

Classic Paper

Nobel Lecture of the only person to have won two unshared Nobel Prizes

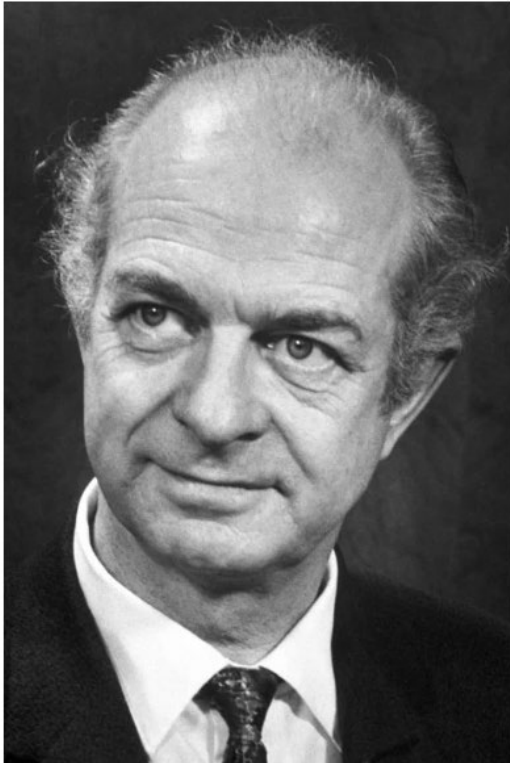


Photo from the Nobel
Foundation archive.

Linus Pauling

The Nobel Peace Prize 1962 was awarded to Linus Carl Pauling "for his fight against the nuclear arms race between East and West"

Presented by: Riya Dutta
08-03-2025

Linus Pauling

Nobel Lecture

Nobel Lecture*, December 11, 1963

Science and Peace

I believe that there will never again be a great world war – a war in which the terrible weapons involving nuclear fission and nuclear fusion would be used. And I believe that it is the discoveries of scientists upon which the development of these terrible weapons was based

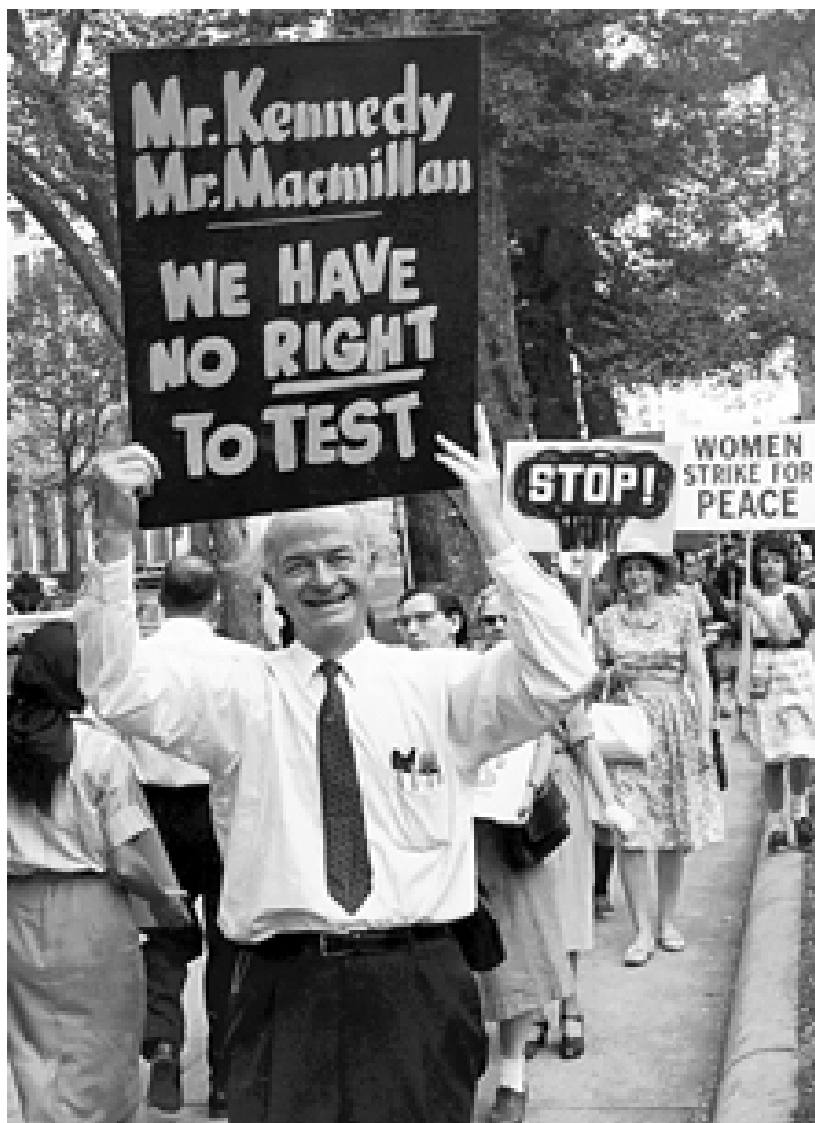
that is now forcing us to see that science and peace are related. The world has been greatly changed, especially during the last century, by the discoveries of scientists. Our increased knowledge now provides the possibility of eliminating poverty and starvation, of decreasing significantly the suffering caused by disease, of using the resources of the world effectively for the benefit of humanity. But the greatest of all the changes has been in the nature of war the several million fold increase in the power of explosives and corresponding changes in methods of delivery of bombs.

