

At some point in their life everybody will ask themselves this question

WHY WAR ?

Dwight D. Eisenhower an Army General at the end of his term as President of the United States, realizing the potential danger pending over the nation and the world said:

"IN THE COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT, WE MUST GUARD AGAINST THE ACQUISITION OF UNWARRANTED INFLUENCE, WHETHER SOUGHT OR UNSOUGHT BY THE MILITARY/INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX. THE POTENTIAL FOR THE DISASTROUS RISE OF MISPLACED POWER EXISTS AND WILL PERSIST."

The answer is, the folly of those minds based in

SELFISHNESS & GREED !

He also said:

"EVERY GUN THAT IS MADE, EVERY WARSHIP LAUNCHED, EVERY ROCKET FIRED SIGNIFIES, IN THE FINAL SENSE, A THEFT FROM THOSE WHO HUNGER AND ARE NOT FED, THOSE WHO ARE COLD AND ARE NOT CLOTHED. THIS WORLD IN ARMS IS NOT SPENDING MONEY ALONE; IT IS SPENDING THE SWEAT OF ITS LABORERS, THE GENIUS OF ITS SCIENTISTS, THE HOPES OF ITS CHILDREN. UNDER THE CLOUD OF THREATENING WAR, IT IS HUMANITY HANGING FROM A CROSS OF IRON. "

This is happening now, what can we do about it?

We Believe That No Economic, Political, Military Or Any Other System Will Bring Peace And Prosperity To The World; Only A Rising Level Of Consciousness Of Humanity Through The Pursuit of TRUTH Can Bring About This Transformation.

Aparigraha* Team

**Aparigraha: Sanskrit word meaning non-greed, non-grasping*

Aparigraha: New Economic Paradigm for a Culture of Peace

The Sacredness of the Commons

Sun, Air, Water, Land !

&

The Power of the Spirit

THERE WILL BE PEACE ON EARTH



AND IT WILL BEGIN WITH ME

The need to redefine economics:

"I believe as an ecologist that we will not get any of our economics straight unless we recover a sound metaphysical basis."

E. F. Schumacher

(Small is Beautiful)

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Why Economics?

Economics permeates our lives, whether we realize it or not. Our lack of awareness of its pervasiveness opens the door for corporate power grabbing along with its devastating consequences.

Human beings are inter-dependant. We depend on a constant exchange with each other, as well as with our environment in order to survive—the air we breathe, the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the love we seek to give and to receive are fundamental exchanges we make with the world.

Even if money did not exist, we all would have to engage in relations of exchange to support our lives.

The economy-- an organized system of exchange of the goods and services humans produce to stay alive, and live well-- has become a distorted means of generating income that does not necessarily support life. Today, mechanisms of the economic system destroy the very means to live - damaging our land, water, and air - and bring misery and hurt to people, instead of happiness and security.

We need a way to relate to each other in an economic system that is life affirming. To live well implies spiritual, mental, emotional, physical, social and spiritual well being. Since economy touches all of our lives we can each influence our immediate sphere in powerful ways by the way we spend our money.

Why change?

To break the shackles of economic slavery a radical change is necessary. We need to reverse the current trend of this economic system proven destructive because of its core values of scarcity, incentives, “free-market”, profit maximization, and competition, as propellers of economic activity.

This alternative economic paradigm is rooted in core values and principles from the science of yoga. Yoga, a millenary science of human well-being, provides guidelines for harmonious and positive societal and interpersonal relationships.

Yoga is not a religion, but a spiritual science whose ultimate goal is complete harmony and union with all of life by merging with the Source of life.

