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Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents a growing number of area residents of diverse backgrounds brought together over the Iraqi crisis. We support multilateral action for non-violent conflict resolution, human rights, ecological integrity for the planet and international law, through education and dialogue locally and globally. We encourage everyone's participation as we strive for peace and justice to build a better world for future generations.  
 BPI web site: [www.boundarypeace.20m.com](http://www.boundarypeace.20m.com)

**Boundary Peace Initiative meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursday @ 7 pm in the Slavonic Seniors Center on 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave. & 7<sup>th</sup> Street.**

Academy Award to Canada

By: Jack Blower

Canada has just won an Academy Award as HYPROCRITE of the year for its acting on the Ukraine/Russia/Crimea stage. By condemning Russia's action to protect its interests in the Crimea and labeling those actions as an invasion and an attack on Ukraine's sovereignty while at the same time supporting Israel and turning a blind eye to its frequent invasions of Palestine and Lebanon is blatant hypocrisy. It is more of the same when Canada threatens reprisals against Russia. But, where are the embargoes against the USA for invading Iraq? When the US invaded Grenada we just said "you should have told us first", no threats, no sanctions, no embargoes. The best we can hope for is that there will be two Ukraines or rather one Ukraine and one Crimea. The World Bank will buy the Ukraine for the New World Order and Russia retain Crimea. When the dust settles, the focus can then return to the South—Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, and etc, etc.

P.S.: Canada is not building military bases in the Caribbean just because we like the weather there.

Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable.

John F. Kennedy

The most valuable possession you can own is an open heart. The most powerful weapon you can be is an instrument of peace.

Carlos Santana

Open Letter from USCC on the Ukraine

To: PM Steven Harper; Leader of the NDP  
 Thomas Mulcair: Justin Trudeau Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada

We are writing to express our apprehension over the escalating crisis in Ukraine. Like other Canadians who also have historical, familial, and cultural ties to Russia, Ukraine, and the Crimea, we too have family and friends in that area whose safety and security we are concerned about. Our forebears suffered persecution by Tsars and Commissars and endured exile across Russia, in Siberia, Ukraine, the Crimea, and Georgia prior to receiving their permission to immigrate to Canada in 1899. Members of our organization come from a long pacifist tradition. We are opposed to the use of coercion, force, or violence by any party to this conflict, be they Ukrainians, Russians, or others. Our condolences and prayers go out to those who have lost loved ones, to those who have suffered injuries, and to all who have been traumatized and continue to be fearful of what has transpired and what may come. We are also alarmed that this crisis is not only spinning into another cold war, but may through accident or design become a hot war, and that is why we feel compelled to write to you.

It has been said that the first casualty of war is the truth, and Mr. Prime Minister, we are concerned that it is more difficult to discern the truth behind all of the inflammatory commentary by governments and media. It almost appears that politicians and pundits miss the rhetoric of the cold war and relish casting a difficult and dangerous situation in simple black and white terms. For the record, we support the legitimate aspirations of Ukrainians to self-determination. We also believe it is up to them to decide their future without external interference. However, not only do Ukrainians themselves appear to be

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To Do

- Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Do something to look after our planet.
- Plan to attend the Mother's Day Peace Walk in Osoyoos; watch for details.
- No BPI events scheduled.
- Newsletters now in PDF on the website. Check it out.
- No BPI events scheduled at this time.

(From page 1) **Open Letter from USCC on the Ukraine** divided, history and geopolitics have made the resolution of this crisis even more difficult. We can appreciate the fact that the Canadian government would like to see Ukraine, including Crimea, align itself with the European Union and other western democracies. This option seems to have the support of many Ukrainians, particularly in the western part of the country. We do not know for certain if the majority of Ukrainians prefer this option. What is certain is that such a choice could bring NATO to Russia's doorstep. We doubt that the Russians would appreciate this especially when former President George Bush Sr. promised them that NATO would not expand east after the collapse of the Soviet Union, a fact rarely if ever mentioned by politicians or the media. We also question the silence around President Putin's proposal made last November that the United States, the European Union, and Russia cooperate on the economic stabilization of Ukraine and that Ukraine have economic relations with both the west and Russia, and why the EU and the US rejected the proposal stating Ukraine had to choose between Russia and the west, or why the EU proposal included putting the Ukrainian military under NATO command. We are also taken aback by the vehemence that charges of violations of territorial integrity, foreign occupation, illegal secession, and safeguarding ones nationals as a pretext for invasion have been leveled against the Russian government particularly by those with a long history of similar actions around the world.

