



Arlions News

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Newsletter of Arlington Institute of Noetic Sciences

Political Enlightenment?

In Honor of the upcoming election, our next topic will be implications for politics of new views of consciousness. Teri Murphy will make a short presentation on the book reviewed below, and will explain the view that the traditional Liberal/Conservative spectrum shows only two poles of what is really a four-quadrant political landscape. She will distribute a brief political quiz that will

permit each of us to identify our current position in this more comprehensive cosmos. Then we'll talk!

Thursday, October 15th
Tom Miles Condo Party Room
2500 Barton
7:00 p.m.
527-3627

Healing Our World: The Other Piece of the Puzzle

by Dr. Mary Ruwart

Reviewed by Teri Murphy

Like many members of IONS, Mary Ruwart sees humankind "poised on the brink of an evolutionary leap" because of the expanding awareness that, "the source of our inner harmony and abundance depend on how we react to our outer world." This is the central tenet of the "new age" or "new thought" movement.

But Ruwart goes further to note that while taking responsibility for your own life is becoming popular, many people are not making the connection that their choices are also shaping the outside world as well.

One reason people fail to see their own role in the world's mess, she says, is a lack of understanding that the source of wealth is not resources or population density, but "ideas on better uses for existing resources and the replication of these ideas."

Ruwart, a chemist, says, "When we consider that resources will one day be mined from planets other than the earth, that matter and energy are totally interchangeable, and that basic chemical elements can be transmuted, we realize that resource seeds are so abundant that they do not impose practical limitations on the creation of wealth at all."

"The realization that resources do

not limit the creation of wealth is a liberating one. Our country's wealth (depends) on the self-determined thoughts and creativity of its populace. *We create our world.*"

Historically, she says, the environment most conducive to creating wealth is one free from aggression. But because people believe wealth is limited, most of our politics, liberal and conservative, is based on blame. "Why don't they do something to stop those badguys from limiting wealth." The real culprits, she says, are us. Without acknowledging it, we have sought to build a governmental system that is based on aggression and thus inhibits wealth creation.

That "aggression" comes in two forms: forcing individuals or companies to do things intended to protect third parties and forcing all of us to pay taxes—under threat of arrest—for purposes to which we may be opposed.

"Our nation's laws, reflecting a composite of our individual beliefs, attempt to control selfish others... Striving for a better world by focusing on others totally misses the mark. Forcing people to be more "unselfish" creates animosity instead of good will," she says.

The aggression we thus unleash by giving over our power to government, circles back to haunt us as governments abuse or mismanage it, she says.

The alternative Ruwart proposes is a two-pronged "policy of non-aggression." First, we must reshape government (our collective will) to honor all non-aggressive choices (even if they are selfish).

The early period in U.S. history is the closest we've come to this ideal, she says. But even then, there was a "missing piece" in our political puzzle. That piece was knowing how to protect ourselves from aggression by others.

So the second prong of her non-aggression policy addresses this lack by proposing a zero-sum policy of "tit for tat" which says government should only exercise aggression in response to aggression, never as a "preventive" first strike. And whenever possible, that response should be to require restitution.

"We deter and rehabilitate aggression when we allow (the aggressors) to experience the fruits of their actions... by repairing the damage done... The best protection we can ever give others is not to shield them from reality, but to teach them how it works."

Chapter by chapter, the book outlines how non-aggression would look in the real-life areas of job creation, health care, the environment, poverty, crime, drugs, and even foreign policy. While many recommendations are radical departures from the status quo, her final call to action is one that rings bells in a new age heart:

"Our world is a joint creation. Each of us has our own inner wisdom to identify the piece of the puzzle that we can lay in the mosaic. Never doubt that what you can do, however small it might seem to you, is crucial to our joint creation."

