

A Manifesto For Now AN EXAMPLE

50 years after the 1962 Port Huron Statement of the Students for a Democratic Society

The column on the left is an outline Table of Contents summarized from the 1962 Port Huron Statement. Use the column on the right to add notes about “What needs to be said now” to help create A Manifesto For Now – items that are relevant to today’s world and its issues and needs. (Website source: <http://manifesto4now.wordpress.com/resources/>)

Port Huron Statement – 1962 Outline Table of Contents	<u>A Manifesto For Now</u> – 2012 AN EXAMPLE Notes on “What needs to be <u>said now</u> ”
I. INTRODUCTION: AGENDA FOR A GENERATION	I. AGENDA FOR AN <u>ONCOMING CRISIS</u> (Where we’re at now: Current Problems / Issues...)
I.A We are the people of this generation... I.A.1 Maturing in complacency I.A.2 Events and paradoxes (“Unavoidable issues”) A) Nuclear war B) Discrimination I.A.3 The search for truly democratic alternatives (Typical for this EXAMPLE: M4N uses subtopics & format parallel to PHS, re-worded for current relevance)	I.A <u>We are the 99 Percent</u> (worldwide, both West & East) I.A.1 For many, hopes of maturing in comfort, or at least in sufficiency and peace I.A.2 Events and outrages (“Unavoidable issues NOW”) A) <u>The global corporate economy</u> (un-accountable to any polity), and <u>unsustainable local communities</u> (dependent on the global economy) – together referred to below as “ <u>the ‘new’ economy</u> ” B) <u>Mass social and ecological devastation</u> I.A.3 The search for humanely sustainable alternatives
I.B Values I.B.1 Making values explicit I.B.2 Humans as infinitely precious I.B.3 Human relationships I.B.4 Social systems / Participatory democracy	I.B Values: Sorting out “sustainable” values from today’s public discourse I.B.1 Sustainability at the broadest level first I.B.2 1 st : The planet and its ecosystems I.B.3 2 nd : Communities, societies, basic social systems I.B.4 3 rd : Human potential within a sustainable world
I.C The Students I.C.1 Overcoming inner alienation I.C.2 Apathy I.C.3 Extracurricular life I.C.4 Academic life I.C.5 The academic bureaucracy I.C.6 The current function of the educational system	I.C The 99 Percent (in the West) I.C.1 Overcoming relative ease and bleak hope I.C.2 Our apathy and exhaustion I.C.3 Work life (if not abandoned by “the ‘new’ econ.”) I.C.4 Home life (if any daily-life resources remain un-harnessed or un-exhausted by “the ‘new’ economy”) I.C.5 Paths of expansion for “the ‘new’ economy” I.C.6 The ultimate function of “the ‘new’ economy”
I.D The Society Beyond	I.D <u>The breakdown of society around the 99 Percent</u> - “Individualism” becomes “every man for himself”
I.E Politics without Publics	I.E Politics without people and without communities
I.F The Economy I.F.1 Living in Relative Comfort I.F.2 The Remote Control Economy I.F.3 The Military-Industrial Complex I.F.4 Military Industrial Politics I.F.5 Automation I.F.6 The Stance of Labor	I.F The emerging economic system: global & everyday I.F.1 For the West: A false prosperity & affluence - The remote-control consumption economy & the Western lifestyle - Energy demands & Waste - Low prices & Disposable income I.F.2 For the balance of the World and the planet: The global unsustainable momentum of Western practices

	<p>I.F.3 The Corporate-Political-Media Complex</p> <p>I.F.4 Corporate-Political-Media hegemony: Using <u>economic</u> theory to obscure and justify influence and power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The decreasing relevance of “liberal” or “conservative”; the increasing relevance of “wealthy with access to the system” or “impoverished without access to the system” <p>I.F.5 Technology that reduces human jobs and debases human worklife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The increasing relative inefficiency of humans <p>I.F.6 The absence of labor’s voice</p>
I.G Horizon (summary of the above)	I.G <u>The brink, and the abyss beyond</u>

II. THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE WARFARE STATE	II. THE INDIVIDUAL & COMMUNITY IN THE <u>CORPORATE STATE</u> (<u>How</u> we got here: Causes / Dynamics...)
II.A The Warfare State (militarization weakens all aspects of civil society)	<p>II.A <u>The Corporate State</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the West: Accountability to whom? The downward spiral, from citizens, to stakeholders, to shareholders - In the East: State capitalism without democracy - The rise of <u>international economic free-agency</u>
II.B Deterrence Policy (nuclear war erases the idea of “national boundaries”)	II.B Economic “policy” and international “competition”
II.C The Colonial Revolution (the formerly-oppressed arise, but the US resists)	<p>II.C The aftermath of World Bank/IMF policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Debt-yoked nations; Societal collapse; Terrorism
II.D Anti-Communism (unreasoning anti-communism vs. democracy)	<p>II.D Anti-“Socialism” used as a distraction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invoked to oppose all socially-based goods
II.E Communism and Foreign Policy (fear and nuclear suicide vs. creating democracy at home and helping its growth in the world)	<p>II.E “Socialism” and “foreign policy” with Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - American exceptionalism and the hegemony of empire; Might makes right
II.F Discrimination (denying rights to “non-whites” diminishes us all)	II.F Decreasing opportunity, for an increasing percentage