Mr. Prime Minister, the crisis in Ukraine is but one of many challenges in our world that we must deal with as a global community. How do we do so by demonizing today those with whom we must cooperate tomorrow? At times like this the international community would look to Canada, regarded as a voice of moderation, to lower tensions and lead efforts to seek diplomatic solutions, to apply our resources and skills in finding common ground, mediating, peacekeeping, monitoring and verifying agreements. We sincerely appeal to you to review Canada's position. In doing so we wish to clearly state that our concerns over Canadian policy are not based on condoning or defending the policies or position of the Russian government. As Canadian citizens, as people of faith, we feel compelled to convey our concerns over the dangers posed by double standards and provocative rhetoric in a rapidly changing world fraught with tension, and armed with weapons of mass destruction. We respectfully urge you to deescalate this crisis as called for by the Secretary General of the United Nations, and to pursue diplomatic and peaceful efforts through the UN and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, that will realize the legitimate rights, freedoms, and security of Ukrainians, and those of other minorities in that country, and that will respect the historical interests of neighboring states.

As Canadians dedicated to building a more peaceful and just world, who were once a persecuted minority in that region, and still have kith and kin there, we offer you and your government

(Continued next column)

(From last column) **USCC on the Ukraine** our prayers, as well as our assistance, and look forward to your response.

Respectfully yours,  
John J. Verigin  
USCC Executive Director

### **A Right to Self-Determination**

By: Laura Savinkoff on behalf of the Boundary Peace Initiative to Canadian MPs, Party Leaders, and the Russian Ambassador.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We, the Boundary Peace Initiative, are saddened by the events in the Ukraine by the violence, sabre-rattling and fear mongering that has characterized the international response. It reveals either an intentional disregard for diplomacy, common ethics and dialogue or a basic lack of knowledge on the methodology of mediating conflict. The United Nations was formed to resolve disagreements between nations by using respectful multilateral negotiation. The people of the world expect that misunderstandings and conflict will be addressed with calm, dignity and honour by those chosen to represent us. Instead we see our leadership jockeying for political power and national interests. We implore our children to respect others, that bullying, abuse and violence are unacceptable, yet these adults are unwilling to provide them a worthy example.

We urge the Canadian Government to uphold the right to self-determination for the people of the Ukraine and Crimea. We ask you to honour the choice of the Crimean people, by their peaceful Referendum, to align themselves with Russia. Does it really matter who governs this area, will world trade really be affected and will Canada and the West suffer to any great degree if the Crimea is aligned with Russia? We think trade and access to resources will continue. The question of Arctic sovereignty can be resolved by designating it as an International Zone with its resources overseen by an International body. The only impact will be that the West will not threaten Russia and will curtail its expansion through NATO and/or EU membership.

As Canadians we find ourselves concerned, disappointed, and even embarrassed by how our country is becoming ever more meddlesome in the affairs of other nations, and appearing too eager to find justification for "hard" diplomacy and armed interventions. Canada's interference in the Ukraine is unacceptable and brings to mind a question regarding Quebec. What would Canada do if Quebec had a Referendum not sanctioned by the Government of Canada? (Continued page3)

## (From page 2) **A Right to Self-Determination**

What would be our reaction if Quebec asked another nation to oversee the vote to gain independence... or chose to align themselves with that other nation? Would troops be deployed to squash the movement, engineer a coup of the Provincial government and install a more agreeable Government, would sanctions and military action on the nation supporting Quebec be employed, would we insist that nation be thrown out of the G8? We hope 'cooler heads' would prevail and the voice of the Quebec electorate would be honoured.

