

Toward Democratic World Federation

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WHY CAN'T ISRAEL BE LIKE SINGAPORE?

by John O. Sutter

Singapore, an Anglo-Chinese state of some 4 million, occupies only 618 sq. km. (239 sq. miles) of land and lies in the middle of a region dominated by countries with Muslim majorities. In 1964-65, one of its neighbors, Indonesia, had even conducted an armed "Confrontation" against Malaysia, including Singapore.

The Chinese have been called the Jews of Southeast Asia because of their business acumen. But in other ways, the Singaporeans have been far more successful in governing their state and maintaining friendly relations with their neighbors than the Jews of Southwest Asia. Both of their territories had once been British colonies whose original inhabitants were of another nationality. Like the Chinese, who had migrated into the island of Singapore, where the natives were Malay, most of the Jews of Israel migrated into Palestine, where most of the natives were Arab.

Both Singapore (a "Straits Settlement" from the early 19th Century) and Palestine (a League of Nations Mandate) were de facto British colonies. By 1959 Singapore was largely self-governing, and in 1963 it joined with the Federation of Malaya and two British colonies on Borneo into a new federation, Malaysia. In 1965 it peacefully seceded from Malaysia and became an independent **secular** nation-state, remaining on good terms with its neighbor to the North. With the fall of the Indonesian autocrat, Sukarno, and his Communist collaborators in 1965, relations with Indonesia, its other neighbor, also became friendly.

Maintaining good relations with its neighbors, Singapore is now a major emporium for Southeast Asia and one of the world's leading seaports. By the 21st Century its gross domestic product per capita was \$24,000. This was achieved primarily through its own efforts, with little aid from the United Kingdom or any other country. Furthermore, it has been a founding member of ASEAN, the regional Association of South East Asian Nations.

In contrast, the planned twin births of the State of Israel with Judaism as its official religion and a *secular* State of Palestine with Muslim and Christian Arabs were rocky

even before the U.N. decision in 1947 to do what the British had failed to do — namely, partition Palestine into two states with Jerusalem as an International City.

Thanks in part to its natural boundaries, there was no dispute over how much the Government of Singapore would control. Not satisfied with the U.N. partition giving a major portion of Palestine to its minority population, Jewish militants (considered as terrorists by the British and Arabs) in 1948 drove out half the Arab population in the territory assigned to the Jewish state and proceeded to conquer half of the remaining territory assigned to the Palestinian Arab state. The rest of Palestine (the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza strip) was invaded and occupied in 1967, when Israel struck and seized parts of Egypt and Syria in what they labeled a "preemptive attack." (Such a justification was used by Israel's backers in the U.S. government for the attack on Iraq in 2003.)

Instead of continuing to bully its Palestinian subjects and remain on a belligerent status with its neighbors, wouldn't Israel prosper by following the example of Singapore? If it accepted the offer of the Arab States and returned to its 1949-1967 boundaries (which still gave it almost three-quarters of the Palestinian Mandate) and removed its colonies from land confiscated from the Palestinians since 1967, it could finally look forward to a peaceful life. Once Israel finally adopted a constitution and provided equal rights for all its citizens, it might — along with democratic Lebanon, Palestine and Turkey — help develop a Middle Eastern federation, as advocated by World Federalist Lucio Levi of Torino.

Israel should send some of its brightest students to study in Singapore and learn how it handles its international relations. It should also send some students to learn from Indonesia, which, despite having the largest Muslim population of any country, has a *secular* government and no official religion. Indonesia, incidentally, is becoming a democratic federal republic, where its citizens of various ethnicities generally live peaceably among one another. □

Toward Democratic World Federation

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The Purposes and Objectives of Democratic World Federalists are:

A. To promote an understanding of the principles that:

Common Humanity

The people of the world, as interconnected members of a common humanity, must recognize that the well-being and safety of anyone should be of concern to everyone.

Global Problems & Benefits

The people are confronted by global problems, such as war and civil conflict, crimes against humanity and anarchy, large-scale poverty and disease, and degradation of the environment. These can be dealt with, and peace and the well-being of the people promoted, through enforceable world laws.

