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Need.



The Glasgow Climate Conference: What lessons will we learn?

by Fergus Watt

with files from Earth Negotiations Bulletin,

There are few more important events on the international calendar this year than the COP 26 UN Climate Change Conference – formally the “26th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change,” hosted by the UK in partnership with Italy, that takes place from 31 October to 12 November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland.



World leaders and delegates at
COP 26, Glasgow, Nov 1 to 12, 2021

This Conference was originally scheduled to take place in November 2020 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Below, we review the international legal and treaty context for this meeting; highlight a few of the major issues facing delegates meeting in Glasgow; and discuss some of the underlying challenges facing global climate governance.

1) Legal context

International agreement on a legal and political response to climate change began with the 1992 adoption of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which sets out the basic legal framework and principles for international climate change cooperation with the aim of stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs) to avoid “dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate

system.” The UNFCCC was one of three treaties (along with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification) adopted at the landmark 1992 Earth Summit.

To further the goals of the 1992 UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997. It committed industrialized countries and countries in transition to achieve quantified emissions reduction targets. The Kyoto Protocol’s first commitment period took place from 2008 to 2012. The 2012 Doha Amendment established the second commitment period from 2013 to 2020.

In December 2015, parties to the UNFCCC adopted the Paris Agreement, which establishes shared goals for reducing global warming, and requires governments to submit and regularly report on the pledges - called nationally determined contribution (NDCs) - that each undertakes to reduce emissions and/or build resilience to climate change.

(2) Climate Ambition

The Paris Agreement works on a five-year cycle of increasingly ambitious climate action. By 2020, parties to the Paris Agreement were to conduct a “Global Stocktake” of their collective progress on mitigation, adaptation, and provision of support to developing countries.

By the end of 2020, there were 48 new NDCs submitted by 47 countries and the EU. Additional NDCs were submitted in 2021, notably from the United States, which pledges to reduce emissions by 50-52% below 2005 levels by 2030. Some governments will announce their revised NDCs in Glasgow.

The UNFCCC Secretariat analyzed the NDCs submitted by the end of July 2021 and reported that the effects of the new, updated NDCs that cover about 59% of parties to the Paris Agreement and account for 49% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The good news is

that the NDCs represent a 12% decrease in emissions. The bad news is that the pledges may lead to a temperature rise of 2.7°C by the end of the century. Some major emitting countries, including Australia, China, and India, have yet to submit new pledges.

(3) Pledges – are they enough?

The Glasgow COP will bring added scrutiny to the adequacy of the central pillar of the Paris Agreement - the nationally determined contributions. Is a treaty system based on pledges made by sovereign nation-states sufficient to address a global problem like climate change?

This pledging approach has been called “bottom-up” governance. Countries put forward pledges toward a shared goal in the hopes that the sum of these pledges will safeguard the environment. It isn’t unique to the Paris Agreement. Other multilateral environmental agreements and other global initiatives feature similar types of participant pledging.

In the context of treaties, pledging has found a foothold. International treaties generally involve rules that guide or explicitly set out

what countries will do. By reversing that logic and allowing countries to set their terms, more countries may be willing to sign up. It makes participating easier.

However, there are few rules governing what an NDC should contain. Under the Paris Agreement, having an NDC is a legally binding requirement, but it is up to participating states to decide its content. And reaching the targets set out in an NDC is not legally required.

And that’s the paradox of a treaty based on nation-state pledging: it helps to reach agreement or to mobilize a wide range of actors toward environmental goals. But, at the end of the day it’s a non-legally binding promise to be fulfilled in the future.

In the absence of adequate mechanisms for transparency, oversight and accountability to safeguard the promises, there are many who question the efficacy of this approach to addressing the challenges of mitigating climate change. In the years to come we may well see new negotiations - a renewed effort to build upon the Paris Agreement to strengthen further the international UNFCCC framework of climate governance.



An Integrated Movement: The necessary steps to unite the world

Eston McKeague



Eston McKeague is the President of Young World Federalists .

I got involved with the Young World Federalists (YWF) in August 2020. By proxy, I got involved with the wider community of world federalists at that time as well. Since that time, YWF has introduced world federalism to young people around the world.

YWF could not have gotten where we are today without our Board of Advisors. Donna Park, Jim Barton, and John Vlasto have stepped up to mentor us kids and show us the ropes. YWF would not be the same without their support.

Back in August 2020, Daniel Blewitt was very active in the movement. As the co-founder of YWF, he was an outspoken proponent of a united movement. He spoke with great fervor, calling for a united, collaborative movement. A movement that is easy to understand from the

outside looking in. A movement that shares resources and exemplifies world unity.

Daniel's call for a collaborative movement resulted in YWF reaching out to other world federalist organizations, and these organizations coming together to collaborate. Under the leadership of John Vlasto, they formed a "Working Group". This body met every two weeks, in two separate calls due to timezones. They designed collaborative projects like campaigns, model world parliaments, and a news site.

As we tried to sell these ideas to the wider movement, it became obvious that something was missing. Where was our umbrella? Where was the World Federalist Movement - Institute for Global Policy? How can we collaborate

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An Integrated Moment– *continued*



without them? Are we replacing them? These questions came to the forefront as we learned about WFM-IGP's ongoing crisis.

The collaborative efforts of the Working Group paused. All attention turned towards WFM-IGP. The Working Group meetings became WFM-IGP Strategy Calls. We spent hours deliberating the pros and cons of the "Draft Strategic Plan" produced by WFM-IGP. Daniel Blewitt's vision of a united movement was on hold for the foreseeable future.



The Advisory Council

At the WFM-IGP Congress in July, a new body, the WFM-IGP Advisory Council, was voted into being, tasked with revitalizing communication between WFM-IGP and its member and Associate Organizations. In a way, the Advisory Council is the spiritual successor to the Working Group. It was also agreed that the election of a new Executive Committee for WFM-IGP should be deferred until October, when some of the current uncertainties should have been resolved.

While a great success, the formation of the Advisory Council is only the start. Daniel Blewitt's vision is still just a vision. Integrating our movement will take patience, persistence,

and compromise. Yet it must happen. We must become a united movement for a world federation if we are to maximise our impact.

Right now, an outsider coming into our movement will likely find one small group of people. An outsider will see that this small group has limited resources. An outsider will see that passion is not a material resource. And an outsider won't see room for growth. But we are not small! And we have many resources! And we have ample opportunities for growth!

The problem is not that we are weak. The problem is the division between us. Operating in silos makes us look weak. It makes our movement look like a bunch of utopians who couldn't organize our way out of a junk drawer. We are a mess. Our strength lies beneath the recent in-fighting and apathy towards one another.

