Three major illusions led the American elite.

First, capitalism’s victory over communism meant that the more unbounded capital was, through freer trade and more open capital markets, the better off Americans — and the world — would be. Second, as America’s military supremacy was now overwhelming, the U.S. had the right, the ability, and the world — would be. We dismantled our industrial base, mired ourselves in unwinnable wars, and tore apart the social fabric that bound city to country, worker to employer, and soldier to civilian.

By retired Lt. Col. Andrew Bacevich, author of several studies of American foreign policy.

By Fred Kaplan, national security columnist for "Slate," and author of an earlier work in this field, The Wizards of Armageddon.

Kaplan distinguishes himself with tight, journalistic accounts of what one might term the "high nuclear politics" of D.C. policy makers, military men, public intellectuals and government officials, especially as they quarreled behind closed doors. He applies his insights to "Slate," and author of an earlier work in this field, The Wizards of Armageddon.

Kaplan pulls together his theses from candid interviews with participants at three events: World Conference — Abolish Nuclear Weapons; Stop the New Nuclear Arms Race Conference: Strategizing for Abolition, Action for the Ban Treaty, May 22-25, Maryville College, Maryville, TN. Candidates for scholarships will participate in one of these events and make a PowerPoint or YouTube presentation promoting peacemaking for use by Peace Action. The amount of the scholarship will be $300, or as determined by Peace Action. Contact Rev. Rich Peacock to express your interest. rjpeacock@wowway.com

Apply for a Scholarship to attend peace events

Peace Action of Michigan is offering scholarships to participants at three events:

1. World Conference — Abolish Nuclear Weapons; Stop and Reverse the Climate Crisis; For Social and Economic Justice, April 24-26, Riverside Church, New York City. worldconference2020.org


We hope to reschedule with our long-time friend Charlie King, New England musical storyteller and political satirist extraordinaire, and “One by One” — Julie Beutel, Dwight Cendrowski, Charles Green, Susan Newell, Bob O’Brien, and Barbara Sale.

Since this fundraiser is not happening in May, we invite you to donate to keep our newsletter coming to you and our office rent paid.

How America Squandered Its Cold War Victory

The Bomb: Presidents, Generals, and the Secret History of Nuclear War

Edited by Dan Buett and a retired GM executive. So, send a check payable to “Peace Action of Michigan” at our new post office address:

Peace Action of Michigan
P.O. Box 555, Washington, MI 48094-9998

Save the Date! PeaceBuilder Banquet

If gatherings are safe, we will hold our PeaceBuilder Banquet honoring four PeaceBuilders on Saturday, June 13, 5 pm, at the Birmingham Unitarian Church.

To Build a Powerful Peace Movement, We Need Your Participation

1. Visit our Website – peaceactionmich.org
2. Send us your email address so we can send you Action Alerts: peacemichigan@gmail.com
3. Attend our events and support us online: peaceactionmich.org
4. Support us financially online: peaceactionmich.org

People ask how to become a member of Peace Action of Michigan. A contribution of any amount makes you a member.

The Age of Illusions: How America Squandered Its Cold War Victory

By retired Lt. Col. Andrew Bacevich, author of several studies of American foreign policy.

As a consequence of the Cold War ending, the U.S. did not consider changing course.

The Wizards of Armageddon

By Fred Kaplan, national security columnist for "Slate," and author of an earlier work in this field, The Wizards of Armageddon.

Kaplan distinguishes himself with tight, journalistic accounts of what one might term the "high nuclear politics" of D.C. policy makers, military men, public intellectuals and government officials, especially as they quarreled behind closed doors. A good number of members of the U.S. military joined by some hawkish intellectuals, have indeed thought that nuclear weapons were “usable” and some presidents did at times threaten their main effort was to ensure that they were never, ever used.

Kaplan pulls together his theses from candid interviews with participants at three events: World Conference — Abolish Nuclear Weapons; Stop and Reverse the Climate Crisis; For Social and Economic Justice, April 24-26, Riverside Church, New York City. worldconference2020.org

Stop the New Nuclear Arms Race Conference: Strategizing for Abolition, Action for the Ban Treaty, May 22-25, Maryville College, Maryville, TN. nukewatchinfo.org/stop

Together Again with Charlie King

Fundraising Concert Postponed


We hope to reschedule with our long-time friend Charlie King, New England musical storyteller and political satirist extraordinaire, and “One by One” — Julie Beutel, Dwight Cendrowski, Charles Green, Susan Newell, Bob O’Brien, and Barbara Sale.

