Peace Philanthropy - Then and Now

An exhibition
to celebrate the 100th anniversary
of the Peace Palace
in The Hague (1913-2013) -
The gift of Andrew Carnegie

1913 2013 Peace Palace
Palais de la Paix
The Hague | La Haye

International Network of
Museums for Peace

Introduction

The pursuit of world peace takes many forms. This is reflected in the various ways in which philanthropy (love of mankind), focussed on bringing about a world without war, manifests itself.

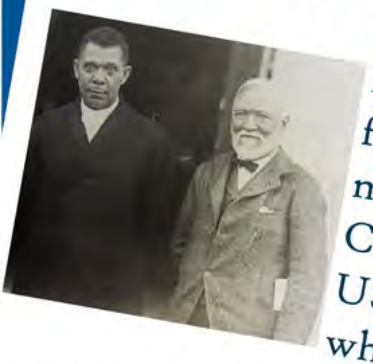
This exhibition shows past and present examples of charitable giving to promote a peaceful world. While Carnegie's Peace Palace and Nobel's Peace Prize are well known, other durable investments in peace-making are little known.

Underlying many projects is the need for education – that war is not inevitable, and that peaceful conflict resolution is possible and indeed vital. We can all work for peace and will be more successful if the resources necessary are available.

Andrew Carnegie (1835 - 1919)

The man who dies rich, dies disgraced

Andrew Carnegie believed that the rich were merely trustees of their wealth and should distribute it for the betterment of humanity. By the time of his death, he had given away $ 350 million.



Passionate about education, he financed the building of nearly 3,000 public libraries. He founded museums, and other educational and scientific institutions. Carnegie also made many donations to black institutions in the US. He was a friend of Booker T. Washington, a former slave who became a leading African-American educator.

Carnegie was born in Dunfermline near Edinburgh, Scotland. Because of poverty, his parents emigrated to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1848). In the early 1860s he founded his first companies. Eventually, he owned the largest iron & steel works in the US. In 1901 he sold his steel empire for $ 400 million, making him the richest man in the world. In today's dollars, he would have been comfortably ahead of Bill Gates or Warren Buffett.

Carnegie's Peace Foundations

War ... the foulest blot upon our civilization

A strong opponent of war, Carnegie used a large part of his fortune for efforts promoting its speedy abolition. Between 1903 and 1914 he endowed four trusts or foundations, all in the cause of international peace, and financed the building of three imposing "temples of peace".

Carnegie's firm belief that arbitration and international law would do away with war was given practical expression in his funding of the Peace Palace in The Hague, the Pan-American Union Building in Washington, D.C., and the Central American Court of Justice in Cartago, Costa Rica. Today, the Peace Palace is home to the International Court of Justice of the UN. The Pan-American Union Building houses the Organisation of American States, the first of the world's regional organisations.

In 1910 he created the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, endowing it with $ 10 million, the equivalent of $ 3.5 billion today. Through his Hero Fund, he hoped to replace the blood-stained heroes of the battlefield with the civilian heroes who saved lives rather than taking them.

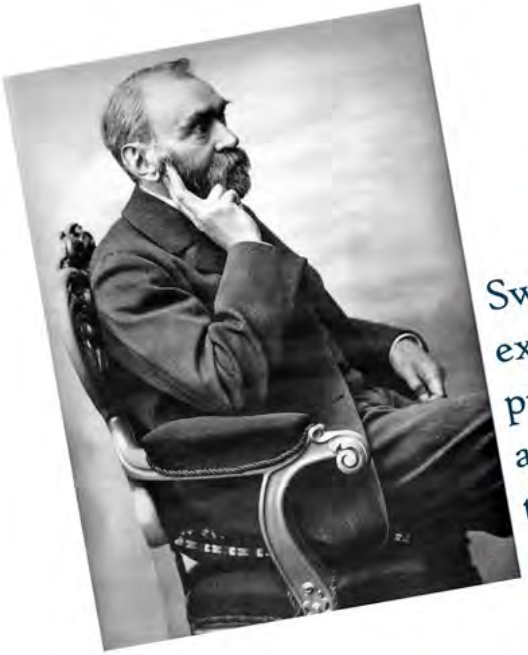
Albert K. Smiley (1828 - 1912)

Albert K. Smiley was an American hotel proprietor who organised and hosted at his resort hotel at Lake Mohonk (New York State) influential annual conferences. At first, they concerned the situation of native Americans (from 1883), and also of black Americans (from 1890). The success of these meetings encouraged him to apply the conference idea also to the question of the abolition of war.

