

**THE PEACE PROJECT**

**TIME OUT FOR PEACE:  
A FRAMEWORK TO GROW A CULTURE OF PEACE**

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## *The Peace Project*

### **TIME OUT FOR PEACE: A FRAMEWORK TO GROW A CULTURE OF PEACE**

The **Peace Project** consists of three interrelated parts:

- The Time Out for Peace Plan*
- The Campaign for the World*
- The Personal Peace Making Initiative*

The **Time Out for Peace Plan** (TOPP) provides a simple, practical process for quickly shifting our global “operating system” from a war-based culture to a “Culture of Peace” by creating a:

- One generation, worldwide *Time-Out from War*.
- Voluntary *Global Alliance for Peace & Prosperity*.
- Mutual Defense/Non-Aggression* system fostering international security.
- Gradual, equilateral process for *Military Conversion*.
- Foundation for the World* promoting multi-national and global cooperation through mutually beneficial projects for peaceful, sustainable development among Alliance members.

The **Campaign for the World** provides a flexible **Strategic Plan** for building a coherent and concerted effort by individuals, groups and nations to achieve the acceptance and implementation, by the nations of the world, of TOPP (or something better).

The **Personal Peace Making Initiative** invites every individual to help **Foster World Peace** by:

- Applying the Time Out for Peace principle to *Making Peace in his/her own life*.
- Joining the Campaign for the World and actively *Promoting TOPP*.
- Becoming a Peace-Maker*, in the local community and the world during and after the global time out.

Collectively, the three facets of the **Peace Project** will:

- Provide a framework for a realistic, sustainable culture of peace in the world.
- Channel over \$17 trillion into efforts to reduce the costs and causes of war and violence, while establishing bonds of trust and mutual benefit among the nations and peoples of the world.
- Provide a common fulcrum for collective action by individuals, groups and nations working together toward a culture of peace.
- Provide a means for every interested person to help make a better world.
- Change the course of civilization to a positive future for our children and our children’s children.

## TIME OUT FOR PEACE: PROJECT OVERVIEW

*“Some people see things as they are and ask ‘Why?’ I see things that never were and ask ‘Why not?’”*

*-- George Bernard Shaw/  
Robert F. Kennedy*

### ***A ‘Window of Opportunity’***

We live at a rare and critical moment in history. It is a moment of great opportunity if we act wisely, and substantial danger if we fail to act wisely. For perhaps the first time in history, there is a brief ‘window of opportunity,’ in which we have the critical conditions and necessary resources to create a positive future of abundance, caring for our planet and meeting the needs of the entire human family. If we fail to take advantage of this window, we run the risk of inflicting on our children and our children’s children a vicious cycle of long term conflict over diminishing resources.

As we begin the Year 2000, humanity has a history of nearly 10,000 years of war. After 100 centuries of war, humanity and the planet deserve a ‘time out’ for peace. While the powers that be in the world may be reluctant to give up warfare forever, they may be willing to take a one-generation “time-out.” Time Out for Peace proposes a global time-out from war by all willing nations to: consider the best strategy for humanity over the next hundred centuries and to test the potential for working together, rather than against one another, toward a more positive future.

*“In a sense, every bomb...is a theft from those who are hungry”*

*-- Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower,  
President of the United States*

### ***The “Time Out for Peace Plan” (TOPP)***

The Time Out for Peace Plan (TOPP) provides a simple yet practical framework for quickly advancing world peace while establishing a foundation for a “Culture of Peace,” to support peaceful, cooperative and sustainable world development, in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and beyond.

On the global level, TOPP proposes a series of progressive “time-outs” from war, by the nations of the world (and perhaps non-governmental entities as well.) Beginning with a one-year time out, the plan calls for optional extensions over a thirty-year, or one generation, “time out period.” (At the end of the time out period participating nations could agree to extend the time out process indefinitely or revert to pre-time out relations.) Participants in the time out process would form a ***“World Alliance for Peace and Prosperity”*** agreeing to four interrelated and synergistic accords:

- 1) ***“Voluntary Participation”*** - by member nations as a cooperative association providing financial and security benefits. This allows each

nation to retain ultimate control over its own security. Any nation believing its ability to meet its overall interests was not being improved through its participation in the TOPP/Alliance can simply withdraw its participation.