A clear and concise public image is necessary. A single, movement-wide membership option for youth and adults to pool resources. A single, movement-wide annual event to rally our supporters and gain new ones. A single, movement-wide system of chapters - with the same branding - to make it easy for people to move and find us again. A single, movement-wide governing body with equity for large and small organizations. A single, movement-wide logo on every website leading to the central hub for the movement. To get there from our current silos will take time, but in the short-term much can be achieved simply by recreating the umbrella function of WFM-IGP.

This was Daniel Blewitt's vision that guided the formation of the Working Group. This is what is necessary to keep young people involved. This is how we build a world federalist movement that uses our diversity and our resources. And this is what I am pushing for as a member of the Advisory Council, and will continue to push for as a member of the Executive Committee if elected in October.



**Review developments from the Week
for World Parliament in October!**

WorldParliamentNow.org

By Monique Cuillerier

The International Criminal Court is currently engaged in seven preliminary examinations, and has fifteen situations under investigation.

Preliminary examinations are currently being conducted in Bolivia, Colombia, Guinea, Nigeria, Ukraine, and there are two separate examinations in Venezuela

Afghanistan

In March 2020, the Prosecutor was authorized to begin an investigation into alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes since 2003 in Afghanistan, as well as other alleged crimes committed on the territory of other States Parties since 2002 but linked to the conflict in Afghanistan.

In May 2021, the Prosecutor, then Fatou Bensouda and her team, met with a high-level delegation from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Given more recent events, the state of the investigation is uncertain.

Bangladesh/Myanmar

In November 2019, an investigation into alleged crimes of deportation, persecution, and any other crimes relevant to the Court against the Rohingya people was begun.

In February, a delegation from the Court traveled to Bangladesh to explain to the public how investigations are conducted.

A redacted, public version of the “Registry’s Second Report on Information and Outreach Activities” regarding this situation was made available in December 2020.

Burundi

An investigation into crimes under the Rome Statute that may have occurred in Burundi was authorized in 2017 and currently focuses on alleged crimes between 2015 and 2017.

The investigation is focused on alleged crimes of murder and attempted murder, imprisonment or severe deprivation of liberty, torture, rape, enforced disappearance, and persecution.

Central African Republic

The Government of CAR referred this situation to the Court in May 2014. The situation focuses on alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed since 1 August 2012, in the context of the conflict between Muslim Séléka and Christian anti-balaka groups.

An arrest warrant was issued in November 2018 for Alfred Yekatom and he was surrendered to the Court shortly thereafter. A further arrest warrant, for Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona, was issued in December 2018 and he was arrested five days later. The two cases were joined in February 2019. The trial began in February 2021 and the Prosecution is currently presenting its evidence.

Mahamat Said Abdel Kani was surrendered to the Court on January 24 2021. The opening of the confirmation of charges hearing is scheduled for October 5 2021.

Côte d’Ivoire

The cases of Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Blé Goudé, charged with crimes against humanity allegedly committed in Côte d’Ivoire in

2010 and 2011, were joined in March 2015 and the trial began in January 2016. In January 2019, both were acquitted and the Appeals Chamber confirmed the acquittal in March. Gbagbo and Blé Goudé have returned to Côte d’Ivoire. The case against Simone Gbagbo has been vacated following the acquittals of Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Blé Goudé.

Darfur, Sudan

The situation in Darfur, Sudan was referred to the Court by the UN Security Council in March 2005.

There are several open cases concerning the situation in Darfur, Sudan with four suspects — Ahmad Harun, Omar Hassan Ahmad Al Bashir, Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain, and Abdel Raheem Muhammad Hussein — who remain at large. Recently, Sudan has pledged to send Al Bashir to the Court, but no actions have been taken yet.

Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman surrendered himself to the Court in June 2020 and the confirmation of charges hearing took place in May 2021. In July 2021, the charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity were confirmed and the trial is now scheduled to begin April 5, 2022.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

In 2012, Thomas Lubanga Dyilo was convicted and sentenced to 14 years of imprisonment. He was transferred to a prison in DRC in 2015 where he continues to serve his sentence. Implementation of the collective reparations decision continues.

The trial of Bosco Ntaganda began in September 2015 and he was found guilty in July 2019 of 18 counts of war crimes, and crimes against humanity committed in Ituri, DRC between 2002 and 2003. In early November 2019, Ntaganda was sentenced to thirty years imprisonment and in March 2021, the conviction and sentence were confirmed on appeal. Reparations to victims were also ordered in March. The Trust Fund for Victims will design and submit an implementation plan to the Court. Ntaganda remains in the ICC detention center in The Hague pending a decision as to where he will serve his sentence.

Sylvestre Mudacumura, for whom an arrest warrant was issued in 2012, remains at large.

Georgia

An investigation into crimes against humanity and war crimes allegedly committed in and around South Ossetia, Georgia in 2008 was begun in January 2016 and continues.

Libya

Mahmoud Mustafa Busayf Al-Werfalli, Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi, and Al-Tuhamy Mohamed Khaled all remain at large and, as such, their cases remain pending.

Kenya

Arrest warrants for Walter Osapiri Barasa and Philip Kipkoech Bett for various offences against the administration of justice remain outstanding.

Paul Gicheru surrendered in November 2020. Charges were confirmed, for offences against the administration of justice, and

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Gicheru has been committed to trial. These offences were allegedly committed to undermine the Prosecution in the Ruto and Sang case, which ended without charges being confirmed.

Mali

Al Hassan Ag Abdoul Aziz Ag Mohamed Ag Mahmoud was surrendered to Court's custody in March 2018. His trial, which began in July 2020, is ongoing.

The Philippines

The Prosecutor's request to begin an investigation in relation to crimes on the territory of the Philippines between 2011 and 2019 in the context of the so-called 'war on drugs' campaign was granted on September 15, 2021.

Uganda

The case against Joseph Kony and Vincent Otti remains pending as they are still at large.

The trial of Dominic Ongwen began in December 2016 and a judgement was delivered in February 2021. Ongwen was found guilty on 61 counts. The Defence has submitted a notification of intent to appeal. Additionally, the reparations phase has begun.

Other

123 countries have ratified the Rome Statute -- 33 in Africa, 19 in the Asia-Pacific area, 18 in Eastern Europe, 28 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 25 in Western Europe and other states.

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Our Common Agenda: Secretary-General provides signposts for a stronger UN

by Fergus Watt



On September 10, UN Secretary-General António Guterres released his much anticipated "Our Common Agenda" (OCA) report, providing recommendations for more networked and inclusive multilateralism to build a greener, more equitable, and more just and secure future.

At a time when the machinery of international cooperation faces many challenges, Guterres has provided a politically bold strategy for the transformation of global governance.

The report comes a year after world leaders endorsed a declaration marking the UN's 75th anniversary and requested the Secretary-General "to report back before the end of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly with recommendations to advance our common agenda and to respond to current and future challenges."