The first annual Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration was held in 1895. Later conferences would be attended by up to 300 prominent educators, lawyers, peace activists, religious leaders, statesmen, and also admirals and generals. At the last one (1916), former US President W.H. Taft introduced a scheme for an international organisation for the prevention of war.

The conferences had a far-reaching effect on the American peace movement. Andrew Carnegie and Edwin Ginn were regular participants. Smiley helped draft a proposal that eventually led to the creation of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (1910).

Alfred Nobel (1833 - 1896)



Inform me, convince me, and then
I will do something great for the (peace) movement

Swedish scientist Alfred Nobel was fascinated by explosives and patented epoch-making and very profitable inventions such as the Nobel Igniter and dynamite. They revolutionised mining, tunnel blasting, road building, and warfare. He built some 90 factories in 20 countries on all continents for the industrial exploitation of his inventions.

In his will (1895), Nobel left his enormous fortune for the creation of five annual prizes, first awarded in 1901. Today, each prize comes with a cheque for $ 1.1 million. The award for "champions of peace" is largely due to his long friendship with the Austrian baroness Bertha von Suttner, who wrote the bestselling novel Lay Down Your Arms (Die Waffen nieder!, 1889). She convinced him to support the peace movement.

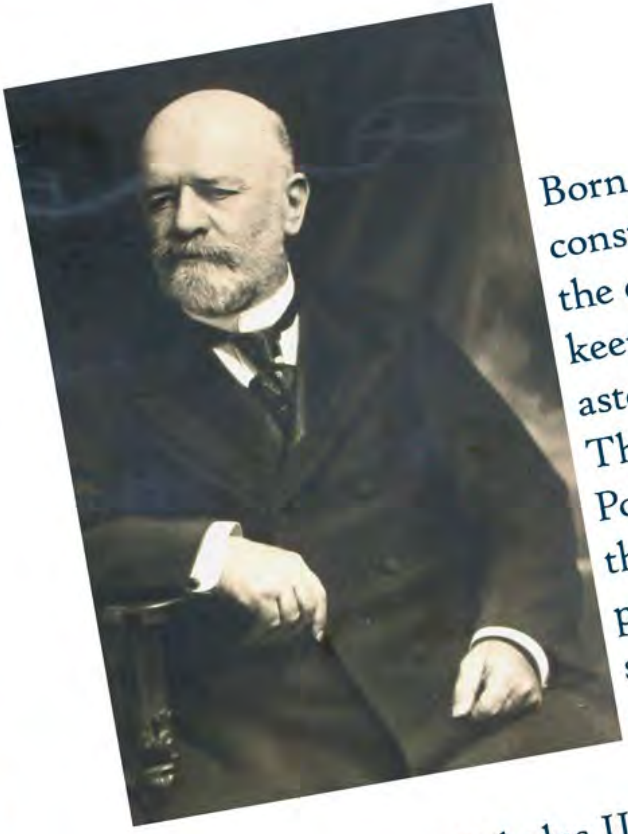
In 1905, Von Suttner became the first woman to receive the peace prize. She was a prominent lobbyist at the Hague Peace Conferences of 1899 and 1907. In 2013, during the celebrations for the centenary of the Peace Palace in The Hague, she became the first woman to have her sculpture displayed in it.

Priscilla Peckover (1833 - 1931)

From 1879, Priscilla Peckover successfully educated and mobilised women in the Women's Local Peace Association movement for the abolition of war. The Association had members in 30 countries. She founded a quarterly journal, Peace and Goodwill (1882), that she wrote, published and financed for the next fifty years, until her death at age 97.

Peckover grew up in a wealthy English private banking family of Quakers – Christian pacifists who emerged in the 1650s. Ever since, Quakers have been important advocates and funders of peace, especially in the English-speaking world. She gave generously to the Peace Society which was the leading peace organisation in Britain before World War I. A linguist and committed internationalist, she also financed pacifists and peace groups in continental Europe. Her writings and example encouraged women everywhere to speak out in public against war and the danger and waste of military expenditure.

