

L 12. PLANETHOOD: The Key to Your Survival and Prosperity
by Benjamin B. Ferencz and Ken Keys Jr.

Norman Cousins has said that we need real insight into “the most important question in the world”. On the back of this paperback Robert Muller, former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, says that “This is one of the most important books for humanity’s future”.

What is so important? Ending the system that continues to generate wars, and establishing a system in which international peace can become a reality!! But many people believe that “there have always been wars and there will always be wars.” Will nations always make war, even if it takes a draft and propaganda to get millions of youth who do not even know each other to try to kill or maim each other? As war is now, the military bomb whole cities to smithereens although this kills or wounds millions of non-combatant men, women and children who only want a chance to live normal lives. Are we proud of a system that seems to make that necessary periodically? Is that what life is for? Is it really unavoidable? Is the idea that international war could be ended merely foolish utopianism?

Not so, say the authors of this little well-argued book. If we but had the wit, international wars could become a thing of the past. And they tell us how to go about ending the international war system and establishing a real peace system among nations.

They are not dreaming. They are realists--more so than the people who led the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. into an arms race that stockpiled enough nuclear weapons that, if a nuclear war had broken out, might or might not have ended all human life on the planet, but certainly could not have protected either the U.S. or the U.S.S.R. but could have destroyed both utterly.

Now even General Lee Butler, the man who headed all our cold war nuclear forces, and targeted the Soviet union with U.S. nuclear missiles wants to abolish all nuclear weapons. He is not the only leading military man who now says atomic war is idiocy, and nukes cannot protect nations but endangers them, so they must be abolished lest they abolish us even inadvertently or accidentally.

This little book lists 8 steps to lasting peace and prosperity--a prosperity that does not need huge military budgets and Congresses adding weaponry the Pentagon does not even want, while reducing the purchasing power of many of the not-affluent. Crucial is step #2, understanding what needs to be done: replacing the Law of Force with the Force of Law. Nations simply must be placed under law so they cannot threaten one another with military destruction however serious they may consider their disagreements to be.

There must be adequate legal & other peaceful procedures to resolve their disputes, but that is not itself enough. You and I and the people of no nation will be safe from attack until all nations agree to eliminate their power to attack or invade other countries.

Our nation does not need this military power if others also give it up, and only when all do give it up will any nation be safe from military attack. It is possible for all nations to reduce their military establishments together to the level that it is not a threat to other nations but is sufficient to maintain domestic order.

All nations can know that others are doing likewise by carrying out real on site inspection. Instead of bashing the UN, we can and should strengthen it and make it effective in keeping the peace within a system where legal settlement of disputes is necessary because they cannot be settled by mass bloodshed.

What that requires is indicated briefly in this book. What are the other six steps? Read this 187 page book and find out.

If you want to see the first detailed proposal for how to develop the United Nations into an organization whose charter could be modified so that it would be able to substitute a lawful method of settling disputes and prevent international wars, read the 1958 volume by Grenville Clark and Lewis B. Sohn entitled *WORLD PEACE THROUGH WORLD LAW*. Grenville Clark was a prominent U.S. lawyer & is said to have helped write our Selective Service Law, and Lewis B. Sohn fled Nazi Germany & became an American law professor. Their book went through a revision in 1960 and again in 1966 with alternative ways to establish a system of world law to replace the war system in which we are all still trapped.

You could also see other cold war proposals, including one by our State Department and one by the USSR, in *CURRENT DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS AS OF MARCH 1, 1964*, and comparison and evaluation of them by Marion H. McVitty, all published by The World Law Fund in 1964.

So there has been high level thinking about how to make a transition from a war system to an international peace system starting over 40 years ago. It is high time that people put pressure on governments to take steps in the right direction. In 1959 President Eisenhower said that people would someday put so much pressure on governments for peace that governments would have to get out of the way and let them have it. Later President Reagan said that a nuclear war could not be won & must never be fought. He also said that our goal should be to replace a warlike world with a world where wars would give way to freedom from such violence.

It is high time for people to do something! Maybe even support the peace movement by joining some peace groups of your choice.

If your library does not have the Planethood book, a copy can still (at this writing) be obtained from Citizens for Global Solutions, 418 7th Street SE, Washington DC 20003, phone 1-202-546-3950.

While the cold war still raged, a prominent U.S. citizen and a high Ranking Soviet official met and reached what came to be called the McCloy-Zorin agreement. If that agreement had been followed by their two nations, it would have reduced nuclear stockpiles of their countries, step by step over several years to zero, and similarly reduced all the other weapons of mass destruction and their military establishments so they would not constitute a threat to each other any more.

However both governments refused even to consider any such proposal, so the cold war continued until Gorbachev came to power in the USSR, saw the danger and unilaterally stopped short of risking atomic war by allowing Poland to escape Communist control without intervening militarily. Subsequent developments within communist countries resulted in the collapse of European and Soviet communism.

We still mistakenly think that nations can be deterred from doing anything that could be regarded as a threat to their national security by threatening to attack them militarily if they do any such thing. But such threats must be believable to deter anything. If such threats are never carried out, they cease to be believable. So a militarized deterrence system generates war sooner or later.

Public pressure should be put first on the biggest military power in the world, with a huge stockpile of nuclear bombs and other weapons of mass destruction, to work with other countries and together move away from this mutual threat system that continues to generate wars, and to establish an international system in which international disputes could only be settled by peaceful procedures because none could attack another. This is the only way that national security could become a reality in today's world.

That is the only realism in today's world. Those who would maintain the present system that has repeatedly generated wars and could continue to do so are misleading us by calling themselves realists.

Any society can be set up under laws so that their peoples can reap mutual benefits from their interrelationships, and any conflicts that arise between them may be routinely settled by peaceful legal procedures. The U.S. does this over a big area and has prospered accordingly. The next step in world history needs to apply the same lesson, eliminate war as a method of settling disputes & reap the mutual benefits that would result. Nations would still keep their own governments and their own cultures, but would settle disputes by peaceful legal methods instead of by war.

The 12 Days of LT scavenger hunt is going on. Can you solve the clues? I Agree. This site uses cookies to deliver our services, improve performance, for analytics, and (if not signed in) for advertising. By using LibraryThing you acknowledge that you have read and understand our Terms of Service and Privacy Policy. Your use of the site and services is subject to these policies and terms. Hide this.

Results from Google Books. Click on a thumbnail to go to Google Books. PlanetHood: The Key to Your Future was written by Benjamin B. Ferencz and Ken Keyes, Jr. in 1988. This non-copyrighted work was written to advance the argument for a system of international law complete with courts, enforcement, and an international congress. A central theme of the book is the threat to civilization posed by nuclear weapons. The authors start by highlighting some of the serious global problems facing humanity.Â PlanetHood: The Key to Your Survival and Prosperity. Coos Bay, OR: Vision, 1988. Print. Making a key, and then traveling to the Arboretum. Fabricate your Arming Key. After you install the backup drive during "Restore from Backup," Danielleâ€™s computer will provide you with the fabrication plan for Morganâ€™s Arming Key.Â You can take this opportunity to empty his pockets as well â€” heâ€™s got the Alexâ€™s Arming Key fabrication plan and Alexâ€™s Arming key, as well as two neuromods and a TranScribe. Put Alex in his safe room. Drag him back into his safe room.