NOBEL VOICES FOR DISARMAMENT
Nobel Voices for Disarmament: 1901–2001

Produced in collaboration with the United Nations

Narrated by Michael Douglas,
a United Nations Messenger of Peace

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings SFW CD 47005

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Introduction to Nobel Voices for Disarmament: 1901–2001

In numbers of human beings slaughtered during wars and conflicts, the twentieth century was the bloodiest and most destructive in history. However, throughout this same century, the movement toward the ideals of peace and disarmament found some of its greatest expression and most effective advocates.

The end of World War II brought forth a cry for greater human solidarity to avoid the recurrence of such horror. Out of the carnage and chaos emerged the United Nations, which commemorated its sixtieth anniversary in 2005. With the end of that war also emerged a great ideological and political divide among nations, and a quest for security by means of a seemingly unstoppable race for weapons that would be ever deadlier and more toxic to both human beings and the environment. For most of the second half of the century, the nuclear Sword of Damocles hung menacingly over all humanity. At times, relations of the leaders of the great blocs were held together by only a thin thread of talks about disarmament and arms control.

But throughout the century, exceptional people’s voices rose up to recall and invoke immortal though elusive visions of peace, justice, and well-being. They served their nations in government or through public organizations. For their efforts, they received one of the most prestigious awards given to women and men of peace, the Nobel Peace Prize. This compilation honors their lives and their commitment by highlighting what they have said to coming generations of peace and disarmament advocates and practitioners. Here are their living voices—their recorded voices—and the voices of those who knew them well or sympathize with their causes.

The United Nations joined with the Smithsonian Institution (the United States National Museum) in this project because of the Smithsonian’s mission to increase and diffuse knowledge and to preserve and safeguard artifacts of humankind. The Nobel Peace Laureates honored here were selected because of their achievements in disarmament and arms control.

Michael Cassandra
United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

How to use Nobel Voices for Disarmament: 1901–2001

This compilation documents some of the historical discourse regarding disarmament and can be used as an educational tool which promotes peace through awareness. The audio has been compiled so that it can be heard in its entirety, by subtopic, or by individual track. The accompanying booklet provides important biographical information about each of the Nobel Laureates to help the listener better understand their individual mission. The booklet also includes the first line of each track, to aid the listener in following along with the audio. For supplemental materials and teaching tools, go to http://disarmament.un.org/education-new
Chapter 1: Introduction

Track 1  Michael Douglas: “Hi, I'm Michael Douglas, and I'd like to welcome you...”

Track 2  Gunnar Jahn, Norwegian Nobel Committee chair, speaks at the 1959 Peace Prize ceremony: “Dear Philip Noel-Baker, for your lifelong efforts for peace and disarmament...”

Track 3  Philip Noel-Baker speaks at the 1959 Peace Prize ceremony: “Alfred Nobel was by every test one of the great men of his day...”

In 1998, the American actor and producer Michael Douglas was appointed a United Nations Messenger of Peace. With other messengers of peace and goodwill ambassadors, his mandate is to publicize the work of the United Nations. He has traveled worldwide to focus attention on U.N. efforts toward peace and disarmament. Speaking out passionately, he has identified the abolition of nuclear weapons as a moral imperative and the ultimate defense against nuclear proliferation. He has underscored the senseless cruelty and destructive power of the illicit spread and use of small arms and light weapons as well as their effect on those caught up in conflict, including refugees, displaced persons, and child-soldiers.

Alfred Bernhard Nobel (1833−1896) was a Swedish chemist, engineer, and the inventor of dynamite. He bequeathed most of his wealth to the formation of a fund whose interest would annually be distributed among a handful of persons selected to be honored for their outstanding achievement and promise to humanity in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and peace; later, in 1968, Riksbank, the Swedish bank, celebrated its three-hundredth anniversary by establishing the Nobel Prize for economic sciences. All these awards are known as the Nobel Prizes. The first Nobel Peace Prize, recognizing exemplary efforts in international peace, was awarded in 1901.