- 2) **“Mutual Defense/ Non-Aggression Pact”** - among members of the Alliance to increase individual and collective security. Agreement by all participating entities forswearing military action against other Alliance members and pledging to defend any member attacked by a non-member.
- 3) **“Military Conversion”** - through a gradual and equilateral reduction of each member’s military/defense spending at a minimum rate of 3% of 1999 budgets per year, reducing overall military spending by 90% over the 30 year span of the timeout. Provides an opportunity for nations to support the conversion of their defense industries to socially productive enterprise, without disrupting economies. Allows more powerful nations to reduce military capabilities without the loss of ‘position’ vis a vis smaller countries. A faster rate of conversion could be set by any or all nations of the Alliance.
- 4) **“Foundation for the World”** - establishment of a foundation funded by contributions of a portion of each nation’s annual savings in military spending (1/3 of the 3% annual defense spending reduction.) Each member nation financing and controlling its own account in the Foundation. Annual funding would therefore grow, from roughly \$10 Billion (US) in the first year of the time out, to \$300 billion in year thirty. Grants from these accounts would be restricted to Alliance Members, other than the granting member, and focus on funding constructive programs of multinational or global scope to:
  - A) Eliminate root causes of war and violent conflict.
  - B) Build an infrastructure for sustainable peace and development among nations.
  - C) Create ‘ties that bind,’ by bringing the nations of the world closer together through joint programs of mutual benefit, e.g., a multinational water supply and management system in South Asia or a global power grid for efficient and ecological use of energy.

### ***Why the Plan Can Succeed***

As ambitious as it is, the Time Out for Peace Plan can succeed for a few simple, powerful reasons. The rapid growth of Foundation funds over the course of the Time Out for Peace process provides an extraordinary incentive for nations to participate in the alliance. Secondly, the shift from military to more productive spending supports a “virtuous” cycle of development and prosperity within member nations creating a “long boom” for the world. TOPP can work because it is in the self-interest of every nation to participate. And, it is in the mutual interest of all nations participating.

And, it is in the mutual interest of all nations participating, that all other nations participate.

Collectively, the four accords form a solid framework, or matrix, around which a Culture of Peace can grow. As it grows the TOPP process will nourish that culture with financial and social sustenance, at the same time protecting its growth, by gradually eliminating nourishment for the culture of war. To grow successfully, a Culture of Peace needs this kind of support and coherence. Otherwise, it risks becoming like so many other initiatives, a collection of worthwhile but unconnected projects built around a concept that is sensible and well intentioned, but ultimately insignificant in changing the dominant culture and the course of humanity.

At this moment in history, the United States is the sole “super power,” accounting for somewhere between 1/3 and 1/2 of all military/defense spending in the world. It has been estimated that the U.S. alone outspends the so-called ‘rogue’ nations by a magnitude of 18:1. Participation in TOPP by the U.S. and its allies would provide encouragement and incentive to most of the other nations of the world to join in. The U.S. and its allies are so absolutely dominant among the nations of the world, in both military and economic power, that they face negligible added security risks for the substantial benefits they would accrue by participating in TOPP, for a one (3% military spending reduction,) three (9%) or even a ten year (30%) trial period.

Yet, for all their military might, the U.S. and other nations are still vulnerable to terrorist or guerilla attacks with weapons of mass destruction, capable of killing millions of people and drastically disrupting society. A new \$60, 000,000,000 missile defense system or a 500 foot nuclear submarine with 120 sailors are completely wasted against these new types of threats, which will inevitably arise from our culture of war. The old formula of “DxD,” deterrence by destruction is both inherently flawed and limited in the options it presents. Fundamentally changing the culture or ‘operating system’ of world society creates new options. The Time Out for Peace Plan provides a new approach, which can change the operating system of the world from a zero-sum, win-lose system, to a multiplicative win-win system. It can also increase the options for preventing and resolving conflicts by addressing the underlying interests of all parties.