Jan Bloch (1836 - 1902)

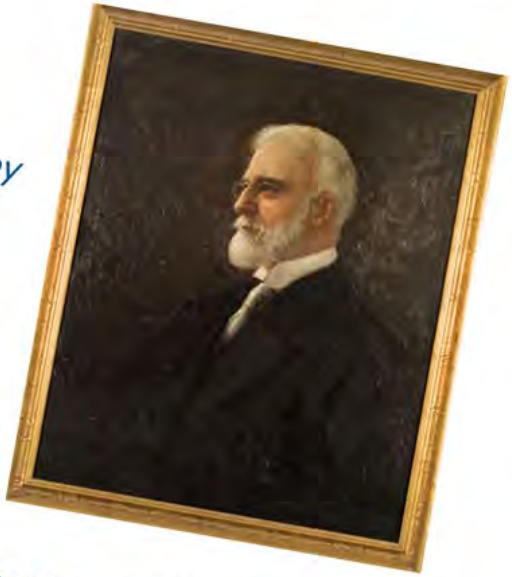


Born in Russian Poland, Jan Bloch (Jean de Bloch) constructed railways and amassed a fortune in the enterprising climate of the 1860s and 1870s. A keen student of military affairs, he published an astonishing and prophetic 6-volume work entitled The Future of War in its Technical, Economic and Political Relations (1898). It argued that a war between the European powers would cause devastation on a scale unlike any war of the past and thus had to be avoided at all costs.

Bloch influenced Tsar Nicholas II's call for a peace conference to halt the arms race, which resulted in the First Hague Peace Conference (1899). Bloch was called its "spiritual father". In order to instruct and warn a large public, he created and financed the International Museum of War and Peace in Lucerne, Switzerland (1902-1919), the first museum of its kind.

Edwin Ginn (1838 - 1914)

The true business of this world is to make men, not money



Edwin Ginn was passionate about world peace, and created and endowed the World Peace Foundation (1910). It funded publications and conferences promoting arbitration, disarmament and peace. He also funded public lectures, notably Bertha von Suttner's triumphant 6-month tour of the US (1912). He strongly believed that these activities helped to change public opinion. This was highly necessary: Ginn calculated that the sum spent annually throughout the world to advance peace was barely one-thousandth of that spent for military purposes.

Ginn was an innovative and successful textbook publisher and salesman in Boston. Ginn & Company was bought by the Xerox Corporation in 1968.

He left one third of his estate to the World Peace Foundation. On its 101st anniversary (2012), it became part of Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Ginn sometimes collaborated with Andrew Carnegie in their pursuit of world peace.

Johan G.D. Wateler (1858 - 1927)

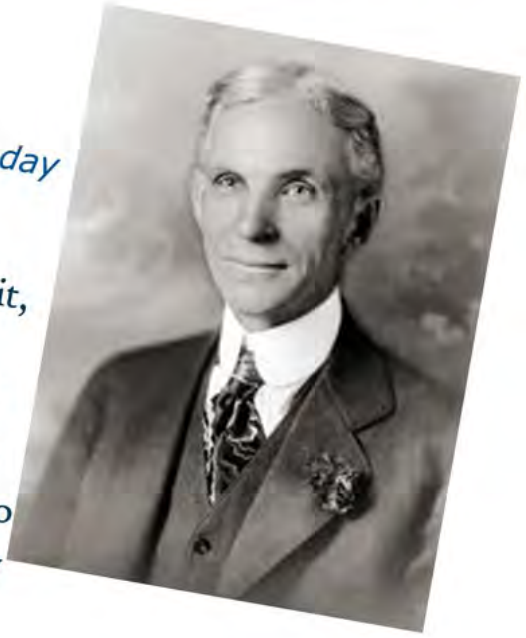
Johan G.D. Wateler was director of the Oranje-Nassau Hypotheekbank in The Hague. He stipulated in his will, drawn up in 1916 during World War I, that his considerable fortune should go to the Dutch state for the awarding of an annual prize for "private persons or institutions ... who have notably furthered the cause of peace by word or deed". The Government rejected the legacy and entrusted its administration to the Carnegie Foundation which owns and manages the Peace Palace (where the award ceremony takes place).