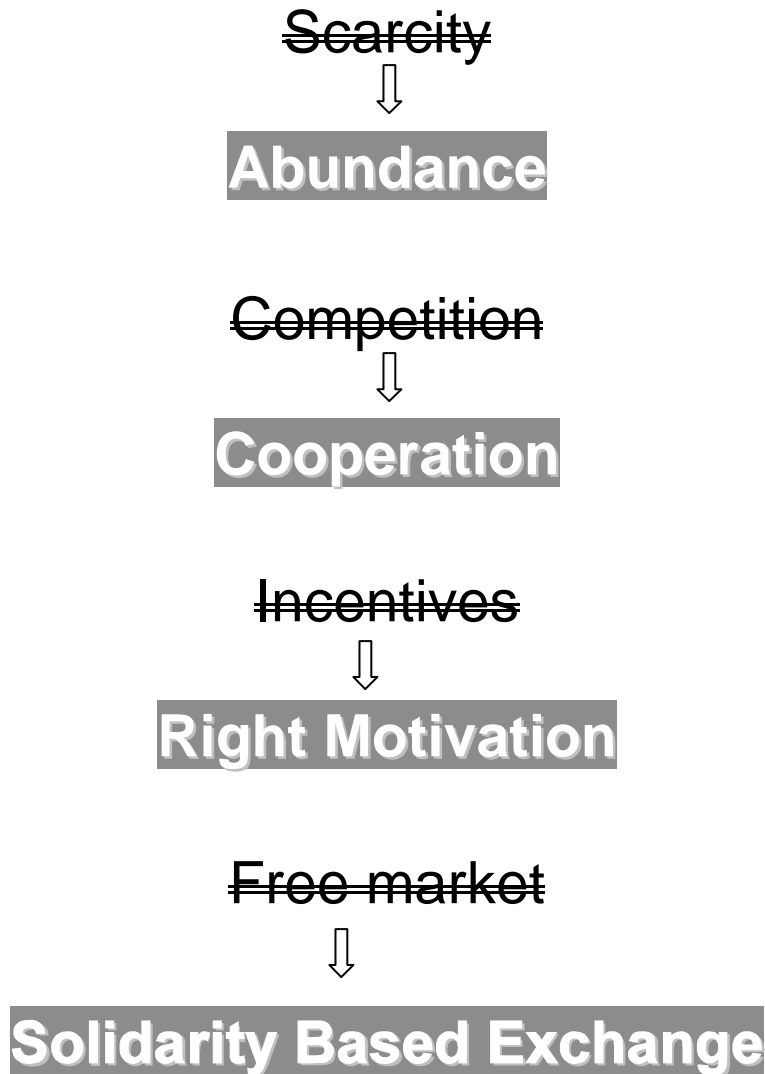
Yoga can be practiced in conjunction with any religion, as well as by people who do not identify with any religion. It is based on respect for the sacredness of life in all its forms, and its teachings foster the well-being of all. The guidelines of Yoga being used are called *Yamas* and *Niyamas*.

The same precepts can be found at the core of the spiritual, religious and humanistic traditions of all cultures. They are known as Perennial Truths and are basis of the New Paradigm.

What to Change?

The present system designed by economists needs to be changed for an economic paradigm enacted by the people. A new economics for a culture of peace will be based on principles of Abundance, Cooperation, Right Motivation, and solidarity based exchange to replace the so-called "Free Market" .

We replace profit making economies of war, for life affirming economies of peace. We replace vertical top to down dictates, for decisions from the people. Instead of manufacturing weapons, and useless goods, satisfy basic material and spiritual needs for all; Instead of dependence on non -renewable energy and earth destroying modes of transport and production, foster a sustainable society and planet.



How to Change?

By doing !

Theory is necessary to determine a plan of action, but its implementation is what really determines its validity. Aparigraha in action is demonstrating the viability of the theory.

Examples are: Spiritual Food CSA and the Women's Self-Reliance Program, that includes the Sattwic Peace Gardens. There are similar initiatives all over the world such as alternative currencies, land trusts, and others

Basic Needs

<u>Material</u>	<u>Immaterial</u>
FOOD	MENTAL
SHELTER	PSYCHOLOGICAL
CLOTHING	EMOTIONAL
HEALTH	SPIRITUAL
EDUCATION	SOCIAL

Practical Applications

