

LUKANKA

by Rudolph C. Rýser, Ph.D.
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(Miskito for “Thoughts”)

In this issue of Fourth World Journal we benefit from the work of CWIS Associate Scholars around the world undertaking independent research and applying the results in concrete a measurable ways for the benefit of Fourth World peoples. International, and nation and state conflicts have been an important focus in the Fourth World and evidenced by the contributed works of Associate Scholars conflicts and the resolution of conflicts involving Fourth World nations will remain a high priority for our attention.

The role that indigenous knowledge plays and will continue to play in local and global affairs will open new avenues to resolving conflicts in the world. Massive “Roman style” wars like World War I and WWII have essentially run their course as a result of the Globalization consciousness of the 21st century. Asymmetric relations between large and small states and nations have now come to the forefront of modern international experience. Fourth World nations have become front row players in the modern clashes and their knowledge has become an essential part of the solutions of local and global conflicts. States and state institutions are organized to undertake imperial relations with the world-demanding massive organization and large institutional structures.

“What is far more possible, however, in the coming decade, are an increasing number of "brush-fire" wars, counter-insurgency campaigns, hostage rescue operations, "drug wars," low intensity conflicts, urban combat, and "peacekeeping operations" that will require a vastly different set of tactics, equipment, training and skills than conventional military engagements of the past. Future conflicts, at least in the near term, may not involve commitments of massive numbers of troops to fixed battle zones, but will likely involve combating small units of fanatical terrorists using Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and other sophisticated tactics and technologies. As Commandant of the of the Marine Corps General Charles C. Krulak, likes to say, the United States will often be fighting engagements that are more like Somalia, Haiti, and Bosnia than they are like Desert Storm.”

Asymmetric Warfare, the Evolution and Devolution of Terrorism;
The Coming Challenge For Emergency and National Security Forces
By: Clark L. Staten, Executive Director & Sr. Analyst
Emergency Response & Research Institute
(04/27/98)

Since the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1991, state government officials, scholars and commentators have concentrated on explaining what the "new world order" will be. Despite the fact that hundreds of low intensity conflicts had raged throughout the world from the early 1970s little attention was paid to them in favor of the sexier "Cold War." When that convenient war between two colossal strategic giants (so called "Great Powers") came to a fizzling anti-climactic end the "great warriors" were suddenly left without a "global war" to be fought. For ten years until September 11, 2001 managing small conflicts (Kosovo, Serbia, Somalia, etc) and counting up the peace dividend occupied the key leaders.

In 1982 I published an essay entitled “Fourth World Wars: the new emerging international political order” where I discussed and documented 128 wars (low intensity to be sure) ranging from the hot wars of Nicaragua vs. the Miskito, Sumo and Rama to the India vs. Naga, Burma vs. Karen and Mio to warm wars of Peoples’ Republic of China vs. Tibet, Manchuria and Uygur, Mexico vs. Maya and Peru vs. Aymara and Quichua. **Bernard Q. Nietchmann** contributed to the further development of this literature with “The Fourth World Nations Without a State - Fourth World Nations: Conflicts and Alternatives” in 1985 and his presentation on “The Militarization of the Third World, Regional Conflict Overview: The ‘Third World War;’ The Fourth Dimension later published by Cultural Survival (1990). Now **Dr. Marc Sills**, who published his own contributions to this literature in the Fourth World Bulletin during the 1990s updates us on wars in the Fourth World with his peer reviewed essay entitled: *The GWOT and the Joker: Fourth World War in 2006*. Dr. Sills

provides breathtaking descriptions of little known conflicts as well as well know conflicts. The Fourth World is very much in the middle of the “Global War on Terror” or the GWOT.

Breaking new ground in the field of social research and indigenous knowledge, **Dr. Richard Atleo** (Umeek) of the Nuu-Chah-nulth writes in *Research: the Nuu-chah-nulth Perspective* a new chapter in the development of indigenous knowledge . Umeek is deeply grounded in his own culture and draws from that culture an analysis of research and the application of Nuu-chah-nulth epistemology in modern research-an extraordinary discussion that takes steps beyond the thesis of his book *Tsawalk* (Vancouver, University of British Columbia Press).

In *Understanding Aymara Perspectives on Development* **Dr. Amy Eisenburg** writes with personal scholarship about her participator action research in South America, and its conclusion. She writes skillfully to bring new insights to the need for fundamental changes in approaches to development in the Fourth World drawing on Aymara views and analysis.

In an FWJ reprise, **Navaya ole Ndaskoi** writes in *The Root Causes of Maasai Perdicament* but elaborates the sources of conflict between the Maasai and Kikuyu Farmers which centers on access to lands and resources.

Dr. Oguchi Nkwocha, a Biafran activist, offers a powerful analysis of the nascent Republic of Biafra’s role in restoring Africa to Africans after centuries of colonialism. He demonstrates how a Fourth World analysis rooted in indigenous knowledge can reshape the political environment of the African continent.

Dr. Ranjay Singh and his colleagues **Dr. Dheeraj Singh** and **Dr. Amish Sureja** introduce our readers to Monpa tribal knowledge in connection with the use of plants in the preservation and extension of biodiversity. Community knowledge rooted in the ancient foundations of the Monpa has application well beyond the boundaries of northern India.

Traditional knowledge imbedded in community institutions is the focus of **Jay Taber’s** discussion of conflicts in the experience of the former Yugoslavia and the contrasting experiences of modern Europe and American Indian cultures.

CWIS Forum for Global Exchange Program Coordinator **Laura Killian** offers an insightful review of **Dr. John Bodley’s** important new book *The Power of Scale*. Killian notes the significant of Bodley’s insights for contemporary analysis of modern social, economic and political events.

Indigenous knowledge perspectives from the Fourth World are an essential part of the global dialogue about the human condition. Conflicts between peoples need not dominate our experience. Indeed, as the contributors to this issue of FWJ demonstrate, there are powerful ideas in the Fourth World that can and must contribute to easing human tensions and ultimately uplifting of the human spirit.