We do not support any state or country interfering in any nations' government or economy, except for fair and equitable trade and mutual agreement; the peoples must determine how they wish to live.

Therefore, we also urge the Government of Russia to evaluate the impact their actions are having on the people of the Ukraine and the world beyond their own immediate concerns. Transition to an Independent state, a Federation or a state of Russia needs to be through mutual and respectful negotiation and a thorough assessment of the needs and with input from the people. We ask that the Government of Russia step back to give time for the people to decide in a thoughtful and informed manner rather than in a situation wrought with threats, fear and uncertainty.

We hope that all nations, including Canada, will rise above the prevailing global wrangling that is so devastating the lives of people everywhere. We have inflicted harm on so many nations. Before we further afflict the people of Ukraine, we ask you, our elected officials, to step away from increasing the risk of civil war and unintended consequences. Is it in your hearts to live up to the human capacity for peace? It can be fostered by generously pursuing social and economic justice, and by manifesting principles of equality, honour and integrity in all our relationships. The season of Easter is close at hand—a time when the Christian world acknowledges a re-deeming, a new view of life and an enhanced definition of the human species, as proposed by its Prince of Peace. In addition, we might follow our own intentions as expressed in documents such as the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the UN Declaration of Human Rights, and all other international treaties that recognize the right of people to be heard.

Thank you for your attention. We request a response either via email ([l4peace@telus.net](mailto:l4peace@telus.net)) or land mail at Boundary Peace Initiative, Box 2572, Grand Forks, B.C. V0H 1H0.

In Universal Kinship and Loving Peace,  
Laura Savinkoff, Chairperson  
On behalf of the Boundary Peace Initiative

## **Book & Film Recommendations**



### **Books**

#### **I Am Malala**

By: Malala Yousafzai & Christina Lamb

Publisher: Little, Brown and Company (Hachette Book Group) © October 2013

"I came from a country that was created at midnight. When I almost died it was after midday"

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.

On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive.

Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.

I Am Malala is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons.

I Am Malala will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.



### **Films**

**Some films are donated by the No Boundaries Film Club to the Grand Forks Public Library** [New films will become available after the Festival in Feb. 2014 but if you do have a film to recommend please let us know.]

*Ed. Note:* If you have read a book or seen a film that you feel would be of interest or informative please let us know. Email the name of the book, the author and the publisher with a brief explanation of the book, and for the film the name, the producer and a brief explanation of the contents to [Laura at l4peace@telus.net](mailto:Laura@l4peace@telus.net). Thank you.

#### **How the Ukraine crisis ends**

By Henry A. Kissinger: from the Washington Post Company March 5<sup>th</sup>. Henry A. Kissinger was secretary of state from 1973 to 1977.

Public discussion on Ukraine is all about confrontation. But do we know where we are going? In my life, I have seen four wars begun with great enthusiasm and public support, all of which we did not know how to end and from three of which we withdrew unilaterally. The test of policy is how it ends, not how it begins.

Far too often the Ukrainian issue is posed as a showdown: whether Ukraine joins the East or the West. But if Ukraine is to survive and thrive, it must not be

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## How the Ukraine crisis ends

either side's outpost against the other — it should function as a bridge between them.

Russia must accept that to try to force Ukraine into a satellite status, and thereby move Russia's borders again, would doom Moscow to repeat its history of self-fulfilling cycles of reciprocal pressures with Europe and the United States.

The West must understand that, to Russia, Ukraine can never be just a foreign country. Russian history began in what was called Kievan-Rus. The Russian religion spread from there. Ukraine has been part of Russia for centuries, and their histories were intertwined before then. Some of the most important battles for Russian freedom, starting with the [Battle of Poltava in 1709](#), were fought on Ukrainian soil. The Black Sea Fleet — Russia's means of projecting power in the Mediterranean — is based by long-term lease in Sevastopol, in Crimea. Even such famed dissidents as Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and Joseph Brodsky insisted that Ukraine was an integral part of Russian history and, indeed, of Russia.

The European Union must recognize that its bureaucratic dilatoriness and subordination of the strategic element to domestic politics in negotiating Ukraine's relationship to Europe contributed to turning a negotiation into a crisis. Foreign policy is the art of establishing priorities.

