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*Dedicated to children  
and young people everywhere.  
You are the future of the human race;  
take it further.*

# One Planet Makeover:

## Collected Essays

*John Roland Stahl*



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*By the time you finish reading these books, you will not only be able to recognize and read the Caslon Oldstyle Italic ‘long s’ with ease, but you will come to appreciate the æsthetic beauty of this classic font.*

## Preface

Over the past fifty years, I have written essays on a wide range of topics, from an original core of esoteric metaphysical philosophy, ranging out to reflections on the state of the earth and suggestions for a very radical new way forward. As I have grown older, the world I knew as a child of the fifties has given way to an increasingly dystopian world which seems to be falling apart on all sides on an accelerated path to destruction and ruin. More and more I have taken up consideration of the mess and tried to see a way through the morass to some hypothetical golden age that might yet be achieved out of the current chaos.

My solutions have always been pretty radical, because rather than try to imagine ways in which the present system might be modified to produce a livable world, I have taken the literally radical way of going all the way back to all of the roots of all of the problems, in an effort to see the principle ways the human race has gone astray, and to suggest a whole new vision of what the future of life on earth could be.

What continues to astonish me is that, everywhere I look, all I can see are the most minor tweakings of a desperately failed system, where what we need is a wholesale renovation of every aspect of our world, socially, economically, and politically. Why is it that no one else has considered the immense folly of the human race and tried to work out some new directions for the planet before the problems we have created become so bad that there will be no possibility of reversing this slide unto death? I have searched the internet for signs of some holistic view of evolution that can suggest a way forward. I find nothing of this nature whatsoever. All I find are endless

tirades about how bad everything is and how stupid all our national leaders are.

We know all of this, but what do we do now?! There are some good ideas all around the edges, such as many of the reforms put forward by Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren: the Green New Deal, and much more, but they don't go far enough, and they are all way over the heads of the majority of the American people who just can't imagine making such radical changes so fast, when, in reality, we need to rip up the entire fabric of civilization and remake it on a wholly new plan, and do so before lunch. Is Greta Thunberg the only one who realizes this? The destructive elements of the human populations of the earth have been accelerating over the past three or four millennia, and have reached a crisis stage where we are literally facing the end of life on earth unless we can somehow motivate some radical interventions quickly enough to turn the tide in time to save some vestige of life on earth before the destruction and collapse becomes irreversible.

The seriousness of our present predicament has suggested to me that I should assemble all of my essays on these topics and make a new, integrated presentation of a whole vision of a renovated planet. Accordingly, I here collect essays from my first two books, *The Laughter of God*, and *More Laughter*, along with essays from a projected third volume of collected writings, *Still Laughing*.

I know that I should entirely re-write all of this material into an integrated, consistent, and coherent presentation, but that is a daunting task, and I just don't have the energy to deal with all of the effort that would be required to reformulate everything. All I can do is republish these original essays collected together, and hope that someone might notice them.

Jump to the quick solution ~ plant a few trillion trees. That will stop the cycle of floods and drought, reduce soil erosion, sequester carbon, release oxygen, offer full employment to everyone, and save the planet from imminent destruction and the dying out of life on earth.

*Roland Stahl,*

July, 2020



# New Solutions

to the Problems of the Present Day

by *John Roland Stahl*

A Blueprint for International Prosperity  
and World Peace

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The Evanescent Press

## INTRODUCTION

Thomas Jefferson and his compatriots who so well declared the principle that all authority resides ultimately with the people, rather than with established governments, would be turning over in their graves if they thought that the Constitution which they created in response to the needs of the times were to be worshipped as holy writ forevermore.

In the words of Thomas Jefferson from the Declaration of Independence, “. . . that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish

it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.” “. . . it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security.”

It is not only the Right of citizens to form a new government when the existing forms do not meet their needs, but it is their Duty, as patriotic citizens.