It is time for society to try a new approach, a new strategy for working together rather than against one another. It is time for humanity to seek new and better answers, by looking in a new direction. We live in a new “globalized” world, not of geography, but of ideas and information, of commerce, resources and ecosystems, of what is possible and who is willing. It is time to chart a new course for the mutual success of humanity and our planet, in this century and the next 999. It is time for the U.S. to take bold leadership, toward a globalized model of inter-state cooperation, which can serve the world as well as it has served the U.S. The Time Out for Peace Plan provides the time and the means to shift to a new global model. It is up to us to choose the course.

The Time Out for Peace Plan may not, by itself, eliminate all aspects of war and all violent social conflicts. It does set a new strategic direction for humanity, resolving a number of problems directly and opening up new possibilities, new potential for solving others indirectly. Primarily, the Peace Project/Time Out for Peace Plan sets a new course for civilization and the planet. This new course for a globalized society and a small planet with limited resources is based on old values. Ten thousand years ago at the dawn of civilization, these values served our forebears well, in their isolated hunting bands and villages. TOPP is grounded in the values of cooperation, interdependence, shared risk and mutual support for mutual benefit. These values were vital to small fragile societies one hundred centuries ago and they are just as vital to the new global society of a small fragile planet.

If we fail as a society and as a generation, to take advantage of this window of opportunity to set a better course for civilization, what future will we create for our children? What world will we leave for our grandchildren in 2100? It is in each of our interests, to take a time out for peace now, so we can provide a better future for all of us.

### ***Benefits of the Time Out for Peace Plan***

The synergy of the four accords within the Time Out for Peace Plan will enable member nations to:

- Safely and gradually shift from a culture of war to a culture of peace.
- Increase overall security by reducing armaments and the motivation to use them.
- Reduce costly, non-productive military spending, converting it to productive development nationally, regionally and globally.
- Reduce or eliminate the destructive costs of war.
- Generate funds for a wide range of beneficial economic, social, population, health and environmental projects. Assuming annual global defense spending of approximately \$1 trillion (US) TOPP could channel over \$17 trillion into peaceful productive development over the course of the thirty-year time out period.
- Create resources for the peaceful resolution of conflicts within and among nations and non-national entities.
- Expand the basis for international trust and cooperation through joint projects and programs for global exchange, communication and understanding.
- Sort out any “bad actors” that pose a real threat to the international community.
- Establish a framework for a sustainable global society, a prosperous global economy and a healthy environment.
- Eliminate a major source of the fear and tension in the world, which contributes to conflict and violence on a local and even personal level.

*“If you believe that the course of human history cannot be influenced by a small group of*

*dedicated people, think again. When has it  
ever been otherwise!"*  
--Margaret Mead, Anthropologist

***Strategy: Making Peace, Personally and Globally***

As ambitious as TOPP sounds, it can be accomplished through an integrated multi-track strategy to coalesce worldwide support for peace and influence world political leaders to initiate the Time Out for Peace Plan. The '***Campaign for the World***' will be a global campaign to 'wage peace,' with the same intensity that we have waged war. TOPP can provide a common platform as the "greatest common factor" of agreement enabling diverse groups and individuals to work collaboratively for peace. Leveraging the combined resources of individuals and organizations around the world, the Campaign for the World can create a coherent, concerted effort, to secure the acceptance and implementation of the Time Out for Peace Plan by a critical mass of the nations of the world.

This campaign would aim to shift key '***Centers of Gravity***' through multiple ***parallel initiatives*** for:

- 1.) Engaging '***thought leaders***' from the spiritual, business, arts, and political communities to promote the idea through the media, special events and personal-contacts.
- 2.) Building a coalition of '***peace oriented***' ***groups and organizations*** from the peace, environmental, social responsibility, spiritual and business communities around a common effort for peace;
- 3.) Creating a groundswell of '***grass roots***' support through locally and globally organized events to rally the billions of people around the world who yearn for a world of peace and hope, for themselves and their children;
- 4.) Contacting '***world leaders***' directly and focusing the efforts of the other initiatives to influence '***Political and Religious Leaders***' at all levels, particularly '***Heads of State***' to endorse the time out for peace concept and solicit support among their fellow leaders.

