



Toward Democratic World Federation

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MARION McVITTY: PEACE SECURED BY WORLD FEDERATION AND DISARMAMENT

by Barbara Walker and Lydia Walker

Marion Hazard McVitty (1912-1971), a well known personality at the United Nations, also well known there at the time of her death, served as official U.N. Observer for the World Movement for World Federal Government. A native of Providence, she had grown up in Rhode Island, attended Oxford University for one year and then the Yale University Drama School. Her first husband, Alfred Starr Etcheverry was killed during the Second World War; her second husband, Edward McVitty, who had also worked to promote World Federalism, died in 1971.

Pivotal political moments can be personal ones. One evening during World War II, Marion McVitty, then living in New Haven, was listening to the radio. On that program, the commentator Dorothy Thompson was urging her listeners to read, really read, the *Federalist Papers* as a political, not just a historical document. Curiosity piqued, McVitty read right through and immediately became a “federalist.” Reading *the Federalist Papers*, such as #2, where John Jay states that, **“Nothing is more certain than the indispensable necessity of government, and it is equally undeniable, that whenever and however it is instituted, the people must cede to it some of their natural rights, in order to vest it with requisite powers.”**

Thus, Marion “thought of federalism in universal terms.” From the “Papers,” she took James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay’s thesis that a strong national government is necessary for internal national stability and applied it to the world: The end of world security threats (world peace) might only be secured through a world federal government. The death of McVitty’s first husband in the final days of the war and the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki solidified her realization of the necessity for a world federation and the hopelessness of working alone on the task. She became a prominent speaker for Americans United for World Federation, looking for a merger among world government organizations; she sought and found support for world federalism among unions, church and women’s groups. A personal realization became a public quest.

McVitty believed that it is only through a strong world federation where international disputes are settled by peaceful procedures that true national security could become a reality. “That is the only realism in today’s world. **Those who would maintain the present system that has repeatedly generated wars and could continue to do so are misleading us by calling themselves realists.**” She countered critics who denounced world federalism as futile and naïve: “Any society [the U.S. for example] can be set up under laws so that their people can reap mutual benefits from their interrelationships, and any conflicts that arise between them may be routinely settled by peaceful legal procedures.” She did not just see the world as it is, she also saw how it should be and worked to make the two pictures congruent.

Marion McVitty began her active federalist career in the summer of 1945, as Director of the Speakers Bureau of Americans United for World Government. She became actively involved with the merger of a number of world government organizations and, following this, was named Director of the Speakers’ Bureau of the newly founded **United World Federalists (UWF)**. She then became Director of UWF’s Organizational Liaison. Through her work there, Marion McVitty gained the support of nearly 50 U.S. non-governmental organizations with which she worked actively as an official observer at the U.N. Thus, in the 1960s, as past chairman of the Conference Group of U.S. Organizations for the U.N., she produced “A Comparison and Evaluation of Current Disarmament Proposals,” published by the World Law Fund in 1964 – the same time as her appointment to be Assistant to the UWF President. There she served as liaison between Central and Regional Policy Committees while doing a lot of public speaking for UWF. In work, she clarified essential federalist principles for U.N. Charter amendment and set a standard for later World Federalists. From the series, *New Federalist Papers*, published by the World Federalist Educational Fund, her pamphlet “Wanted: Rules to Guide U.N. Peace-Keeping Operations of the Future” lays out a compelling set of guidelines. McVitty’s fine booklet, *Preface to Disarmament* was published 1968/69 by the Public Affairs Press of Washington, D.C. Here she describes the realities at the time, quoting U Thant, then U.N. Secretary-General: “We are witnessing today only what I would call the mad momentum of the arms race. We should all realize ...that the human community is at a very critical crossroad... The choices before it are to either escalate the arms race or to march toward general and complete disarmament which was the unanimous decision of the General Assembly ten years ago.”



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The Purposes and Objectives of Democratic World Federalists are:

A. To promote an understanding of the following principles:

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.



The Board of Directors welcomes Debbie!

Debbie Metke was elected onto the D.W.F. Board of Directors at its 2008 annual meeting.

Debbie first heard about World Federation in the early 80's when she lived in San Francisco for 4 years, but didn't re-discover it until the early 90's, when she saw a blurb in the Milwaukee paper saying "Peace Through World Law." She immediately became involved.

In 1997, she moved to Washington DC and worked as Executive Assistant to the President for the World Federalist Association. In 2001, she moved back to Milwaukee and soon became President of the Milwaukee WFA chapter.

Debbie has also produced three different cable TV shows on the subject, interviewing Milwaukee's former World Federalist Mayor for one. Her main objective is to simplify the message for the masses, attract a younger crowd and get mass media coverage, probably through finding celebrity spokespeople.

Along with Debbie, Peter Bailey, Tad Daley, Mary Harris, and Shahriar Sharei were re-elected onto the Board of Directors for 3-year terms ending in 2011. The four officers were re-elected for 1-year terms, as Mr. Sharei became a Vice President.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

DEMOCRATIC WORLD FEDERALISTS

Sunday, 12 October: Autumn 2008 Meeting of the Board of Directors. 12 Noon, Brown-bag lunch; 1 pm., meeting starts. Room 221, 55 New Montgomery Street, SF.

Directors, supporters, and others interested in participating RSVP 1-415-227-4880 or dwfed@dwfed.org. Latecomers ring "#225" at intercom by building's front door.

WORLD CONSTITUTION & PARLIAMENT ASSN.

