

Let's Start A New Movement

By Marc J. Victor

Life on Earth has been generally improving with each new generation. However, our world is changing especially rapidly, and new challenges are at hand which threaten past achievements. We are now saddled with the urgent task of attempting to save our economy from collapsing under the weight of the crushing debt accumulated by endless political handouts and defense spending which grows endlessly even in peacetime.

While politicians of both parties continually bicker with little or nothing positive accomplished, people have understandably become more disenfranchised and frustrated. An exciting new movement for enlightened people who desire freedom and peace for all people on all issues has emerged. Details can be found at www.liveandletlive.org. We are indeed living during a critically important time in human history.

There are few things ordinary about the time in which we live. Compared to the rest of human history, we live in the most extraordinary times thus far. When I was born in 1968, nobody had cell phones or computers, and the closest thing we had to the internet was the library. Nobody I knew even had an answering machine for their rotary phone. In my lifetime, I've witnessed the most significant changes in human history thus far.

I have no doubt the upcoming changes will be even more significant. Nanotechnology, artificial intelligence, genetically modified humans and many other known and yet unknown technologies will soon be realized. The combination of big tech companies and intrusive government have almost completely destroyed the concept of privacy entirely.

We need to envision and implement solutions to the new problems created by our rapidly changing world. We simply can't keep trying to solve problems at the same level of thinking and with the same unprincipled ideas we have used in the past. We need a principled way to think about and solve these difficult and complex issues.

Whether you like it or not, we are all part of a global community. Globalization is here to stay. There is no going back. We routinely communicate, trade and travel internationally. Multinational corporations are also here to stay. The dramatic rise of technology has empowered smaller and smaller numbers of people to easily affect other people in distant parts of the planet. Traditional nation state terrestrial borders are becoming less and less relevant.

As I write this article, we are in the midst of a global pandemic due to COVID 19 (i.e. coronavirus). That it originated in China is of no consequence. It spread through our global

community like wildfire with no regard for political borders. It is but one example of the new connectedness of our global community. Countless other serious global challenges lurk on the near horizon.

While technology continues to advance at an unprecedented pace, politicians act as they always have. Untethered to any particular principle other than reelection, the vast majority of politicians take positions on issues solely calculated to obtain votes. Many of those positions are thinly cloaked economic handouts carefully calculated to purchase votes. While an army of politically motivated Santa Clauses shovel free gifts to eager voters, no concern or consideration is given to the unborn future generations who are unjustly and immorally buried under the crushing debt of such utter recklessness.

Today's proffered gifts include free healthcare, free college tuition or the ever-popular lucrative government contracts to favored corporations. We need to end the practice of some people using the mechanisms of government to forcefully shift resources to advantage one favored group over another. This endless arm-wrestle between groups to employ the government to forcefully shift resources of others as they see fit is usually the focus of political energy.

It's time to start a global movement based on a mutually beneficial fundamental principle that applies to all competent adults equally regardless of race, sex, national origin, wealth, sexual preference, religious views or lack thereof, or even one's own personal goals. If we truly believe all people ought to have equal rights, we need a movement that has such a principle as the anchor of its philosophy.

We should readily admit that peaceful competent adults hold different moral views and values. They have different goals for their lives. Competent adults often define their happiness differently. Let's embrace the differences. Indeed, it is the enlightenment values such as tolerance, open mindedness, voluntary kindness, reason, separation of church and state and scientific progress that are most responsible for increasing human happiness worldwide.

If we are to truly value and promote peace and freedom, we must oppose all initiations of force as well as all fraud and coercion in all cases. It matters not if the aggressor is an individual, a group, a corporation or a government. The same rules ought to apply to all people, groups and entities.

A free, open and enlightened society cannot tolerate such aggressions. It is important to note that the substantial threat of such aggressions is itself an aggression. We can indeed arrange a productive, prosperous, free and peaceful world without institutionalizing or attempting to justify such aggressions.

We must recognize that in order for you to live the life you want in peace and freedom you must extend that same right to your neighbor. Your right to pursue your life as you choose cannot infringe upon another's to do the same. If we all adhere to this simple truth, we can live in a free and prosperous society where human happiness is maximized and suffering is minimized. It's that simple. We must oppose all forms of aggression if we are ever to achieve a peaceful world.

If we are to advance and promote human happiness while decreasing human suffering, we need an organized movement to embrace such principles. The foundational principle I have been describing is best encapsulated by the longstanding and well recognized phrase, "Live and Let Live." Some people describe the same Principle by saying, "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

I challenge you to seriously envision a world where all laws are consistent with the Live and Let Live Principle (hereinafter the "3LP"). What matters most is the nature of the laws that are enforced. To the extent the laws are consistent or inconsistent with the 3LP, is the critically important issue. Who is enforcing the laws is of no consequence so long as they are enforced reasonably and with due process. As such, the Live and Let Live Movement is mostly about advocating for 3LP compatible legal rules at all levels of society. More specific moral opinions ought to remain in the domain of persuasion rather than law.

For the Live and Let Live Movement to grow and succeed, it must win enough hearts and minds. To win enough hearts and minds, the Live and Let Live Movement must be organized and effective. To that end, I have secured www.liveandletlive.org to host position papers and relevant books for sale. It is currently under construction. The website will also serve as a blog for supporters and advocates to communicate with each other as well as to notify people of relevant events and conferences.

The website will also sell relevant 3LP merchandise using 100% of the proceeds from all sales to advance the Live and Let Live Movement. I urge you to visit the website and enroll your email address to receive emails, notices and information about upcoming events. There is also a portal to donate to help fund the Movement.

No short article can adequately lay out the details of a new international movement based on the 3LP. As such, I am currently writing a book entitled, "Live and Let Live; The Road to Peace, Prosperity and Happiness." This book will endeavor to go into much more detail about how the 3LP can serve as the foundational principle for a peaceful, productive, organized and civilized society. Additional books are also being written on different aspects of the 3LP as applied to more complex issues.

Additionally, several annual conferences are currently being organized to help promote the Movement. An annual International Live and Let Live Day is contemplated to help bring attention to the Movement. A Constitutional Amendment is being drafted to help facilitate a shift in laws to a more 3LP compatible society. The Movement is in need of energetic activists to both spread the word as well as to actually win hearts and minds. I invite you to join the Movement and let's change the world together.