The Wateler Peace Prize was first awarded in 1931 to Sir Eric Drummond, Secretary-General of the League of Nations (precursor of the UN). The prize is the second oldest continuous award of its kind, after the Nobel Peace Prize.

From 2004, the award was renamed Carnegie Wateler Peace Prize and given every second year. In 2012 the prize went to War Child, an organisation supporting children and young people affected by war.

Henry Ford (1863 - 1947)

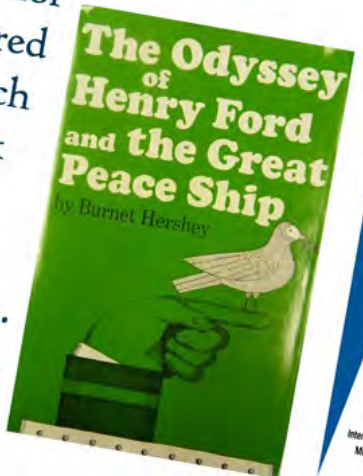
I would spend half my fortune to shorten the war by one day



Founder of the Ford Motor Company based near Detroit, Michigan (1903), Henry Ford pioneered assembly line mass production. When his one millionth car rolled off the line (December 1915), Ford was on his way to Europe on his famous Peace Ship. This was a spectacular effort to stop World War I and "get the boys out of the trenches by Christmas".

When US President Woodrow Wilson proved unable to involve his country in an effort at mediation to halt the war, Ford supported Rosika Schwimmer's proposal for a Neutral Conference for Continuous Mediation. He chartered a Danish steamship, Oscar II, which on 4th December 1915 left New York for Scandinavia.

On board were some 160 peace activists, journalists, and students. The Peace Expedition cost Ford about $ 500,000. At the time, his fortune was estimated at $ 150 million.



John D. Rockefeller Jr. (1874 - 1960)

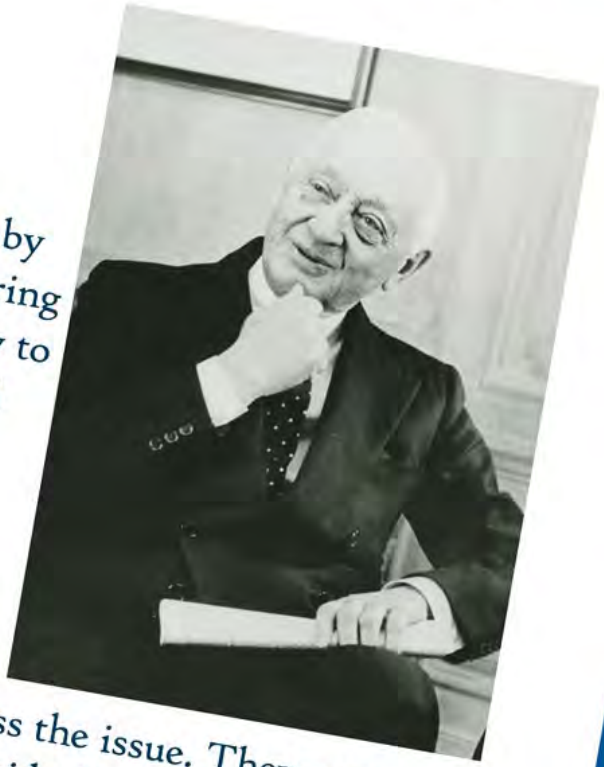
Peace must ... be built on the foundation of well-informed public opinion

In 1946, John D. Rockefeller Jr. made possible the construction of the UN headquarters in New York City by buying land in Manhattan at a personal cost of $ 8.5 million and donating it to the UN.

He was the only son of the founder of Standard Oil Company. Extending the philanthropy of his father, he gave away about $ 537 million. In 1927 he had donated $ 2 million for a library for the League of Nations in Geneva (now European Office of the UN).

In 2012, in celebration of the 85th anniversary of his donation, a new reading room was inaugurated at the UN in Geneva: the "John D. Rockefeller Jr. League of Nations and United Nations Archives Reading Room". At the same time, an exhibition showed the vital role of philanthropy in the growth of international cooperation after the devastation of World War I.