5-10 January 2009: 11th Session of the Provisional World Parliament, Kolkata, India. For details see www.worldproblems.net or www.wcpa.biz

A League of Democracies? by Colin Campbell of Berkeley

Senator John McCain, presumptive Republican Party Nominee, addresses The Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace at Stanford U., May 1st, 2007

Shashi Tharoor, former UN Under-Secretary General, writes a counter-argument to McCain's proposal in *The Guardian* newspaper, May 27th, 2008

Senator McCain begins his speech to the conservative public policy think tank by pointing towards the changing nature of world order. Threats to liberty, McCain argues, have not ceased with the Cold War and continue in the form of modern terrorist networks and “rulers trying to rebuild 19th-Century autocracies in a 21st Century world.” He lambasted China and Russia for supporting dictatorships in “pariah states.” The following quotations are from his speech:

“We should go further [than NATO] and start bringing democratic peoples and nations from around the world into one common organization, a worldwide League of Democracies. This would not be like the universal-membership and failed League of Nations of Woodrow Wilson but much more like what Theodore Roosevelt envisioned: like-minded nations working together in the cause of peace. The new League of Democracies would form the core of an international order of peace based on freedom. It could act where the UN fails to act, to relieve human suffering in places like Darfur. It could join to fight the AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa and fashion better policies to confront the crisis of our environment. It could provide unimpeded market access to those who share the values of economic and political freedom, an advantage no state-based system could attain. **It could bring concerted pressure to bear on tyrants in Burma or Zimbabwe**, with or without Moscow's and Beijing's approval.”

“This League of Democracies would not supplant the United Nations or other international organizations. It would complement them. But it would be the one organization where the world's democracies could come together **to discuss problems and solutions** on the basis of shared principles and a common vision of the future. If I am elected president, I will call a summit of the world's democracies in my first year to seek the views of my democratic counterparts and begin exploring the practical steps necessary to realize this vision.”

“When our nation was founded over two hundred years ago, we were the world's only democratic republic. Today, there are more than 100 electoral democracies spread all across the globe. We must reaffirm our faith in the principles that our founders declared to be universal, that all people are created equal and possess inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We fought a Revolution, a Civil War, two World Wars, and a Cold War to vindicate these principles and ensure that freedom could be enjoyed, as Abraham Lincoln promised, by all people of all colors everywhere. We were right to struggle for democracy then, and we are right to do so now.

This is not idealism, my friends. It is the truest kind of realism. Today as in the past, our interests are inextricably linked to the global progress of our ideals. The vision of a new era of enduring peace based on freedom is not a Republican vision. It is not a Democratic vision. It is an American vision. The American people have known instinctively for two centuries that we are safer when the world is more democratic. Whatever our differences, we all share the same goal: a world of peace and freedom, of prosperity and opportunity, of hope. We have a duty to ourselves to be true to those beliefs, to use our great power wisely on behalf of freedom. As Ronald Reagan proclaimed in his speech to the British Parliament in 1982, ‘Let us go to our strength. Let us offer hope. Let us tell the world that a new age is not only possible but probable.’”

Tharoor first identifies the negative ramifications of directly excluding Russia and China. One of McCain's key justifications for a League of Democracies is the power of Moscow and Beijing's vetoes to impede the United Nations Security Council. However, Tharoor believes that Russia and China, given their size and significance, are a necessary part of any worldwide scheme of peace and prosperity. These two countries are overtly left out of this league in direct opposition to the democratic world. Particularly troubling, Tharoor sees **the potential of a counter-alliance forming against the league**: “Instead of encouraging their gradual democratisation, wouldn't we be reinforcing their sense of rejection by the rest? Might the result be the self-fulfilling prophecy of the emergence of a league of autocracies with these two at the helm?”

Tharoor further questions whether the world's democracies would even be willing to join this League of Democracies. He states that they would not “if the price were the alienation of vital trading partners, resource suppliers or simply neighbours who happen to be non-democracies...Many democracies have other affinities that are as important to them.” Responding to “delusional” claims of more effective humanitarian aid in cases like Darfur and Myanmar, Tharoor flatly states, “such interventions have not occurred because they are impracticable.” Relief was not delivered to Myanmar and Darfur because the military juntas in power directly resisted efforts. **The league would not be any more effective with aid unless its member countries were willing to go to war to do so**, risking more damage in the process than the humanitarian assistance later heals.

The article then reviews the notion that the league, lacking Russia and China, would be far more streamlined and capable of action. Tharoor points out that “it is in the nature of democracies to differ, to argue among themselves, and to be responsive to the very different preoccupations of their own internal constituencies.” He cites the example of South Africa during the height of apartheid. Had a league of democracies existed then, and its members wanted intervention against the apartheid state, Tharoor doubts that the United States would have conceded to take action against its own wishes.

The legitimacy of all democracies arrives from the consent of the governed. When government actions occur abroad, outside of the government's sovereignty, that legitimacy disappears. “The reason that decisions of the U.N. enjoy legitimacy across the world lies not in the democratic virtue of its members, but in its universality. The fact that every country in the world belongs to the U.N. and participates in its decisions gives the actions of the U.N. – even that of a security council in urgent need of reform – a global standing in international law that no more selective body can hope to achieve.”

Tharoor points out that there are many potential obstacles to McCain's idea, but his alternative is simply to reform a fundamentally ineffective league, the U.N. **Both ignore the true cause of global inaction: the confederate framework and absence of world law**. The Burmese junta can block humanitarian relief while Robert Mugabe arrests his political opponents, for neither answers to a higher authority. Within McCain's or Tharoor's visions for the future, nationalist leaders will still use their countries as despotic playgrounds under the concept of absolute and unquestioned sovereignty.