Philip Noel-Baker (1889−1982) was a scholar, statesman, and athlete of internationally outstanding caliber whose vision and pacifist activism were instrumental in bringing the issue of disarmament to the attention of the world. Born in Great Britain, he helped to found the League of Nations, as well as the United Nations. He was an award-winning author who wrote Disarmament (1926) and The Arms Race: A Programme for World Disarmament (1958). He served in the British Labour Party in myriad capacities, including chairman. He was a delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations and worked to regulate arms traffic, institute atomic controls, and offer economic and political aid to refugees. He also sought to abolish poverty in an affluent world. His contributions earned him many honors, spanning from the Olympic silver medal in 1920 to the Nobel Peace Prize in 1959, the French Legion of Honor in 1976, and a British Life Peership in 1977. Until his death at an advanced age he continued to campaign tirelessly for peace and disarmament.
Chapter 2: Joseph Rotblat and the Arms Race

Track 4. Joseph Rotblat, recorded in London, England, 8 January 2001: "I am Joseph Rotblat, and so my title is ‘Professor Sir Joseph Rotblat.’..."

Track 5. Joseph Rotblat: "And this is where I made up my mind. My worry was: how can one prevent Hitler from using his bomb?..."

Track 6. Michael Douglas reads from the Russell-Einstein Manifesto: “In the tragic situation which confronts humanity, we feel that scientists should assemble in conference to appraise the perils that have arisen....”

The Russell-Einstein Manifesto by Albert Einstein and Bertrand Russell, courtesy of Pugwash Conferences on World Affairs.

Track 7. Joseph Rotblat: “Now this—this was issued in 1955 in London, and there were eleven people who signed this declaration....”

Joseph Rotblat (1908–2005), a nuclear physicist, was born in Warsaw, Poland. Despite the anti-Semitism and economic deprivations he and his family suffered, he managed to study physics and earned a degree. In 1939, he went to work as a research fellow at the University of Liverpool with James Chadwick, who had discovered the neutron just a few years earlier. In 1943, fearing Hitler's military power and intentions, he and Chadwick moved to Los Alamos to contribute to the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos National Laboratory. However, Rotblat, whose childhood had been shaped by the horrors of World War I and who had determined that he would dedicate his life toward preventing further wars, felt he could not continue on the project, particularly after he was told that the Germans had discontinued their pursuit of the atomic bomb. He returned to England to teach, and applied his research to nuclear medicine. In 1946, he co-founded the British Atomic Scientists Association, and he organized the Atom Train traveling exhibition about the peaceful and military uses of nuclear energy. Throughout an illustrious professional career, he continually warned people about nuclear perils, including the health effects from testing. He rallied his fellow scientists around the world to educate the public and their governments. Rotblat was a co-signer of the Russell-Einstein Manifesto of 1955, which called on the world to give up nuclear arms (see track 6), and, in 1957, was a co-founder of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs. Both have been important outlets for scientists to express their collective and individual sense of responsibility toward the preservation of humanity.

With the financial help of Cyrus Eaton, a North American industrialist, the first of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs was held in 1957 at Eaton's hometown and summer retreat, Pugwash, Nova Scotia. Its purpose was to begin a dialogue among eminent scientists from both sides of the Iron Curtain about the global threat from weapons of mass destruction. The Pugwash conferences have been influential in suggesting cooperative solutions to security issues, and continue to host workshops for scientists and scholars dedicated to preserving our world for future generations.

In 1995, Joseph Rotblat and the Pugwash conferences were co-recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize.
Chapter 3: The International Committee of the Red Cross

Track 8. Michael Douglas reads from the mission statement of the Red Cross: “The International Committee of the Red Cross is an impartial, neutral, and independent organization....”

“International Committee of the Red Cross Mission Statement,” courtesy of International Committee of the Red Cross.

Track 9. Peter Herby, recorded in Geneva, Switzerland, 31 August 2001: “My name’s Peter Herby. I’m coordinator of the Mines-Arms Unit in the Legal Division of the ICRC....”

Track 10. Peter Herby: “Neutrality is a means of aiding the victims of conflict, and it means not taking sides with any party to an armed conflict....”

Track 11. Michael Douglas reads from the Geneva Protocol of 1925 banning the use of chemical and biological weapons: “Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous, or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare....”


