NewCO and the US National Security Strategy

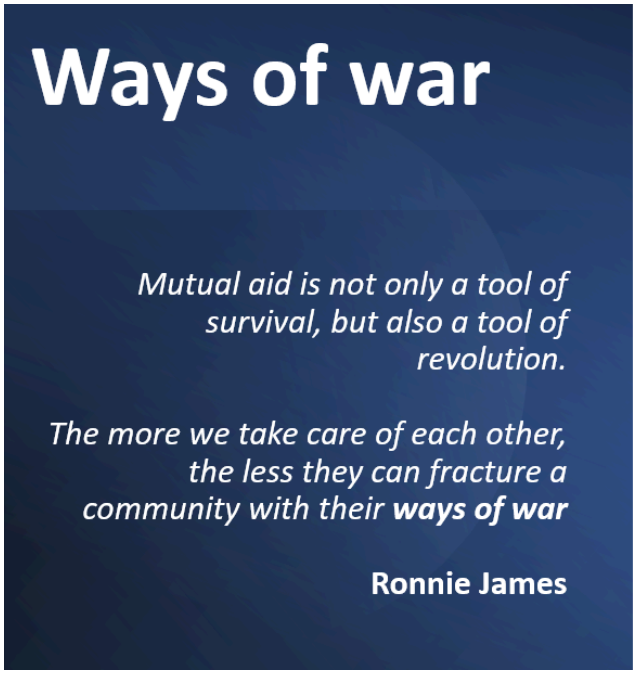


On Thursday, December 4, the White House released a new National Security Strategy, a document that lays out the Trump's regime's "America First" designs on the world order. The new report on the United States National Security Strategy (hereafter the "T47NSS") is a significantly fascist as well as classically imperialist document.
A fascistic NSS full of hemispheric menace by Paul Street, ZNetwork, Dec 12, 2025

This is an opportunity to illustrate the NewCO (new conscientious objector)

The nature of the T47NSS, described as a fascist and classically imperialist document, directly affronts the comprehensive peace testimony upheld by the New Conscientious Objector (NewCO) framework. Our NewCO response must not be one of mere protest, which is insufficient, but rather one of actively building resilient communities that eliminate the necessity of such oppressive systems, thereby withdrawing our consent entirely.

The NewCO framework shifts the focus from resisting specific wars (a reactive stance) to dismantling the systemic violence that gives rise to militarism, empire, and injustice (a proactive stance of nonviolent revolution).





Here is how the NewCO model would respond to a document embodying fascism and imperialism:

1. Rejection of Imperialism and Militarism

The NewCO model views militarism, racism, and materialism as the "triple threats" underpinning societal violence. A classically imperialist strategy, such as the T47NSS, is inherently opposed to the spirit of Christ and the Peace Testimony.

Actionable Insights:

- **Non-Cooperation with State Violence:** The NewCO fundamentally requires refusing to cooperate with systems designed to wage war and impose compulsion. Historically, this meant non-cooperation with the Selective Service System entirely, rather than accepting limited accommodation like alternative service. Today, this extends to refusing to serve in or contribute to a structure built on the philosophy of domination.
- **Challenging Authority:** The mere existence of documents seeking total control through force—which fascism and imperialism require—must be met with resistance, as unchecked government power infringes upon individual liberty and moral conscience. The authority of the state does not supersede the guidance of the Inner Light.
- **Refusal of Funding:** We must find realistic ways to refuse paying war taxes, refusing to engage in any trade, business, or profession that directly contributes to the military system, and avoiding the purchase of government war bonds.

2. Dismantling Fascist and Hierarchical Systems

The fascist nature of the T47NSS suggests an intensified hierarchical system where power concentrates at the top for the benefit of a few. The NewCO model, realized through Mutual Aid, is fundamentally anti-authoritarian and revolutionary in its opposition to all vertical hierarchies.

Actionable Insights (Focusing on Mutual Aid):

- **Tool of Revolution:** We must urgently adopt the NewCO model, defined by participation in Mutual Aid, viewing it as a tool of revolution to replace corrupted systems. Mutual Aid focuses on meeting survival needs (food, housing, bail) and mobilizing people outside of the state structure.
- **Building the Alternative:** The goal is to build a new non-hierarchical "model that makes the existing model obsolete". We accomplish this by creating resilient communities that organize human activity without coercion, actively unlearning dominance behaviors common in traditional and capitalist systems.
- **Withdrawal of Consent:** The nonviolent revolution Kisling advocates is achieved by systematically "withdrawing consent" from oppressive systems. When people take care of one another collectively through Mutual Aid, oppressive systems have less power to dictate our lives.
- **Focus on Local Action:** In the face of overwhelming global conflict and political meltdown, working locally through Mutual Aid communities is the only effective action.

3. Confronting Foundational Injustices (LANDBACK and Colonial Capitalism)

The T47NSS, as an imperialist document, is built on the foundational injustices of "stolen bodies on stolen land for the benefit of a few," requiring systemic decolonization.

