

Dear Discussion Leaders:

We are very pleased that our film moved you to want to do something about the issues it raises. We are particularly gratified that you want to undertake a screening yourself.

Getting a good discussion going is really easier than you might think. We have found in the many Q & A sessions we have led ourselves that once started; group discussions pretty quickly take off on their own. All that's needed is a few pertinent questions to start with that go right to the core of the film's themes.

We list the scenes in the film below, in the order in which they appear, to help you and your guests/audience recall what they have seen and their reactions to it.

PART I: SCARRED LANDS

1. Opening Salvo
2. Search and Destroy
3. Protocol One
4. Ghost Landscapes
5. Pacific Legacy

PART II: WOUNDED LIVES

6. UXO
7. Public Health
8. Displacement
9. Homelands

PART III: PREPARATIONS FOR WAR

10. Nuclear Legacy
11. Stockpiling
12. Nuclear Club

**PART IV: RE-THINKING SECURITY
(MLK Intro)**

13. Diversion
14. Overshoot & Collapse

PART V: NATURAL SECURITY

15. Common Aversions
16. Can We Make It?
17. Final Exam
18. Not a Spectator Sport

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is divided into 2 sections of questions which are *GENERAL* and *MORE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS*.

Please note:

- Lead in information to a question will be in **RED**
- Questions to ask your audience will be **GREEN**
- Examples of responses and discussion points relevant to the question will be in **BLUE**

All content in red is lead in information that should be read to your audience before asking the questions in green. The content in blue is for the discussion leader to utilize to help guide your audiences responses. The blue content is also to give you an idea of the types of responses you should expect to generate from this question.

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

1. **What in the film did you find particularly interesting?**

2. **Did you learn anything in the film that you didn't already know?**

What was that?

If not did you already know about:

-Oil leaking from the ships sunk in Truk Lagoon during World War II?

-The number of oil tankers sunk in the South Pacific in World War II?

-The effect of all this leaking oil on mangrove swamps, on coral?

-The importance of mangrove swamps as breeding places for fish?

-Michael Barrett, the researcher who studied the sunken ships, says that it's "pretty shocking" that "a war that we had in the last century could still be destroying our future."

What's shocking about this?

Do you think there's anything we can do about it?

3. In the first scene of the film, the narrator recites an ancient Latin proverb, **Si vis pacem para bellum**, which translates as: *"If you desire peace, prepare for war."*

Does this make sense?

Or does it seem counter intuitive?

4. The Australian War Memorial has carved in stone over its entrance, **THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES.**

Do you think that this is an appropriate way to refer to soldiers killed in wartime?

Were there any alternative courses of action that could have been taken?

5. **What do you think are the longest-lasting and most dangerous environmental consequences of war and preparations for war?**

(E.g., pollution of air, land, and water by toxic materials [such as Agent Orange and nuclear radiation], destruction of forests, loss of biodiversity, abandoned explosive devices, leakage of oil onto land and into water)

MORE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS:

1. In what specific ways does damage to the environment undermine public health?

How does it?

(E.g., pollutes land, air and water; contributes to global climate disruption; destroys crops and water supplies; diverts energy, money and resources away from dealing with long-term problems; forces people to leave their homes if they can no longer make a living)

2. Jim Janko, the combat medic in Viet Nam, says, “the environment is war’s silent casualty”?

What does he mean by this?

Do you think this is true?

Who stands to gain by this “silence”?

3. In the “Nuclear Legacy” scene, the historian John McNeill says he thinks that the more durable environmental impacts come from **preparation** for war rather than from **combat** itself.

What is it about preparations for war that might support this claim?

(E.g., sonar testing that injures dolphins and whales, exposure to radioactivity, conversion of farmland and natural environments for training purposes, consumption of fuel by airplanes and naval vessels in training exercises)

4. In his famous April 4, 1967, speech at Riverside Church in New York City, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. asserts, “adventures like [the war in Viet Nam] draw men and skills and money like some demonic destruction tube.”

What is he referring to here?

What did he think was being, in his words, “broken and eviscerated”?

Is this sort of thing still happening?

5. Dr. Michael MacCracken, a climatologist, says that although the Defense Department spends an enormous amount of money on war and war related activities, “probably the largest impact of all that the Defense effort has is a diversion of intellectual energy and ...monetary resources away from trying to solve and address...long-term problems.”

What do you think some of those "long-term problems" might be?

(E.g., population increase; climate change; shrinking water supplies, agricultural land, and fish stocks; loss of biodiversity)

Do the wars being waged now still have the effect of reducing attention to such longer-term problems?

Can you give some examples? (E.g., poverty)

6. In the section on **Diversion**, historian John McNeill, observes, “Wherever and whenever war and preparedness for war is a topmost priority of the state ...other things are on the back burner. Everything else ... whether it is education, environmental spending -- all these things command a lower priority.”

Have you noticed this about Federal and State budgets in the United States?

Are there important programs that have to be cut back because of a presumed lack of funds?

7. On the basis of his research, Lester Brown, President of Earth Policy Institute asserts that for only one-third of the U.S. annual military budget, it would be possible to eradicate poverty, stabilize population, reverse the deforestation of the earth, conserve soil, and restore oceanic fisheries.

Is this pie in the sky, or does it sound like something worth trying?

What kinds of changes in people's behavior do you think this would entail?

(E.g., greater use of public transportation, less use of the private car, more use of renewable sources of energy, redesigning cities so that there is higher density and less urban sprawl, less use of wasteful, unnecessary energy for such as excessive heating and cooling)

8. What did Jim Janko learn from what he saw as a combat medic in Viet Nam?

Did he develop a greater appreciation of nature from witnessing the destruction to the country from a weapon that “could put a bullet in every square inch of a football field in less than a minute?”

How did that affect what he saw in a Final Exam that he was assigned in his course at Berkeley -- to examine one square inch of earth “to see what’s there, to see it as a system..?”

9. In the film, Saleem Ali, Professor of Environmental Studies, talks about the importance of **Natural Security to the maintenance of **National** Security.**

What light does *Scarred Lands & Wounded Lives: The Environmental Footprint of War* shed on this approach to National Security?

Is this a new way of thinking about security, a new kind of appreciation of the importance of our natural resources?

10. Lester Brown says, "I am frequently asked as I travel around the world: Can we reverse the trends that are undermining our future? And my answer always is: It depends on what you and I do?"

What can we do?

Must we give up and despair, or are there strong possibilities for reversing the trends that are undermining our future?

11. In the film, 8 countries that have publicly admitted to testing a nuclear bomb are referred to as "The Nuclear Club."

Are there any other countries that have tested a nuclear bomb, but not publicly admitted it?

12. The Council for a Livable World reports, on the basis of its research, that "whether or not Israel has conducted a test, all conclude that it has nuclear weapons, perhaps 200 of them."

What, if anything, might this imply about nuclear proliferation?

ACTIVITY:

Let's make a list of what we can do...together in groups and on our own, individually -- in our own behavior, in politics, and in education.