III. WHAT IS NEEDED?	III. DYNAMICS AT THE <u>GLOBAL/INTERNATIONAL LEVEL</u>, AND THE ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS NEEDED
	<p><u>Global/International summary:</u></p> <p>A <u>decreasing accountability to the people</u>, latent in the dwindling distinction between “international” and “national”, as is arising under the influence of the <u>corporate state</u> and <u>international economic free-agency</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Hence: Counteracting the negative aspects of unbalanced globalism</u>
<p>III.A Ending the Cold War</p> <p>III.A.1 Universal controlled disarmament</p> <p>III.A.2 Disarmament as a political issue</p> <p>III.A.3 Acceptance of status quo possessions</p>	<p>III.A Re-asserting the rights of the 99% (worldwide, both West & East):</p> <p><u>Addressing unavoidable issue A</u> (from I.A.2 above):</p> <p><u>Countering the global corporate economy</u> (un-accountable</p>

<p>III.A.4 Experiments in disengagement & demilitarization</p>	<p>to any polity), <u>and unsustainable local communities</u> (dependent on the global economy)</p> <p>III.A.1... - (Grievances raised by OWS?)</p>
<p>III.B The Industrialization of the World</p> <p>III.B.1 Eliminating hunger, poverty, disease, ignorance, violence, and exploitation</p> <p>III.B.2 Preparing all nations for industrialization</p> <p>III.B.3 Public leadership for the world effort</p> <p>III.B.4 Development as a way of ending the Cold War</p> <p>III.B.5 Spreading democratic institutions by example</p> <p>III.B.6 Basic institutions in national, not foreign, control</p> <p>III.B.7 Foreign aid through international agencies</p> <p>III.B.8 Democratic theory and social revolutions</p>	<p>III.B Reforming the world toward human sustainability: <u>Addressing unavoidable issue B</u> (from I.A.2 above): <u>Countering mass ecological and social devastation</u></p> <p>III.B.1 Sustainable local economies</p> <p>III.B.2 Aid without exploitation</p> <p>- Debt relief/cancellation</p> <p>III.B.2... - (Grievances raised by OWS?)</p>
<p>IV. TOWARDS AMERICAN DEMOCRACY</p>	<p>IV. DYNAMICS AT THE <u>LOCAL/NATIONAL</u> LEVEL, AND THE ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS NEEDED</p>
	<p><u>Local/National summary:</u></p> <p>A <u>decreasing effectiveness for society</u>, evident in the shrinking sphere of civil society and discourse, as is arising under the influence of the <u>corporate state</u> and <u>international economic free-agency</u></p> <p>- <u>Hence: Re-establishing the positive aspects of national societal focus and leadership</u></p>
<p>IV.A Goals of a Domestic Effort</p> <p>IV.A.1 Abolishing the political party stalemate</p> <p>IV.A.2 Political participation encouraged</p> <p>IV.A.3 Promotion of peaceful dissent</p> <p>IV.A.4 Corporations must be made publicly responsible</p> <p>IV.A.5 Allocation of resources based on social needs</p> <p>IV.A.6 Concentrating on genuine social priorities: A program against poverty; Civil rights; Federal economic development; The growing complex of "city" problems; Mental health institutions; Prisons; Education; Agricultural policies; Science</p>	<p>IV.A Goals of a re-focused US, within the context of the West</p> <p>IV.A.1 Having an impact despite partisan governmental dysfunction</p> <p>IV.A.2... IV.A.3... IV.A.4 <u>Corporations must be made publicly responsible</u></p> <p>IV.A.5 Allocation of resources based on social needs despite market forces</p> <p>IV.A.6 <u>Concentrating on genuine social priorities:</u> - (Grievances raised by OWS?)</p>
<p>IV.B Alternatives to Helplessness</p> <p>IV.B.1 The Southern civil rights movement</p> <p>IV.B.2 Peace</p> <p>IV.B.3 Organized labor</p> <p>IV.B.4 Liberal force in Congress</p> <p>IV.B.5 Revival of idealism</p>	<p>IV.B Alternatives to helplessness and fatalism</p> <p>IV.B.1 The voice of the economically disenfranchised</p> <p>IV.B.2 <u>Economic justice</u> and peace</p> <p>IV.B.3 Who will speak for the workers?</p> <p>IV.B.4 Representation of the economically disenfranchised in congress</p> <p>IV.B.5 The revival of alternatives and debate</p>
<p>IV.C The University and Social Change</p> <p>IV.C.1 - 6 A New Left will...</p>	<p>IV.C What advocacy group and what forum for these issues?</p> <p>IV.C.1 The university as co-opted by the corporate state</p> <p>IV.C.2 A New Communitarianism...</p>
<p>IV.D Commitment to stimulating this kind of social movement...</p>	<p>IV.D What will finally awaken the necessary commitment?</p>