

Rick Wicks attended St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, and graduated from its sister campus in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1968, after which he briefly attended Unitarian-Universalist theological school in Berkeley, California (1969-70). He had a dual career in bookkeeping-accounting-management and social welfare work (including teaching school in a remote Alaskan Native village and working with severely autistic children and street alcoholics). Rick began practicing Zen meditation in 1970 and lived at San Francisco Zen Center (1973-74) and at Tassajara Zen Monastery (1974-75).

Rick became inspired with the idea of union of democracies as a nucleus for eventual world democratic federation while trekking in Nepal in 1983. After marrying his Swedish wife, they moved to Washington DC where Rick first worked as Administrative Director of the Association for a Union of Democracies (AUD). A co-founder of **World Democracy News**, Rick was its editor during 1987-89 as well as Vice President and President of the World Government Organizations Coalition (now the Coalition for Democratic World Government) during 1988-90.

Rick also worked as manager/accountant of an international economics consulting firm (BIDE/DAI) with USAID-funded projects in Indonesia during 1987-92. Rick joined the AUD Board in 1990 and was AUD Treasurer in 1990-92, before moving to Göteborg, Sweden. In 2002 he assisted with the organization of AUD's international conference in Moscow on "Euro-Atlantic Integration and Russia after 9/11".

In 2012 Rick completed his doctorate in economics at Goteborgs Universitet in Sweden (having worked as a freelance copy editor while studying and then writing his thesis). He is a member of the Swedish Atlantic Council.