Sovereignty & Citizenship

The people, as sovereign citizens, are inherently endowed with the authority and the duty to govern themselves, either directly or through elected representatives, on all levels of society and ultimately the world. As citizens, they should respect the rule of law, which their civic participation creates and legitimizes.

Good Government

The government of all political units must be open, democratic, and accountable to the people and have effective legislative, executive, and judicial branches, with checks and balances.

Federation

Planet Earth, with unity in its diversity, requires a democratic, federal system of government, where problems from local to global are dealt with by governments at the appropriate level.

Constitution

A world constitution with a declaration of rights should be promoted by any means possible, e.g., restructuring and democratizing the United Nations, federating a number of regional unions, expanding a community of democracies, or building a new set of institutions of government through a world convention.

B. To develop an organization/movement without borders and spread its message throughout the world via contacts with other civil-society organizations, educational institutions, the media, lawmakers, and the general public.

Mark your Calendar!

Sunday, 8 October: Democratic World Federalists Autumn Meeting of Board of Directors: 12 Noon, brown-bag lunch; 1 p.m. meeting starts; at Willow Park Clubhouse, 500 West Middlefield Road, Mountain View, CA. Board Members and other Supporters interested in participating, please phone 1-415-227-4880 or send e-mail to dwfed@dwfed.org for directions. Note the new location!

26-28 October World Federalist Movement Annual Meeting of Council, New York City.
For details, e-mail Elizabeth Garrett, garrett@wfm.org.

Announcement!

We have designed a colorful new Website. Please visit us at <http://www.dwfed.org>.



U.S. Power Decline — Sine Qua Non of DWF? by Peter Bailey of Ottawa, Canada

If American global power declines, will that help or hinder moving toward democratic world federation? I believe there are at least two ways of looking at this.

The first is that a relative decline of U.S. power would be in any case a normal expectation as other regional powers grow in political and economic stature. Indeed, my assumption is that in the coming decades democratic regional federations will gradually emerge in Africa, Latin America and elsewhere, and that all existing regional and continental powers will eventually embrace both political democracy and true federation. That sequence of events will, I believe, lay the essential foundation for democratic federation for the whole planet later in the century.

However, the second is that the decline of U.S. power is likely to be more precipitous than it might have been if it had heeded the example of major and minor powers throughout history whose leaders pursued political, military, economic and hence financial policies, which led inevitably to their own decline, if not downfall. In short, to the dismay of its friends, the U.S. has become its own worse enemy. The quasi-imperial hubris factor is now a familiar theme, but more specifically the yawning twin deficits, fiscal and trade, are a testament to the shortsighted folly of too many of the country's political and corporate leaders and the selfishness of too many of its rich and powerful. They have put the country in a financial predicament, which is dangerously vulnerable to an extraneous event, and from which there is no easy escape.

Will such a decline or, conceivably, collapse in U.S. power help or hinder progress towards democratic world federation? Many will say it can only help, because the currently dominant side of the U.S.' split personality is hostile to virtually all the international initiatives and multilateral institutions that are trying to pave the way to that ultimate objective. Nevertheless, since the U.S. in its alter and better ego is needed in innumerable ways for the ultimate achievement of that objective, its approaching discomfiture will be a passing phase in historical terms, and after a period of adjustment and introspection it should eventually emerge from the ordeal wiser, leaner and ready to roll. □

Peter Bailey, member of the Democratic World Federalists Board of Directors, also heads the World Federalist Foundation of Canada.

Demand World Government! by Errol E. Harris of Ambleside, England

Surely no genuine World Federalist would fail to endorse the purposes and objectives listed in the Winter 2006 issue. Yet, it is apparent from the contributions to *Toward Democratic World Federation* that not all World Federalists favor the same tactics for fulfilling these ends. It should be obvious that we should combine in supporting the same strategy if we are ever likely to succeed.

And what struck me was that the requirements mentioned in the note From the President's Desk are all provided in the **Constitution for the Federation of Earth**, except that for the strict separation of executive and legislature, it substitutes a third Chamber of Experts to advise the other two legislative Houses, to scrutinize the proposed legislation and, when necessary, to modify it.

To ratify that Constitution, personally and as an Association, should clearly be the common strategy of World Federalists, and ratifying the Constitution does not commit anybody irrevocably to all its details, as it provides explicitly for amendment if petitioned by a sufficient body of electors or of elected representatives, and for periodic revision.

