

Selected Excerpts From Our Book,

A Call For Peace: The Implications of Japan's War-Renouncing Constitution,
Kodansha International and Kodansha America, 1997, 1998 and 2001

Founding of the Article 9 Society -- pages 57—67

“In mid March, 1991, shortly after America’s Persian Gulf “oil resource” war, with the encouragement of like-minded persons in our Unitarian Fellowship in Athens, Ohio, I founded The Article 9 Society (A9S), an organization dedicated to the long term goal of having all nations adopt in their constitutions the principles expressed in Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution. ...”

“The Article 9 Society was born ... out of a mixture of hope and hopelessness. Threads of hope came from the almost unbelievable transformations taking place in Eastern Europe, the USSR, and in South Africa – with far less violence than could ever have been anticipated. ... Hopelessness came from a litany of recent unfortunate American involvements with military violence ... the Persian Gulf ... the Panama invasion ... the Reagan years of subversion of the Nicaraguan revolution ... and our Vietnam disaster...”

“President Bush, during the Gulf War, spoke of “A New World Order.” It occurred to me that indeed we do need a new world order, but not the militaristic one of violence demonstrated in the Gulf. The new world order we need is one modeled on the war-renouncing principles in Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, which imply that we use war prevention, and non-military, non-violent approaches to international conflict resolution. Thus was born our Article 9 Society.”

Why I call the Gulf War an “oil resource” war – page 65

“We know that resource scarcity is one of the reasons why nations engage in war. ... Having wastefully consumed much of our own virgin oil resources, we in the United States now import over 50 percent of the oil that we consume. In mid September 1990, six weeks after our protégé, Saddam Hussein, invaded Kuwait, our US Senate rejected S-1224, a bill that would have required automobiles manufactured and sold in America to have 40 miles-per-gallon (17 kilometers-per-liter) fleet average fuel economy by the year 2001. This is well within the realm of contemporary engineering capability. The Union of Concerned Scientists calculated that had we encouraged this kind of green technology by design, by the year 2005 we in America would have been saving more than double the entire Kuwaiti annual oil production, every year on into the future. We had a choice of protecting our long term interests by (1) cleaning up our own house and becoming a less wasteful nation or (2) using our military force to protect “our” oil supply in the Gulf. Unfortunately, we chose the latter.”

Limits To Resource Consumption? My “Half-Life-of-the-Earth” Calculation --

(page 175)

“In the late 1970s I spent a year of sabbatical leave with the US Congress Office of Technology Assessment working on resource conservation and pollution issues. This experience with ever increasing consumption and growing waste-streams stimulated me to wonder how long this growth phenomenon could go on if all humans on Earth were to over-consume and pollute, as do we in the developed countries. To get an answer, I made an “engineering calculation” to estimate the half-life-of-the-Earth. How long, I asked, would it take to consume half the weight of the Earth and turn it into high entropy irretrievable wastes, if Earth’s entire population were to begin today to consume the Earth’s resources at the same rate as did the USA in 1972? Using 1972 USA per capita consumption of resources (minerals, both fuel and non-fuel, metals, and non-food fibers) of 52 kilograms/person/day, assuming that the entire globe were composed of suitably consumable materials, and assuming a 5 percent compound growth rate (population and demand), it would take only about 430 years for Earth’s people to consume half the weight of the Earth and reduce it to high entropy irretrievable wastes. From this we might conclude that it is likely not possible for the teeming billions on Earth to enjoy the lifestyle of we, “the rich” -- and yet that is exactly what these teeming billions seek.”