Henri Dunant (1828–1910) was a businessman and founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross. His business travels to North Africa sensitized him to the issue of slavery, which he strove to abolish. With the publication of his book Un souvenir de Solferino (1862), which was translated into many languages, he was thrust onto the world stage. Dunant’s book was an account of the battle of Solferino in 1859, which he had witnessed by chance while on a business trip to meet with France’s emperor Napoleon III during the Austro-Sardinian War. The battlefield was covered with tens of thousands of dead and wounded soldiers with nobody to care for them. Dunant spontaneously began mobilizing the locals to extend emergency and humanitarian aid to the injured, regardless of the color of their uniforms. His egalitarian phrase, “Tutti fratelli,” became a guiding principle in the work of subsequent relief organizations, whose establishment Dunant proposed. He lobbied hard to guarantee the humane treatment of wounded soldiers and prisoners of war, leading to the first Geneva Convention of 1864, as well as later international agreements. Having neglected his business in favor of humanitarian causes, he went bankrupt in 1867 and felt compelled to resign as secretary of the International Committee of the Red Cross. He became a co-recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901 and died leaving the substantial prize money to charities in Norway and Switzerland.
Chapter 4: International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

Track 12. Bernard Lown, recorded in Boston, Massachusetts, 8 July 2001: “My name is Bernard Lown. I have lived in Boston for fifty years....”

Track 13. Philip Noel-Baker, 1959 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate: “It is vital that the citizens of every country should realize the true nature of the present arms race....”

Track 14. Bernard Lown: “And this was so chilling to me, so absolutely a complete derangement, a sudden revelation, a shock that I can’t communicate to you....”


Track 16. Bernard Lown: “Once we wrote it, I was the oldest of the group....”

Track 17. Bernard Lown: “In 1978, I said the major issue is the fact that we have sort of demonized the Russians and they of us....”

Track 18. Yevgeny Chazov, recorded in Moscow, Russia, 4 September 2001: “My name [is] Yevgeny Chazov in the Russian language. First of all, I am a doctor....”

Track 19. Bernard Lown: “So, number one, to get the medical profession to pervade the public with seminars, letters to the editor, speaking on television, and reach the public....”

Track 20. Yevgeny Chazov: “And we in the first congresses propose[d] [that] our movement [be] without politics....”


International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, a nonpartisan international federation with a vast global membership, was founded in 1980 by two cardiologists, Dr. Yevgeny Chazov and Dr. Bernard Lown. Their realization that the nuclear arms race could lead to a nuclear war, kill people on a mass scale, and leave the medical field unable to provide adequate care prompted these doctors to work to prevent a nuclear war, urging their governments to institute safeguards for world health free of the nuclear threat. Today, linked by the Hippocratic Oath, doctors continue to educate people about the catastrophic medical consequences of nuclear conflict and the need to eliminate this risk. In 1985, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War in recognition of its contribution to world peace.
Chapter 5: Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

Track 22. Felicity Hill, recorded in New York City, 5 June 2001: “My name is Felicity Hill, and I’m the director of the U.N. office of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom....”

Track 23. Edith Ballantyne, b. 1922, served from 1962 to 1988 as secretary-general of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), a worldwide association founded in 1915. Recorded in Geneva, Switzerland, 31 August 2001: “My name is Edith Ballantyne. Now The Hague, you know, it was fantastic, these women!...”

Track 24. Felicity Hill reads from the preamble to the WILPF resolutions of 1915: “We women, of many nations, in International Congress assembled, raise our voices above the present hatred and bloodshed....”


Track 25. Jane Addams speaks in Washington, D.C., in 1931, at the end of a peace march: “This delegation, bringing a petition for disarmament to President Hoover, is but one of thirty delegations which are meeting in various countries of the world....”

Jane Addams for the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, courtesy of Swarthmore College Peace Collection.

Track 26. Felicity Hill: “Well, WILPF has been working, you know, against militarism ever since....”