The Ukrainians are the decisive element. They live in a country with a complex history and a polyglot composition. The Western part was incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1939, when Stalin and Hitler divided up the spoils. Crimea, [60 percent of whose population is Russian](#), became part of Ukraine [only in 1954](#), when Nikita Khrushchev, a Ukrainian by birth, awarded it as part of the 300th-year celebration of a Russian agreement with the Cossacks. The west is largely Catholic; the east largely Russian Orthodox. The west speaks Ukrainian; the east speaks mostly Russian. Any attempt by one wing of Ukraine to dominate the other — as has been the pattern — would lead eventually to civil war or break up. To treat Ukraine as part of an East-West confrontation would scuttle for decades any prospect to bring Russia and the West — especially Russia and Europe — into a cooperative international system.

Ukraine has been independent for only 23 years; it had previously been under some kind of foreign rule [since the 14th century](#). Not surprisingly, its leaders have not learned the art of compromise, even less of historical perspective. The politics of post-independence Ukraine clearly demonstrates that the root of the problem lies in efforts by Ukrainian politicians to impose their will on recalcitrant parts of the country, first by one faction, then by the other. That is the essence of the conflict between Viktor Yanukovich and his principal political rival, Yulia Tymoshenko. They represent the two wings of Ukraine and have not been willing to share power. A wise U.S. policy toward Ukraine would seek a way for the two parts of the country to cooperate with each other. We should seek reconciliation, not the domination of a faction.

Russia and the West, and least of all the various factions in Ukraine, have not acted on this principle.

Each has made the situation worse. Russia would not be able to impose a military solution without isolating itself at a time when many of its borders are already precarious. For the West, the demonization of Vladimir Putin is not a policy; it is an alibi for the absence of one.

Putin should come to realize that, whatever his grievances, a policy of military impositions would produce another Cold War. For its part, the United States needs to avoid treating Russia as an aberrant to be patiently taught rules of conduct established by Washington. Putin is a serious strategist — on the premises of Russian history. Understanding U.S. values and psychology are not his strong suits. Nor has understanding Russian history and psychology been a strong point of U.S. policymakers. (Continued next column)

## (From last column) How the Ukraine crisis ends

Leaders of all sides should return to examining outcomes, not compete in posturing. Here is my notion of an outcome compatible with the values and security interests of all sides:

1. Ukraine should have the right to choose freely its economic and political associations, including with Europe.
2. Ukraine should not join NATO, a position I took seven years ago, when it last came up.
3. Ukraine should be free to create any government compatible with the expressed will of its people. Wise Ukrainian leaders would then opt for a policy of reconciliation between the various parts of their country. Internationally, they should pursue a posture comparable to that of Finland. That nation leaves no doubt about its fierce independence and cooperates with the West in most fields but carefully avoids institutional hostility toward Russia.
4. It is incompatible with the rules of the existing world order for Russia to annex Crimea. But it should be possible to put Crimea's relationship to Ukraine on a less fraught basis. To that end, Russia would recognize Ukraine's sovereignty over Crimea. Ukraine should reinforce Crimea's autonomy in elections held in the presence of international observers. The process would include removing any ambiguities about the status of the Black Sea Fleet at Sevastopol.

These are principles, not prescriptions. People familiar with the region will know that not all of them will be palatable to all parties. The test is not absolute satisfaction but balanced dissatisfaction. If some solution based on these or comparable elements is not achieved, the drift toward confrontation will accelerate. The time for that will come soon enough.

An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.

Mahatma Gandhi

Peace cannot be achieved through violence; it can only be attained through understanding.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

Mother Teresa

The Boundary Peace Initiative (BPI) welcomes articles. All articles are the responsibility of the author and may not be common consensus. To submit an article, contact **Laura** at [250-442-0434](tel:250-442-0434) or [L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net). The BPI is a member of: Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Alliance, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and works with various local and global groups.

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all MPs. Free postage: {Name of MP}, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6  
Go to the Government of Canada website for emails of all MPs, Ministers at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>