The fundamental **strategic principles** for such a campaign include the:

- "***Trintab Effect***" popularized by Buckminster Fuller;
- "***Winning in Fast Time***" approach to strategic thinking developed by Col. John Warden III (USAF ret.) for the Gulf War military planning, converting leading edge military thinking to the cause of peace making;
- Dynamics of self organizing systems*** and chain reactions from modern physics.
- Methods of ***personal and affinity marketing***.

Just as a small force on the ruddertail or '***trintab***' of a large ocean going ship is used to leverage the latent power of the water to move the larger rudder and thus change the course of the ship, a well orchestrated effort by a core group of committed, influential

people can leverage the latent power of people's desire for world peace to change the course of civilization.

Translating these *strategic principles into tactical actions* in the parallel initiatives can be accomplished through:

- 1) Development of a **Core Group** of committed, well respected and influential people as the 'trintab' to foster and promote TOPP. Bringing together as few as six to twelve key people and modest resources could provide the impetus for a world wide "chain reaction" for peace (6x10 to the 9<sup>th</sup> power = 6,000,000,000 people). Imagine a group consisting of *Jimmy Carter, Ted Turner, Jihan Sadat, Pope John Paul II, Secretary General of the UN Koffi Annan, the Dalai Lama, Mikhail Gorbachev, Oscar Arias, Queen Noor of Jordan, Nelson Mandela, George Soros, Vinod Khosla, M. Ueshiba Sensei*, etc. working together to sponsor and promote Time Out for Peace. This would certainly create the leverage to move the world.
- 2) The use of both **Low and High Tech Communications Methodologies**, starting with the *Internet*, to generate a *Worldwide Network* of individuals and organizations - based on the principles of self organizing systems - promoting TOPP as a *common framework* for establishing a culture of peace in the 21st Century. Simultaneously, the *Core Group* and a *small central organization* could work in parallel to develop common threads to produce a concerted, coherent campaign through:
  - **Mass media** – a? *Concentrated Media Blitz* by thought leaders, in electronic, print, television and radio media, promoting TOPP through articles, interviews and events; *Global Telecasts* of news, issues and events; *Cooperative Advertising* by sponsoring organizations which have a stake in a peaceful world, but are normally seen as competitors, e.g., Coke/Pepsi, Microsoft/Oracle/Sun, Nike/Reebok, The Pope/The Dalai Lama, Michael Jordan/Tiger Woods etc., calling for a time-out for peace, so we can have a safe world to play competitively in.
  - *"Peace" the Magazine* - a global magazine of good news about constructive peace efforts, people, events, and methods, for community building and peace making, personally, locally and globally.
  - *"Make Peace"* – the book, a manual for peace making, authored by Core Group members and others, explaining the TOPP concept, the opportunity for peace, expressing their own hopes for peace, telling stories of peace and outlining ways for readers to become peace makers.
  - *TOPP Website* - with links to other affiliated sites; basic information about TOPP, ways to get involved in the Campaign for the World; a place to electronically endorse TOPP, geographically

organized data base of individuals and groups around the world who have signed the ***“Declaration of Peace”*** in support of TOPP; tips and contacts for organizing locally and nationally including: a downloadable draft of ***“The Peace Letter”*** and downloadable graphics for posters and bumper stickers; a mechanism for making contributions of money, or ideas to improve TOPP, or useful related information.