First Principles - The Sovereignty of the People

First Principles is the authority and legislative power of People to create and alter governments, constitutions, charters, and laws. First Principles is the essence of the collective action of individuals organizing society into a polity.

The use of First Principles is the first step whenever People come together to establish or re-establish a society. It facilitated the founding of our country: with the Mayflower Compact, the New England Town Meetings, the Virginia Declaration of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the United States. The founding generations of the United States experienced first-hand the power to create and alter their governments, constitutions, and laws.

James Madison of Virginia pointed to the primacy of First Principles on August 31, 1787, at the Constitutional Convention in response to Daniel Carroll of Maryland, who had asserted that there was no way to amend the Maryland Constitution other than by what was contained therein.

“The difficulty in Maryland was no greater than in any other States, where no mode of change was pointed out by the Constitution, and all officers were under oath to support it. The people were in fact the fountain of all power and, by resorting to them, all difficulties were got over. They could alter constitutions as they pleased. It was a principle in the Bills of Rights that first principles might be resorted to.”

In those words [the preamble of the Constitution], it is agreed, and with every passing moment it is re-agreed, that the people of the United States shall be self-governed. To that fundamental enactment all other provisions of the Constitution, all statutes, all administrative decrees, are subsidiary and dependent. All other purposes, whether individual or social, can find their legitimate scope and meaning only as they



conform to the one basic purpose that the citizens of this nation shall make and shall obey their own laws, shall be at once their own subjects and their own masters.”

Alexander Meiklejohn, 1960

Earlier, on June 6th, at the Constitutional Convention, **James Wilson** of Pennsylvania, second only to Madison in fashioning the Constitution, described the context of our republican structure:

“The Legislature ought to be the most exact transcript of the whole society. Representation is made necessary only because it is impossible for the People to act collectively.”

Wilson was acknowledging the obvious impossibility of assembling great numbers of People from distant geographic areas to operate a polity. These physical limitations determined the structure of our government in 1787.

The Framers relied on First Principles, the direct use of the People’s sovereignty, to create our government. But, given that technology was lacking to overcome the great distances of Colonial America in assembling the growing numbers of People, they had no choice but to build a representational structure as the legislative branch designed into the Constitution.

With respect to legislation, the Constitution addresses procedures only for the exercise of the government’s legislative powers. Those powers, along with all other limitations on government, are sandwiched between the bookends of First Principles: the Preamble of the Constitution: “We the People... do ordain...” and the self-enacting ratification power of Article VII.

Obviously, the Constitution does not and cannot limit the powers of its creator – the People. The People can at any time exercise First Principles to amend the Constitution and enact a law establishing legislative procedures to legislate in an orderly fashion.

The views of James Wilson at the time of our founding are instructive in this regard:

“All power is originally in the People and should be exercised by them in person, if that could be done with convenience, or even with little difficulty.”

Today, modern technology permits the People to exercise their legislative powers “in person...[and]...with convenience.”

First Principles is the essence of the voluntary electoral process employed by the nonprofit public benefit corporation **Philadelphia II** to permit like-minded citizens to amend the Constitution by ratifying the Democracy Amendment and enacting the Democracy Act as a federal statute. By these actions, the People establish procedures through which they can exercise their legislative power in an orderly and deliberative manner. Learn more at the National Initiative for Democracy’s website: www.NI4D.us

It is important that, using First Principles, the People rather than the Congress, will be enacting the Democracy Amendment and the Democracy Act. In doing so they will be following the good advice articulated by James Madison at the Philadelphia Convention on June 5, 1787:

“For these reasons as well as others, he [Madison] thought it indispensable that the new Constitution should be ratified in the most unexceptionable form and by the supreme authority of the People themselves.”

and on July 23, 1787:

“These changes would make essential inroads on State Constitutions... and in the case of these, a ratification must of necessity be obtained from the People.”

A Legislature of the People, which may seem radical to some, is the essence of the self-government exemplified by our Constitution. **Alexander Meiklejohn**, the great constitutional scholar, stated it thus:

“The citizens of this nation shall make and shall obey their own laws, shall be at once their own subjects and their own masters.”

“People can decide with as much propriety on the alterations and amendment [to the Constitutions] which shall be found necessary, as ourselves, for I do not conceive that we are more inspired, have more wisdom or possess more virtue than those who will come after us” - George Washington, 1787

Citizen Power: a Mandate for Change

by Mike Gravel

reviewed by Esther Franklin of Sacramento

Readers of this new edition of *Citizen Power* should take the time to read the back cover carefully before beginning the book. It is a good review of the accomplishments of U.S. presidential candidate Mike Gravel and the service he already has given our country. In the introduction, he emphasizes that the problems which he “defined” in the 1971 edition not only have not gone away; they have grown “considerably worse.” He feels, however, that “some of my views had matured and changed, requiring new and different solutions.”

The volume is organized in twelve chapters; the title of each is suggestive of the content. “The War on Drugs” and “National Environment & Energy Policy” are examples. Following each chapter is a page that summarizes problems in focus and some suggested solutions. These clear, one-page summaries highlight the usefulness of *Citizen Power*. “America’s Triumphal Imperialism,” is one which should be required reading in all classes in American Government.

