

A book summary by Jim Stark, Founder of the NGO “Vote World Parliament” (VWP) and Author of the new book upon which this summary is based:

WORLD DEMOCRACY

through a Global Referendum



**Vote World Parliament,
Box 1102, Shawville, QC
Canada J0X 2Y0**

website: voteworldparliament.org
email: jimstarkwriter@gmail.com
phone: 1-819-647-6113

Ballot Question for the Proposed Global Referendum

**Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative,
transparent and democratic world parliament that is authorized
by the human race to legislate on global issues?**

YES **NO**

Much difficult thought has been invested into this ballot question. These four adjectives (directly-elected, representative, transparent and democratic) describe the key parameters of a reasonable new legislative model, especially since the world is becoming increasingly connected by hyper-modern new technologies.

Humanity needs a democratic world parliament because (1) we are clever enough to resolve all our disputes through law rather than through the use of force, and because (2) we are civilized enough to not even *want* to beat up a person, a country or a religion simply because we might disagree with him, her or it. And when I say “we,” I mean the overwhelming majority of adults everywhere ... *virtually all* adult (16+) humans.

There is no reason why we can’t live as comfortably under ***democratic world law*** as we now live under ***democratic municipal law***, ***democratic provincial law*** (well, it’s called “state” law in the U.S.) and ***democratic national law***. This is a basic reality and a “truth” for most people living in democratic countries ... and for virtually all people *not*

living in democratic countries, people who would, if given a choice, prefer democracy to any other system. And in the same way that the dawn of the “sovereign nation-state” (see *Treaty of Westphalia*, 1648) had the effect of ending all the wars then in progress between or among a region’s cities, races or religions, a democratic world *parliament* should end *all* war, as well as all preparations for future wars and all threats of war, by providing reliable and **law-based** remedies for the non-violent resolution of *any* serious dispute. Even terrorist groups should be much less inclined to use force if there were a new global “legal order” where all sides of every dispute could get a fair hearing of the grievances or provocations that are too often said to have forced such folks to “defend” themselves with guns and bombs.

A global regime of “collective security”

While money isn’t everything, it is important. I mention this because it should cost *far* less to establish a global regime of collective security than to build, train, feed, pay, weaponize and maintain an armed force for each of the 194 “sovereign” nations, just as it will surely cost much less to have a local police force protecting all of us against all local threats than it would be for each family to arm itself to the teeth ... just in case a neighbour from across the street decides to attack you. The total tax burden **for security** for your **lifetime** should be cut **at least** in half by a democratic world governance body, and the security that would be delivered to you and your family should be *much* greater through a democratic, lawmaking World Parliament than it is now in a system of 194 national sovereignties and 194 national armies plus 194 national spy agencies, etc.

As far back as the 1930s, scientists realized that an all-out nuclear war *could well* kill every man and woman on Earth, leaving our planet basically uninhabitable, at least by us *Homo sapiens*. We do need to permanently remove the threat of nuclear war from our growing list of disastrous (but wholly possible) human futures, and that will require that we **eschew all war** and **criminalize all war under World Law**. Only a democratic world parliament and/or government would have any realistic chance of doing all that.

And yes, I know ... criminalizing all war will not rid us of *all* war today, or perhaps by tomorrow, or at some ill-defined future point in time. We must admit that reality as a **fact**. However, *not* criminalizing all war is about as *idiotic* an idea as *decriminalizing* murder, rape, theft, etc.

And there are other supranational issues besides war, of course, the most dangerous of which is now (in 2020) generally agreed to be climate change. It is finally obvious that climate change is an “existential threat,” a threat to the very survival of humanity. Al Gore¹ has called our current circumstance a “true planetary emergency,” and if we continue to depend on a patchwork of bilateral or multinational initiatives to solve this global problem, we are basically “dreaming in Technicolor,” as the kids of my vintage used to say back in the 1950s. I didn’t know a thing about “nukes” when I was in Grade

¹ Al Gore was U.S. Vice President under President Bill Clinton. He became a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate for championing the anti-climate-change effort, and for starring in the film, *An Inconvenient Truth*. The 2007 Nobel Peace Prize was shared, in two equal parts, between the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (aka the UN’s “IPCC”) and Al Gore “for their efforts to build up and disseminate much greater knowledge about climate change, and to lay the foundations for measures that would be needed to counteract such change.”

8, and I had never even *heard* the terms “climate change” or “supranational issues” before I entered Sudbury High School. If we were to avoid both planetary destruction *and* planet-level tyranny, I remember being quite relieved to learn that there were a few reliable ways to do those two things.²

We know how to use common technologies (tape recorders, video recorders, and lie detectors) to “corruption-proof” any institution (a national parliament, for example) by making it *completely transparent*. These technologies, used carefully and openly, can assure all people that we just don’t need to worry about the possibility of a new “Hitler” gaining personal control of the democratic world parliament. If we were to build a truly *hyperdemocratic* world parliament, common sense dictates that it must have total and continuously-verified integrity by using whatever new and super-reliable technologies exist and would be needed to accomplish this extremely high standard.

It must also surely be *impossible* for military force to be used inappropriately by a Democratic World Parliament. For that matter, it must also be *equally impossible* for all MGPs (elected **Members** of the World Parliament) and all World-Parliament staff to tell a lie and get away with it (see Chapter 5 of *World Democracy* for more on this). Just as body cams will, in time, eliminate all “**blue on black**” (police on African-Americans) violence in the USA, so it is that these devices will change the basic and fundamental consciousness of all our DWP workers and elected officials, to the point where *they will know* eventually, and *we will know in advance* that *the truth will out ... no matter what!* Think about this in terms of your own life, how it would or could be so much better. Governance and policing without any lies ... *at all ... ever!* What a concept!³ And what a cost saving!