In 1946 [Albert Einstein](#), [Harold Urey](#), and seven other scientists⁸ formed an organization to educate the American people about the nature of nuclear weapons and nuclear war. This organization, the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists (usually called the Einstein Committee), carried out an effective educational campaign over a five-year period. The nature of the campaign is indicated by the following sentences from the 1946 statement by Einstein:

“Today the atomic bomb has altered profoundly the nature of the world as we know it, and the human race consequently finds itself in a new habitat to which it must adapt its thinking... Never before was it possible for one nation to make war on another without sending armies across borders. Now with rockets and atomic bombs no center of population on the earth’s surface is secure from surprise destruction in a single attack... Few men have ever seen the bomb. But all men if told a few facts can understand that this bomb and the danger of war is a very real thing, and not something far away. It directly concerns every person in the civilized world. We cannot leave it to generals, senators, and diplomats to work out a solution over a period of generations... There is no defense in science against the weapon which can destroy civilization. Our defense is not in armaments, nor in science, nor in going underground. Our defense is in law and order... Future thinking *must* prevent wars.”⁹

I believe that the time has come for the world as a whole to abolish this evil, through the formulation and acceptance of some appropriate articles of world law. With only limited knowledge of law, I shall not attempt to formulate a proposal that would achieve this end without permitting the possibility of the domination of the small nations by the large nations. I suggest, however, that the end might be achieved by world legislation under which there would be, perhaps once a decade, a referendum, supervised by the United Nations, on the will of the people with respect to their national government, held, separately from the national elections, in every country in the world.