The resulting OCA report followed extensive consultations with Member States, academics, civil society and other UN stakeholders, and was timed for release following Mr. Guterres's election (in June) to a second five-year term as Secretary-General.

While it places a premium on the implementation of existing agreements, i.e. not reforming the Charter or re-structuring the UN's principal organs, many of the report's 90 recommendations would nevertheless lead to significant and far-reaching innovations to global politics.

The Secretary-General makes recommendations across four broad areas:

1. A renewal of the social contract, anchored in human rights, to rebuild trust and social cohesion.

The report recognizes that much global unease is rooted in persistent poverty, hunger, lack of access to health care, education and income security, growing inequalities and injustices as well as misinformation and lack of confidence in institutions.

Some key recommendations include:

- Achieving universal social protection coverage, including universal health care, to be affirmed at a **World Social Summit in 2025**;
- Addressing tax evasion, money-laundering and illicit financial flows through a "joint structure on financial integrity" in partnership with other financial institutions and international organizations;
- Reinvigorating thinking around human rights to better include "our online lives";

2. A focus on the future, through a deepening of solidarity with the world's young people and future generations. As climate change illustrates, those that inherit the consequences of government policies are barely represented in decision-making, which is heavily weighted towards short term political imperatives.

Some key recommendations include:

- A Futures Lab to take full advantage of the organization's capacity to predict and model the impact of policy decisions over time;
- The repurposing of the UN's Trusteeship Council to make it a deliberative body on behalf of succeeding generations. [Note: Elsewhere in the report reviving the Trusteeship Council is proposed for a much broader remit, i.e. to "issue advice and guidance with respect to long-term governance of the global commons, delivery of global public goods and managing global public risks."]

3. Urgent action to protect and deliver global

commons - high seas, the atmosphere, Antarctica and outer space - **and global public goods** – such as peace, economic security, and global health.

Some key recommendations include:

- Better integration of the global financial system with other decision-making processes through a Biennial Summit between the G20, the UN's ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council), the Secretary-General and heads of other international financial institutions;
- A new Agenda for Peace (building on the seminal "Agenda for Peace" document published in 1992 that framed UN peacekeeping and peacemaking in the 1990s). The new Agenda for Peace would set out a continuum of UN actions to promote peace "based on a better understanding of the underlying drivers and systems of influence that are sustaining conflict."
- Better preparedness for future global shocks through an Emergency Platform that would be triggered automatically in response to large-scale crises;
- A Summit of the Future, scheduled for 2023, which would be preceded by preparatory events and consultations, to forge a new consensus on the most critical global concerns that the international system must deal with. As one of the OCA report's most prominent recommendations, the Summit of the Future would address lagging progress on climate change, biodiversity and the sustainable development goals; a global digital compact and a declaration on the future; as well as the new agenda for peace, dialogue on outer space, and a cross-agency emergency response platform to respond to complex crises.
- A High-level Advisory Board, composed of former heads of State/Government is proposed

to inform the Summit of the Future and advance recommendations where governance improvements are most needed and propose options for how they can be implemented.

4. An upgraded UN that is fit for a new era – one that can offer more relevant, system- wide, multilateral and multi-stakeholder solutions to the challenges of the 21st century. This final section introduces reforms that are within the scope of the Secretary-General to initiate. The emphasis is on use of data, innovation, strategic foresight and predictive analysis.

Of course, it is the role of the Secretary-General to initiate and propose. It will ultimately be up to Member States to agree on next steps and take forward the recommendations in the OCA report.

After the report was launched September 10, a number of ambassadors took the floor to make statements. Russia and China sent lower level officials to the launch event, saying the report needs further study and cautioning against involving stakeholders other than governments in the work of the UN. However most ambassadors who spoke responded quite positively to the report. The U.S. did not provide immediate comment. Canada's Ambassador, Bob Rae congratulated the Secretary-General on a report he described as "challenging, provocative and necessary."

Many governments also referenced the OCA report later in September during the high-level opening of the 76th session of the General Assembly and at a September 23 meeting of the Alliance for Multilateralism, a 50+-state network led by Germany and France.

For the Coalition for the UN We Need (C4UN), the OCA report represents something of a milestone. The campaign has since 2017 had as its primary goal making the occasion of the UN's 75th anniversary a vehicle to stimulate further strengthening of the organization.

Now that the OCA report is out, and is the subject of much discussion in foreign ministries around the world, C4UN campaigners will also undertake a process of consultation and reflection, to assess where progress will be possible in the coming months. A "People's Forum" in December will bring together regional and global networks to frame a strategy and advocacy agenda to build on the openings for improving global governance provided in the Our Common Agenda report.

WFM-IGP Congress charts a new direction

After a one-year delay due to the pandemic, the World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP) conducted its first online Congress from July 14-17. It was attended by 39 delegates and 28 observers from 20 organizations on 5 continents.

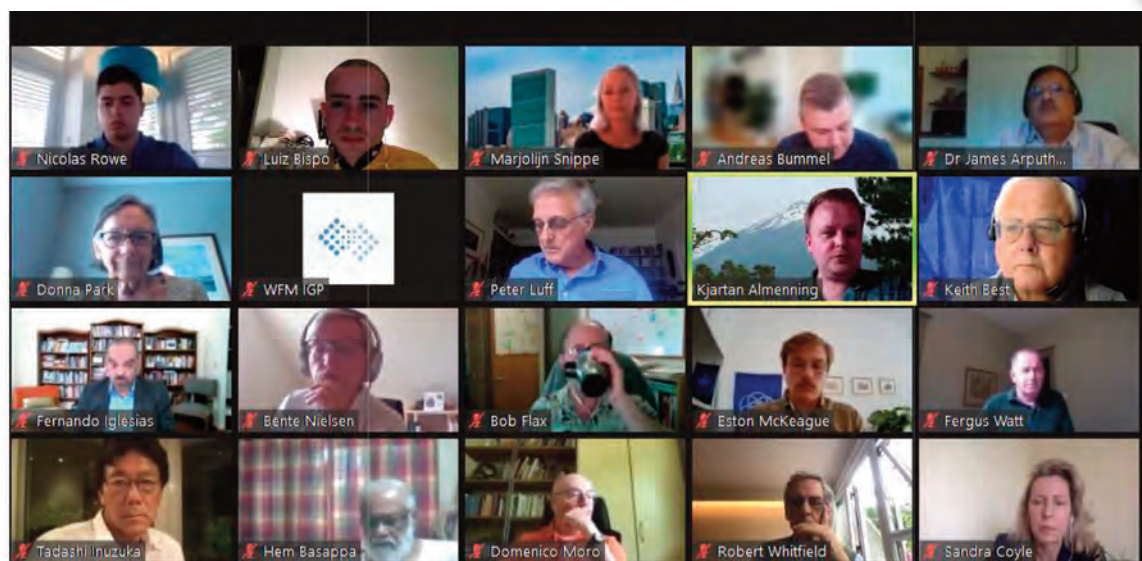
In recent years WFM-IGP has experienced a number of changes, including:

- The retirement of Executive Director Bill Pace after more than 2 decades of service and his successful leadership in the creation of the civil society coalitions such as the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) and the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICR2P);
- The brief tenure WFM-IGP Executive Director Tawanda Hondora, and the arrival of a new Executive Director, Sandra Coyle;

- A sharp decrease in funding; as experienced by many NGO's working in the international justice field;
- A transfer in the hosting of WFM-IGP's two flagship programs, the CICC and ICR2P, to other NGO's.

