

September 2010



Learning Resource Management from Indigenous Peoples

“Many traditional methods of resource management used by indigenous peoples are both time-tested and sustainable. For example, the Aborigines of Australia have a system of burning patches of bush, creating fields with plants of different ages and flammability levels and reducing the chances of a large-scale fire. Recognizing the effectiveness of these traditional methods, the Australian government has partnered with indigenous Australians to create ‘[Indigenous Protected Areas](#).’ In these areas, which make up about one quarter of Australia’s [National Reserve System](#), the government supports indigenous Australians to conserve and restore the ecosystems.

Some global leaders have also begun to publically acknowledge that people around the world can learn from traditional indigenous resource management. [World Bank](#) President [Robert Zoellick](#) stated last year that with their ‘long experience in managing natural resources, and adapting to climate change... learning from Indigenous Peoples will make our discussions richer and our actions more productive.’”

“Conservation and Efficient Use of Resources,”
Indian Report,
Friends Committee on National Legislation, Sum 2010.

Competing Visions of Security, Rooted in Different Worldviews

“The worldview of the American security ethos is inward-looking and self-preoccupied, speaking of ‘homeland security,’ ‘unilateral initiatives,’ and the grim determination to go it alone, if necessary. We see a dogged pursuit of self-interest; others’ interests matter only insofar as they advance or are compatible with our own. [Shalom](#), on the other hand, is invitational and inclusive; it is concerned about communal welfare and expanding the circle of those who matter. We see this is the prophetic insistence that the community cannot enjoy shalom unless the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the stranger; the tax collector and sinner; and the despised and insignificant also share in its blessings.

The American ethos is defensive, because it believes that things must be kept as they are. The world is a grim place, where our forces are marshaled in a desperate holding action to keep things in place, or at least from further deteriorating. The vision of shalom is different. For shalom is both a divine gift and a human task.... We are its agents, but we are not the exclusive actors in the drama of peace. Moreover, we need not fear the newness that shalom requires, because we know that it bears fullness of life for all, ourselves included. Thus ‘security,’ in the biblical worldview, is an outcome of pursuing this more comprehensive vision of shalom. When shalom is established through the pursuit of justice, then true security is found.”

“The Security We Seek: A Catholic Perspective” by Rev. Bryan N. Massingale, S.T.D.,
Pax Christi USA Newsletter, June 2010.

Conditions for Rebuilding Haitian Society

“The legislation governing federal child nutrition programs will expire September 30, [2010] increasing the pressure on Congress to finish a reauthorized five-year bill. The law covers school lunch and breakfast, summer feeding programs, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) — programs benefiting tens of millions of low-income children. During [Bread for the World’s](#) Lobby Day on June 15, [2010] a group of 20 Christian leaders and hunger advocates met with [U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack](#). The main message from the discussion: Even in the United States, nearly one in four children is at risk of hunger — and we must do something about it.

Meeting with the group around a table symbolically spread with five loaves of bread and two fish, Secretary Vilsack said he sees the biblical story of the feeding of the multitude as a miracle of overcoming the fear of sharing. Bread President David Beckmann said that Vilsack urged participants to get their churches involved in child nutrition reauthorization and other policy issues that affect hungry people. Later in June, Vilsack mentioned the meeting during his testimony on child nutrition reauthorization before the House Education and Labor Committee. Noting the moral imperative of addressing child hunger, he said that there is ‘no more important role or responsibility I have than what I’m talking about here today.’”

“Pushing for Action on Child Nutrition,” *Policy Focus*, [Bread for the World](#), July-Aug 2010.



Parallel Justice Project for Victims of Crimes

“[Parallel justice] efforts are an attempt to provide necessary services to victims of crime that address their physical, financial, and emotional needs and enhance their inclusion in the justice system to ensure that they are notified, present and heard. Many of the scientific underpinnings of the parallel justice movement can be found in the groundbreaking book, *Trauma and Recovery, The Aftermath of Violence from Domestic Abuse to Political Terror*, by Dr. Judith Herman of Harvard Medical School.

After studying men terrified during warfare and women who had been raped, Dr. Herman concluded that the psychological and social harm experienced by the victim was not solely determined by what the ‘bad’ enemy or criminal did during the incident.... When neighbors or strangers intervene to defend or comfort a victim, it can reaffirm his or her faith in humanity. Conversely, some victims of sexual assault feel that negative responses by police, hospitals, or family members make them feel like they had been ‘raped all over again.’”

“Introduction to Parallel Justice” by Paul Ruffins, *Lifelines*, National Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Spr/Sum 2010.

Historic Vote to Shut Down Nuclear Power Plant

“[T]he Vermont State Senate voted 26-4 to shut down the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant. The historic decision came after a long and tireless campaign by Greenpeace, Vermont Public Interest Group, and the courageous men and women of Vermont. Although Vermont Yankee’s owners, Entergy, lobbied hard to keep the nuclear plant open, common sense prevailed. The 40-year-old reactor has been plagued by radioactive leaks, missing fuel rods, a collapsing cooling tower, and several misstatements in testimony by plant officials....

Nuclear power is nothing more than a dangerous distraction from real clean energy solutions like wind and solar. Radioactive pollution can cause damage for generations and there is always the potential of a major accident, like at Chernobyl or Three Mile Island. In this new age of terrorism, nuclear plants might as well have bulls-eye targets painted on their backsides. Federal agents recently confirmed that a suspected al Qaeda operative worked at six U.S. nuclear sites.... But, none of this seems to phase the nuclear industry or the Obama administration, which both insist that taxpayers should finance more nuclear energy.

“Vermont’s Nuclear Reaction,” *Greenpeace Update*, Sum 2010.



Institute for Peace and Justice graphic; used with permission.