

Letter to (American) World Citizens

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You are celebrating this year your Bicentennial...200 years of independence from "foreign" rule, actually 189 years of constitutional order.

Your problems in 1976 are naturally not those of your forefathers, in 1776; far from it. You exist today in a world struggling to survive. The nation-state itself has become in the 20th century the machine of total destruction. It is a machine out of control. War always was and still is its legal prerogative despite "international law" and United Nations resolutions.

And who or what does it war against? Itself, that is, other states? Presumably, but actually not since states are nothing more than political fictions, Bullets kill humans; napalm burns flesh; bombs destroy bodies, houses, hospitals, cities where we live. War, in short, destroys us. States make war...against Us.

Your Founding Fathers, some of them, foresaw the day when the United States Constitution would not be sufficient. Sufficient for what? For guaranteeing your life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. They realized that a constitution is nothing more than a housekeeping plan. It delegates power to different newly-founded bodies both for the common good and for the individual good. It is limited thus in its ability to cope with new problems external to its own "house". They thus provided for the future contingency by referring sovereign decision-making power back "...to the people."

What does this really mean? It means — and its significance is profound and revolutionary — that you, the people, are sovereign, that it is from you and you alone that the original power to found the U.S. government came in the first place. In other words, you are the inheritors of the original, pristine sovereignty which authorized the founding of the United States of America.

But, aside from a precious few, you have not yet grasped the truth that sovereignty IS NOT AMERICAN; it is human. It is innate and inherent in ALL human beings. The "Swiss" invoked it to found their Confederation; the "French" invoked it in overthrowing the monarchy; all minority groups invoke it in revolting against oppression and tyranny. Its legitimate name is "self-determination". It is codified in human rights declarations.

And with this truth is another which most of you seem also to have forgotten in this Bicentennial year. Extraordinarily enough, you have forgotten what your own Founding Fathers did! You are so busy patting yourselves on the back — not all admittedly — for being Americans, you have apparently forgotten that it is due to those bold men who founded a nation, a nation which did not exist theretofore — that you exist and prevail.

And what actually did they do?

They extended the concept of citizenship into the then chaotic arena between the then sovereign, thus warring states. They claimed to be American citizens first and state citizens second. They verticalized citizenship. They realized that exclusive citizenship was destructive to both their individual liberties and well-being and the commonweal which included all those within the same more or less practical geographical area.

They constructed a framework of inclusive citizenship — with tragic exceptions which we all know full well — a framework of "liberty under law" which has "worked" for 189 years.

It no longer "works." Why? Because in the larger given framework of the inter-dependent world community, you are now exclusive citizens just as the Founding Fathers were before founding the union. You have no citizenship relationship with another human outside the legal framework of the U.S. constitution. Thus, you are obliged to hide behind the greatest fortress in modern times, taxed beyond belief for its maintenance, terrified that one day you might be called upon to defend yourselves by unleashing it...to your own evident destruction. In other words, your exclusive citizenship is in reality a collective suicide pact!

Your Founding Fathers gave you sufficient credit by referring sovereign power back to you WHEN, NOT IF the U.S. Constitution proved inadequate to further guarantee your life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. For the fact that the 10th Amendment, above-quoted, —virtually unknown to most Americans or otherwise you would have done what has to be done long ago, around 1914—is an integral part of YOUR RIGHT as citizens means the Founding Fathers knew this day would come and trusted you to do the necessary...AS THEY DID though they did not have the benefit of a working constitution as legal mandate.

Though there are signs of fundamental change, for the most part, you have thus far failed your heritage, or to be kinder, not yet realized it. You are enamored— and often rightly so— of being Americans to the extent that you have forgotten that only humans possess sovereignty. The powers are reserved to the people, NOT "to the American people." Only humans can survive in today's interdependent, nuclear-triggered world. Only by exercising human sovereignty ONCE AGAIN can human and thus global institutions be evolved to control the out-of-control nation-states.

You, above all citizens, are ideally placed to ACT on this human sovereignty by ADDING a citizenship, a global citizenship — already actual in any case— to those you already possess because CONSTITUTIONALLY YOU ARE EMPOWERED TO DO SO. Others, lacking such a legislative framework must revolt against oppressors and tyrants violently whereas you can employ legal, democratic, constitutional means to SAVE YOURSELVES foreseen with extraordinary insight by your own Founding Fathers whose inspiring, even heroic example is historically present with us all today.

Some of us, your fellow humans, have already begun the exercise of our human sovereignty by claiming for ourselves world citizenship. We have created from this claim a government to which we NOW give our sovereign allegiance, As the Founding Fathers, we waited only on Necessity and Moral Right and we maintain that from these two devolve the right to choose our own political destiny and status. And while for the moment we are wanting in numbers and means, we are rich in resolve, courage and hope that we may eventually control our own destiny.

We do not ask you to join us for we are already joined in myriad ways....as humans. We belong already to humankind as our birth and eventual death fully confirm. But you have been endowed with an instrument of such legal power that, by using it judiciously NOW, you can be instrumental in rescuing humankind itself from an insane annihilation.

By grasping that historic, unprecedented, virtually unused tool of human sovereignty enshrined in your Constitution, you may extend democracy to the now chaotic global arena of competitive nation-states by electing your own direct representatives to the moribund United Nations. By joining the 10th Amendment of your Constitution to Article 21(3) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which sanctions free and universal elections to establish "the will of the people" as "the authority of government," you have an irreproachable mandate and program of action in full harmony with the wisdom evidenced by your Founding Fathers.

You are about to elect the 39th President of the United States. But can the 39th President of the United States make world peace? Can any nation-state leader or combination thereof make world peace? Why not concentrate your political energies on electing or evolving with us the institutional means by which such an election can take place? Or aren't you interested in world peace?

The world's newspapers are writing daily of "peace" between the USSR and your nation; "peace" between China and the USSR; "peace" between Israel and the Arab states; "peace" between warring factions in Angola, Cyprus, etc., etc. But can there be peace between equally sovereign thus war-making states? Who talks of world peace, human peace? And is not this the peace we all seek AND UPON WHICH ALL OTHER "PEACES" DEPEND?

Your Founding Fathers also were apprehensive of the consequences of their bold acts; but they were more afraid NOT to act, for that inaction spelled certain doom which they were already experiencing via the rapid disintegration of the Confederation itself, and as we are now, in 1976, experiencing the disintegration of the nation-state "system" itself, undoubtedly of great historical value in the pre-industrial, horse-and-buggy, musket-and-lead past.

The world is OUR home; humankind is OUR species. This is the vision brought down to us through the corridors of history by our revered forefathers. This is the meaning of your Bicentennial to us "outside" your constitutional framework.

May the year 2076 mark two celebrations: the Tricentennial of the United States of America and the Centennial of the birth of the World Republic
