**Content summary of 4th Classic Germany Philosophy Lecture**

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**Course Title：**Kant’s Theory of Peace

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**Section A: The Preliminary Articles for Perpetual Peace.**

In this section, Kant presents six preliminary articles(only four here) to propose war reforms, so long as war remains a reality:

1. “No peace settlement which secretly reserves issues for a future war shall be considered valid.” Because in this situation merely mean hostilities are postpone but not disappear.

2. “No independently existing state shall be able to be acquired by another state. ”A state is also a society of human being, not a possession, so that it is unreasonable to treat this moral subject as a mere thing.

3. “Standing armies shall be gradually be abolished entirely.” Because it may become the cause of wars.

4. “The state shall not contract debts in connection with its foreign affairs.”

**Section B: The Definitive Articles of Perpetual Peace.**

In this section Kant regard the the state of nature, as a state of war but not of peace. In this state, people are always under the threat of such hostilities. Kant proposed three definitive articles, the second of them is **“International Right shall be Based on the Federalism of free states”:**

A federation of states is similar to that of a civil one, but there is a contradiction in the former case, because every state involves the relation between a superior and a subject , whereas many peoples within one state would make only one people.

People, in the state of nature, will stop fighting against each other but the majesty of each state would not.

The maliciousness of human nature can be observed openly in the free relationship between the peoples. But the homage paid by every state demonstrates that there is a moral predisposition to be found in the human being.

War and its favorable conclusion never determines right, and a peace treaty can only cease the present war of the state, not the state of war. Thus a special sort of federation called a pacific federation is created for the perpetual peace.

A free federalism is required as the basis of international right, which is just like the case that people desire to form into a state.

The international right is not a right to war. And since they do not want the positive idea of a world republic at all, only the negative surrogate of a lasting and continually expanding federation that prevents war can curb the inclination to hostility and defiance of the law.