

A World Federation

HUMANS have built civilization for over 12 000 years. Through science, art, philosophy, technology and hard work we have catapulted ourselves into an entirely new world. Yet our political institutions have not caught up: we are still caught in the paradigms of the previous centuries.

Today, our world truly is a global village. Travel, the internet, markets and the nature weave an ever tighter web around us humans. In this interdependent world, nations have become too small to make a difference in dealing with our most serious problems. A democratically elected government for a world federation is our best shot at saving ourselves and unleashing humanity's potential.

*Till the war-drum throbbed no longer,
and the battle-flags were furled
In the Parliament of man,
the Federation of the world.*

– Alfred Tennyson

A Story of Unification Much of our collective history is a story of continuous unification. From the tribes of the Stone Age, through kingdoms to

the founding of modern nations, our ancestors have united with former enemies into larger states. They have formulated, interpreted and enforced the rule of law to ensure peace, prosperity and progress in the face of ever larger problems.

Peace is not just the absence of war, but rather the resolution of conflicts through the application of law. Our nations, states, counties, communities and families diligently take on this duty every day. Law, along with fire, the wheel, writing and electricity, has proven to be amongst humanity's most successful inventions. If you want peace, prepare the law.

A federation of all humanity, together with a sufficient means of social justice to ensure health, education, and a rough equality of opportunity, would mean such a release and increase of human energy as to open a new phase in human history.

– H. G. Wells

Yet curiously, this universal principle yields to the idol of national sovereignty on the world stage. We hold this truth to be self evident: that my nation has absolute freedom to defend its interests. Who defends the interests of humanity?

Troubles Don't Respect Borders The world has changed. No longer are problems small enough to be solved by a country alone. The threats we face today have no consideration for borders. Borders just get in the way of effective solutions. All people share the same atmosphere. Greenhouse gases change our climate regardless of where they are emitted. Even though we know what needs to be done, nations are trapped by their political and economic competition, unable to free themselves. Treaties are not enough.

Even after decades of foreign aid and donations, there are still too many people living under conditions we cannot justify. Inadequate sanitation and international travel help spread infectious disease. Poverty, lack of opportunity and despotism rekindle violence, corruption, drug and human trafficking, and endanger our safety at home. Aid is not enough.

Many of us have never experience war. History shows that we cannot take this for granted, much less in a time of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction. Of course, no one wants war, yet sometimes it seems necessary to defend one's nation. It is in fact unrestrained national freedom itself that lies at the root of war. The anarchy of sovereign states is a ticking time bomb. Pacifism is not enough.

Beyond Nations Every single one of us understands what's at stake. We look to our governments for solutions, but these problems are too global for any one country. It is a tragedy that our world cannot take care of its common goods and interests. We, the people of the world, need a democratic, federal world government, fit to guard and advance our world.

We need a public representation of all people on Earth that handles issues beyond the reach of national governments. A majority of Earth's citizens would have the power to enforce action to end climate change and poverty, and remove the causes of war. The world

can be sustainable without fear of disadvantage. The poorest can be lifted up and freed from exploitation. Tensions can be resolved democratically, rather than through force. Such unity would release an awesome amount of human energy and open the door to a new era.

Federal Republic of Earth You might be frightened of the prospect of a new layer of effective global governance, working alongside existing national governance.

Every nation faces the same risk. We have found

that healthy democratic institutions with a strong constitution safeguards a republic from abuse. At the same time a federation distributes responsibilities to the most immediate level. The lack of such institutions at the global level makes us victims of the tyranny of planet-wide issues and the decisions of foreign countries.

Mankind's desire for peace can be realized only by the creation of a world government. With all my heart, I believe that the world's present system of sovereign nations can only lead to barbarism, war, and inhumanity.

– Albert Einstein

United Nations Of course we already have the United Nations as an assembly of states. What more could we want?

The United Nations provides an invaluable forum for governments to address their concerns. Yet the structure of the United Nations contains fundamental flaws that stop it from being effective. People are represented only by their governments, disregarding the range of public opinion, and population size. A single nuclear-armed nation can block any important resolution it desires. Finally, the resolutions that do

pass are toothless treaties; whether they are enforced is up to national governments in the end. Time and time again the United Nations has failed to live up to its ideals. It is only a stepping stone to effective and accountable global governance.

Utopia Despite the unprecedented opportunity, you might be discouraged by seeing how nations cling to their sovereignty. What would it take to actually create a world federation?

It was people who had experienced the devastation of war themselves who founded the United Nations. We are lucky to have this solid base to build on. A world parliament, representing the people in a second legislative chamber alongside the General Assembly, would be a first step towards a world federation. Both chambers together could elect a government to set a course for the world, and the International Court of Justice could be given more than just advisory power to complete the triad of separated powers.

Unless some effective supranational government can be set up and brought quickly into action, the prospects of peace and human progress are dark and doubtful.

– Winston Churchill

What Is to Be Done? This short pamphlet could not possibly convey the wealth of thought and work that has gone into the betterment of humanity by uniting it. It can, however, point you to this wealth. Below are some of the more concise explanations of the theory, necessity and implementation of a democratic world federation. Already many associations and communities have formed that have the goal of bringing about a unified world. The YOUNG WORLD FEDERALISTS offer a lively community for discussion and action. Exchange and develop your ideas! Demand the change we deserve! So that we can finally live in peace, prosperity and progress on this fragile blue planet we call home. **World Peace Through World Law!**

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