

Religious, philosophic, political, and scientific foundations of the USPP

Traditional pacifism can be seen to have both religious and political foundations. A "religious foundation" usually has been interpreted to mean some scripture that is regarded as divine, or a principle such as love or truth. Usually, the two sources have been combined into one religious outlook.

A "political foundation" usually has been meant to mean a line of historic or economic argument that traces pernicious results of military power, and beneficial results for pacifist policies.

The USPP recognizes the legitimacy and value of both of these approaches. In regard to the religious approach, the party does not commit itself to any specific religion, for such a commitment is a matter of faith, and must be highly personal. The party seeks to represent all pacifist religious outlooks.

As a political party concerned with public policies, and economic and other programs, the USPP naturally places weight on political arguments for pacifism.

In addition to having religious and political foundations, the USPP has a mathematical base through the Apocalypse Equation. This foundation is similar to the political base in that it describes effects of military power, but it differs in that the predictions made by the probability equation can be quantified, and therefore are less open to question than those made by non-mathematical arguments. The mathematical foundation places the USPP directly in the tradition of modern, natural science, and enables party members to appeal in scientific terms to scientists throughout the world.

The USPP's relationship to pacifist traditions of political action

Pacifist organizations can be distinguished by the relative emphases that they give to the religious and secular foundations of pacifism, and by the emphasis that they place on anarchist pacifism. All pacifist groups have political programs to some extent, that is, they encourage their members to engage in some forms of political activity, such as letter-writing, personal, face-to-face lobbying, and demonstrating. While several pacifist organizations urge their members to vote for "peace-minded candidates", none sponsors candidates.

In general, pacifist political activity has been called "speaking truth to power", which suggests a contradiction. On the one hand, pacifists have been anxious that office-holders follow pacifist policies. On the other, many pacifists seem to have felt that pacifists shouldn't hold office. To resolve this contradiction, it would seem that pacifists either would have to recommend that office-holders resign, or pacifists would have to be willing to hold office themselves. The USPP believes that the best resolution is for pacifists to be willing to hold office under conditions that embody pacifist insights.

The USPP and the peace movement In the past, cooperative efforts to abolish war and secure peace have been inhibited by disagreements about the causes of war. The establishment position in all nations sees war primarily as the result of the weakness of one's own nation. Consequently, most governments claim to seek peace through armament. A minimum description of the "peace movement" in any nation would exclude this divisive, self-centered notion of how peace is maintained.

Beyond that, concepts of peace differ considerably. Some peace organizations