In response to these events and to assure the organization's long-term sustainability, Executive Director Sandra Coyle, in partnership with the outgoing WFM-IGP Executive Committee, created a new Strategic Plan that was approved by the Congress. See <https://www.wfm-igp.org/2021-23-strategic-plan/>.

The election of a new Executive Committee to take forward the work of the organization in this time of programmatic renewal was deferred to a resumed session of the 2021 Congress, scheduled for October 30-31.



Some participants of the 2021 virtual congress.



Join Our Global Movement

The World Federalist Movement - Institute for Global Policy has Member Organizations (MOs) around the world that are dedicated to spreading the ideas of World Federalism. Currently our MOs are working on diverse issues such as raising support for the International Criminal Court, strengthening the European Constitution, creating a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly, and reducing small arms trafficking.

In addition to the work of WFM Member and Associate Organizations, WFM-IGP's programs support participation in the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect and the campaign for a North-East Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone.. For more information on their members, please visit www.coalitionfortheicc.org and www.responsibilitytoprotect.org.

WFM-IGP also welcomes your individual membership in our global efforts to promote the principles of international democracy, federalism, global governance and human rights.

World Federation And The Israel-Palestine Conflict

by Oded Gilad



Oded Gilad is Director of One World: Movement for Global Democracy, Tel Aviv, Israel.

As an Israeli citizen who is promoting the vision of a democratic world federation, I often encounter the following challenging question: “Your country holds millions of Palestinians under military rule, oppression and discrimination; shouldn’t you struggle to bring about real democracy at your local level first, and only then talk about the global level?”

My honest reply is that to the best of my understanding, the lack of democracy and rule of law at the global level is, in fact, the most fundamental underlying cause of this conflict, and that therefore it must be addressed with the highest priority if we are serious about ending it.

To understand why, it is useful to consider the rationale of the Zionist movement, whose turn to Palestine ignited the conflict. With all due respect to the ancient longing of religious Jews to return to the biblical “promised land”, the main reason that so many (mostly secular) Jews turned to Zionism and immigrated to Palestine since the late 19th century, was the fact that as a minority in Europe they were too often prone to persecution and oppression. This experience led many of them to believe the nationalist creed that only a nation-state of their own could guarantee their survival. Had there been – in the past or today – a world federation holding both the power and the democratic legitimacy to defend all humans in the world, it is unlikely that Zionism and many other national movements would have become so popular and powerful.

A World Federation to Defend all Human Beings

It is true that in a democratic world federation Israeli Jews would return to be just a small minority and would lack the legal sovereignty that they enjoy today. But that would not be a problem for them as rather than having to defend themselves they will be protected by the far stronger government that represents all humans. In such a world, all other religious, national or ethnic groupings would similarly turn into small minorities. When considering the nearly 8 billion of potential world citizens, we can see that even the largest groupings that we know – such as “Christians”, “Muslims”, “Chinese” or “Indian” – would be only large minorities: ~31%, ~24%, ~16%, ~15% respectively. And since these groupings are highly heterogeneous and divided internally, all people will belong to far smaller minorities, and that would be just fine.

Unlike nation-states, which by design are obsessed with maintaining a national majority in the country, in a global federation “the people” would be composed entirely of minorities. This inherent diversity of the population means that the only social contract that such a polity could be based on would be one that enshrines and protects the basic rights and freedoms of all people and their groups, through effective constitutional and institutional checks and balances and with a democratically elected world parliament at the center.

In such a federation, Jews and Palestinians alike will not be restricted from settling in any part of the Earth.

No land would belong exclusively to any group, and people would be free to live wherever they choose, as is customary within democratic federations.

The Vision of a Global Welfare State

For those who fear that such global freedom of movement would open up the gates for a gigantic wave of global immigration from poor to rich countries, I would say that their fears are ill-founded. Just as national borders are indeed successful today at preventing such immigration, the divisions they create between national legal systems are even more successful at preventing national tax authorities from getting their hands on the wealth of the world’s super-rich. In a world federation, in contrast, whose tax authority would span every corner of the planet, there will be a gigantic wave of redistribution not only of political but also of financial power from the global super-rich to the global super-poor. In such a global “mixed economy” or “welfare state” the global poor will be able to make a decent living in local jobs, providing necessary services and infrastructures to their own communities. Having that option, it is clear that the vast majority will remain in their homelands with their loved ones, rather than tear themselves from their families, friends and cultures, as so many are forced to do today.

The Question of Priority

Coming back to the narrower question of Israel and Palestine, some people insist and rephrase their question as follows: “though a world federation is a noble vision to aspire to in the long run, they say, in the meantime the Palestinians are suffering enormously from atrocious injustices, and cannot

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Israel-Palestine Conflict... – *continued*

wait for global democracy to emerge. The colonialist project of Zionism continues to deprive them of their basic human rights, in flagrant violation of international law, and it is our moral duty to help and protect them first.”

To explain the flaws in that argument, it is useful to start with a simple analogy: imagine an armed group that bursts into a conference hall and takes all the attendants as hostages. In our domestic national systems, we know it would take much less than 50 minutes before the place would be surrounded with police cars and special forces coming to liberate the captives. Yet in our anarchic international system, Palestinians can live under occupation for well over 50 years and no police force are rushing to help them.

There is no Global Authority to Protect People

The lesson of this analogy is that while our natural reaction to Israel's occupation is to condemn Israel and Zionism, the more basic problem is with the international system, that has no real mechanisms for protecting victims and restoring justice. For this reason anyone who really cares for humans in general, and the Palestinians in particular, cannot ignore this aspect of the problem, or postpone it until after the conflict has been resolved. This systemic problem can be addressed and must be addressed as a precondition, or at least alongside any effort to find a local or particular solution. Yet today it is mostly ignored.

Whether one thinks that the conflict should end by dividing the land into two nation-states, or by turning it into one democratic state, one must recognize the necessity of an external authority equipped with sufficient force – and democratic legitimacy – to intervene when necessary to enforce such a solution, and protect it. In the current international order such authority does not exist and it will surely not just “emerge” if we continue to postpone the discussion about it.