Also, those who advocate a gradual process of reform of our present so-called World Governance by successive small steps – each of which is both unlikely to occur, and, if it did, would take years to develop into something nearer the mark – invariably overlook the fact that **genuine World Government is decades overdue**. We cannot afford to lose any time if we are to escape major catastrophe from global warming and climate change, or from nuclear proliferation and possible nuclear holocaust, or from both.

Certainly, if current sovereign regimes of the nations were offered the Constitution for the Federation of Earth they would reject it out of hand, but if a widespread popular demand for it could be generated, they could be forced to comply, whether they were democratic or not. The changes that occurred in Eastern Europe after the collapse of the Soviet Union could serve as an example. □

Errol E. Harris, Professor Emeritus, taught Moral and Intellectual Philosophy at Northwestern University.

“Genuine World Government is decades overdue.”

Local Efforts for a Global Goal – The Work of Sapiens

by Hugh Steadman of Blenheim, New Zealand

As an indirect consequence of the American and British invasion of Iraq the idea of the **Sapiens Movement** was born, founded by Hugh Steadman, a New Zealand businessman, who had served as a British Intelligence Officer in the Middle East. When he first realized that the USA was not simply bluffing, but was actually going to invade Iraq, he also understood the likely consequences of such folly. It became clear to him that the dysfunctions of the present anarchic system of global governance, essentially in place since the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648, were increasing rather than decreasing under the impact of economic globalisation. He understood the danger humanity was now in, and joined the struggle to rectify the situation. For this, he abandoned his business commitments and set up Sapiens to advocate democratic global governance.

Due largely to its subsequent discovery of, and contacts with other mundialist organizations, Sapiens, having started without knowledge of mundialism, has experienced a rapid learning curve. It now has a plan as well as a manifesto!

There are many different approaches to how a system of democratic global governance can be brought about. No one can, at this stage, be certain as to which approach or combination of approaches will ultimately lead to success. However, it is inevitable that whatever route a mundialist organization chooses to follow, it cannot help but raise the awareness of mundialist issues in the minds of the general public — and thereby contribute to the common goal. Sapiens is therefore happy to cooperate with other organizations pursuing different routes to the same objective. To this end, it is currently cooperating with the International Simultaneous Policy Organization (Simpol) to establish Simpol-NZ.

Within New Zealand, Sapiens' own chosen route is that of the International Treaty Process (ITP) as proposed by Professors Richard Falk and Andrew Strauss. Initially, the ball is set rolling by persuading twenty to thirty selected national governments to surrender key aspects of their national sovereignty to a supranational democratically elected body set up between them. Chief among the rights surrendered will be that of waging war and the freedom to damage environmental areas held in common with others. As the initial ITP is successful, other governments will be persuaded by their citizens to join the cluster. This seems an appropriate strategy for a small nation in the South Pacific with a multiple vote (MMP) electoral system.

Though Sapiens has only forty-odd members at the moment, it is working, by such means as supporting local environmental issues, to build up a grassroots organization with branches in major cities across New Zealand. Another initiative is to attempt to recruit to the mundialist cause, people who are already active in other NGOs. These organizations, tackling poverty, peace issues, and environmental matters are specialising in the treatment of individual symptoms of the disease that is currently infecting all humanity. It is a disease that only mundialist solutions will cure. Mundialists are therefore the natural allies of activists in such NGOs. Sapiens' first move in this direction has been to establish an information clearing-house for NGO's seeking a just and peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (<http://www.sapienspromise.org>).

Like the Democratic World Federalists, Sapiens is also an Associated Organization of the World Federalist Movement. □

Hugh Steadman is founder of the Sapiens Movement Inc., an NGO dedicated to achieving democratic world government. Visit their website at <http://www.sapiens.org.nz>.

Electoral College — Overcoming the Conundrum

The Founding Fathers originally favored direct popular election of the president but decided otherwise, due to implementation issues. Since the early 1800s, however, about 500 proposals to amend the U.S. Constitution relating to the presidential election process have been put forth.

As such a reform by a constitutional amendment is a Sisyphean task, recently former Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., and former presidential hopeful John B. Anderson, R-Ill., a D.W.F. Supporter, proposed an elegant alternative solution.