The world has changed enormously just over the past few years, with the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe, movements towards ever more coherent unity in Western Europe, and volatile shifts in economic balances according to the fortunes of oil, water, booming economies in Asia and Western Europe, collapsing economies in Eastern Europe, tottering economies in North America, and the fortunes of war in the Middle East, Iraq, South Africa, Yugoslavia, Georgia, Ireland, Algeria ~ (insert today's news). Considering all the changes which have taken place in the world since the Declaration of Independence was written in 1776, maybe it is time to consider a fresh political arrangement more in keeping with the needs of today's world.

Some of the more ingenious visionaries are finally realizing that economic strength is a far more reliable indicator of national strength than mere military power, however formidable. The price one pays for military strength is economic poverty. One reason for the prosperity of post-war Japan was the absence of a fat military budget.

And we all saw what finally happened to the might of the Soviet Union after the screen fell over: Oz, the Great and Terrible, was just a helpless old man: a humbug, after all, who didn't really know what he was doing, and whose people couldn't even feed themselves. Now the United States is not necessarily so far behind. We are living under a pyramid of debt that has a physical weight of its own, and will not go away any time soon without crushing whatever is underneath.

But, on top of this, so much of the worthwhile production of our labor is lost to hordes of inefficient demons and monsters, overloaded with so much chaos and confusion that it feels like we are laboring in the garden while wearing 400 pound suits of armor (under the hot sun). There is no reason why we can't all enjoy good health and long life in a world of peace and plenty, if only we can simplify our lives, slough off the armor, beat our swords back into plowshares, and live happily ever after, tending our trees and our gardens.

## SUMMARY

I have designed an integrated theoretical program of political, economic, and social reform that is designed to be implemented world wide, but most of whose principles can also be implemented by any local government or region.

There are several main areas where I propose new arrangements quite different from our present situation:

- A final end to warfare of all kinds ~ both wars of aggression and/or stupidity, and wars to settle international disputes.
- The evolution of planetary cooperation resulting in a World Court as the final arbiter of international disputes, and a World Guard to hold military assets to enforce the decisions of the World Court, and to safeguard basic human freedom from the tyranny of local despots. (This is emphatically not to be understood as *Pax Americana!*)
- The establishment of a Seminary to produce the Judge of the World Court who would have final responsibility for decisions.
- The dismantling of most local military establishments, with the exception of local police forces as needed to keep the peace.
- A total free market for economic activity, unhindered, untaxed (*i.e.* no tax on business activity, or profit; a resource depletion tax would be the only limitation on economic activity, see below); free market exchange of currencies, no regulation of wages or prices for commodities or services.
- A monumental simplification of taxation: all taxes swept away except for a universal land tax and a resource depletion tax (on trees, oil, water, energy, *etc.*, including any kind of environmental degradation or pollution), collected and disbursed by the World Bank, with the authority of the World Court and local governments.



- The total elimination of transfer payments of any kind: welfare, social security, health care, the works; replaced with direct housing, food, and services to the indigent (Free Farms).
- Elimination of the National Debt by a one time printing of 90,000 one hundred million dollar bank notes (or, perhaps, 9,000,000 one million dollar bank notes, to make them easier to spend). From now on, the budget and the tax base should always come out even, except for extraordinary circumstances. [It is interesting to observe that, when this was first written, in 1992, the debt was a mere \$4 trillion.]

Most of my suggestions are based on a fundamental premise: that the present system is so frightfully wasteful of resources that we are squandering the accumulated wealth of the world, sliding down into poverty and despair, tension and warfare, toxic pollution and disease. If the world's resources were more sensibly managed, it is surely possible for everyone on earth to live a comfortable life in peace and joy.

The miracles of endless credit allow for a system to whirl around with a life of its own greatly in excess of its theoretical balance. The pattern, however, is for bills to come due suddenly. One fine day, without warning, you hear from your bank and credit cards that they decline to extend any further credit; please pay the balance due immediately. When your credit cards reach the level of 29.5% annual interest, you may take that as the handwriting on the wall.

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