Former U.S. Senator Gravel, not unexpectedly, feels that Chapter 2, “**The National Initiative for Democracy**,” is the most important of the twelve chapters. Appendices A and B detail the mechanics of the procedure that must take place for citizens’ empowerment. Though Gravel’s initial degree from Columbia University (he has four honorary degrees) was in economics, he states that he has left out the entire economics section that was in the initial work, “because I cannot begin to do justice in the amount of time I have available.” He does, however, include a chapter containing his “Fair Tax” proposal. (This is full of ideas and proposals bound to raise questions and discussion!)

This reviewer spent over thirty years as a professional (kindergarten to university level) in Public Education. She continues to be closely involved via daughters who are teachers and through observations of five grandchildren who have attended public schools. While she is in agreement with many of the ills described in the “Closing the Education Gap” material, she would not concur with a number of the remedies listed on the “America’s Failure in Education” page.

Democratic World Federalists may find Chapter 11 “**Global Governance**” the one they want to recommend to colleges, children and grandchildren who are college students. Reward these young adults for reading page 128 to you aloud! Copy the summary page, “Global Governance,” and put it on your refrigerator. Contemplate the Franklin D. Roosevelt quote which Gravel chose to begin the chapter: “More than an end to war, we want an end to the beginning of all wars—yes, an end to this brutal, inhuman, and thoroughly impractical method of settling the differences between governments.”

Better still, go to your Public Library and suggest they order Gravel’s 2008 book. You will, of course, already have been to your favorite bookstore or website to order a copy.



Oklahoma Declares Sovereignty

by Colin Campbell of Berkeley

Oklahoma Joint House Resolution 1089: “The State of Oklahoma hereby claims sovereignty under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States over all powers not otherwise enumerated and granted to the federal government by the Constitution of the United States.” The resolution passed overwhelmingly in the Oklahoma State House of Representatives (93-3) but was sent to linger (and probably die) in an Oklahoma State Senate rules committee. The declaration of sovereignty is not a secession but rather a strongly-worded “cease and desist” order to the federal government.

The Tenth Amendment actually states: “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, *or to the people*.” Skeptics of this resolution might ask why “the people” are not mentioned. Additionally, in 1789 both houses of Congress rejected the insertion of the word “expressly” before “delegated” in the Tenth Amendment.¹ This would seem to take out at least some of the Constitutional foundation for Oklahoma’s claimed right to “sovereignty.”

Oklahoma State Representative Charles Key authored this declaration in March this year. In 2007, he also authored what *USA Today* called “arguably the nation’s toughest state law targeting immigration.” The law, titled “Oklahoma Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act,” denied all state services to illegal immigrants. Unfortunately for Key, a federal court later struck down his law. Key has directly said in interviews that this court decision, in addition to other federal actions, prompted him to create this resolution.

Key, a Republican representing the southwestern suburbs of Oklahoma City, interestingly also left out any mention of Native Americans. Oklahoma, its own name a Choctaw word, is home to hundreds of thousands of Native Americans. Many tribes have autonomous governments, like the Cherokee Nation, with their own constitutions and branches of government. While Oklahoma’s “sovereignty” does not necessarily require the mention of autonomous sub-regions, it is an odd omission.

Oklahomans for Sovereignty and Free Enterprise (OK-SAFE) represents as formal an organization as exists supporting Oklahoman sovereignty. Its website boldly defines sovereignty as “complete independence” and further states that “OK-SAFE sees a concerted, dedicated and well funded effort by Social and Economic Elites to transition the United States from a Representative Republic to a Socialist Group Democracy and finally into a World Governmental Structure.” It is odd that the group uses the U.S. Constitution to assert state sovereignty and yet fights for “complete independence” which would imply the rejection of any larger body of law, like a constitution.

It would be unfair to use this somewhat conspiratorial website, which is not officially linked to the resolution, to completely define Key’s beliefs. That fairness requires not quoting OK-SAFE or its affiliates endlessly here. But the movement for Oklahoman sovereignty seems to be more intrinsically linked with anti-immigration, anti-NAFTA, and anti-“Super Highway” than with anything else. Thus it would not be completely unreasonable to accuse some of the backers of using Oklahoman sovereignty as a tool to legislate nationalist hispanophobia.

¹ *Annals of Congress*, 767-68, 1789, (defeated in House 17 to 32); and B. Schwartz, *The Bill of Rights: A Documentary History*, 1150-51, 1971, (defeated in Senate by unrecorded vote). <<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/data/constitution/amendment10/>>

Japan and Transforming the United Nations

by Francisco Plancarte of Guadalajara, Mexico

After a short meeting with John Sutter and Shahriar Sharei of Democratic World Federalists in San Francisco, California, I took the plane to Japan to attend the 1st World Conference of Researching Realization of the World Federation June 24th -28th, 2008, organized by **Dr. Rikio Kaneko**, Representative of the Academic Society of Sapporo University, Japan.

Mr. Tanadori Ogino, Vice-President of WFM Japan, provided an excellent historic review of the World Federalist Movement-Japan since the end of World War II to our present time. Along with other Japanese panelists, he mentioned the remarkable resolution of the Japanese Parliament in favor of World Federalism.

Dr. Klaus Schlichtmann, Historian and Project Manager of "Movement for U.N. Reform 2007" (Centenary of the Second Hague Peace Conference) and Lecturer of Nihon University, made an interesting analysis regarding Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, which represents a historic precedent of a nation-state determination to abolish war and give up the absolute sovereignty concept, that would certainly help to understand and accept a world federal government by all nation-state members of the U.N.