The idea they put forth is to have each state legislature pass an act to ensure that all their electoral votes would be cast for the candidate who receives the largest number of popular votes in all the states. This should not go into effect until the electoral count of the states going along with the plan reached 270, a majority.

If the New York Legislature acts, other states may follow suit, and this plan could snowball into meaningful change in presidential elections. □

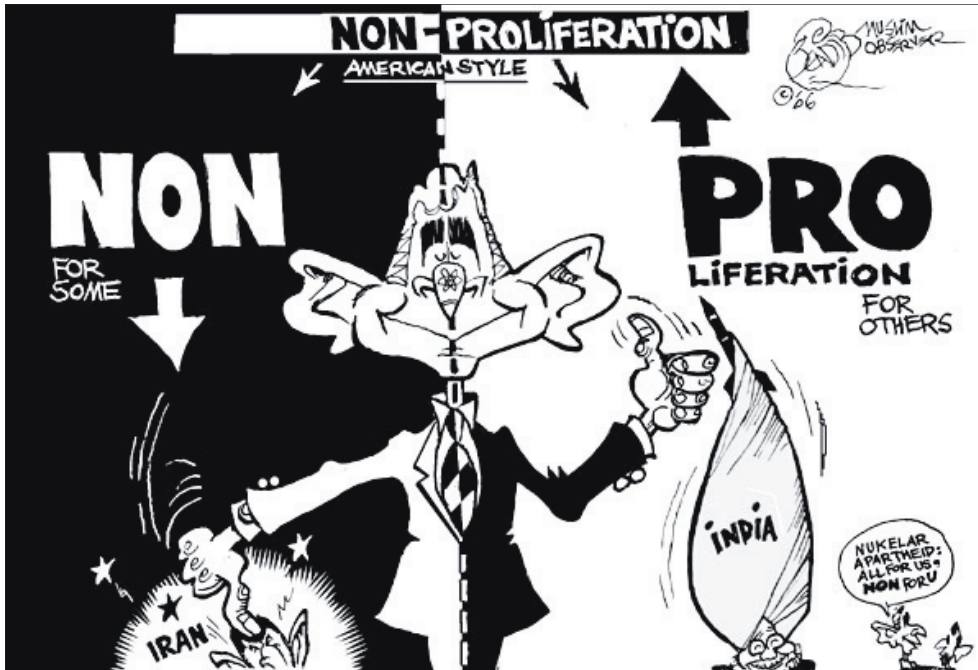
From an article published in The Buffalo News, 19 June 2006, by Henry N. Stahl Jr.

World Federalist Voices against Nuclear Proliferation

21st Century Arms Race Inevitable?

The current pressure on Iran by the Security Council has been directed by the United States in order to prevent the Iranian regime from developing its nuclear industry. Though nuclear energy has valuable uses, nuclear weapons are only instruments of mass destruction.

On the other hand, the Bush Administration is applying a double standard in its global nuclear policy, when one looks at the bilateral agreement with India last March. Under this deal, India will receive U.S. nuclear fuel and technology for civilian purposes, while letting international institutions monitor its reactors. However, according to a former head of Indian intelligence, India is now able to produce 50 more nuclear warheads a year. The newly acquired technology will allow extraction of existing uranium



Courtesy of Studio Bendib

reserves, which could be deployed for military as well as civil use.

This situation, in turn, only increases international discord and regional instability. Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich (D-Ohio) emphasized these risks when introducing legislation (HR 950) to abolish all nuclear weapons. “In the Hindu religion Brahma, the creator, Vishnu, the preserver, and Siva, the destroyer, exist simultaneously and represent the multiplicity of God. Today we are going to be called upon to determine which of the principles — creator, preserver or destroyer — shall work through each of us.”

Although prominent scientists such as Albert Einstein and J. Robert Oppenheimer opposed further use and development of nuclear arms after 1945, broad public awareness did not rise until the late 1970s. To appease sporadic opposition and avoid widespread concerns of society, nuclear powers signed the Test Ban Treaty in 1962, followed by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which

was signed in 1968. Yet, the latter is increasingly ignored by the governments with military power. And the promises of stopping the nuclear threat, renewed at each conference thereafter, failed to induce nuclear states to produce positive results. Rather, *their signed commitments to take steps towards complete and general disarmament are disregarded.* Treaties that are supposedly sacrosanct are quietly tucked away and not discussed, and war becomes a habit that is too hard to break.

