonder if one day, will we ever live on a planet where we will not be judged by the color of our skin but by the content of our character?

To which Dr. Martin Luther King might reply, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

They asked a shaman

"What is poison? Anything beyond what we need is poison. It can be power, laziness, food, ego, ambition, vanity, fear, anger, or whatever.

What is fear? Non acceptance of uncertainty If we accept uncertainty, it becomes adventure.

What is envy? No acceptance of good in the other. If we accept good, it becomes inspiration.

What is anger? No acceptance of what is beyond our control. If we accept, it becomes tolerance.

What is hate? Non-acceptance of people as they are If we accept unconditionally, it becomes love. "

Universal SOUL awakening