

THE PRAGUE POST

The Prague Post
September 25, 2002, page A12

'Wind energy providers begin operations'

BEFORE READING:

Do a research:

What types of power are used by power generation stations in the Czech Republic? How many nuclear power plants, fossil-fuel power stations, water power stations are there in the Czech Republic? Do any of these use renewable energy resources? What is a renewable resource? Compare the renewable energy production in the Czech Republic with other European countries. What are the European Union regulations regarding renewable energy?

AFTER READING:

Answer the following questions:

1. What is being built in Krušné hory?
2. What does the new law say about renewable energy?
3. What is the Proventi company planning to build near Chumutov? Describe the project and the area of Chomutov.
4. How many wind turbines are operating in the country at present?
5. Why did many wind-energy projects fail?
6. What would be the total output of the wind farm near Chomutov?
7. What will the Czech Republic have to do under European Union rules?
8. How do some European countries use renewable resources? Do they have better conditions?

Discussion:

Mr. Jozefy said: "The environmental benefits are nice, but we would not be doing this unless it was a solid business."

Discuss this statement in groups. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? What do you think about it? What is more important: business or environment? Could there be a balance between the two?

Vocabulary:

incentive –
popud, podnět, stimul

boon –
laskavost, dobrodini

For more information on energy and renewable resources see *Stone Circle / Kamenná kruh*, volume 3, issue 12.



The Prague Post
October 2, 2002, page A8

'Bread law sparks backlash'

BEFORE READING:

Where are the bread, rolls and pastry placed in the shop where you do your shopping? Are the bakery products packed? Do you prefer buying packed baked goods or unpacked? Why?

What do you think about the level of hygiene in shops and supermarkets? What is it like and what should it be like, according to you.

AFTER READING:

Recapitulation of the article: Pastries can no longer be sold freely in stores without packaging; pastries must either be packaged or sold at special counters.

Answer the following questions:

1. What is the new regulation on bakery products? (use information from the whole article)
2. What were the reasons for this regulation?
3. What does the European Council's 1993 directive say about food?
4. What has been customers' response to this regulation?
5. What do some politicians say about this regulation?
6. What do retailers think? Give examples of their arguments against the regulation.
7. Are people calling for change?



Discussion:

What do you think about this regulation? Think about different aspects of it (e.g. environment, hygiene and health, arrangement of the stores, etc.).

Cooking:

Can you bake pastry? Share your recipe (in English) with your classmates.

Write a list of things and ingredients you need when baking a cake.

Vocabulary:

to spark – *zažehnout, podnítit, způsobit*

backlash – *prudká reakce, odpor to pit against* – *stát proti (v opozici)*

to pose – *představovat*

retailer – *maloobchodník*

WAR AND PEACE

Think about the history of humankind and about its most important moments. Write these turning points down. What happened more often: conflicts and wars or peace attempts? Why do you think it was like that? What about now? Has anything changed? Can history help us in understanding today's world? Can history be seen as something which is repeating itself or as something which is a necessary development in the growth of humankind?

Do you think that people work for peace? What initiative are the governments, their voters, the NGOs, business communities and citizens of different countries taking to make a peaceful world? Are they trying to eliminate war or are they profiting from it, or do they not care? Do you think that peace is a goal for all of them?

What do you think causes war? Is the establishment of a peaceful society and world possible, or is it just a dream?

Can you imagine living in a country in conflict?

In this lesson plan we'll try to think about some of the causes of war and what ways we could establish peace.

How would you characterize today's world? (education possibilities, ecology, terrorism, wealth vs. poverty, demands for resources, religious prejudice, racism, ...)

INTERESTS

War is always a clash of interests. There are some traditional political schools of thought that consider conflicts as being unnecessary exceptions from otherwise harmonious social surroundings. Other schools of thought see conflicts of interest in the political world as inevitable and natural.

Conflicts of interest are inevitable, but what could be avoidable is the violent and armed form of



conflict resolution.

Do you think that dialogue, consultation and compromise could help?

WHO ARE WE?

Sigmund Freud said that aggressiveness in an innate characteristic of human beings and that war is a kind of instinctive behavior. The social-Darwinist school of thought sees war as a kind of "social struggle for survival." The majority of schools of thought consider war as something naturally rooted in humanity.

There are also some schools that believe that war is an unnatural phenomenon and that people are good.

What is the reality of human nature? Try to give reasons for your claim.

EXCUSES FOR WAR

War is always functional. Its protagonists usually try to justify it. Often we hear that the war is in the name of democratization of the country, religious dogmas, ethnic ideology, etc.

Do you think that it is possible to eliminate war if we are excusing so many types of war and violence?

Do you think that some types of war could be justified? Why do you think so? Give examples.