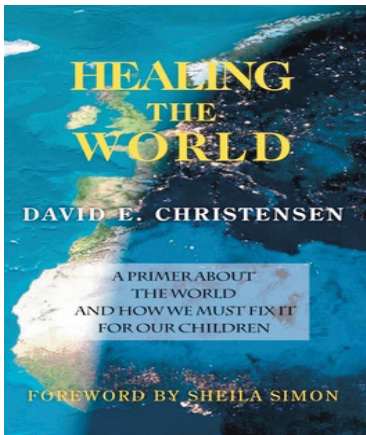
The rise of recent terrorism has only increased this danger. The great unlearned lesson of 9/11 is that no number of nuclear weapons can make us safe from a surprise nuclear attack by a few outlaws, using so called “dirty bombs.” The main component used, depleted uranium, is a byproduct of enriching natural uranium for use in nuclear reactors and is relatively easily available.

To make matters worse, national governments such as the United States in Iraq or Israel in Lebanon have currently been employing these weapons. And as usual, it is civilians who suffer most, for the affected areas will remain contaminated for centuries.

Under the above circumstances, only worldwide nuclear disarmament can offer that security. It is time that nuclear powers abide by their commitments and make the first step toward a better, peaceful future, free from any nuclear threat. But with nuclear powers justifying their arsenals in their own self(ish) interests, can nuclear disarmament be achieved before we have a democratic world federation? □

World Federalist John Roberts of Littlehampton, England, and D.W.F. Supporters Everett Refior of Whitewater, Wisconsin and Hank Stone of Ionia, NY contributed to this article.

Reviews of Books by World Federalists



HEALING THE WORLD

by David E. Christensen,
Lincoln, NE: Universe,
2005.

Review by Ronald J.
Glossop

David Christensen writes this book as a follow-up to Senator Paul Simon's 2003 book *Healing America*, which the politician, due

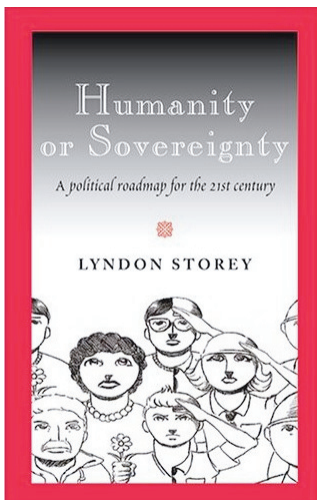
to his death, could not accomplish. Although Christensen starts from Paul Simon's ideas and quotes him extensively in this book, he does not hesitate to go beyond them. He notes that Simon "did not mention world government" in his books, but there is no doubt that Christensen believes that the big problems of our time such as war and militarism, unrestrained economic exploitation of the poor, and widespread destruction of the environment, require Limited World Government for their solution.

Healing the World is not meant to be a scholarly book,

but it is nevertheless full of facts and insights about the human situation, helping the reader to see where we are now in the context of our human history and what we would be able to achieve in the future if we use our intelligence and adopt wise policies. It is full of quotations highlighting critical ideas, appendices succinctly summarizing important points, and references on valuable detailed information sources. The book also addresses three major current problems: war, growing economic disparity due to corporate power, and ruination of the environment, which are presented clearly and in a very engaging manner to educate and challenge the reader's critical thinking.

This is followed by the proposed solution of Limited World Government and its historical evolution, along with three scenarios of how we can go from where we are now to where we want to be in the future. These possible paths to world government are: (1) modifying the U.N., (2) generating a worldwide "people's initiative," and (3) creating a world federation of democracies only. Christensen also lists and responds to the various obstacles to implementing world government, including opposition

continued on next page



HUMANITY OR SOVEREIGNTY: A POLITICAL ROADMAP FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

By Lyndon Storey (New
York: Peter Lang, 2006)