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Our long time faithful Treasurer, Frank O’Donnell, has been joined by Terry Pritchett, a retired GM executive. So, send a check payable to “Peace Action of Michigan” at our new post office address:

Peace Action of Michigan
P.O. Box 555, Washington, MI 48094-9998
Nuclear Midnight

We need a new president and a smarter Congress

The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists moved the hands of its Doomsday Clock to 100 seconds to midnight/nuclear Armageddon — the closest the time has been to destroying our planet over 70 years.

Nuclear weapons, climate change, bio- and weapons, and cyber-warfare threaten our very existence. Unfortunately, international cooperation has been declining.

The threat of global annihilation from nuclear war is the single greatest and most imminent disaster facing us today.

This is a more dangerous time as President Trump has abandoned the Intermediate Nuclear Force Treaty (INF), has broken the Iran nuclear deal, outlined a larger role for low-yield nuclear weapons in his Nuclear Posture Review, is “modernizing” our nuclear weapons and the missiles that deliver them, and has reportedly told Russian President Putin that the New START Treaty was a “bad deal” for the U.S., suggesting he might not renew it.

President Trump is ignoring the 2007 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, when the U.S. and other nuclear-armed nations solemnly agreed to “diminish role of nuclear weapons and those who rely on them, and work toward their complete abolition.”

The treaty was adopted without U.S. support by 122 nations on July 7, 2017, due to the Nobel Peace Prize-winning efforts of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. It will ban the development, production, testing, acquisition, possession, transfer, use, and even the threat of using nuclear weapons.

There will be verifiable and transparent safeguards to ensure the destruction of nuclear weapons and non-building of any nuclear weapons. More information at bit.ly/psb chống

Treaty Update

On January 23, 2020, Paraguay became the 15th country to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. 50 ratifications are needed for the treaty to enter into force. We are 2/3 there.

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There will be verifiable and transparent safeguards to ensure the destruction of nuclear weapons and non-building of any nuclear weapons. More information at bit.ly/psbching

10 Trump National Security Threats

Prompted by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, let’s say national security is freedom of speech/democratic governance, freedom of worship/surveillance, freedom from want/assets for well-being, and freedom from fear of foreign or internal violence.

President Trump is threatening our national security and personal quality of life in these 10 ways and more.

1. Trump’s reckless escalation of military and economic aggression on Iran has increased prospect of an all-out war, regional instability, and economic consequences.

2. Trump has encouraged interference by Russia in the 2016 and 2020 U.S. elections.

3. Trump called Ukraine President Zelensky to get dirt on Joe and Hunter Biden for his political benefit.

4. Trump withheld $400 million of vital aid to the U.S. ally Ukraine solely for his political benefit.

5. Trump and Republican lawmakers have refused to support the Election Integrity Act to protect against further interference by foreign adversaries.

6. Trump has criticized Russia’s Putin or Russian propaganda. His private meetings with Putin and business investments with Russia leave him open to blackmail.

7. The Mueller investigation reported 272 contacts between Trump’s team and Russia-linked operatives that the team has tried to cover up.

8. Trump famously didn’t use a secure phone to tweet until months into his presidency.

9. During a May 2017 meeting in the Oval Office, Trump divulged classified information to the U.S. received from Israel to two senior Russian officials.

10. Trump has withdrawn from the Iran nuclear deal, which was working, and the Paris Climate Treaty, which is contrary to the assessment of the Department of Defense’s recognition of “the reality of climate change and the significant risk it poses to U.S. interests globally.”

10 Trump National Security Threats

Save New START

On December 5, 2019, Russian President Vladimir Putin offered to unconditionally extend the New START Treaty that caps deployed, offensive, strategic, nuclear weapons to less than 1,550 for both the U.S. and Russia. Both countries are in full compliance with the treaty.

President Trump seems unwilling to continue New START before it expires on February 5, 2021, although there are some talks between Washington and Moscow.

The administration’s idea that China needs to be included is a non-starter as the U.S. and Russia have more weapons so they need to lead the way.

President Trump could extend New START, keep the verification inspections intact, and restrain Russia’s nuclear ambitions as the treaty has worked since 2010.

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