Cyrus Eaton (1883 - 1979)

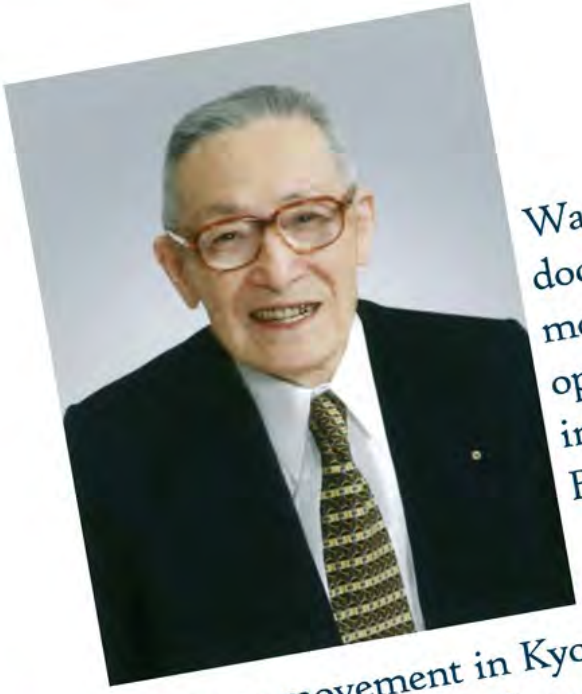


Cyrus Eaton was a Canadian-born American industrialist and banker whose career was inspired by his meetings with John D. Rockefeller Sr. Later, during the Cold War, Eaton devoted much time and money to promoting better relations between the capitalist and communist worlds.

Eaton was impressed by the Russell-Einstein manifesto on the dangers of nuclear weapons (1955). Two years later he hosted the first meeting of leading intellectuals and scientists from East and West to discuss the issue. They met as private individuals, not representatives of their governments. This was the start of the influential Pugwash Conferences on Science & World Affairs, named after his remote boyhood home in Nova Scotia, Canada.

In 1995, on the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Pugwash movement shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Joseph Rotblat, its leading organiser.

Nobuo Nakano (1910 - 2010)



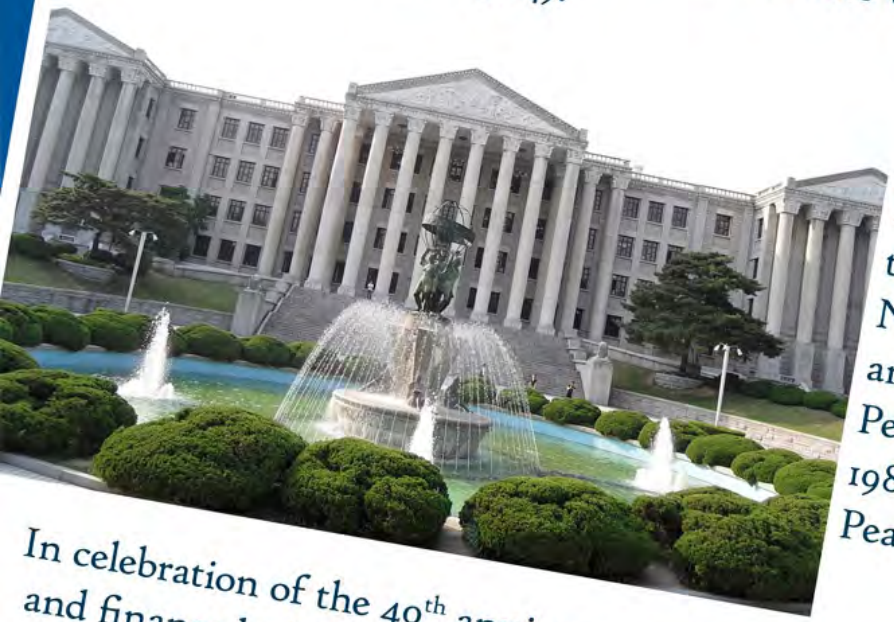
War is detrimental to health, and medical doctors have often been in the forefront of the peace movement. Also Dr. Nobuo Nakano, a Japanese ophthalmologist (eye specialist) who experienced the inhumanity of war during his military service in Burma during World War II.

