

(Author Overby's Abstract)

A CALL FOR PEACE: The Implications of Japan's War-Renouncing Constitution
(A bilingual book -- Japanese & English) by,

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**ARTICLE 9
of the Japanese Constitution**

Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.

In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.

This is an advocacy book in tribute to the world's most significant legal injunction against war, Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution. Article 9 implies that non-violent means be used to resolve our inevitable conflicts between and within nations. This book argues that ultimately the wisdom of Article 9 become an integral part of the constitutions of all nations -- including the US Constitution.

Selecting from a multiplicity of possibilities, this book outlines several forms of non-violent national service that might be performed by Japan under its constitutional "rule of law." These are services that could do far more for world peace and justice than the rearming of Japan as has been US policy, in its 50 year paranoid cold-war-dance with the equally paranoid former USSR. These kinds of service range from diplomacy and war prevention; to social and economic development with justice; to seeking an end to nuclear weapons and international weapons trade; to actions for reducing world population growth; to the design and production of technology systems that minimize the use of Earth's finite resources, and which do not destroy the environment; to defending the nation non-violently with Civilian Based Defense (CBD).

With these Article 9 words of wisdom in its constitution, if Japanese people will exercise their sovereign power to restore Article 9's integrity and then insist that their leaders proudly act on their "law" -- Japan has a unique and historical opportunity to demonstrate and lead the nations of the world in shaping a new worldwide social-cultural norm of non-violent means for preventing wars and resolving conflict.

Some might argue that in the relationships between "social-cultural norms" and "laws", "norms" must come first -- that is, "laws" are born out of already widely accepted "norms." But, symbiotically, laws also contribute to the nurturing of norms. In the USA, for example, the 1920 Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution, giving women the right to vote, was helpful in furthering the idea that women and men are equals. The civil rights legislation of the 1960's helped white Americans grow to accept the equality of blacks. Japan, with its Article 9 renunciation of war, can nudge the world toward a new paradigm for the resolution of conflict that moves us away from the folly of war and militarism as means of conflict resolution.