Review by Joseph P.
Baratta

Lyndon Storey is a philosopher who has taught international relations and philosophy in Australia and China. His book is an exposition

of a new political philosophy, called "potentialism," which begins with the potential in every human being for empathy with others and ends with the logic of establishing a "legitimate international political system." He sees potentialism as a new, "complete" philosophy, improving on the "unknowable and abstract" theory of social contract of Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau with the "reality and humanity" of compassion for others that makes all society possible. Moreover, where they did not imagine

that the state, internally at peace, could avoid war with neighboring sovereign states, Storey methodically sets out the argument for creating not a world state or federation, which is the "future ideal," but a more modest and transitional "legitimate world system" that would practically end war. He thoroughly condemns today's nationalism, racism, imperialism, and religious extremism, which cripples every person's natural identity with all humanity, reducing human beings to murderers and victims, exploiters and fugitives, and he boldly asserts that "the world today is one vast illegitimate political system and must be changed."

Storey starts with our potential, among others, for "empathy with others ... [which] sometimes leads us to developing moral ideas and behavior toward others." It seems surprising that Storey does not consider various alternative views of basic human nature, such as that man is basically aggressive, as Freud held, or acquisitive, as Adam Smith did. Although this book is not far from the liberal tradition, which aimed to create governments protective of human liberty as the condition of man's fulfillment, Storey never quotes from the *Federalist Papers*, whose authors held a dark view of human nature.

continued on next page

“Healing the World” continued from page 6

from the military, short-term materialistic egoistic thinking, resistance from those who presently hold power, antagonism from religious fundamentalists, fear that a leveling of incomes would occur, voter apathy and cynicism, and wide differences in culture.

Throughout the book there is a strong moral tone, which can be illustrated by an example: “If we are to achieve a better world ... the most important change must come in our hearts and minds. We must do things that will enhance the lives of all people, not just ourselves ... Changes should not further aggrandize or enrich corporations, CEOs, or particular national governments. ... And whatever we do, we must do it with fairness and justice — without rancor or violence — to unlock untold opportunities for our children and those who follow in all parts of the world.”

Most uplifting is Christensen’s chapter titled “Nineteen

Hopeful Signs,” which support his hope and optimism against those who say that world government is not possible no matter how useful it would be in improving the human condition. He notes, “If masses of people were keenly interested in world government after World War II, it can happen again”.

Given all the worthwhile quotations and the many ideas and materials presented, one must be especially grateful for the index, which facilitates finding them again. *Healing the World* is the kind of book of information and inspiration that world federalists will not only cherish for themselves but also want to give to their friends. □

David E. Christensen is Professor Emeritus of Geography at Southern Illinois University - Carbondale.

Ronald J. Glossop is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Peace Studies at Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville, author of Confronting War and World Federation? A Critical Analysis, and member of the D.W.F. Board of Advisors.

“Humanity or Sovereignty” continued from page 6

“Why has government been established at all?” Hamilton asked in No. 15. “Because the passions of men will not submit to the dictates of reason and justice without constraint.”

Homo homini lupus. Man is a wolf toward man. Certainly we do have a potential for compassion, but we also have potentials for cruelty and crime. How can a philosophy be based on something so vague as “potentials”? Storey repudiates Kant’s philosophy of moral imperatives. His view is that a less absolute, more transitional philosophy is needed to guide suffering humanity toward a better-governed world. It is enough that we build on our potential for good, not that we aim at a perfect society based on love. He goes beyond the realist position that, however peaceful well organized states are internally, in their external relations with each other one must assume human aggressiveness. These relations, too, can be brought under the rule of empathy and identity with humanity. Later Storey shows that, if human depravity were general, it would lead to social pathology and the impossibility of the family or any more inclusive society, but he never gives credit to the rule of law as the cause of peace among fractious humanity.

Storey attempts to bring all our various complaints about the present course of world politics under one principle. We object to killing foreigners, not only innocents

by collateral damage but even uniformed soldiers who are often conscripts loyal to their country, for one of the Ten Commandments says “Thou shalt not kill.” We object to torturing prisoners and spying on Americans because the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides new standards.