From 1981, he became very active in the citizens' peace movement in Kyoto which organised annual exhibitions on war for the promotion of peace. At the same time, Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto proposed the creation of a museum to promote peace and democracy.

With the help of Nakano's gift of $ 5 million, the Kyoto Museum for World Peace was opened in 1992. It is the first and so far only peace museum in the world established within a university. The museum is one of the largest and best peace museums in Japan, and also the first to honestly display the country's war-time past. In 1998 and 2008, the museum hosted the conferences of the International Network of Museums for Peace.

Young Seek Choue (1921 - 2012)

Young Seek Choue, an educationalist and internationalist, was the founder of Kyung Hee University in Seoul, South Korea. Its Graduate Institute of Peace Studies was the first such institute in Asia (1984).



In 1981, Choue successfully petitioned the General Assembly of the United Nations for the establishment of an annual UN International Day of Peace, and also for the designation of 1986 as the UN International Year of Peace.

In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the UN, Choue initiated and financed a World Encyclopedia of Peace (1986), the first of its kind. He also commissioned a UN Peace Park and Global NGO complex on the campus of his university.

Joan Kroc (1928 - 2003)

Following the death (1984) of her husband Ray Kroc, the founder of McDonald's, Joan Kroc gave away a large part of her fortune, estimated at several billion dollars. Anti-war efforts and peace education projects greatly benefitted from her generosity.

In 1986 she donated $ 12 million to the University of Notre Dame (Indiana) for the creation of an Institute for International Peace Studies. Reluctantly, she allowed it to carry her name. In 2001, she gave more than $ 25 million for the founding of a School of Peace Studies at the University of San Diego (California). In her will, she left an additional $ 50 million to each university for their peace studies programmes.

A strong opponent of the US war against Iraq, Kroc donated $ 200 million to National Public Radio for its unbiased coverage. She left $ 1.8 billion to the Salvation Army for the establishment of youth centres around the US.

Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, University of San Diego

International Network of Museums for Peace

1913 2013 Peace Palace Palais de la Paix

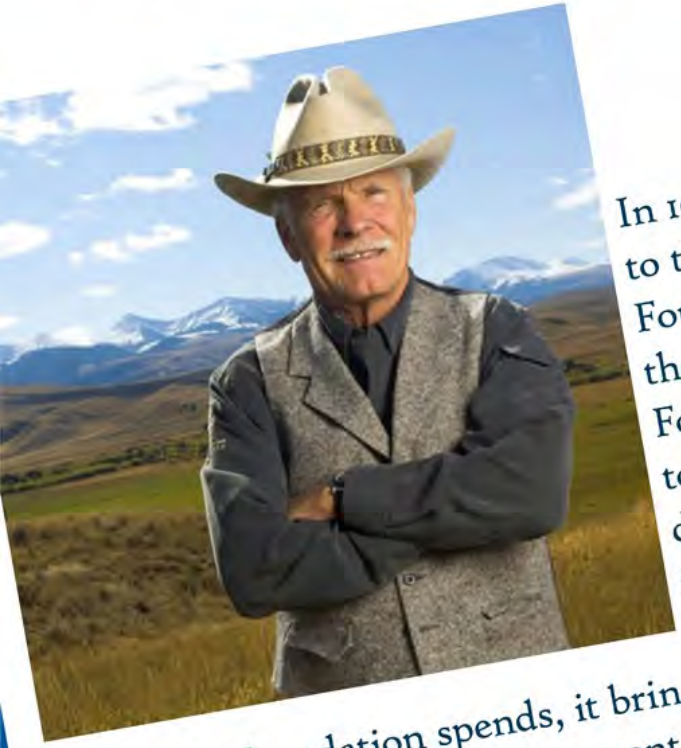
Cora Weiss (1934)

Cora Weiss has devoted her life to the movements for human rights, women's rights, and peace. She was a national leader of Women Strike for Peace, which helped to bring about the end of nuclear testing in the atmosphere. In 1969, she led in organising the largest protest against the war in Vietnam. As a Trustee of Hampshire College (Massachusetts), she supported the student campaign to divest stocks in companies doing business in apartheid South Africa. This developed into a national campaign.