The Nature of the UN and Human Rights

The United Nations clearly does not possess the necessary power for such intervention, as the budget of Israel's ministry of defence alone is several times bigger than the combined budget of all the UN agencies. As the UN does not have any state power and cannot collect taxes from the global rich and their corporations, it is completely dependent on the voluntary contributions of the richer member governments, who give very little.

But more importantly, the UN does not possess the democratic legitimacy to intervene, as rather than belonging democratically to the world's nations it belongs exclusively to the governments who rule over them. It is this characteristic of the UN, more than anything else, which shows the greatest weakness of the movement for Palestinian independence: in today's world there is nothing really unique about the fact that they are oppressed by a government that does not represent them. Openly oppressive governments are perfectly standard, both legally and normatively, in the current international order. One does not need to look far beyond Israel-Palestine to see this plague extending over most countries in the Middle East, across much of Africa and much of Asia.

The Israeli West Bank barrier was found by the International Court of Justice to violate international law back in 2004. Standing tall today, it demonstrates the uselessness of “law” that is not enforceable.

So we should not be surprised by the experience of many decades, that has shown that repeating clichés about “violations of international law and human rights” did little to bring an end to the conflict. Thinking of “international law”: how can it be seriously called a “law” if no-one is responsible to enforce it? At the most, surely, it should be called only a “norm”.

Human Rights are a Privilege of National Citizenship

The term “human right” is similarly misleading and unhelpful. Unlike my Palestinian friend, I enjoy almost all



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the rights detailed in the 1948 “Universal Declaration of Human Rights”. But what many observers miss about the true nature of these rights, is that I enjoy them not because I am a human but only because I live under the jurisdiction of a national government that gives me those rights. That difference is much more than semantic, and it means that what I enjoy, in fact, are not human rights but only national rights, or to be more precise: national privileges.

When understood this way, it flows that not I nor anyone else in the world enjoys human rights, and that therefore while many atrocities have surely occurred and continue to occur in the conflict, there haven’t been any “violations of human rights”. One cannot violate something that does not exist. To truly institute human rights we need more than a declaration and more than national governments – we need a universal federal government that will be responsible and accountable for providing these rights to all human beings. Until then, and as long as the existing international order allows only national privileges and not any human rights, there is nothing surprising at the great support that nationalist parties enjoy.

The Choice

It is too easy to direct the blame at this player or the other for following their narrow interests, but it is far more important to point to the lack of a global justice system that belongs to us all and protects us all. Our basic choice, in other words, is not between a one-state or a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine, but between a federal state system of the entire world, and two-hundred sovereign governments that will continue to divide us.

For me, it is high time we recognized the Earth as our true homeland, and that it is high time that we, humans, had a state.



Realizing the vision of a world federation can be promoted in many ways, and one of the most promising is the creation of a Parliamentary Assembly at the UN that eventually could transform into a world parliament. Such an assembly, whose creation in legal terms is relatively easy as it does not require a UN charter reform, will bring together elected representatives from both coalition and opposition parties from many states. Following the example of the European Parliament, it can be expected that these representatives will form transnational groups who will push forward many other necessary reforms and further democratization at the global level.

Religion and Democratic World Federation

by David Oughton

Most religious groups have responded to issues of violence and warfare by teaching their members either some form of pacifism or some form of the “just war” tradition or military jihad. Such teachings have tried to either eliminate participation in wars, or to set strict limitations for the moral waging of war. But some religious groups and leaders have rejected the idea that warfare is a necessary part of human nature and human history.

In order to eliminate the war system and solve humanity’s many global problems --

such as genocide, terrorism, violations of human rights, and environmental degradation due to global warming -- these groups and leaders have advocated for the creation of a democratic world federal government that would create just world laws and prosecute individuals who violate them. Violent conflicts would be settled, and global problems would be solved through a nonviolent democratic process. A World Constitution would make explicit the powers and limitations of the World Federation, the powers and limitations of national governments, and the rights and



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Religion and Democratic World Federation... – *continued*



responsibilities of all citizens of the world.

According to the teachings of Baha'u'llah (1817-1892) and the Baha'i Universal House of Justice, acceptance of the oneness of humanity is a prerequisite for establishing a World Federation. According to Baha'is, every national government will need to give up every claim to make war and should only maintain armaments for purposes of maintaining internal order. Baha'is and many others also believe that the facilitation of a world democracy would be enhanced by the universal use of a common auxiliary language (such as Esperanto) in addition to the national languages.

Roman Catholic bishops at the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) called for outlawing war by international consent and creating a universal public authority that would safeguard security, justice, and human rights. In their encyclicals, Pope John XXIII, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis have stated that there is an urgent need for a true world political authority that would be regulated by law, observe the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity, promote human development, manage globalization, and establish the common good.

Many individuals within religions that lack a central teaching authority have also promoted the goal of a World Federation. For example, many liberal Protestant Christians and many Unitarian Universalists are also World Federalists. Many people in other religions have emphasized the need for a global system of enforceable world laws instead of the current international system that is based on unenforceable treaties between nations.

At the Parliament of the World's Religions in Toronto in 2018, the Hindu Swami Agnivesh said that instead of spending trillions of dollars on the war system, the peoples of the world need to unite and create a World Parliament based on the Earth Constitution. He said that "without a world government, we cannot solve our major world problems." Many Buddhists have been promoting the Buddha's goal of relieving suffering for all beings through love, compassion, and nonviolence. The Japanese Buddhist scholar Nikkyo Niwano has said that when the whole world will become one "Buddha-land" and that a World Federation should be our blueprint for achieving this goal.

Before the legal and political superstructure of a democratic World Federation can be formed, the world's religions have the responsibility of building a firm foundation for it by emphasizing their versions of the Golden Rule, common ethical commandments, loyalty to the human family, World Citizenship, and stewardship of creation. They need to be committed to interreligious dialogue and cooperation as well as act according to the principles of the Declaration of a Global Ethic and the Charter for Compassion that have been promoted at the Parliaments of the World's Religions.

When a critical mass of people around the world agrees on this requirement, then the dream of the ancient Jewish prophets can finally be realized: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again."



National Sovereignty under a United Federation of Nations

by Larry David



Larry David is a member of the Board of Directors of the Citizens for Global Solutions Education Fund.

Sovereign: *noun*

1 a a supreme ruler, especially a monarch.

"the Emperor became the first Japanese sovereign to visit Britain"

adjective

1 a possessing supreme or ultimate power.

"in modern democracies the people's will is in theory sovereign"

The U.S. Constitution is viewed by some world federalists as one model for a future Republic of the World, replacing the current war system that has prevailed for hundreds of years. It describes a democratic federal republic – a system of governance that holds states and territories together in a rules-based system where differences are settled in courts and not on battlefields.