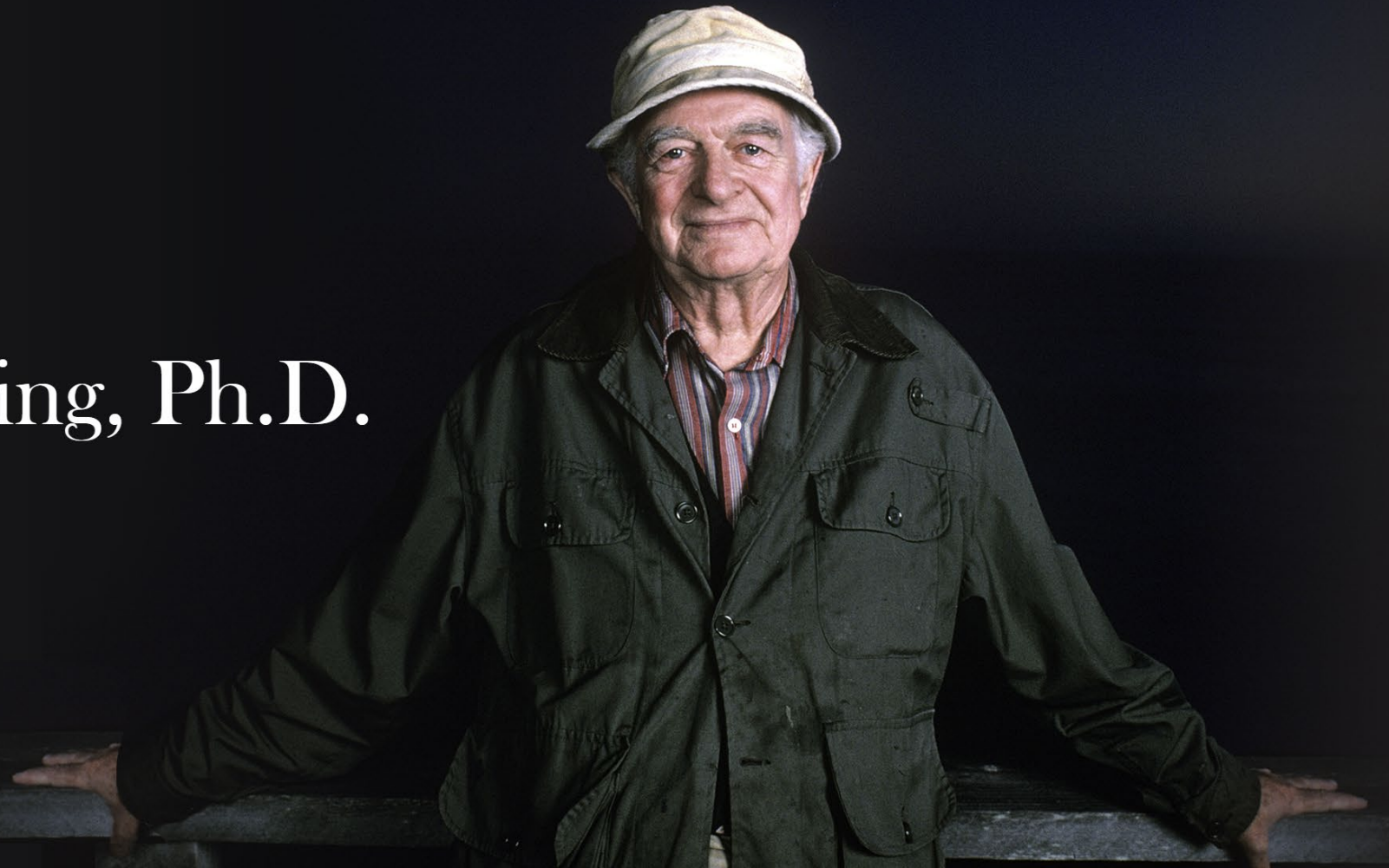
I am confident that we shall succeed in this great task; that the world community will thereby be freed not only from the suffering caused by war but also, through the better use of the earth's resources, of the discoveries of scientists, and of the efforts of mankind, from hunger, disease, illiteracy, and fear; and that we shall in the course of time be enabled to build a world characterized by economic, political, and social justice for all human beings and a culture worthy of man's intelligence.



Born	Linus Carl Pauling February 28, 1901 Portland, Oregon, U.S.	Fields	Quantum chemistry Biochemistry
Died	August 19, 1994 (aged 93) Big Sur, California, U.S.	Institutions	<i>As faculty member</i> [hide] Caltech (1927–1963) UC San Diego (1967–1969) Stanford (1969–1975) <i>As fellow</i> [hide] Cornell University (1937–1938) University of Oxford (1948) Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions (1963–1967)
Education	Oregon State University (BS) California Institute of Technology (PhD)	Thesis	<i>The Determination with X-Rays of the Structures of Crystals</i> ↗ (1925 ^[3])
Awards	ACS Award in Pure Chemistry (1931) Irving Langmuir Award (1931) Davy Medal (1947) Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1954) Nobel Peace Prize (1962) Roebing Medal (1967) Lenin Peace Prize (1968–1969) National Medal of Science (1974) Lomonosov Gold Medal (1977) NAS Award in Chemical Sciences (1979) Priestley Medal (1984) Vannevar Bush Award (1989)	Doctoral advisor	Roscoe Dickinson Richard Tolman ^[1]
		Other academic advisors	Arnold Sommerfeld Niels Bohr ^[2]

Linus C. Pauling, Ph.D.

Nobel Prizes in Chemistry and Peace



“Satisfaction of one's curiosity is one of the greatest sources of happiness in life.”

Thank you