Jane Addams (1860–1935) was a pioneer in the American settlement house movement, an influential feminist, and an international peace activist. Among her main contributions are Hull House, established in 1889 in Chicago, where scores of poor immigrants and their children could partake in recreational and educational programs, and the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, founded in 1915, of which she was president. In her book Newer Ideals of Peace (1907) she linked the root causes of war with those of poverty and unemployment. She was an outspoken critic of war, and, when it broke out in 1914, she called on women’s groups to band together. In January 1915 she became chair of the newly formed Women’s Peace Party, and in April of that same year, with over a thousand delegates from neutral and warring countries attending, she was invited to preside over the International Congress of Women in The Hague, where mediation by neutral powers was embraced as a possible solution to war. While she was publicly attacked for her opposition to America’s eventual participation in the war, her book Peace and Bread in Time of War (1922) described her humanitarian work for women and children of enemy nations through the U.S. Department of Food Administration. After having been short-listed six times before, she was honored for her lifelong work for peace with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.
Chapter 6: The Unwitting Victims

Track 27. Aase Lionaes, Norwegian Nobel Committee chair, introduces Seán MacBride at the 1974 Peace Prize ceremony: “And now I call upon you, Mr. Seán MacBride....”

Track 28. Michael Douglas reads a landmine statistic: “Every twenty minutes, someone is either killed or maimed by a landmine.”

Track 29. Jody Williams, recorded in Fredericksburg, Virginia, 25 June 2001: “My name is Jody Williams, and I wish I could say that, you know, ‘ah!’ landmines came to me in a vision....”

Track 30. U.S. President Bill Clinton speaks at the opening of the United Nations General Assembly, 22 October 1995: “We need an illegal arms and deadly materials control effort that we all participate in....”

Track 31. Kofi Annan: “I think perhaps the best way for me to start talking about disarmament and peace is to refer to an exchange that took place in this house, the U.N. headquarters....”

An aspect of war that frequently remains unnoticed is the collateral damage: the victims of war injured and killed both during and after the fighting has stopped. The Nobel Laureates featured in this chapter speak out about the unintentional victims of war and the weapons that will continue to devastate future generations without positive action towards disarmament.

Seán MacBride (1904–1988), originally an activist in the Irish Republican Army, became an accomplished lawyer, politician, diplomat, and champion of human rights and peace. After he distanced himself from warfare as a solution to political conflicts, he was elected to the Irish House of Representatives, in which he served from 1947 until 1958. As minister for foreign affairs, he worked to bring to fruition the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. He assisted in the creation of Amnesty International, of which he was chairman from 1961 until 1975. He faulted the military-industrial complex for benefiting from the arms race and diverting needed resources away from civil society. Taking on a plethora of other leadership roles, he was president of the International Peace Bureau, assistant secretary-general of the United Nations, high commissioner for South West Africa (Namibia), and president of the UNESCO International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems. For his advancement of human rights, he was a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1974.

Jody Williams, an international organizer and activist, came of age during the war in Vietnam. Having studied Spanish and international relations at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, she became involved in raising public awareness about American policy in Central America, as she directed and coordinated humanitarian projects in that region. She was subsequently approached by Bobby Muller, founder of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, and Thomas Gebauer, founder of Medico International of Germany, to help them ban landmines. Coordinated by Williams, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, formally launched in 1992, was supported by a great variety of organizations. Encountering
stumbling blocks at the United Nations, the campaign contacted pro-ban nations directly, resulting in a conference hosted by the Canadian government in 1996. Its foreign minister, Lloyd Axworthy, was the first to sign the comprehensive anti-landmine convention, in Ottawa, at the end of 1997. Devising further strategies and action plans to convince non-signatories to join, Williams has since then been serving as the campaign’s international ambassador, lecturing and traveling widely. She also has continued to edit the *Landmine Monitor Report*, an annual survey of the implementation and compliance of member states. In 1997, she and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines shared the Nobel Peace Prize.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines has aimed to ban landmines worldwide and to make more resources available for landmine cleanup, landmine victims, mine-risk education programs, and the monitoring of mine-stock destruction. Testimony of its success has been the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. The 1997 mine-ban treaty has been signed by one hundred fifty countries, though forty-four nations, among them China, Russia, and the United States, have declined.

Kofi Annan, born in Ghana, has spent most of his professional life with the United Nations. He has worked in the World Health Organization and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. After he had held a leadership post in its peacekeeping division, he was elected and served as secretary-general of the United Nations from 1996–2006. He is known for effective personal diplomacy and for revitalizing the United Nations by streamlining its agencies, successfully raising funds, and forging closer links with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and labor, business, and non-governmental organizations. At the center of his organization’s aims he has placed environmental protection, HIV/AIDS, and the preservation of human rights as a foundation for peace. In 2001, he shared the Nobel Peace Prize with the United Nations.