Under the war system, independent or "sovereign" nation states rely for their security on armed forces, either their own or those of their more powerful allies. Opponents of moving beyond the war system fear loss of freedom, a rise of global dictatorship, or even "the end of the world."

This fear of tyranny is certainly rational.

The founders of the U.S. were motivated by a desire to escape the tyranny of the British "sovereign," and they struggled with how to avoid creating another monarchy. Their successful formula for peaceful self-determination was for the 13 former colonies to retain authority over their internal affairs while granting a monopoly on force to a higher level of democratic government.

They dispersed authority between a Congress, a president, and a Supreme Court. Then, they made both the president and the Congress subject to regular elections. They limited the number of terms that a president could serve. They did everything they could think of to keep one person from becoming an all-powerful sovereign.

Our movement has the same goal: Instituting a system of shared sovereignty, where

individual states forgo their independent possession of weapons of war, while vesting their collective security in a federal republic of the world and granting ultimate authority to the citizens themselves, expressed through a representative democracy.

Words such as "government," "sovereignty," "federalism," and even "law" invoke emotional reactions and misunderstandings that spawn resistance and block genuine discourse. Gaining support for democratic world federation requires us to bring semantic clarity and consistency to our communications.

Why federation? Currently, all nations are vulnerable to destruction, invasion, encroachment, occupation, and pollution by other "sovereign" nations. A democratic world federation will protect the authority of nations just as the federal government of the United States protects each of the states and their subsidiary units of government. It will create a common security and put an end to the need for national armies.

Citizens for Global Solutions foresees a democratic United Federation of Nations, with the power to make and enforce world law that is binding on individuals and governments at all levels, to protect the global environment, put an end to systemic human rights abuses, prevent local disease outbreaks from becoming global pandemics, eliminate nuclear weapons, and prevent the rise of authoritarianism, global tyranny, and dictatorship.

Tad Daley
was a
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Dennis
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the late U.S.
Senator Alan
Cranston



A Short History of the World Federalist Movement

by Tad Daley

The idea of a single political entity to govern and unite the whole of humanity is so old that it is hard to say when it first emerged. Socrates reportedly said around 400 BCE, “I am neither Athenian nor Greek, but a citizen of the world.” A century later, the Stoic philosopher Zeno of Citium expanded on the notion, saying, “We should all live not in cities and tribes, each distinguished by separate rules of justice, but should regard all men as members of the same tribe, and fellow citizens of one order.”

jurisdiction who rules over both of them.” Dante argued that “universal peace” could come to pass if all of humankind “can be ruled by one supreme prince.” Yet far from the universal tyranny that image might invoke, the great poet envisioned both that a multitude of local matters might be governed by local officials, and that those local leaders might be “raised to office by the consent of others.”

As chaos gave way to nation-states in Europe and empires rose and flourished all over the world, philosophers and statesmen continued to refine the idea of global political unification, in works including the French King Henry IV’s *Grand Design* of 1610, Hugo Grotius’s *On the Law of War and Peace* of 1625, William Penn’s *Essay Towards the Present and Future Peace of Europe* of 1693, Charles Irenee Castel de Saint-Pierre’s *Project For Rendering Perpetual Peace in Europe* of 1713, Jean Jacques Rousseau’s *A Lasting Peace Through the Federation of Europe* of 1756, Jeremy Bentham’s *A Plan for a Universal and Perpetual Peace* of 1781, and Immanuel Kant’s *Perpetual Peace* of 1795. In 1863, Baha’u’llah made world union a central concept of the new Baha’i Faith in *The Call of the Divine Beloved*; in 1914, with the world on the edge of a cataclysmic war driven largely by the twisted entanglements of a multi-state system, H.G. Wells published *The World Set Free*.

Wells died in 1946, shortly after the end of an even more devastating war, and deeply despondent about the human prospect. But with that war fresh in the world’s memory, something unprecedented and quite remarkable began to take place. A genuine worldwide social movement started to emerge, proclaiming that world government was the only possible solution to the new problem of nuclear weapons, and the ancient problem of war itself.

The first steps had been taken after the first war, with the idealistic but deeply flawed League of Nations. After the second war, a stronger United Nations was created, but it



The Roman Empire created a single political authority for most of Europe and parts of Africa and Asia, and in 426 CE, Augustine of Hippo suggested in *The City of God* that an expansion of the empire to encompass the entire world could result in all humans living together in peace and harmony. But the western empire would collapse just 50 years later.

After nearly a millennium of conflict among continuously warring local principalities, Dante Alighieri in 1313 recalled how the political unity of Rome had forged a robust peace extending vastly over both space and time. In *De Monarchia*, Dante observed that when two equal sovereigns would come into conflict, there was no “third party of wider

fell far short of an institution able to keep the peace, with a Security Council that could only act if unanimity prevailed among its five permanent members. World federalists felt more was needed.

- The movement for a democratic federal world government that arose in the late 1940s was a political force as wide-ranging and influential in the U.S. as the civil rights and women's rights movements a half-century ago or the climate movement today. Though it is hard to imagine now, at the time the world government idea was avidly discussed in classrooms, cocktail lounges, dinner parties, and symposia of every sort -- with advocates from across the political spectrum:
 - A 1947 Gallup poll showed that 56% of Americans supported the proposition that "the UN should be strengthened to make it a world government."
 - A Students for Federal World Government rally that year at Chicago Stadium, keynoted by Albert Einstein, drew such a crowd that it was standing room only.
 - The "World Citizen Registry" established by American veteran Garry Davis -- who had pitched a tent on a small patch of UN territory in Paris and declared himself the first World Citizen, renouncing his U.S. citizenship -- attracted more than 500,000 enrollees.
 - Prominent figures including Winston Churchill, Henry Fonda, Mohandas Gandhi, Jean-Paul Sartre, and John Steinbeck publicly advocated and elaborated upon the idea of world government, as did former Vice President Henry Wallace.
- University of Chicago Chancellor Robert

Maynard Hutchins assembled some of the leading social and political thinkers of the day to create the Committee to Frame a World Constitution.

- The majority of U.S. state legislatures passed resolutions endorsing U.S. participation in a future world government, and in 1949, the U.S. Congress declared that "it should be a fundamental objective of the foreign policy of the United States to support and strengthen the United Nations and to seek its development into a world federation, capable of enacting, interpreting, and enforcing world law to prevent war." Three future presidents -- John F. Kennedy, Richard Nixon, and Gerald Ford -- would endorse at least one resolution along these lines.

U.S. support for world federation even reached the White House itself. Two days after signing the UN Charter in San Francisco in June 1945, President Harry Truman gave a speech in Kansas City in which he talked instead about someday creating "a republic of the world." Three weeks later, during the Potsdam summit with Churchill and Stalin, a reporter asked Truman about that statement.

