

Scarred Lands and Wounded Lives: The Environmental Footprint of War

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**Scarred Lands and Wounded Lives:
The Environmental Footprint of War**

FILM SYNOPSIS

What prompts this film is recognition of our deep dependence on the natural world and the significant threat to that world posed by war and preparations for war.

The scale of environmental damage over the last half century is unprecedented. Falling water tables, shrinking forest cover, declining species diversity – all presage ecosystems in distress. These trends are now widely acknowledged as emanating from forces of humanity's own making: massive population increases, unsustainable demands on natural resources, species loss, ruinous environmental practices. Ironically however, war, that most destructive of human behaviors, is commonly bypassed.

In all its stages, from the production of weapons through combat to cleanup and restoration, war entails actions that pollute land, air, and water, destroy biodiversity, and drain natural resources. Yet the environmental damage occasioned by war and preparation for war is routinely underestimated, underreported, even ignored. The environment remains war's "silent casualty."

Activities that do such damage cry out for far-reaching public scrutiny. The very sustainability of our planet is at stake. We can no longer maintain silence about the environmental impact of war on the grounds that such scrutiny is "inconvenient" or "callous" at a time when human life is so endangered.

If we cannot eliminate war, we can at least require a fuller accounting of war's costs and consequences, and demand that destructive forces used in our name leave a lighter footprint on this highly vulnerable planet. It is to this change in values and actions that this documentary film is directed.

BIOGRAPHIES

Executive Producers

Alice T. Day and Lincoln H. Day met at Columbia University as graduate students in sociology. They have been working on joint projects since their student days, mostly focusing on issues of population, peace, and the environment. Their earliest joint project was Too Many Americans (1964), a book that explored the impact of overpopulation in rich countries on the quality of life in those countries, and on the global use of natural resources.

The idea for *Scarred Lands and Wounded Lives* began with the Days' participation in the District of Columbia Environmental Film Festival – first as enthusiastic spectators, then as volunteers and film reviewers, and finally, since 2004, as members of the Festival's advisory board. Although the topics covered in the Festival's programming have included a wide range of threats to the environment, it became increasingly clear to the Days that the damage resulting from armed conflict was being ignored.

The Days decided they would fill the gap. The aim of their film is to give audiences a greater understanding of how human wellbeing (indeed, the wellbeing of all living things) depends upon the health of the environment, which has been compromised throughout history by war and preparations for war.

Directors

Alice T. Day was born in New York City and educated at the Brearley School in New York and at Smith College (BA, magna cum laude), Columbia (MA in sociology), and the Australian National University (PhD in sociology). Alice currently sits on the board of the Council for a Livable World; the Task Force on Environment and Natural Resources, Woman's National Democratic Club (Washington); and the Environmental Film Festival (Washington.)

Before moving to Washington, Alice was most recently Hofstee Fellow, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute, The Hague, 1994, and Director, Successful Ageing, A.C.T., an Australian government project, Canberra, A.C.T., 1990-93.

Best known books of the more than 30 books, professional articles, book chapters, and reports that she has written are: Remarkable Survivors – Insights into Successful Aging among Women; We Can Manage – Expectations about Care and Varieties of Family Support among Persons 75 Years of Age and Over; and (with Lincoln H. Day) Too Many Americans.

*

Lincoln H. Day was born in Ames, Iowa and educated in the public schools of Denver, Colorado, and at Yale (BA, cum laude) and Columbia (MA and PhD in sociology). He currently sits on the board of the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation; the Environmental Film Festival (Washington); and is a member of the Council for a Livable World (Washington).

Before moving to Washington, Lincoln was most recently Hofstee Fellow, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute, The Hague, 1994, and Senior Fellow in Demography, Research School of Social Sciences, Institute of Advanced Studies, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, 1973-1993.

In addition to some 80 book chapters and articles in professional journals, he is the author of two books, co-author of four others (two of which were written in collaboration with Alice T. Day), and editor and part author of two more. Apart from Too Many Americans (written with Alice T. Day), his best-known books are: The Future of Low-Birthrate Populations; and Analysing Population Trends – Differential Fertility in a Pluralistic Society.

Production Staff

Sandy Cannon-Brown, founder and president of **VideoTakes, Inc.**, is an award-winning writer, producer and director with a strong background in print and broadcast journalism. She has received several Special Achievement Awards from the International Television Association for Script Writing and Directing, as well as the prestigious Woman of Vision award from Women in Film & Video.

Sandy met directors Alice and Lincoln Day shortly after the 2005 DC Environmental Film Festival, when VideoTakes, Inc. came on board as the production team for *Scarred Lands and Wounded Lives*. Sandy served as the executive of production through completion of the film in March 2008.

Most recently, Sandy has led crews to Ecuador to produce two TV documentaries on rainforests, to Montana to produce a DVD about the restoration of the Northern Great Plains, and to Sedona, Arizona to produce a public service announcement on climate change. Upcoming projects include a biopic on Henry A. Wallace, American Vice President and father of the agricultural “Green Revolution”; and a feature documentary on the effort to save genetically pure bison in the Great Plains. Sandy also teaches environmental filmmaking at American University.

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Dan Gallagher is an award-winning writer, producer, and editor at **VideoTakes, Inc.**, with a background in television news and liberal arts. Dan’s involvement with *Scarred Lands and Wounded Lives* began while he was a graduate student at American University, doing research for directors Alice and Lincoln Day as part of his Film and Media Arts coursework. Dan subsequently edited a “work in progress” of *Scarred Lands and Wounded Lives* that premiered at the 2007 DC Environmental Film Festival. After Dan was awarded his Master of Arts Degree, he began working full-time on the feature-length version of *Scarred Lands and Wounded Lives* as a co-writer, co-producer, and editor.

For his graduate thesis at American University, Dan adapted Raymond Chandler's cult story The Bronze Door into a 20 min film noir. Produced with a professional cast and period locations and costume, *The Bronze Door* won a 2008 CINE Golden Eagle and was an official selection at the 2008 Trenton Film Festival and the 2008 Terror Film Festival in Philadelphia. Dan continues to write and produce at VideoTakes, Inc., where he is currently working on the political biopic *Henry A. Wallace: An Uncommon Man*.

PRODUCTION CREDITS**Annotated**

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Directed by

Alice and Lincoln Day
with Dan Gallagher

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Alice and Lincoln Day

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Alice and Lincoln Day
and Dan Gallagher

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