Actionable Insights:

- **LANDBACK as Imperative:** Peace requires confronting historical injustices against Indigenous peoples, particularly through the LANDBACK movement. This reclamation goes beyond land deeds to include language, ceremony, and kinship, and is essential for dismantling white supremacy and the harms of capitalism.
- **Environmental Protection:** Imperialism and fascism prioritize profit and military power over ecological health. The NewCO model frames environmental degradation as systemic violence against Mother Earth. We must commit to environmental nonviolence, exemplified by refusing personal automobiles due to the "horrific vision" of pollution.
- **Abolitionist Principles:** The imperial state uses mass incarceration and militarized police to maintain hierarchy. Mutual Aid projects must be explicitly abolitionist, supporting bail funds and working to meet the survival needs of marginalized communities to weaken the police state.

4. Moral and Spiritual Grounding

The NewCO response must be rooted in spiritual conviction rather than political expediency.

Actionable Insights:

- **Integrity (Letting Your Life Speak):** We must ensure our actions are consistent with our words, refusing to collaborate with any system that perpetuates militarism, knowing that otherwise our Peace Testimony will fail to speak to mankind.
- **Healing and Survival:** The NewCO must include preparation for environmental chaos and political collapse. This involves organizing model sustainable communities and welcoming climate refugees, framing this as a moral obligation and large-scale humanitarian relief work.
- **Non-Adversarial Engagement:** We must uphold the principle of overcoming evil by doing good, concentrating on improving ourselves and fostering understanding, rather than looking for weaknesses in those who oppress us. Change occurs through respecting and trying to understand and learn from others, moving nearer the truth.

Quaker Insights

User Evidence

The analysis shows that the T47NSS directly violates the established commitment to principled systemic resistance, necessitating the NewCO response.

- **Rejection of Complicity:** Quaker testimony, affirmed by the Richmond 1968 Declaration, demands that cooperating with war-enabling systems—even seemingly benign parts—is complicity. Cooperation weakens the testimony of the entire Religious Society.
- **Foundation of NewCO is Systemic Critique:** Kisling's path moved from refusing alternative service (1-O status) to refusing cooperation entirely, recognizing that the SSS coerced fundamental moral decisions and stifled ideals, constituting a graver crime than destroying life itself. This evolution mandates today's refusal to cooperate with systems like the T47NSS.
- **Mutual Aid as the New Model:** The anti-war movement has effectively "morphed into building resilient, Mutual Aid communities". This practice is explicitly viewed as both a "tool of survival" in chaotic times and a "tool of revolution" capable of dismantling capitalism and white supremacy.

User Experience

The movement toward the NewCO model is based on deeply personal spiritual discernment, emphasizing relational action over impersonal, hierarchical structures common in imperial systems.

- **Spiritual Imperative to Act:** The commitment to radical action, like non-cooperation, stemmed from a "feeling, a leading of the spirit" following years of "agonizing" deliberation, confirming that faithfulness requires following leadings even when the logical reasons are not fully clear.
- **Relational Focus:** Kisling deliberately rejected traditional, large-scale organizational activism, finding fulfillment in "dealing with people as whole, unique individuals" and building sincere friendships, affirming that core Quaker practice demands relational peacebuilding over external authority and coercion.
- **Indigenous Guidance:** The path to Mutual Aid was described as "Spirit-led" after meeting an Indigenous organizer, reinforcing the need for justice work to be spiritually grounded and guided by oppressed communities. This experience underscores the profound thankfulness for the wisdom Indigenous peoples offer regarding systemic injustice and communal life.

Feasibility Checks

The effectiveness of the NewCO model against an imperial document lies in its strategic focus on community self-sufficiency and horizontal structure, which starves the hierarchical state of its necessary power.

- **Anti-Authoritarian Structure:** Mutual Aid's viability against centralized power lies in its explicitly anti-authoritarian nature, characterized by horizontal hierarchies and consensus decision-making, deliberately avoiding the "learned dominance behaviors" that plague conventional political action.
- **Prefigurative Strategy:** Mutual Aid enacts "prefigurative politics" by actively meeting survival needs (bail funds, food, housing) and building the desired peaceful and equitable world within the existing decaying structure. This proves that organization without state coercion is possible.
- **Urgency for Survival:** The NewCO model is urgent because accelerating environmental chaos and economic collapse mean that focusing on Mutual Aid for basic survival needs (food security, preparation for climate refugees) is the only viable path to collective endurance.

Blind Spot

Responding to a fascist document requires conscious efforts to counter white supremacy and privilege, which often hide within imperial structures.