Our empathy with fellow human beings is the root of what he calls **legitimacy**. Storey derives this term not from the Latin, *lex*, what is lawful, that is, based on the absolute moral law, but treats it in the modern way as the “justification or at least approval” of a government. He comes close to calling it *consent*, the legitimacy of democracy since Locke. His own formulation, I understand as “equal opportunity to develop our human potential.” By such a test, Storey develops his goal of a legitimate international political system. He foresees a gradual rather than revolutionary, and a formal (constitutional and legal?) rather than merely normative approach to such a consummation devoutly to be wished. The slow progress of the European Union is the model. Storey calls his goal a Human Union and promises to help activists to achieve it. □



Lyndon Storey

Joseph P. Baratta, a historian and author of Politics of World Federation and former head of the World Federalists’ New York Office, is a D.W.F. Supporter.

Lyndon Storey, now of Perth, Australia, is a member of the Democratic World Federalists Board of Directors.

9/11 – The Myth and the Reality

David Ray Griffin Speech at the 2006 D.W.F. Good Government Luncheon-Lecture

On April 2, Professor David Ray Griffin¹⁾ gave a remarkable speech at the Democratic World Federalists' annual Good Government Luncheon-Lecture on what he believes was a new Pearl Harbor.²⁾ Despite having been a Professor of Religion, Philosophy, and Theology, he has spent much time and energy over the past few years researching what occurred on September 11, 2001 and its consequences. His book, *9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions* (2005), analyzes the official account of the event, juxtaposing several myths with reality. For this, he introduces two definitions of the term myth: (1) "an idea that while widely believed, is simply false" and (2) a philosophical definition, in which it serves as a mobilizing story for people. The focus lies not on the story's relation to reality, but on its function. The Bush Administration, for instance, used the attacks as a means to promote its global war on terror, thus using it for a specific purpose. Griffin, in his lecture, referred to the first meaning of the word, the pejorative sense of myth. What are these false allegations in the official account of 9/11?

One of the most common myths is that American political and military leaders simply would not use terrorist attacks against their own citizens.³⁾ However, in 1962 the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff drew up *Operation Northwoods*, a scheme to have an American civil airplane blown up over Cuba as justification for invading Cuba.

Another myth is that our political and military leaders had no motives. Yet, after the Cold War throughout the 1990s neo-conservatives, who produced the *Project for the New American Century*, including Cheney, Wolfowitz, and Rumsfeld, had been promoting a major expansion of the military budget and establishing a global Pax Americana, the first all-inclusive empire in history. However, they knew that the American public would not accept this without a massive external threat, such as a new Pearl Harbor. And immediately after 9/11, Rumsfeld — the War Secretary — boasted of the "opportunity" that it presented to refashion the world.

Thus, it is hard to believe that the terrorist attacks on September 11 came as a surprise to the White House. Griffin was particularly referring to the unprofessional Secret Services reaction, when President Bush heard about the news at a photo op in an elementary school in Florida. "It is standard procedure for the Secret Service to rush the President to safety whenever there is a slightest sign of danger," he pointed out. Yet, Mr. Bush remained in this

location talking about a pet goat for another thirty minutes.

Moreover, why weren't the hijacked planes intercepted by U.S. fighter jets, as had occurred by the North American Aerospace Defense Command within minutes a hundred times a year under less stringent circumstances? Were the reports of "stand-down" orders on 9/11 true?

Another widespread myth concerns the collapse of the World Trade Center. Theories that fires melted down the steel structure and eventually led to the disintegration of the entire framework, were contradicted by current empirical and scientific evidence. Skyscrapers that were ravaged by fires in the past did not collapse, and the igniting of kerosene could not have generated temperatures hot enough to cause a meltdown of the steel columns. Moreover, the straight-down free fall of the Twin Towers was similar only to what happens to buildings with controlled demolitions, and dozens of witnesses reported hearing explosions in the buildings. These explosions and the difficulty of explaining the collapse later of Building 7, despite being spared from the debris of the Twin Towers, were omitted from the 9/11 report.

Last but not least, the 9/11 Commission, presumed to be independent and impartial, consisted of members, who had conflicts of interests, especially Executive Director Philip Zelikow. Not only has he had many positions in the Bush Administration, but he was also the primary author of the bellicose 2002 National Security Strategy calling for preemptive warfare. Without any Cabinet member publicly defending the government's contradictory story, "reality" slowly but surely turns into a myth.