- ***“Time Outs for Peace”*** - large peace rallies for community organizing, with musical groups e.g., *Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, U2, Andreas Boccelli, ‘N Synch*, etc., and other performing artists. The rallies would bring together a range of people to support TOPP and to educate participants about world issues, the cost of war and the opportunity for peace. Scheduling these ***at a consistent time***, Saturday or Sunday afternoons over the course of a month could build tremendous publicity and momentum. Scheduling these ***in a geographically and temporally coordinated fashion around the world***, could easily create a newsworthy, global event, ***“Around the World, One Day of Peace,”*** that would be on the order of the Millennium Telecast.
- ***Peaceful Demonstrations and Marches*** – to be held around the world, ***“One Moment of Peace!”*** every Monday at noon; Friday noontime ***“Volksmarches” for peace***, etc. There is a long history of large public demonstrations affecting the political process. From Lysistrata, to Gandhi, to Martin Luther King, the Anti War Rallies during the war in Vietnam and the Million-Mom March, there is a long tradition of demonstrations for important causes. TOPP as an expression of a universal desire for peace can continue that tradition on a global level. Large rallies can also provide the link between global and personal peace making.

*“Blessed are the peace makers...”*  
-- *Jesus of Nazareth*

- 3) **Personal Peace Making** – from one perspective, all peace making must begin within each of our hearts, minds and souls. The principle of Time Out for Peace applies both to making peace globally and to making it personally. We can each make the world more peaceful by taking “time outs for peace” in our daily life. Taking even a moment, to seek peace within ourselves, each of us can improve our ability to be a “peace maker” in our families, our communities and the world. All of us taking time outs for peace with a few friends would clearly make the world a more peaceful place. If any of us would take the time and spirit to initiate a time out with our enemies, it just might lead to peace on Earth.

The global Time Out for Peace process provides each of us many opportunities to be a peacemaker and “make the world a better place.” The ***Declaration of Peace***, gives us a format to commit to peace making, starting with ourselves, on both a personal and a global level. Participation in rallies and other aspects of the “Campaign for the World” allows each individual to make a tangible, public contribution to world peace.

While the vast majority of people across the planet no doubt desire a peaceful world for themselves and their families, many feel there is nothing that they as an individual can do to create world peace. They need a way to demonstrate their desire for peace. They need a program and they need leadership. The Peace Project and Time Out for Peace provide the program. The “Core Group” can provide the leadership to inspire other leaders, of all ages and sizes, around the world. Together, person to person, we can create a “chain reaction for peace.” Through each of us making peace personally, we can rally people locally and globally to create an undeniable planet wide demonstration for peace.

**Personal Peace Making** methods include:

- ***“The Declaration of Peace”***– becoming a signatory of a document declaring support for TOPP and pledging to personally act as a peace maker during the time-out period. Copies of each persons signed declaration can be sent to heads of state and other political leaders. Individuals can also take the initiative to gather signatures from family, friends and neighbors, to send to key leaders to demonstrate the support for TOPP. Signers can register their declaration on the TOPP Website.
- ***“The Peace Letter”*** – each individual can launch a ‘chain letter’ to friends and contacts, describing the Time Out for Peace Plan, providing a copy of the ***Declaration of Peace***, inviting participation in the ***Campaign for the World*** and asking only that the recipient sign the declaration and pass it on, if they believe it to be worthwhile. The letter would not solicit money and not make threats of dire consequences if the recipient were not to continue it. Rather it would solicit support in the form of consideration of the concept and support of TOPP by passing the letter on to friends.  
***The Peace Letter*** can be delivered by e-mail, fax, postal mail or by posting in a village square or on a bulletin board. If each able person were to send it to their head of state, local political representative and ten other contacts, the letter could easily reach a critical mass of people worldwide in a matter of weeks.
- ***Peace Work*** – individuals so inclined can reach out to the various communities they are part of, religious, geographic or business, by making ***presentations*** and soliciting input on how to make peace in the world and ***involving their audience*** in the peace making process

through *local events* or other aspects of the *Campaign for the World*. Persons with the appropriate skills and interests can also *play a peace maker role* by suggesting a time out and supporting the peaceful resolution of conflicts they encounter in their communities.