Weiss is President of the Hague Appeal for Peace which brought 10,000 people to The Hague in 1999 to celebrate the centenary of the First Hague Peace Conference.

In 2000, Weiss participated in the drafting of what became UN Security Council Resolution 1325, on Women, Peace and Security. It demands full participation of women in peace negotiations. A "doer" since college days, she has also been a donor for many years, running a small family foundation which supports peace and justice organisations.

Ted Turner (1938)



In 1998 Ted Turner pledged to donate $ 1 billion to the United Nations and created the UN Foundation to administer the gift. This amounted then to one third of his wealth. The UN Foundation is the largest source of private funding to the UN. It is intended to encourage other donors to support the world organisation. The gift is used to attract additional funds for UN causes through public-private partnerships. For every dollar the foundation spends, it brings in an additional $ 1.25 from partners (individuals, charities, corporations, governments).

The funds are used to address the world's most pressing problems. They include children's health and climate change. The UN Foundation also promotes a stronger relationship between the US and the UN.

Turner is an American media tycoon, founder of Cable News Network (CNN, 1980), which revolutionised news media. He is also one of the largest private landowners in the US.

Akio Komatsu (1944)

Akio Komatsu is a Japanese industrialist who founded Komatsu Electric Industry in 1973. In 1994 he established the Human, Nature & Science Institute Foundation and began his philanthropic activities.

Realising his country's post-World War II responsibilities, Komatsu has been active in "grassroots" diplomacy. He has visited many places of remembrance in the world (including war & peace museums), expressing sorrow, offering flowers, and making donations. His unique humanitarianism is meant to pave the road to world peace from the Japanese archipelago and the Korean Peninsula where the presence of three nuclear powers (China, Russia, US) is significant.

Komatsu has sponsored many international seminars on peace, health, and the environment. In his efforts to promote a "culture of harmony", he has published The Analects of Confucius, and The Chinese Classic Quotations in several languages. He is also one of the main promoters of Bertha von Suttner in Japan.

Mo Ibrahim (1946)

Money made in Africa should go back to support Africa

Alfred Nobel's peace prize has inspired the creation of hundreds of other awards for peace-making (and related activities). None is more generous than the Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership. The prize consists of a payment of $ 5 million (in ten annual instalments), followed by an annual payment of $ 200,000 for life.

Initiated in 2007, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation awards African leaders who have governed well, have raised living standards in their country, and have left office voluntarily. These exacting criteria have so far resulted in only three prizes. In 2012, the foundation awarded Desmond Tutu a $ 1 million prize for his "lifelong commitment to speaking truth to power".

Mo Ibrahim FOUNDATION

Ibrahim is a Sudanese-born mobile communications entrepreneur and billionaire who built one of the first mobile-phone networks in Africa (thereby contributing to the development of civil society). His foundation also produces an annual Index of African Governance, ranking the continent's 53 governments.

Richard Branson (1950)

Doing good is good for business

Richard Branson is one of Britain's best known and unconventional entrepreneurs who is also an adventurer. The founder and chairman of Virgin Group has pledged $ 3 billion to combat global warming.

In the 1990s, with rock musician Peter Gabriel, Branson discussed with Nelson Mandela the formation of an independent group of leaders whose combined influence and expertise would support peaceful conflict resolution and human rights. Mandela launched The Elders in 2007, with funding from Branson and Pam & Pierre Omidyar (founders of eBay).

In 1995, to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, he donated a sculpture by Josefina de Vasconcellos to Coventry Cathedral. It represents the reunion of those divided by war. With his help, identical sculptures have been placed in Belfast, Berlin and Hiroshima, on behalf of the people of Coventry. Branson is a leader of the Global Zero movement for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Bill (1955) & Melinda Gates (1964)

In 2000, Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft Corporation, was widely regarded as the world's wealthiest individual. He indicated his intention to give away most of his fortune and some years later became a full-time philanthropist – like Andrew Carnegie a century earlier.

In 2012, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (originally established in 1994) had an endowment of $ 36 billion, and employed more than 1,000 staff. The foundation's main focus is on global health, education, and ending poverty. It has made major contributions to the eradication of polio, and the struggle against AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis. Its annual budget for health ($ 800 million) almost equals that of the UN's World Health Organisation (WHO).