From all this, the conclusion is that the American people need a truly independent commission to investigate what really occurred up to and during 9/11.⁴⁾ □

Notes:

¹⁾ He is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, Religion, and Theology at the Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, California.

²⁾ See his *The New Pearl Harbor*, 2004.

³⁾ For an example of how another Administration allowed a "surprise attack" from "A" to justify launching war against country "B" in order to support country "C," see *Day of Deceit: The Truth About FDR and Pearl Harbor*, New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001 by D.W.F. Supporter Robert B. Stinnett.

⁴⁾ At the time of publication, members of the 9/11 Commission were starting to speak up about possible lies (myths?) given to them by the military authorities.

D.W.F. Annual Meeting

On Sunday, 2 April, for the first time, the **Democratic World Federalists** held their Good Government Luncheon-Lecture and Annual Meeting at the Unitarian-Universalist Center of San Francisco. During the meeting, Directors **Urs Cipolat**, **Fred Duperrault**, **Esther Franklin**, and **John O. Sutter** were reelected to terms ending in 2009; **Robert Gauntt** was elected to fill a term ending in 2008, and former Director **Eric Schultz** for one ending in 2009.

The Board then reelected John Sutter as President, Mary



D.W.F. Annual Luncheon guests

Harris as Secretary, and Roger Kotila as Board Chairman. Eric Schultz was elected Treasurer, and Lyndon Storey as Vice President, but with his

return to Australia, Fred Duperrault was chosen again to be Vice President. The Board agreed to seek more ways to publicize the D.W.F. message. □

Federalists with Anti-Federalist Proposals

In the name of one of the Founding Fathers, James Madison, the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies, a Washington-based nonprofit organization, is promoting conservative and libertarian ideas.

Despite Madison's concern about an all too powerful federal government, he truly believed in a federation in order to bring peace and stability not only *vis-à-vis* the British crown, but also among the newly created states. Thus, he became the primary promoter of the U.S. Constitution and the current federal system.

This organization, known simply as the Federalist Society, however, distorts these ideals and supports the views of extremists like Phyllis Schaffly. Although officially the Society doesn't take a stance on anything, a major goal is to place its members in control of the judiciary. Throughout its literature and at its forums it endorses reactionary measures on civil rights, national security law, telecommunications law, and an obsolete principle of sovereignty.

By referring to an anachronistic notion of federalism, the think tank entirely ignores the **dynamic character of federal structures**, which have evolved over time and will continue to serve as the fundamental institutional and democratic structure of the U.S., and hopefully as a model for a global government in the future. □

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THE PLACE OF WOMEN IN AFRICAN SOCIETY

By Jean-Paul Pougala of Torino, Italy

I would like to draw attention to a very crucial point for all of us: the status of women in our society. The objective of the **African Federalist Movement** is International Democracy and International Justice. Yet, how can we talk about justice if we don't face, and solve small gender-related injustice among us? This problem is especially prominent in Africa.

Those of us in the AFM have worked for many years, striving for partial solutions and promoting equal representation within the top ranks of our own organization. In doing so, we have sought to make ourselves an educational and pedagogic model for changing the prevailing old-fashioned mentality regarding women's rights. Among its ten commission members, the **African Union** counts five female members.

While building the next **United States of Africa**, the Federalists are also pushing to have the first African woman president. In the same way, we supported the candidacy of the new President of Liberia, **Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf** (see photo), who has just become the first female head of state of an African country. Now that the first president



of the Pan-African Parliament is a lady, **Gertrude Mongella** of Tanzania, we are advocating that all countries adopt a law on gender equality in their national parliaments. This should also be implemented by the global African parliament and serve as a case in point for the structures of the World Federalist Movement. Could we prepare new statutes to guarantee a female presidency of the organization?

We should not miss this chance to lead by example and show other organizations that this issue plays an important part in the larger quest for globally recognized human rights and international justice. □

Jean-Paul Pougala, a representative of the African Federalist Movement, is a WFM Councillor.

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DEMOCRATIC WORLD FEDERALISTS

55 New Montgomery St., Suite 225
San Francisco, CA 94105-3421
Phone & Fax: 1-415-227-4880,
Email: dwfed@dwfed.org
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"The Democratic World Federalists represent the future of the World, if the World is to have a future."

— Paul White of Los Altos, California

