

LETTER TO WORLD CITIZENS

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I write on January 20, inauguration day for Bill Clinton. As I watched him raise his right hand, his left hand on the Bible held by Hillary Clinton and swear his allegiance to the Constitution of the United States, I was reminded of Henry David Thoreau's essay on civil disobedience where he wrote, "Seen from a lower point of view, the Constitution, with all its faults, is very good; the law and the courts are very respectable; even this State and this American Government are, in many respects, very admirable and rare things, to be thankful for, such as a great many have described them; but seen from a point of view a little higher, they are what I have described them; seen from higher still, and the highest, who shall say, what they are, or that they are worth looking at or thinking of at all?"

When the first U.S. president, George Washington pledged the same 35 words President Clinton did today - "to preserve, protect and defend" the US Constitution, the "change" he represented was from the anarchy wrought by the ineffective Articles of Confederation to the order of constitutional law. Was he not reaffirming the inevitable evolution of due process, the revolutionary change to which President Clinton keeps referring, as the essential factor in establishing peace, well-being and individual freedom in a given social environment? And as the president stated in his inaugural address, is not that given social environment now the world itself? While he used the word "change" 17 times in his 14 minute inaugural address, he mentioned the "world" 18 times.

Mr. Clinton, however, contracted to "preserve, protect and defend" the US Constitution, cannot do so unless and until there is a *world* constitutional order, the only meaningful change consistent with his new legitimate executive powers.

The first words in the Declaration of Independence penned by his name-sake and political hero, Thomas Jefferson: "When in the course of human events....." affirmed the *fact* of humanity and therefore one world. The 42nd inauguration of the US president was indeed a "human event" despite its expedient and seemingly local nature. Only humans were involved...playing roles on a giant "American" stage. A TV commentator even called it "Showbiz."

How many throughout the world watched the pageantry? A billion? Two billion? Given the numerous satellites fixed in geosynchronous orbit 22,300 miles above our collective heads, the whole human race technically could have viewed the event. The event was indeed global and global affirms humanity.

We World Citizens therefore already represent the Big Change, as big a change as when, in 1789, the citizens of the several states added United States citizenship to their state allegiances.

The new U.S. administration, as all other national administrations, must come to terms with the Big Change. Thoreau concluded his essay with a plea for a "really free and enlightened State" which "comes to recognize the individual as a higher and independent power, from which its own power and authority are derived, and treats him accordingly."

You and I, as World Citizens, are bonded by necessity, morality and now technology. All public officials are by definition our servitors.

President William Jefferson Clinton, we welcome you into the global village of world citizens as one of our chief servitors. Without us, your new mandate of trust cannot but flounder on the shoals of a world spinning into chaos.

For we, the world's people, are the new world's governors.