Truman took a small piece of paper from his wallet and read aloud from Tennyson's 1835 poem *Locksley Hall*: "Till the war-drum throbb'd no longer, and the battle-flags were furl'd, In the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world." Truman told the reporter that he had carried these words around in his wallet since he was a very young man.

Many members of Citizens for Global Solutions do similar things to this very day.



CGS Offers Free Membership to Young World Federalists

CGS is eager to increase our youth membership, while also supporting the Young World Federalists (YWF). To further this goal, the groups have decided to collaborate to support the next generation of world federalists. CGS hopes that these young people will become future leaders for our organization.

CGS is offering free membership to members of YWF who are under 30 and live in the US. The benefits to these members include:

- A free copy of the book "PlanetHood" by Benjamin Ferencz and Ken Keyes Jr. - a world federalist classic! (while supplies last)
- A subscription to the CGS Monthly Newsletter, The World Citizen
- An annual survey to help set direction for CGS and our programs
- An invitation to the Annual meeting of the CGS Action Network

If you are interested in this offer, go to www.ywf.world/join and join YWF. You will then receive a google form from YWF whereby you can become a member of CGS for free and sign-up to receive your free copy of "PlanetHood."

Dr. Lawrence Wittner is Professor of History Emeritus at SUNY/Albany, the author of "Confronting the Bomb" and a member of the Board of the CGS Education Fund.



Nationalism On The Decline

by Lawrence Wittner

Although, beginning in about 2015, nationalist political parties made enormous advances in countries around the world, more recently they have been on the wane.

The nationalist surge was led by a new generation of right wing populist demagogues who, feeding on public discontent with widespread immigration and economic stagnation, achieved startling political breakthroughs. Matteo Salvini of Italy, Geert Wilders of The Netherlands, and Marine Le Pen of France catapulted their fringe political movements into major party status. In Britain, Nigel Farage's United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) startled mainstream parties by winning a referendum calling for Britain's withdrawal from the European Union. Donald Trump, championing an "America First" policy, shocked political pundits by emerging victorious in the 2016 U.S. presidential race. Two years later, in Brazil, the flamboyant Jair Bolsonaro, campaigning under the slogan "Brazil Above Everything," was easily elected president of his country. In May 2019, Narendra Modi's BJP, a Hindu nationalist party, won a landslide election victory in India.

As an important leader of the right wing nationalist uprising in these and other nations, Trump forged close contacts with his overseas counterparts and pulled the U.S. government out of international treaties, as well as out of global institutions. "Wise leaders always put the good of their own people and their own country first," he admonished the UN General Assembly in September 2019. "The future does not belong to globalists. The future belongs to patriots."

Nationalism Losses

But, even as he spoke, the nationalist momentum was beginning to falter. In Europe, every nationalist political success during 2019 was matched by a defeat. Although in Spain, the small, anti-immigrant Vox Party gained seats, in Austria, the nationalist Freedom Party experienced major setbacks, while Britain's once-powerful UKIP and Greece's rabid Golden Dawn movement virtually disappeared. Meanwhile, in Turkey,

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's nationalist party suffered stinging election defeats in the nation's three largest cities.

Things went further downhill for the nationalists in 2020. A loss by Modi's BJP in Delhi that February added to its string of regional election defeats. In Italy, Salvini's Northern League suffered an election rout and the center-left Democratic Party replaced it in the coalition government. Meanwhile, in France, Le Pen's National Rally party went down to a resounding defeat in the July 2020 local elections and, in November, Brazil's Bolsonaro was humiliated when most of the candidates he campaigned for failed to win election. Perhaps the most significant nationalist defeat occurred that November in the United States, where Trump lost his presidential re-election campaign by 7 million votes and his radicalized Republican Party failed to recapture the House of Representatives, which it had lost in 2018.

This year, the nationalist defeats have turned into a rout. In January, Trump's Republicans lost special Senate elections, ending their party's control of the U.S. Senate. In March, Erdogan's political control of Turkey crumbled still further, as polls found support for his nationalist party slipping dramatically. This May, Modi's BJP lost another regional election.

Much the same occurred this June. In Germany, where the nationalist Alternative for Germany was projected to score an upset victory in a state election, it drew a disappointing 20.8 percent of the vote—not much more than half the percentage garnered by the Christian Democratic victors and considerably less than the total secured by the leftwing parties. In Brazil, clear signs emerged that the Bolsonaro regime, with record unpopularity, was tottering toward collapse. Finally, in France, where Marine Le Pen's party was predicted to have a good chance of triumphing in six of the country's 13 regional elections, it ended up defeated in every one of them.

As the nationalist tide has receded, governments have turned to reviving the international

institutions and agreements battered during the previous years. These include the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the Paris Climate Accords, and key nuclear disarmament agreements. In another sign of their willingness to engage in global action, major governments have proposed a global minimum tax on corporations.

How can this change in the fortunes of nationalist parties be explained?

Why is Nationalism Losing Strength?

One factor behind the political turnabout is that the style, policies, and behavior of some of the leading nationalist politicians set off alarm bells in the minds of many people and political parties about authoritarianism, and even fascism. Some of these politicians, in fact, displayed fascist tendencies and also encouraged violent, rightwing action by their supporters. Consequently, uneasy voters and parties, anxious to preserve democracy and political freedom, were willing to make political compromises, such as uniting behind the most electable alternative to the nationalist candidate.

Renewed Opportunity for Recognition of Global Problems

A deeper reason, though, is that, in a world faced with global problems such as a disease pandemic, climate catastrophe, a nuclear arms

race, and economic inequality, a nationalist approach doesn't make much sense.

Recognizing this, most of the public gravitates toward global solutions. A Pew Research Center poll in the summer of 2020 found that 81 percent of the 14,276 people interviewed in 14 nations thought that "countries around the world should act as part of a global community that works together to solve problems." Some 76 percent approved of the role of the United Nations in promoting human rights and 74 percent in promoting peace, while 63 percent said that the WHO had done a good job handling the COVID-19 crisis.

Of course, despite the recent setbacks experienced by nationalist parties, they are far from dead. They have succeeded in establishing themselves as part of the political landscape and today govern a variety of countries, including Brazil, Hungary, India, Poland, and Turkey. In the United States, the Trump-dominated Republican Party controls numerous state governments and stands a reasonable chance of recapturing control of the federal government.

Even so, the political tide has recently turned against nationalism and, consequently, possibilities have re-emerged for addressing global problems on a global basis.



What is a "United Federation of Nations"?

by Ron Glossop

The long-term goal of Citizens for Global Solutions is the transformation of the existing United Nations into a "United Federation of Nations". Such a change at the global level would be a transformation somewhat similar to the previous transformation that produced the United States of America.