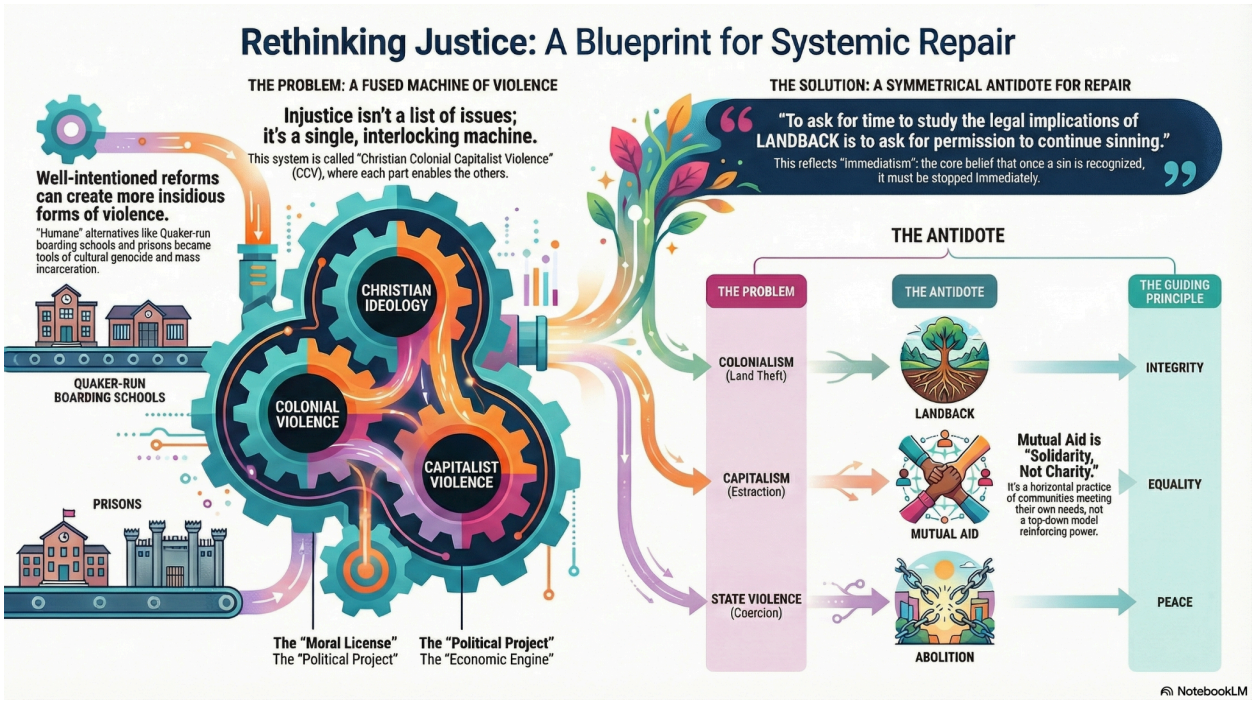
- **Rejecting Privilege's Benefits:** To be truly prophetic against the T47NSS, Quakers must "risk a great deal of their accumulated privilege and access to wealth". Any attempt to reform the system while simultaneously benefiting from and protecting the wealth and privilege derived from that unjust system merely reinforces it.
- **Confronting Quaker Complicity:** The NewCO movement must actively grapple with historical Quaker involvement in settler-colonial projects, such as Indian boarding

schools, recognizing these actions as manifestations of white supremacy and vital to achieving genuine reconciliation today.
- **Centering Marginalized Leadership:** Effective resistance to fascism demands that white allies "step back" and rigorously follow the leadership of oppressed communities in justice work.

Quaker

The NewCO model demands a radical, living application of the Quaker Peace Testimony against the spirit of imperialism and violence.

- **Peace as Systemic Integrity:** The core principle of the Peace Testimony must expand to oppose systemic violence—poverty, oppression, and ecological destruction—not just outward military war, aligning faith with practical life.
- **Spiritual Grounding:** The pursuit of peace must remain rooted in the Inner Light, believing that God's will may be revealed in a "series of small steps" and that discernment requires minimizing "distractions from 'this (secular) world'".
- **Prophetic Witness:** The NewCO must live heroically in that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars and strife. This means being an uncompromising, unflinching public witness to Truth, acting out convictions even at the cost of persecution.


Rethinking Justice: A Blueprint for Systemic Repair
THE PROBLEM: A FUSED MACHINE OF VIOLENCE
Injustice isn't a list of issues; it's a single, interlocking machine.
This system is called "Christian Colonial Capitalist Violence" (CCV), where each part enables the others.
Well-intentioned reforms can create more insidious forms of violence.
"Humane" alternatives like Quaker-run boarding schools and prisons became tools of cultural genocide and mass incarceration.
QUAKER-RUN BOARDING SCHOOLS
PRISONS
CHRISTIAN IDEOLOGY
COLONIAL VIOLENCE
CAPITALIST VIOLENCE
The "Moral License"
The "Political Project"
The "Political Project"
The "Economic Engine"
THE SOLUTION: A SYMMETRICAL ANTIDOTE FOR REPAIR
"To ask for time to study the legal implications of LANDBACK is to ask for permission to continue sinning."
This reflects "immediatism": the core belief that once a sin is recognized, it must be stopped Immediately.
THE ANTIDOTE
THE PROBLEM
THE ANTIDOTE
THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE
COLONIALISM (Land Theft)
LANDBACK
INTEGRITY
CAPITALISM (Estraction)
MUTUAL AID
Mutual Aid is "Solidarity, Not Charity."
It's a horizontal practice of communities meeting their own needs, not a top-down model reinforcing power.
EQUALITY
STATE VIOLENCE (Coercion)
ABOLITION
PEACE
NotebookLM