**Chapter 7: The Future of Disarmament**

**Track 32.** Alva Reimer Myrdal, a Swedish diplomat, social reformer, and author, addresses the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva, 9 August 1973: “Mr. Chairman, it’s high time to broaden the horizons of disarmament....”

**Track 33.** Michael Douglas reads from *The Game of Disarmament* by Alva Myrdal: “The nuclear-arms race continues unhampered....”

*The Game of Disarmament by Alva Myrdal, courtesy of The City of Stockholm.*

**Track 34.** Linus Pauling, recipient of the Nobel Prize for chemistry for 1954 and the Nobel Peace Prize for 1962, speaks at the 1963 Peace Prize ceremony: “Mr. Chairman, and ladies and gentlemen: I believe that there will never again be a great war....”

**Track 35.** U.S. President John F. Kennedy addresses the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 1961: “The goal of disarmament is no longer a dream: it is a practical matter of life or death....”

**Track 36.** Alfonso García Robles, in his Peace Prize acceptance speech: “The
increase in weapons, especially nuclear weapons, far from helping to strengthen international security, on the contrary, weakens it...."

Philip Noel-Baker, in his 1959 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony speech, posed the question, "...Is disarmament so difficult that it must remain a distant dream?" The threat that the arms race poses to the future of humankind prompted the Nobel Voices in this chapter to speak about the eminent need for change.

Alva Reimer Myrdal (1902–1986) was a Swedish diplomat, social reformer, and author, who became known for her work on peace and disarmament. Married to the celebrated economist Gunnar Myrdal, she wrote The Crisis of the Population Question (1934) with him, and both were instrumental in creating the Swedish welfare state. She became involved in international affairs and as Sweden’s first woman ambassador was sent to Burma, Sri Lanka, India, and Nepal. At the United Nations she worked as a director of a number of departments, again breaking the tradition of male dominance, while in 1962 she was the head of the Swedish delegation to the United Nations Disarmament Conference in Geneva. As a member of Sweden’s parliament and cabinet, she profoundly influenced her country’s position against nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. Until 1973 she was a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly, where, with great command of the scientific and technical issues involved, she convincingly argued for the necessity of nations to disarm. Her book The Game of Disarmament (1976), in which she indicted the United States and the Soviet Union for their resistance to disarmament, became a classic. Securing funds from the Swedish government, she aided in the creation of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, while she also ensured that the proper technology would be available to monitor and verify the terms of test-ban treaties. A recipient of multiple awards for her efforts in peace and humanitarianism, she was honored together with a colleague of hers in disarmament, Alfonso García Robles, with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1982.

Linus Pauling (1901–1994), an innovative and award-winning American scientist, author, and peace activist, was introduced to chemical phenomena early on in his life as he watched his father, a pharmacist, at work. He was an avid reader, his curiosity was encouraged, and he explored everything from minerals to insects. Faced with poverty when his father died, he worked to support his mother and two sisters. He remained an extraordinary student, and after receiving a degree in chemical engineering completed his doctorate in chemistry in 1925 at the California Institute of Technology, where he became a professor and would do most of his research. He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, studied quantum mechanics at the Institute for Theoretical Physics in Munich, worked with Niels Bohr, and conducted groundbreaking research on molecular structures, winning the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1954.

He made other discoveries that had direct applications in medicine. In studying the atomic structure of proteins, he was able to develop synthetic antibodies, as well as a blood substitute. In 1945, with the explosion of the atomic bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Pauling turned his attention to the health hazards of the nuclear age. He joined fellow scientists, such as Albert Einstein and Bertrand Russell, in campaigning for an end to nuclear testing and disarmament. He was blacklisted for his peace activism on suspicion of being a communist sympathizer,
but, undeterred, he circulated a petition among the international scientific community calling for a test-ban treaty. He and his wife, Ava Pauling, collected more than eleven thousand signatures and presented this petition to the United Nations in 1958, leading to the first Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and earning him the 1962 Nobel Peace Prize. He later established the Linus Pauling Institute of Science and Medicine, continuing his revolutionary work in science and peace.