INTERNATIONALIZATION

The world is getting smaller – not by its geographic size, but by the means of communication, transportation, education, etc. This process is called globalization, or internationalization. People in different states and countries are slowly realizing that they are citizens of one planet with the same rights, same obligations and the same responsibilities. They are part of an international community. Thus a violent conflict would not be a crime of one country toward another one, but it would be a crime against the whole international community.

For more ideas on globalization see *Newspapers in Education*, vol. 9, issue 9.

GLOBAL SECURITY

Do you think that there should be a system of global security? What would that mean? Does the world

have any organization that would play that role?

THE UNITED NATIONS

The U.N. Charter codified the unacceptability of war as a means of normal politics. It also says that each country has a right to self-defence and that the international community has right to interfere with military means, under certain circumstances, in the affairs of its member-nations.

For more information about the U.N., see *Newspapers in Education*, volume 9, issue 3.

Can you think of examples of U.N. military intervention? What do you think about it?

SOME CAUSES OF WAR and WHAT CAN BE DONE:

Economy

The economic gap between rich and poor countries is quickly enlarging. 15% of the richest countries hold 80% of the world's total GNP, while only 2% is held by 20% of the poorest countries. Rich countries with natural resources, for example, could have more financial means to buy weapons and train their armies.

Differences vs. equality

Racism is one of the main barriers on the path to peace. There is only one race – and that is a human race. People of all colors are completely equal. This is very important to recognize, remember and practice.

What do you think about the role of women in a world society? Is their role fully recognized? What is the situation of women in different countries of the world? Can you imagine being in such a position (limited or no access to education, no voting rights, separation in society)? Do you think that when men and women are treated equally, one of the conditions for the world peace will be fulfilled?

For more information about women's voting rights, see *Newspapers in Education*, volume 9, issue 5 (Did you know?).

Nationalism vs. patriotism

Is there any difference between nationalism and patriotism? What is the difference between patriotism and world citizenship?

Cont. on page 3

Weapons

Despite the end of the Cold War, the world still spends roughly a trillion US dollars a year on armaments. War is always useful and even profitable to certain clans, strata, groups, elites, leaders.

The Russian writer Chekhov wrote once that if in the first act of a theatrical play there is a rifle hooked on the wall, it is there to be fired in the last act of the play. Accumulating arsenals of rifles, tanks, missiles, and nuclear warheads, the presence of growing and training armies, are by themselves one of the self-fueling causes of war.

The cost of international peacekeeping fluctuates between 2 and 4 billion US dollars annually.

Systems of arms control, arms reduction agreements and measures to make the international arms trade transparent and limited contribute to the prevention of war.

The task is to reduce the attractiveness of war to the acting parties.

Do you think that nuclear weapons, for example, should be placed under international or national control? Do you think that the international community works towards the elimination of the causes of war or treats the symptoms?

Religions

What do religions teach? Do they teach tolerance? Could religions cause wars? Would it be religions or would be it people misinterpreting spiritual teachings?

Have you studied the Holy book of any religion? What did it say about human nature and peace? Was anyone helping you to understand the meaning of the book or did you use your independent understanding?

For more on religions see *Newspapers in Education*, volume 9, issue 6.

Education

The spreading of a culture of peace, based on tolerance towards the others and development of social immunity to war-oriented propaganda and ideologies, is an important resource for a peaceful future. Ignorance is indisputably the principal reason for the continued existence of prejudice. Education should be available to all people.

If you could prepare curriculum for schools around the world, what subjects would it have? Do you think that you would be limited if you did not receive an education? If yes, how?

Communication

Read newspapers or watch TV news for a week. Do you think that govern-

ments of different countries and global organizations discuss the world issues in an open and constructive way?

ELIMINATION OF WAR

For at least partial elimination of some major causes of war in the twenty-first century several priorities are to be agreed between nations:

- Recognition that peace is indivisible
- Equality and social justice
- Global thinking
- Non-violence in national and international relations
- Cultivation of moral and ethical attitude in international affairs
- Overcoming disproportional economic disparity and inequity between nations

The most effective way of "fighting against war" is to work for peace, justice, dialogue, mutual understanding. It is an ongoing process.



Sources:
www.un.org
www.pugwash.org
The Promise of World Peace
www.betterworldfund.org

'Nothing to Eat' by Michael Swan

She had nothing to eat.
They made a film about her
because she had nothing to eat.

Her husband
was killed in the war.
They wrote a book about
how he was killed in the war.

Her brother and mother
were executed by the revolutionary guards.
There was an opera about it.

Both her children died
(there was no hospital).
You can see the photographs
at an exhibition in London.

Then somebody wrote a poem.

Still
she had nothing to eat.

Do you think that if all people read this poem they would start thinking differently? How would you present this poem to people? What form of art would you use? Painting, photographs, drama? Describe what would be in it.

STORY: The Powerful Fighting Cock

The king wanted his prize-winning rooster to be more ferocious. He took the rooster to a trainer with a reputation for turning out champion fighting birds. "Just leave the bird with me," assured the trainer. "Come back in a week."