Arnau Muriá, Professor of International Law at the University of Guadalajara, presented a very interesting paper titled "The Role of the International Court of Justice in the Transition towards World Federalism." He concluded that if the ICJ could survive the League of Nations there is no doubt that it may survive the U.N.; whether federalism comes fast or slowly, the ICJ will have a role in achieving World Federalism. He also felt that although not ideally equipped, there is no institution better equipped than the ICJ to handle structural and legal disputes related to a World Federation.

Anastasia Makarova, young federalist from the Siberian Institute of International Relationship and Regionology and Member of the Preparatory Committee of the World Federation Governance, presented the conclusions of a survey made in her research among students 19-21 years old. This research is an effective instrument for making people aware of the necessity of a world federal government. Besides that remarkable work she presented a draft titled "Statute of World Federation of Youth Association."

Adrián Pulido, a law student from the University of Guadalajara endorsed working with the World Federation of Youth Association and committed himself to promote that association among the students in Mexico.

Professor Rikio Kaneko presented a draft Charter of the World Federation Governance which contains a substantial proposal for an outstanding supranational structure and "The Union Statute of the World Federation Party," that in the future may be a valuable instrument to promote World Federalism. Article 1, Paragraph 2, of such document mentions cooperation with the **World Alliance for Transforming the U.N. (WATUN)** and also expresses concern about the failures the existing international system, where the citizen's fundamental rights and those of the States are not sufficiently guaranteed

because of the lack of general international legislation and abuses of the vetos by the Security Council's permanent members. Besides that, the U.N. International Court of Justice does not have, in principle, jurisdiction when there is not an agreement between the parties, and international society is far from a community governed by the "rule of law".

I had the opportunity to represent Planetafilia, A.C., a Mexican NGO that has been working on the proposal for U.N. transformation into a World Federation of Nations. Planetafilia was invited as an Associated Organization of WFM and as the Secretariat's head of WATUN. We analyzed the theory that based on the 1945 U.N. Charter, it is impossible to enforce any reform to the Charter without the unanimous consent of the five veto-carrying members of the Security Council (Art. 108). It is also claimed that if there were an intention to modify the Charter through a General Conference (Art. 109, Par. 2), it would be a waste of time for the same reason that the modification or alteration of the Charter itself, could be vetoed by any of the five Permanent Members.

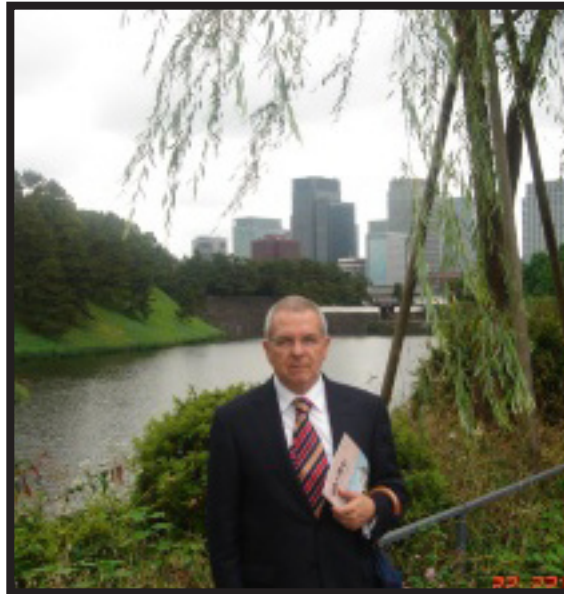
Contrary to that theory one can avoid the veto of the five permanent members, through a call of the General Assembly, not to reform or alter the U.N. Charter, but **for its entire review** according to Article 109. As a consequence of such review, it is possible to start the procedure of transformation of the U.N., based on the well-known principles of international law (*ius cogens*) and particularly the right of self-determination of peoples, recognized by the Preamble of the 1945 San Francisco Charter.

This means that during the transformation process of the U.N., the Charter remains without any alteration and all the organic structure and programs of the U.N.

will continue all their ordinary activities, until the new supranational entity would be instituted and legally empowered.

At the end of the Conference, June 28th, Professor Rikio Kaneko presented a draft Sapporo Declaration, which was signed by participants at the Plenary Session held in Toyako, Hokaido Island, Japan, where the G8 Summit would later be held on July 7-8, 2008.

Finally, I expressed my gratitude to the University of Sapporo and my deepest recognition that Japan is not only a rich culture, but a great civilization in favor of world peace through law and world federal government, as was already approved by a landmark resolution in the Japanese Parliament.



BOOKMARK THIS

Hungering for more world government news? Can't wait for the next quarterly? **WorldPeaceNews.org** - Get the latest news tidbits right here. Many D.W.F. members are on the Editorial Advisory Board.

ThePeopleAlone.org - Check out the project to allow citizens of Massachusetts to exercise their right of self-government with a limited Federal Union of Democratic Nations.

Southeast Asian Regional Cooperation

by John O. Sutter of San Rafael

The **Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)** is one of the oldest regional organizations and has been active in Southeast Asia since 1967. That year, after Indonesia's bloody "Confrontation" against Malaysia had ended with the fall of Sukarno, a nucleus of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand formed ASEAN. The Founding Fathers were the foreign ministers: **Adam Malik** of Indonesia, **Abdul Razak** of Malaysia (also Deputy Prime Minister), **Narciso Ramos** of Philippines, **S. Rajaratnam** of Singapore, and **Thanat Khoman** of Thailand. Initially it was formed to promote trade and economic cooperation, but soon sports and cultural activities proliferated.