“*Si se puede!*” (*It can be done!*)  
-- *Spanish Saying*

Implementation of the Time Out for Peace Plan on a global level can be achieved. A combination of direct approaches to world leaders and the indirect approach of building a critical mass of grass roots support can convince them of the desire of the world's people for peace. Direct contact from Personal Peace Makers in their own family and circle of friends and associates will also help convince leaders that the time has come for a truly new world order.

Creating mail campaigns and rallying large numbers of people, simultaneously around the world, can demonstrate the desire for peace to any skeptics in an undeniable way.

The Campaign for the World creates a critical mass of people to support the initiation of TOPP, as well as corps of peacemakers around the globe to sustain the success of local and regional projects during the thirty-year time out period. Thus, the Campaign will improve the chances of TOPP's long term success, supply common principles for an emerging world culture and extend its benefits throughout the world.

The strategic challenge of creating a worldwide time out for peace is definitely achievable and, to paraphrase Gandhi, certainly far less strenuous than maintaining the worldwide readiness for war.

### *Next Steps*

The intention of this overview is to show the potential of the Peace Project. The Project currently is merely one person's ideas. Involving more people in refining the plan will certainly make it even better. The fundamental task is to “grow the culture” by involving as many dedicated and capable people as possible.

There is an immediate opportunity to make significant progress for peace. The Year 2000 has been designated as the *International Year for a Culture of Peace* and the beginning of the *International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence*. The Time Out for Peace Plan provides a basic framework or matrix, to begin to grow this new culture and so, fits in directly with the UN program. The **Peace Project** provides a means to actualize the dream of peace represented by the International Year so that a “Culture of Peace” becomes a reality rather than a nice but obscure idea.

As part of the international year's events, Secretary General Koffi Annan has invited the Heads of State of the nations of the world to come together for the *'Millennium*

**Convening' of the UN General Assembly** in September of this year. It will be the largest gathering of Heads of State in the history of the world.

Concurrently with the Millennium Convening, the “**State of the World Forum**” is convening its annual gathering of civil and governmental leaders in New York. Just prior to the Millennium Convening of the UN, New York will be the site of **the Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders** with more than 1,000 religious figures to attend.

If a person or group of people with the access and credibility to make such presentations were available, these three gatherings provide a tremendous opportunity to “float” the Time Out for Peace concept before a very significant portion of the world’s leadership.

With or without such presentations, key first steps in the Campaign for the World involve assembling the “Core Group,” refining the concept and communications materials and initiating a detailed strategic planning process. Under the best of circumstances, using the “Winning in Fast Time” methodology, the Campaign could be underway before the conclusion of the US general election, November 2.

### **Conclusion**

The issue of war and peace is perhaps the central issue of our time. The shadow of war, which has existed throughout our history, not only affects relations among nations, but it shapes and informs almost every aspect of our society.

Humanity has spread to the far corners of the Earth, only to meet itself in different costumes. We are in the “home stretch” of the “globalization” of civilization. There is no easy way back.

We must look to the future and meet it with responsible actions in the present.

We have attained the power to affect the world and its future, for good or ill. For better or worse, we now can, and must, make conscious choices about the future we will largely shape for our children. There is no plausible deniability of our accountability. Abdication of power is not a choice.

We have, for a moment, the opportunity to fundamentally improve the way the world works. Time Out for Peace provides the tools to do it. The choice is ours.

John Menard O'Connell has been the initial developer of Time Out for Peace. He has also been an organization development consultant and facilitator for over twenty years, working with a wide range of organizations from nonprofits to Fortune 100 companies. He has also served as Senior Vice President for Organizational Development of UCSF Stanford Health Care. He was one of the founders, as well as Director of 'The New Games Foundation.' He has a background in mediation and facilitation of complex change and problem solving projects. Additionally, he has been practicing and teaching the martial art of Aikido for over twenty years, with Robert Nadeau Sensei, a direct student of O Sensei, founder of Aikido. John is married to Susan Haldeman, an attorney mediator. They live with their six-year-old son, TMO, in San Francisco, California.