Alfonso García Robles (1911–1991), a Mexican diplomat and United Nations official, was a leading force in the disarmament movement. An internationalist from the start, he studied law at the University of Paris and the Academy of International Law in The Hague. In 1945 he took part in the San Francisco conference establishing the United Nations. For the next eleven years he would direct the United Nations Secretariat’s Division of Political Affairs. He served his own country in various leadership capacities, influencing Mexico’s international policies. He was appointed ambassador to Brazil in 1962, the year that the conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union reached crisis proportions over the Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba. Deployment and mutual annihilation were narrowly averted, leading the presidents of Brazil, Ecuador, and Bolivia to declare that Latin America should become a nuclear-free zone. Supporting the proposal, García Robles campaigned diligently with his own government and others of the region. He presided over the Preparatory Commission for the Denuclearization of Latin America, drafting a multilateral agreement that was signed in 1967 as the Treaty of Tlatelolco. The treaty banned nuclear weapons from Latin America and demanded from signatories vehicles for verification of its implementation. In continuing his work, both for the Mexican government and for the United Nations, particularly its Disarmament Commission in Geneva, he was driven by the urgency for disarmament that the arms race was presenting. Warning of the threat to human survival, he believed strongly that the world would only be safe if it engaged in complete disarmament. The Nobel Committee lauded him for his vision and action and awarded him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1982, which he shared with Alva Myrdal.

Chapter 8: Conclusion

Track 37. Gunnar Berge, Norwegian Nobel Committee chair, speaks at the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony: “The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2001 in two equal portions....”

Track 38. Kofi Annan, former secretary-general of the United Nations, recorded in New York City, 19 December 2001: “I think the award of the Nobel Peace Prize was a great honor for the U.N., and for me personally....”

Track 39. Michael Douglas reads the closing credits: “Nobel Voices for Disarmament was created, written, and produced by David Tarnow....”

Like the League of Nations after World War I, which was set up to prevent further wars and maintain peace, the United Nations was founded in response to the effects of World War II by a community of nations dedicated to keeping the peace and striving to foster the dignity of all human beings. In 1945, the Charter of the United Nations prescribed how the organization would operate and what its guiding principles would be. With the advent of the nuclear age, the United Nations...
recognized the urgency of adding arms control and disarmament to its responsibilities, which include fighting famine, protecting refugees, keeping the peace, and addressing many other issues.

Amid sometimes almost insurmountable challenges, the United Nations has been celebrated for its dedication. In 1954, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was awarded the first of two Nobel Peace Prizes for its efforts in assisting millions of refugees fleeing persecution in their own countries. In 1965, the Nobel Peace Prize was bestowed on the United Nations Children’s Fund for its work in improving children’s welfare worldwide. In 1988, the Nobel Committee honored the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces in recognition of their service in preventing and reducing violent conflicts. In 2001, the United Nations, consisting of one hundred ninety-one member states, together with Kofi Annan, its secretary-general, were recognized with the Nobel Peace Prize and encouraged to persevere in their work for peace.

David Tarnow is an award-winning documentary producer-director, whose work has been broadcast internationally. His documentaries have been published by Smithsonian Folkways Recordings and the Smithsonian Institution Press.

Nobel Peace Prize Award ceremony presentation speeches and Nobel Peace Prize Laureates’ speeches, courtesy of Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK).

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Nobel Voices for Disarmament: 1901–2001

In the face of historically unparalleled violence during the 20th century, voices of reason unceasingly advocated for peace by disarmament. Alfred Nobel created the Nobel Peace Prize in 1901 to honor such advocacy. In this collection of archival and new spoken word recordings, Nobel laureates and other proponents of peace remind us of their profound efforts on behalf of world peace. Their eloquence both rings out our achievements in disarmament and evokes the growing need for conflict resolution in today’s world. Michael Douglas, honored as a United Nation’s Messenger of Peace, introduces and narrates the compilation. 39 tracks, 67 minutes, 28-page booklet. Produced in collaboration with the United Nations.

Featuring the voices of:

Jane Addams  Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
Kofi Annan
Edith Ballantyne  WILPF
Yevgeny Chazov  International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW)
Bill Clinton
Peter Herby  International Red Cross
Felicity Hill  WILPF
John F. Kennedy
Bernard Lown  IPPNW
Seán MacBride
Alva Reimer Myrdal
Philip Noel-Baker
Linus Pauling
Alfonso García Robles
Joseph Rotblat
Jody Williams  International Campaign to Ban Landmines

and others