Over the years, Brunei and then Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar (Burma), and Cambodia were added, with Papua-New Guinea given observer status. Additionally, East Timor is a candidate member. Because of the brutal military junta ruling Myanmar, it has been the association's prodigal son, and the only ASEAN member yet to host a formal summit.

A number of formal and informal (governmental and non-governmental) conferences and organizations have been set up in the ASEAN nations over the years. Furthermore, neighboring countries have gradually played a greater role. In June 2008, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), was launched in Jakarta, with the prospect of becoming an East Asian version of Europe's Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). ERIA was proposed by Japan, which has offered to cover most of its operational costs.

Also in June 2008, Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd proposed going beyond ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and launching a broader Asia-Pacific Community.

In January 2008 the distinguished Thai scholar-politician, **Surin Pitsuwan** (an American-educated Thai-Muslim and former Foreign Minister of Thailand) became the new Secretary-General of ASEAN for a five-year term. One of his first tasks was the ratification of the new ASEAN Charter by all members. Ratification would turn ASEAN into a rules-based legal entity with the aim to commit the region's disparate nations to human rights and democracy, while setting out the principles and rules for members.

As of July 2008, Singapore, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, and Vietnam have ratified the charter, while Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and reportedly Myanmar are in the process of doing so. Full ratification is expected by August. Filipino President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had declared that her country would reject the ASEAN Charter if Myanmar refused to release democratic activist Aung San Suu Kyi or rejected calls for democratic reforms.

Asked whether ASEAN will tolerate Myanmar human rights abuses to increase the probability of ratification, Pitsuwan told *Agence France-Presse*, "There are ways of going around...thorny issues."

Meanwhile, civil society leaders who met in Singapore in November 2007 at the Third ASEAN and Civil Society Conference, called for the launching of an ASEAN People's Charter. They plan to launch a campaign for the People's Charter if the actual ASEAN Charter fails to address the aspirations of civil society.

Revolution in Space?

by John O. Sutter of San Rafael

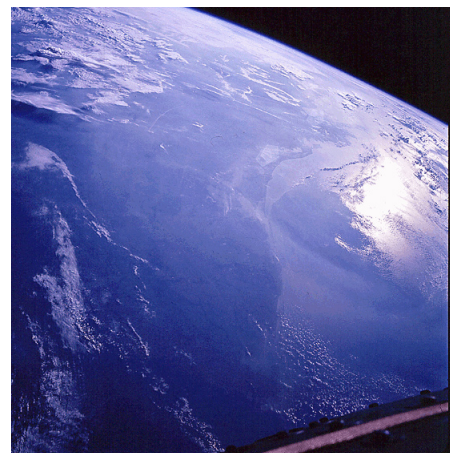
Since 1957 the United States and the Soviet Union competed in launching vehicles into outer space, but more recently two countries – the U.S. and Russia --have cooperated with an international space station. At the same time, Canada, China, India, Japan, and the United Kingdom have been working on space vehicles. Meanwhile, many countries have thrown orbiting satellites – communication, weather, and spy satellites – up into space. All this has resulted in lots of space "junk" orbiting and occasionally plummeting to earth.

On the 1st of July 2008, French President Nicolas Sarkozy took over the rotating presidency of the European Union. The French intend to make European space policy and the European Space Agency key areas for reform. According to a French official, as reported by BBC: "The United States, Russia, China and Japan would not do what they do in space without a political motivation; Europe has only had a scientific motivation until now. So... beside the scientific pilot, let us have a political pilot, too, which will be the E.U. because there is only the E.U. that can speak at that level."

Initially, France hopes to have the United Kingdom as its partner in this endeavor. But some space projects, such as the Galileo satellite-navigation system, are deemed so fundamental to the future economic well-being of the E.U. that the driving force to implement them comes direct from the European Commission in Brussels.

Meanwhile, ideologues in the Project for the New American Century have been promoting the idea that the United States not only should be *primus inter pares* among the countries active in space, but it should absolutely control space for military/security purposes. It should also be able to shoot down orbiters of other countries, a necessity prompted by China's 2007 anti-satellite missile test. In February 2008, the U.S. succeeded in shooting down a malfunctioning military satellite with a ship-fired missile.

International cooperation or potentially deadly competition? "Federalism and the Right of People to Self-Government," a World Federalist document crafted by Councilors of the World Federalist Movement in the 1990s (available from Democratic World Federalists). It calls for disputed and uninhabited territories, including Outer Space, to be administered by a restructured and democratized United Nations. **Ultimately, we feel, this should be the jurisdiction of a democratic world federation that looks out for the welfare of all of the Earth's people.**



The Great Experiment: The Story of Ancient Empires, Modern States, and The Quest for a Global Nation

by Strobe Talbott, reviewed by Ronald J. Glossop of St. Louis

Strobe Talbott, president of the Brookings Institute, provides us an excellent overview of human political history enriched by personal experiences and comments, all organized to show how humanity is slowly but surely creating ever larger political units to the point where now the next step is a creation of a global nation, a politically unified community that encompasses the whole Earth. Talbott gave us his general viewpoint in his 1992 article in *TIME* when he said, "I'll bet that within the next hundred years...nationhood as we know it will be obsolete; all states will recognize a single, global authority". He now adds, "I have qualified my forecast somewhat, but not in essence". The book's vast historical sweep is also evident in the three parts into which the 405-page survey is divided: "The Imperial Millennia" (roughly up to 1914), "The American Centuries" (roughly up to the end of the Cold War in 1990), and "The Unipolar Decades" (from 1991 to the present). There are also another 71 pages of notes.