Deeply affected by a visit to Tanzania in 1993, Bill and Melinda Gates sponsor many programmes in Africa, including family planning, and developing new crops and farming methods – both crucial for overcoming hunger.

The Giving Pledge

The more I do for others, the happier I am. Life becomes richer, the more one gives away

The Giving Pledge is a commitment by the world's wealthiest individuals and families to give away at least half of their wealth. Started in 2010 by Bill and Melinda Gates, together with Warren Buffett, by the middle of 2013, 114 "pledgers" had signed up. Initially all from the US, from 2012 billionaires from other countries started to join.

Many pledgers have been involved in major philanthropy for a long time already, but privately, without publicising. Buffett convinced them that making their giving public was likely to encourage others to become philanthropists also.

Health and education are by far the most popular causes which enjoy philanthropic support. Carnegie felt passionate about the abolition of weapons and war, and invested enormous sums of money for the promotion of peace. However, this noble cause is hardly sponsored by any of the pledgers. Perhaps some will now be persuaded by Ban Ki-moon's admonition – "The world is over-armed and peace is underfunded".

Foundations

Working for a peaceful world is funded by many private foundations, large and small, around the world, as illustrated below.

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (1904)

Joseph Rowntree, a successful Quaker chocolatier from York, established several trusts to support efforts leading to a fair, democratic and peaceful society. His Charitable Trust shares the Quaker belief that armed conflict is not an effective or legitimate means of resolving differences between countries or groups. The trust distributes about £ 5 million yearly to those promoting peace and justice.

John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (1978)

"Committed to building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world", the foundation's annual giving amounts to some $ 300 million, with assets of about $ 7 billion. It was created following the death of insurance and real estate tycoon John MacArthur, then one of the wealthiest men in the US. The foundation has funded fellowships for innovative work in international peace and security, and sponsored the coalition to establish the International Criminal Court.

Sasakawa Peace Foundation (1986)

This foundation was established in Tokyo, and today has an overall endowment of some $ 800 million. It funds a great number of projects which seek to resolve global issues, promote Japan's international contributions, and strengthen cooperation with China and the Asian-Pacific region.

Foundations

In Rotary, our business is not profit. Our business is peace

Rotary Peace Centers (2002)

Rotary International (1905) is a fellowship and service organisation of professional and business people with more than one million members worldwide. Since 2002, Rotary Peace Centers have been established at universities around the world. Together, the centers offer over 100 fellowships in peace and conflict studies every year. During the first decade, they have provided academic and practical training in conflict prevention and resolution for over 700 aspiring peacemakers. The Rotary Peace Fellowships are made possible through large and small donations by Rotarians and others.

vfonds (2007)

The Dutch National Fund for Peace, Freedom and Veterans Care (vfonds) has its origins in the Union of Dutch Military War Victims (1945), founded by war veteran and banker Bib van Lanschot. As indicated in their logo – "vfonds invests in peace" – it now also supports projects that promote freedom, human rights and peace. It derives its main source of annual income (in recent years about € 8.5 million) from Dutch national lotteries. Anticipating the centenary of the Peace Palace in The Hague, a modern and attractive Visitor Centre was inaugurated in 2012, made possible thanks also to a grant from the vfonds.

Appeal for Giving for Peace

... Were half the power that fills the world with terror,
Were half the wealth bestowed on camps and courts,
Given to redeem the human mind from error,
There were no need of arsenals and forts ...

The American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote his famous anti-war poem after a visit to The Arsenal at Springfield (1845), in Massachusetts.

Among the "accursed instruments" in arsenals today are weapons of mass destruction which endanger all life on earth. Global military expenditures have risen to $ 1.75 trillion (2012), his own country's share approaching $ 680 billion, or 40% of the total.

HAGUE APPEAL FOR PEACE

The abolition of war, and the transformation of a culture of violence into one of nonviolence and peaceful conflict resolution, requires a global campaign of peace education, as set forth in the Hague Appeal for Peace (1999). Lack of resources is preventing its implementation. Andrew Carnegie's exemplary philanthropy in the cause of peace is more than ever in need of followers.