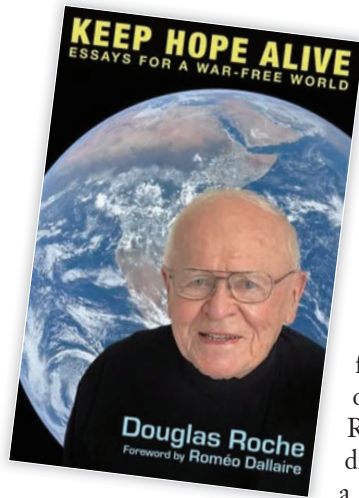


Keep Hope Alive Essays for a War-Free World

By Douglas Roche; Khalid Yaqub.
2023, 182 pp. \$16.99

“Keep Hope Alive: Essays for a War-Free World” is a thought-provoking collection of essays by Douglas Roche, a distinguished Canadian diplomat, parliamentarian, and former Ambassador for Disarmament. Roche’s profound insights, combined with his accessible writing style, make this book a compelling read for both seasoned experts and everyday readers. Roche skillfully dissects critical global issues while offering concrete solutions that inspire hope for a more peaceful world.



Reallocate resources toward goals that benefit humanity as a whole

The essays shed light on the challenges facing the United Nations, especially in the context of financial constraints that have hindered the organization’s progress toward achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals. Roche meticulously examines the impact of regional military alliances, such as NATO, on diverting funds from sustainable initiatives like climate action and poverty eradication. The book underscores the urgent need to reallocate resources toward goals that benefit humanity as a whole.

A significant highlight is Roche’s exploration of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), a landmark agreement signed by the majority of nations. The TPNW aims

to eliminate the development, testing, production, acquisition, possession, stockpiling, use, or threat of use of nuclear weapons, marking a crucial step toward a world free from these destructive arms. Roche’s advocacy for disarmament reflects a commitment to global security and a future without the looming threat of nuclear warfare.

The author critically examines Canada’s foreign policy, emphasizing its historical reliance on two pillars: relations with the United States and global participation through the UN. While the Trudeau government initially received praise for its commitment to strengthening Canada’s global role, Roche’s essays reveal areas where the nation has fallen short, particularly in terms of climate responsibilities and strict adherence to NATO agreements. He contends that Canada’s continued allegiance to NATO and other outdated military alliances poses a threat to global security and undermines disarmament efforts.

Despite Canada’s substantial investment in NATO, allocating 1.29 percent of its GDP (approximately \$29 million in 2023) with plans to spend \$553 billion over the next two decades, the country falls short of the alliance’s 2 percent GDP commitment. This financial commitment coincides with cuts to development programs, echoing a concerning trend observed in other nations and compromising the success of UN Development Goals.

Roche also addresses the issue of gender representation on the global stage, expressing concern about Cana-

da’s adherence to traditional patriarchal norms despite advocating for increased female participation in international affairs. This perspective adds a crucial dimension to the discussion, highlighting the need for a more inclusive and diverse approach to global decision-making.

In the face of these challenges, Roche remains optimistic, outlining tangible measures that are currently being implemented and suggesting ways to enhance global security. The book emphasizes a renewed focus on UN millennium goals addressing hunger and climate initiatives as key components of a comprehensive strategy for a better world.

In conclusion, *“Keep Hope Alive”* not only identifies the obstacles hindering global progress but also provides a clear roadmap for a brighter future. Roche’s essays serve as a beacon of optimism in a world grappling with complex and urgent issues, offering readers a thoughtful and actionable perspective on building a war-free world. ■

Reviewed by Susan McClelland, a Canadian writer and film producer living in UK.

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