This book is a dramatic erudite narrative of human history told by a top-notch American scholar with an insider's view of current events. Strobe Talbott and Bill Clinton shared a house while both were Rhodes Scholars at Oxford University, and Talbott later was asked by Clinton to be his Deputy Secretary of State.

World Federalists will especially enjoy reading Chapter 10 titled "The Master Builder," which covers the end of World War II, the beginning of the United Nations, and the all-too-brief flourishing of the world federalist movement. Most readers will be surprised to learn that **Harry Truman**, from the time he graduated from high school in 1901, carried a scrap of paper in his wallet on which were written 12 lines of **Alfred Lord Tennyson's** poem "Locksley Hall," including the lines "Till the war-drum throbbed no longer, and the battle-flags were furl'd, In the Parliament of Man, the Federation of the World." Talbott notes that "Truman recopied this text by hand as many as forty times during his life" and remarked, "Notice that part about universal law. . . . We're going to have that someday. I guess that's what I've really been working for ever since I first put that poetry in my pocket".

The negative reaction of world federalists to the U.N. plus their arguments for a radical change are exemplified in this quotation from **Albert Einstein's** September 1945 letter to J. Robert Oppenheimer: "The wretched attempts to achieve international security, as it is understood today by our governments, do not alter at all the political structures of the world, do not recognize at all the competing sovereign nation-states as the real cause of conflicts. Our governments and the people do not seem to have drawn anything from past experience and are unable or unwilling to think the problem through. The conditions existing today force the individual states, for the sake of their own security based on fear, to do all those things which inevitably produce war. At the present state of industrialism, with the existing complete integration of the world, it is unthinkable that we can have peace without a real governmental organization to create and enforce law on individuals in their international relations. Without such an over-all solution to give up-to-date expression to the democratic sovereignty of the peoples, all attempts to avoid specific dangers in the international field seem to me illusory."

The book also contains several statements that suggest that world federalist ideas are having some influence in unexpected places. For

example, in his 1948 classic, *Politics Among Nations*, realist political theorist **Hans Morgenthau** observed that "the argument of the advocates of the world state is unanswerable. There can be no permanent international peace without a state coextensive with the confines of the political world [and] a radical transformation of the existing international society of sovereign nations into a supranational community of individuals." In 1992, **Ronald Reagan** said that he could foresee "a standing U.N. force – an army of conscience – that is fully equipped and prepared to carve out human sanctuaries through force if necessary." In his 2006 farewell address U.N. Secretary-General **Kofi Annan** said, "The United States has given the world an example of a democracy in which everyone, including the most powerful, is subject to legal restraint. Its current moment of world supremacy gives it a priceless opportunity to entrench the same principles at the global level."

Talbott provides interesting inside accounts of crucial events and international meetings during the years of the Clinton administration as well as an insightful analysis of the actions and views of individuals in the current Bush administration. His last chapter, "The Crucial Years," focuses on the upcoming U.S. Presidential election and the policies Talbott believes the United States should adopt as well as the issues that must be addressed. "The next administration should... waste no time in demonstrating that respect for international law is once again part of the bedrock of U.S. foreign policy." There should be greater support for the U.N., but beyond that "the U.N. needs to be incorporated into an increasingly variegated network of structures and arrangements--some functional in focus, others geographic; some intergovernmental, others based on systematic collaboration with the private sector, civil society, and NGOs." The United States should "encourage regional organizations to develop their own capacities as well as habits of cooperation with one another and with the U.N. itself." Also "ensuring a peaceful 21st Century will depend in large measure on narrowing the divide between those who feel like winners and those who feel like losers in the process of globalization."

With regard to the most urgent problems to be tackled Talbott points to "two clear and present dangers. One is a new wave of **nuclear-weapons proliferation**; the other is a tipping point in the process of **climate change**. These mega-threats can be held at bay in the crucial years immediately ahead only through multilateralism on a scale far beyond anything the world has achieved to date." Talbott concludes with this comment: "By solving [these] two problems that are truly urgent, we can increase the chances that eventually . . . the world will be able to ameliorate or even solve other problems that are merely very important. Whether future generations make the most of such a world, and whether they think of it as a global nation or just as a well-governed international community, is up to them. Whether they have the choice is up to us."

It seems to this reviewer that Talbott strays from his own basic insights when he suggests that the nuclear proliferation problem might be resolved by multilateralism on a grand scale in the absence of a prior revolutionary change to the global nation system (that is, to a world federation) which would substantially restrict national sovereignty.

Remember Radford: Building a New World

by Roger Kotila of Novato, California

About 200 activists converged May 22 - 25, 2008 for a "Building a New World" Conference on the campus of rural Virginia's Radford University nestled in the Appalachian Mountains. Participants were described as "leaders from many of the major efforts for peace, justice, and green economy solutions."

The impetus for the meetings, sponsored by PROUT, were concepts from the Indian philosopher P.R. Sarkar. PROUT stands for Progressive Utilization Theory, which advocates "maximum utilization" of resources for the benefit of all, economic cooperatives, and a holistic outlook -- "One World, One Humanity, One Family."

Such concepts fit well with the democratic world federation model as drafted by the World Constitution and Parliament Association whose Earth Federation/Earth Constitution strategy was highlighted in a panel discussion "Civilian Democratic Earth Federation" with Radford's Professor Glen Martin (author of *World Revolution Through World Law*), Roger Kotila (Chair, Democratic World Federalists), Chuck Woolery (DWF Board Member), Eugenia Almand (Provisional World Parliament), and others.

