

Some Reflections On A Nobel Peace Prize for Article 9, And Japanese People Who Wish to Keep It Alive

A DAVID AND GOLIATH STORY ABOUT A9

By

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Article 9 of Japan's 1947 War-Renouncing 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.”

Article 9 arose metaphorically like a Phoenix out of the radioactive ashes of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and all the other holocausts that were World War II. It can be seen as humanity's cry for an end to this absurd bestiality called war. We billions of ordinary people on Planet Earth long for a world in which, as Article 9 concludes -- “The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.”

Article 9 is such profound wisdom that we as a species cannot allow it to die. Unfortunately, in the paranoid illness called the “cold-war” the United States and Japanese governments over the past half-century have in Orwellian ways proceeded to destroy this idea and ideal. The cold war is over but A9's sacking continues. Most humans on Planet Earth have never heard of Article 9, and they know absolutely nothing of the continual erosion of A9 by US and Japanese governments.

Millions of people in Japan strongly desire to have Article 9 restored to its full integrity as a model toward which all nations might strive. But the arrow of time takes its toll as the old die off and grow weary at the overwhelming task of fighting the US and Japanese governments efforts to kill A9 -- while the young who know not the ravages of war, play at the captivating game of “Earth Resource Consumption.”

These Japanese people are the “David” doing battle with the United States and Japanese governments -- the Goliath. These Article 9 and peace-loving Japanese people need a strong shot of adrenaline from the international community to give them new strength to renew their struggle to save A9 for all humanity's future. Perhaps to help, we need a Nobel Prize for A9 and her supporters.

I think that a Nobel Prize would be efficacious in three ways. [1] It would help to let the world know about Article 9, its wisdom, its demise, and Japanese people's struggle to keep it alive. [2] It would be that international “shot of adrenaline” needed by tired Japanese A9 supporters in their struggles with the Goliath. [3] The funds associated with a Nobel Prize might be as the stone in David's sling for overcoming the giant.

See my paper on this topic available at our web site – www.article9society.org. This paper was delivered at a Hofstra University and Peace History Society conference in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize, on November 8, 2001. See also our book, Overby, Kunihiro, and Momoi, *A Call For Peace: The Implications of Japan's War-Renouncing Constitution*, Kodansha International, Tokyo & New York 1997 & 98, paperback, 2001.

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