**PACS6922: Advanced/Peaceful Conflict Transformation** | Collective Assgt #1 *Diagnosis, Prognosis and Therapy* (DPT) | United States as “belligerent state”

DIAGNOSIS

Structural violence sustains growing inequality and concentration of wealth within US and abroad, with race a major factor determining inequality (UN-Habitat *State of the World’s Cities* report). Cultural violence blames minorities, outsiders and other ‘external threats’ for downturns, hardships and insecurity. Direct violence manifests itself in externally-directed military escapades and runaway gun-violence at home.

PROGNOSIS

*Negative*. Inequality brings a host of negative consequences across a range of fundamental areas including social, economic and political. The knock-on effect of growing inequality in all of these areas can devastate community wellbeing, fracture social cohesion and put the country’s future stability and viability at risk.

THERAPY

*Politics* – Provide more effective measures to limit the ability of wealthy actors to corrupt the democratic process in favour of primarily commercial (including military-industrial) interests. Ensure more inclusive representation focusing on victims of inequality who have been effectively disenfranchised.

*Military* – The *Authorisation for Use of Military Force Against Terrorists*, which has been in place since 14 September 2001, should be withdrawn. Reclassify counter-terrorism as a law enforcement concern and remove the military from routine CT activities; to be called upon only when required. Expose and punish corrupt contracting practices by the military and its supporting industries. Investigate and prosecute war crimes. Close Guantanamo.

*Economics* – Disavow the long-term viability of “trickle down” capitalism. Find alternative economic models that prioritise human needs over profits. Abandon neo-colonialist, militarised means for effecting ‘regime change’ for the purpose of expanding exploitative and inequitable economic systems. Identify mutually beneficial goals for economic cooperation beyond pure wealth accumulation/concentration.

*Culture* – Replace US belligerence with strong leadership in promoting and protecting human rights beyond limited and/or self-serving Western conceptions. Re-cast the US contribution to the global community from hegemonic to culturally rich, racially accepting and socially and economically enabling. Position the US to lead by example in the practice of democracy and the application of skills and resources to protect and preserve threatened cultures and environments.