
LUKANKA



Rudolph C. Rýser, Ph.D.

Editor in Chief

© 2009 Center for World Indigenous Studies
LUKANKA (*Miskito* for "Thoughts")

In less than two years, a global revolution appears to have come to the surface for all to see. The most stable of states, the most reliable of medical systems, the most advanced technologies, the most productive economic system...indeed, virtually anything one can think of...all have become *topsy turvy*. What has been considered the conventional wisdom is no longer conventional or wise.

Still, while the collapsing international system, bankrupt and corrupt states, and an economic system lead by financial institutions now collapsing shake one's confidence in the future, there are some new indicators suggesting the unfolding of an alternative world. The International Criminal Court has been steadily developing to identify, capture, indict, and subject those charged with genocide and other crimes against humanity to trial. Climate Change and its associated greenhouse gas emissions has become a major topic of debate and public policy formation by states, multi-lateral organizations, as well as indigenous peoples. Older industries are either forced to close their doors or adjust to contributing to a new global economy based on non-carbon energy production.

Communications world-wide has become considerably less expensive allowing individuals and groups to reach out to each other to discover new and creative ways to find peaceful and cooperative relations. New political leadership like that of President Barak Obama is now coming to the front row to define new priorities, and new public policy directions that seem more intent on responding to human wants and needs instead of corporate needs and wants.

These hopeful signs seem reinforced somewhat by the words of contributors to this issue of the Fourth World Journal. Thoughtful and creative analysis of geopolitical relations, constructive efforts dealing with trauma and mental health, alternative visions for health care, comments on climate change, and two reviews demonstrating different views on subsistence as a promoter of life and issues concerning bigotry toward American Indian people.

Philip Hosking discusses in informative detail the reemergence of Kernow, the home of the Cornish people in territory claimed by the United Kingdom. Hosking's narrative provides important insights in to evolving changes in this growing movement toward national reemergence in Europe.

Dr. Janaka Jayawickrama discusses the wide gap between Western-style of psychosocial interventions emphasizing individuals instead of whole communities...especially those affected by violent conflicts and disasters. Dr. Jayawickrama argues passionately for a whole mental health approach that works to restore the whole community affected by stress and trauma.

Mirjam Hirsch discusses the disparities in health delivery and the importance of emphasizing the "causes of the causes" in indigenous communities—the long-term effects of colonization on indigenous communities. Indigenous peoples' definitions of health care must be understood and applied to meet the diverse demands of indigenous peoples' health needs.

Joseph Fallon reflects on the consequences of the first Cold War and its adverse effects on US foreign policy. Fallon points to the changes in other countries and indigenous peoples resulting from the imposition of what he describes as classical Western political liberalism.

The **International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change** confronted major obstacles at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties in Poznan, Poland in December 2008. Here we publish the IIPFCC's statements to the states' bodies meeting to form an agenda for a new International Climate Change Treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocols.

CWIS Research Assistant **Renee Davis** contributes her review of the *Maria Mies and Veronica Bennholdt-Thomsen Subsistence Perspective*, which offers an alternative to reliance on market economics pointing to the importance of an approach used in the Fourth World for millennia. Davis suggests the approach of this book may provide the needed response to catastrophic changes growing in the world economy.

Loni Ronnebaum, a CWIS intern studying mycology takes time from her work to review *Barbara Perry's* book **Silent Victims: Hate Crimes Against Native Americans** that reveals the results of Perry's research which she says exposes the consequences of American colonization.

I am pleased to offer these wonderful contributors for your information and improved understanding of some of the issues about and by Fourth World peoples. Understanding that indigenous peoples around the world are affected by the major issues of the day as well as the smallest challenges is I believe essential to a better world. These authors have made a significant contribution to that goal.



Rudolph C. Ryser, Ph.D.