A position paper by Dr. Kotila was given to all conference participants advocating the democratic world federation strategy for solving critical world problems such as war while making the point that the individual has in the United Nation's current global/U.N. system. Without taking away from the U.N.'s beneficial service, we must look beyond the present global system toward building a new world body parallel to the U.N. -- an emerging Earth Federation.

Activists were encouraged to cite the Earth Constitution as part of their authority for their antiwar, human rights, and environmental projects. They were reminded that "Because nuclear weapons are always lurking, their elimination requires a united world with world law...and federation is the only practical alternative."

Exposure of the world federalist message went to an impressive variety of participants, including Cindy Sheehan (antiwar Gold Star Mother); Adam Kokesh (*Winter Soldier*); Ellen Thomas (Washington, DC Peace Center). William Blum (author, *Rogue State*); Michael Parenti (author, *Against Empire*); Father Roy Bourgeois (School of America's Watch to stop torture). Steven Alten (author, *The Shell Game*); Professor Jim Fetzer (9/11 scholars). Alice Lovelace (World Social Forum); J.W. Smith (Institute for Economic Democracy); Professor Ravi Batra (*The Myth of Free Trade*); Keith McHenry (Food Not Bombs); and Kathy Kelly (Voices for Creative Nonviolence).

The ultimate importance of the meetings at Radford for world federalism remains to be seen. Many activists and organizers have kept federalism at a distance -- with fears about the "new world order," a world dictatorship, or worries that individual freedoms and local democratic control would be curbed. Some have doubted that such a unified world could ever be accomplished.

But the fact of such a close collaboration and outreach between the organizers of this conference and World Federalists must be seen as a strong omen for real progress in the future.

Those who fear democratic world government are often unaware of the vast difference between the current global/U.N. (undemocratic) system with its shadow world government, and the Earth Federation/Earth Constitution (democratic) system designed for "we, the people." They may now understand better how the Earth Federation could end undemocratic domination by the elites, and increase local control and individual freedoms.

If we succeeded at Radford in opening the door to the advantages of democratic world federation over the present global system, we will truly be able to say, "Remember Radford!"



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40 Years Later, Nuclear States Still Haven't Kept Promises

by Ted Daley of Los Angeles

This year is full of bursting with remembrances of the many historic events that took place during the epochal year of 1968: The Tet offensive in Vietnam. The assassinations of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy. And, on Christmas Eve, the flight of Apollo 8 from the Earth to the moon, bringing humanity its first glimpse of our single, borderless, breathtaking planet, lonely and fragile and whole, suspended among the blazing stars.

Yet the 1968 anniversary that we celebrate today may have consequences greater than any of these. Forty years ago today, in Washington, London and Moscow, world leaders signed the **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**. The grand bargain of the NPT was that the non-nuclear weapon states agreed never to produce or acquire nuclear weapons, and the nuclear weapon states agreed eventually to get rid of theirs.

On July 1, 1968, our government committed itself to negotiate the elimination of its entire nuclear arsenal – and, with the other nuclear weapon states, to abolish nuclear weapons from the face of the Earth forever.

Indeed, the nuclear weapon states have repeatedly restated their intention to fulfill that promise. The treaty entered into force in 1970. At the 25-year NPT Review Conference in 1995, the nations committed again “to systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons.” At the 30-year NPT Review Conference in 2000, the commitment was reiterated. And the World Court concluded unanimously that the NPT had created “an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects.”

And so **the great issue facing the NPT regime today is how much longer the “have-nots” will keep their end of the bargain if the**

“haves” do not even move toward fulfilling theirs. The evidence of recent history - and common sense – is not promising.

The Bush administration has concentrated enormous diplomatic firepower on keeping North Korea and Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. However, at the same time, it is proceeding to build a “reliable replacement warhead” that will eventually replace every nuclear warhead category in the U.S. arsenal. And during its first year in office, in its “Nuclear Posture Review,” it set in motion plans to deploy a new long-range missile to deliver nuclear weapons in 2020, a new submarine to deliver nuclear weapons in 2030, and a new long-range heavy bomber to deliver nuclear weapons in 2040 – just in time for the 2045 centennial of the dawn of the atomic age.

We may, in the next decade or so, see the elimination, at last, of every nuclear weapon from the face of the Earth. Alternatively, we may see the nuclear weapon states continue indefinitely to stall. If they do, several non-nuclear weapon states will almost certainly give up on the NPT bargain, and will set us on the road toward 10, 15 or 25 nuclear weapon states.

That will provide that many more opportunities for a nuclear warhead to find its way into the hands of a nonstate nuclear terrorist. Or for a hot political crisis between nuclear-armed adversaries to spin wildly out of control. Or for some rogue military officer to push the nuclear button out of malevolence or mental unbalance. Or for a nuclear warhead to be launched utterly by accident.

The basic choice remains, as Albert Einstein and Bertrand Russell put it in 1955, “stark and dreadful and inescapable” – a world with dozens of nuclear weapon states, or the alternative of a nuclear weapon-free world. A world with a few nuclear “haves” and a great many nuclear “have-nots” cannot forever endure.

Toward Democratic World Federation

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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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“Today we must develop federal structures on a global level. We need a system of enforceable world law – a democratic federal world government – to deal with world problems.”

- Walter Cronkite, 1999