One week later, the king returned and saw that his rowdy rooster was not crowing quite as loudly or strutting quite as menacingly.

"Obviously," explained the trainer, "he is not ready yet. He is vain and confident. He picks fights with the other birds. Come back next week."

Another week passed. The king returned and noticed that his prize rooster barely raised his neck feathers and wings to incite a fight.

"As you can see," said the trainer, "he is not ready yet. He still flares up and gets an angry look when challenged by another bird. Come back in a month."

A month passed and the king returned

to inspect his champion. To his alarm, his fierce rooster looked tame! The king ranted and raved at the trainer, "You've ruined my fine fighting bird! Look at him! He does not want to fight! He'll never win a contest now!"

"That is not true," the trainer replied. "Notice, how calm and secure he appears. He stands serene and strong today. The other fighting birds will take one look at him and all run away!"

(from *'Wisdom Tales from Around the World'* by Heather Forest)

Vocabulary:

rooster – kohout (am.ang.)
ferocious – nahánějící hrůzu
rowdy – neurval
to crow – kokrhát
to strut – naparovat se při chůzi
menacingly – hroziv
vain – ješitn , nafoukan
to flare up – vybuchnout hněvem
tame – krotk , mírn
to rant – křičet, chrlit slova
to rave – zuřit, běsnit
serene – vyrovnan

HEALTH

What do you think it means to be healthy? Does it simply mean not being sick or does it mean living your life to prevent sickness? For many people healthy living is more about treating sickness you have, but healthy living is about conducting your life in a way so that you can avoid being sick in the first place. Of course some things, like the **common cold**, you simply can't avoid, but by exercising some prevention you can keep some of life's more dangerous **ailments** at bay.

Do you consider yourself a healthy person? How often do you get sick? Does sickness ever hold you back from activities you would like to do? Do you have enough energy to get all the things you need to do done? Young people often have very busy lifestyles. Many teens are involved in more than just school and studying. After school clubs, sports teams, music lessons or other hobbies take a lot of time and energy. On top of that, teens often help around the house or look after younger siblings. Add in social activities and you have a very busy life.

Have a look at your lifestyle? Do you eat healthy variety of foods? Do you eat enough? Do you exercise at least 3 times a week? Do you get at least 8 hours of sleep a night? Do you spend time outdoors? If you're having sex, are you having safe sex? Do you have a friend or family member to **confide** in? Are you a non-smoker? Can you have a good time without drinking alcohol? If you play sports do you use proper safety equipment?

If you answered no to these questions you may be pushing your body too hard or making dangerous life choices. Practising healthy living is a good thing to start when you are in your teens. The sooner you start taking care of your mind and body, the longer you'll be able to put off the ill effects of age and bad health.

While you feel young and **invincible** now, sadly, there will come a time when you won't be. Growing up is learning about responsibility and the consequences of your actions. While that doesn't sound like fun, you can see the results of taking care of yourself almost immediately. Eating well

and exercising will give you more energy and improve your physical appearance. Having someone to talk to about personal problems can **alleviate** stress. Stress has a huge effect on your body. It makes you tired and less capable of dealing with mental and physical challenges.



It also shows in your physical appearance. A body under stress can be identified by dark circles under the eyes, skin problems, being under or over weight and a noticeable lack of energy. Of course no one can live a stress free life, but healthy living can help you manage stress so that its effects are minimal. Eating and resting well and maintaining your mental health will show.

Making intelligent decisions about sexual activities can, in some cases, save your life. As can employing safe sports practices. In this life, you only have one body. If you want it to last as well and as long as it can, you need to take care of it.

In the coming issues of Newspapers in Education we will examine sexual health, mental health, alcohol & drugs, smoking, **injury** prevention, physical activity and healthy eating. All of these issues affect you as a young adult. Learning about these issues and taking responsibility for your body and your health can insure that you'll stay vital and energetic for decades to come.

Vocabulary:

ailment - (lehcí) nemoc, onemocnění
to alleviate - ulehčit, zmírnit
to confide - svěřit (se)
common cold - nachlazení, rma
injury - zranění
invincible - neporažitelný, nepřemožitelný

Activities:

1. What do you think it means to be healthy?

Do you do any special things to make sure you don't get sick? Make a list of these things and compare them with your classmates. Do you all use the same methods for preventing sickness?

2. What do you do when you get sick? How long does it usually take to recover? When you catch a cold how do you usually try and cure it?

Create a list of ways to cure a cold and how long it usually takes with your class. Which way is the most popular? Which way was fastest?

3. "Laughter is the best medicine." What do you think this quote means?

Research the connection between endorphins and sickness.

Do you think that your mental state can have an effect on your physical state? Do you think that you can use mental energy to make your body feel better? Have you had any experience with it? If so, write about it and tell your classmates about it.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

KPMG

COPY GENERAL

Coca-Cola



International School of Prague



ČESKÁ POJIŠŤOVNA