

Letter to World Citizens

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I write this on January 25th, the 8th day of the so-called Persian Gulf War.

Elsewhere in this edition you will read of the position of our government vis-a-vis the pro and antagonists of this latest breakdown of human society.

Given the gross misuse of both itself and its environment, the human race would undoubtedly be considered by observers from off-planet as undeserving of so fair a world as Earth. From that unitive and universal viewpoint, we would be judged savages, brutes, prey to base emotions, unaware of the most essential laws of survival. And what are they? First, a species that doesn't recognize itself as such cannot even begin to organize its survival. That requires intelligence. So observers from afar could assume correctly that, artificially divided as we are, and supporting that division, we lacked intelligence and were proving it daily.

Oh yes, our national leaders prattle about humanity but the nations they "lead" divide us from ourselves thus deny and betray humanity. And we, the people, blindly accept the exclusive national identity. Nay, we die for it. Given the war machine that is the nation, that is sheer stupidity. Second, survival is now total or not at all. If humanity itself is in danger, then so are its component parts, i.e. each human. The linkage is now personal and dynamic.

So viewed from the political "meta" level of world citizenship, the juggernaut in progress is once again the sign of society gone mad. To even consider "war" as an option between human family members is symptomatic of institutionalized insanity. The nation, as that institution, is obviously a cancer eating away at the vitals of humanity itself. Whether called Iraq or the United States, China, Chad, Israel, Japan or South Africa, all nations collude in global anarchy thus perpetuating the breeding ground of war.

For President Bush to claim that a "new world order" will result from the Persian Gulf war is contrary to all moral codes taught from time immemorial. He is claiming that violence begets non-violence. It is the modern version of the ends justifying the means. Just the opposite is true.

In short, Bush and Hussein are not really enemies either of each other or of us whichever side of a national frontier we are on: they are mere symbols and indeed victims as we of unbridled and artificial division. If international law has any validity, they are collaborators in "crimes against humanity."

But we who support either "side" are the real enemies of humanity which has no "sides."

Viewed through the spectacle of these latest national gladiators, we see clearly that the nation-state itself is an instrument of the dominating if adolescent male personality, pride or "face" overriding reason and even survival. Wars are "games" for these boy-men in uniform and political power.

World Citizens therefore are not "against" war nor "for" peace. Just as light does not know darkness but is self contained, we ARE peace. We have exercised our inalienable right to choose that civic status alone which effectively and legally eliminates the scourge of war and creates the conditions of peace.

WE are already the new world order! Tomorrow here in Washington a mass rally by "peace activists" will surely be opposed by "war activists". Both will claim to be good and patriotic Americans and equally convinced of the rightness of their cause. But their "cause" either "peace" or "war" totally disregards the underlying cause of both. Just as war is not the absence of peace, peace is not the absence of war. War is the absence of law whereas peace is the presence of law.

Tomorrow I will be marching on the Mall and before the White House. I will be holding a sign aloft marked:

"WORLD PEACE THROUGH WORLD LAW."