When community governments decide that they would like to work together for common goals, the first step is often to form a confederation where all the governments of the member communities must agree to any proposed action and where any government

that does not like a proposal can simply withdraw from that confederation. Sometimes, however, they can decide to form a more closely united enduring organization called a federation where unanimity is not required but new rules/laws are adopted about what the new governmental organization may do and about what individuals in any of the joining groups cannot do. "Federalists" are those who favor such a transition from a confederation to a federation.

In 1787, American Federalists including individuals such as Alexander Hamilton,



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United Federation of Nations... – *continued*



George Washington, and James Madison persuaded their compatriots that the existing organization of 13 state governments based on the Articles of Confederation should be transformed into a national democratic federal government. The new U.S. Constitution described the officers of the new national government and the powers to be delegated to it while also noting that all other governmental powers were to

be retained by the 13 state governments. Adopting this Constitution made it clear that the existing confederation of colonial governments was to be changed into a federation, a real federal government called “the United States of America,” whose laws would apply to all individual persons and not just to the colonial governmental organizations being united under the new government.

As World War II came to an end in 1945, several World Federalists, vigorously supported by Albert Einstein and others, concluded that the devastating war and the new development of extremely powerful nuclear weapons demonstrated that it was time for the various national governments of the world to be united in a federal world government. The United Nations was being created, but it was only another confederation not very different from the earlier League of Nations that had failed to prevent World War II. The UN was a step in the right direction, but it just didn’t go far enough. The World Federalists argued that the whole world community should now follow the model of the U.S. Federalists and transform the confederal United Nations into a democratic federal world government.

That is the transformation of the United Nations into a United Federation of Nations that the world community needs.

Many Global Problems, One Global Solution

by Ron Glossop

Humanity confronts many huge global problems: too much inequality within and between communities, the ever-greater possibility of more global pandemics, threatening global climate crises, and too much readiness to use violence at every community level.

There are solutions.

Most communities, whether local, national, or regional rely on some kind of political authority/government to deal with the many problems the community must deal with. But what is the current political situation for the global community?

The League of Nations was a nice idea and failed.

The United Nations is a short step toward developing a global government to deal with global problems, but they are too easily blocked by powerful countries.

Humanity has moved from a focus on nationalism in the 15th through the 19th centuries to a focus on inter-nationalism in the 20th century. But now in the 21st

century it is time to move on to develop a global government to deal with the global problems of the global community.

In the late 18th century Federalists in Philadelphia succeeded in transforming the Articles of Confederation of the 13 colonies into the federal United States of America. About 60 years later Switzerland decided to make a similar change in its political structure. This kind of transformation has been so successful in both democratic national communities that many other nation-states decided to adopt federal political structures for their national communities.

During and especially after World War II, movements were begun by “World Federalists” to transform the new United Nations into a democratic federal world government in order to avoid World War III.

Unfortunately for the world community, this world federalist movement was pushed aside by the Cold War

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and struggles for dominant global power by some more powerful national governments. The many current global problems, not just the growing danger of a nuclear World War III, means that the views and efforts of the world federalist movement need to be reenergized and implemented.

The global community desperately needs a resurgence of this movement to transform the confederal United Nations into a federal democratic world government for the global community.

Why focus attention only on global problems that need to be addressed while paying so little attention to the global community's lack of an effective global government that could establish and, using only nonviolent methods, enforce the rule of law?

The global community needs a government such as other communities have relied on to deal with their problems.



An Interview with Jordan Bankhead

conducted by Peter Orvetti

Law professor and attorney Jordan Bankhead is promoting the cause of world federalism through a unique method: fiction.

Bankhead's novel *Chaos Magic*, published in May 2021, tells the story of an idealistic congressman who takes office in a near future when climate change and economic polarization have become imminent existential crises. As resources dwindle, resentments swell, and nations move toward war, protagonist James Branson guides leaders toward a declaration of a world federation under the auspices of the United Nations.

"Fiction is the medium I chose in order to describe a series of events that could lead to world peace," Bankhead said. "Of course, this has never happened before, so out of necessity the book had to be fiction."

In one of the book's many surprises, Branson is not a left-wing academic or a veteran peace activist, but a young Republican who has ties to the Tea Party.

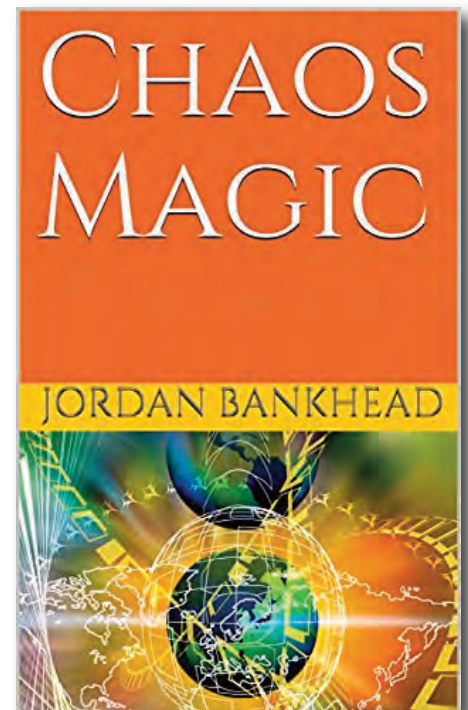
"Grassroots movements like the Occupy and Tea Party movements are important reactions against the excesses of uncontrolled and unregulated globalism," said Bankhead. "To the extent they represent the interests of groups left behind or adversely affected by globalization, their views and interests must be taken into account if any international collaboration is to lead to global political or economic unity."

Bankhead is realistic about the challenges an American politician would face in promoting world federalism. Branson's belief that world federation would benefit his conservative constituents and the nation as a whole puts him at odds with powers inside both major parties, and leads to his bid for re-election ending in defeat..

"World federalism is a loaded concept that is difficult for most domestic voters to stomach," Bankhead said. "I think it would be difficult for an openly world federalist candidate to get elected to Congress today. Not impossible, but very difficult."

Ultimately, it takes global cataclysm for Branson to achieve his vision. Appointed as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations by a desperate president, Branson overcomes the resistance of both major powers and small nations as nuclear war looms.

"In the current environment it would be very difficult to achieve global political unity without a cataclysm," said Bankhead. "Just as World War II led to the UN, it would probably take something as world-shaking to lead to world government. As long as great powers and a small number of rich countries control things, it is unlikely they would voluntarily give up their power without a great global crisis that leaves them little other choice, as described in the book."



Chaos Magic is available from Amazon in paperback and Kindle ebook formats





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Please join us. The Citizens for Global Solutions Education Fund, formerly the World Federalist Association, has stood for international peace and security since 1947. Our mission is to educate and advocate for a democratic federation of nations with enforceable world law to abolish war and global violence in the resolution of disputes, protect universal human rights and freedoms, and restore and sustain our global environment.

You can reach us by leaving a voicemail at 202-546-3950 (we will call you back), sending an email to outreach@globalsolutions.org, or writing to us at:

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