World Law as one of the necessities of life

There are enormous injustices in this world, and history surely teaches us that there is no peace without justice, no justice without law, and no law without “governance”—in this case, *World Law* and *democratic global governance*. Business needs stability just to operate, and war is the epitome of *instability*, even if a few industries can and do profit handsomely from every modern war. A future where companies and corporations can operate smoothly and profitably for tens of thousands of years is quite doable ... *if* we construct a new and verifiably fair world legal order.

According to former U.S. Senator George Mitchell: “We benefit enormously from technology ... but we also suffer from (its) consequences. It is now easier, takes fewer people, less skill (and) fewer resources to kill large numbers of people than at any time in history.” (This was said on *Newsnight*, CNN, May 9, 2002.) In the future, a twelve-year-old might be able to make a purchase online and poison an entire city. To survive as a species, we must accept *enforceable World Law*⁴ as one of the necessities of life.

² There will always remain the remote possibility that some evil genius will find a workaround. And as the great American astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson once said: “... human nature scares me to bits.”

³ And hence my two-volume, 1,252-page novel about an infallible, digital, voice-analyzing lie detector, under the title *The LieDeck Revolution*. (Both *LieDeck* volumes are now available from Amazon.)

⁴ World Law is *not* the same thing as International Law, which applies almost exclusively to relations between or among national governments, whereas **WORLD LAW** will “**reach to individuals**,” as the three *established* levels of law (municipal, provincial and federal) already do.

The principle of subsidiarity

No serious person alive today would be so foolish as to suggest that we tear down any or all of our democratic municipal, provincial or national governments, even accepting that they are not exactly perfect. In 20 or 30 years, if a democratic world parliament is in place and doing its work routinely and well, virtually no one would suggest that we might be better off without it. And as for the question of which “level” of governance should use its good offices to resolve a particular dispute, the principle of “subsidiarity” should apply, meaning that all “issues” should be resolved by the *smallest appropriate political unit* (or its corresponding juridical apparatus). Just as we would not want any provincial government (“state” government in the U.S.) meddling in our municipalities’ deliberations, we do not want a world parliament, no matter how democratic it may be, meddling in our *national* affairs, our *provincial* affairs, or our *municipal* affairs.

Will there be arguments about the demarcation lines between jurisdictions? Yes, of course there will, but we will sort those out the way we now do when two or all three of the existing levels of governance squabble, through courts and negotiation, mediation, arbitration and political discourse. I’m sure that no one will want to find themselves in a position to deny that democracy can be a rather messy business at times, but whatever its weaknesses, it is *far and away the finest governance model* that we humans have ever developed, and it is a whole lot more tolerable and useful than nuclear war, or any war, for that matter. In 100 years, people throughout the world will have to re-read their modern history texts to understand how it was that **humanity “spoke truth to power” back in the early 21st century**. “No more war,” we hollered, quite loudly, as a species, and we really *really* meant it! *We are better than that, better than war*, but you already know that as a “fact” if you think about it. I am certainly better than war! And so are you, I figure, or you wouldn’t be reading this!

Simply put, war is “**mass murder**,” and **no matter** what the circumstances, **mass murder** is now and always will be considered “**inexcusable**,” to put it mildly. “World BEYOND War” (as one political group has named its organization and its initiative) is a gift to all people from current generations to their vision of a great future. So, by the mid-21st century, we the people will undoubtedly have conducted a **successful global referendum** on democratic world governance ... to make sure our elected global (and other) politicians don’t miss the point. **In short, we have to leave war far behind us**, dumped unceremoniously into the dustbin of history, just as we did so long ago with cannibalism, slavery, rape and other horrible practices of the past, whose *absences* from modern history texts help to qualify *Homo sapiens* as being at least *partially* civilized, or partly rational. I’m not entirely sure of this, but I am still of the opinion that if there were to be a battle between the forces of evil and us (the “good guys”) it would produce a victory for us. But who, exactly, is “us”? Let’s look a little more closely at that claim.

The GlobeScan poll

We have before us the opportunity to become the founders of the new world of law and justice that *must* exist if humanity is to survive and thrive in the near and distant future. This will very likely be the greatest opportunity that 21st-century generations will have,

perhaps the very last chance, to clear a safe path across this final, huge, political barrier. I tend to think that the job of building a democratic world parliament will not be all that difficult, but there is no denying that it will be a very *big* job. And of course in setting out to craft a new democratic institution, we will have to study the growing pains of existing law-making and law-enforcement bodies to guide us through the jungle of past errors ... so that we don't fall into the same traps as those that befuddled our ancestors. And I suspect that those of us who live in my tiny home village of Shawville, Québec, Canada may turn out to be the first people to even *try* to harmonize existing legalities (municipal, provincial and national bodies of law) with **World Law making** and **World Law enforcement**.

I tend to think we will have no shortage of examples as to how to do that ... or at least how *not* to do it. As well, there will surely have to be a "guidance committee" of some sort made up of legal experts and others to help us non-experts and newbies as to how to blend these various levels of law making and law enforcement. And to reinforce this assessment, let's put it another way. We must avoid all of the blunders that our ancestors fell victim to during all the research and other meetings that they convened to construct a *Charter* for the Democratic World Parliament (or, to call it by a name that it will doubtlessly end up carrying forward in time), the "*Constitution of the Democratic World Parliament*," or the "*World Parliament Constitution*."

Global Referendum Ballot Wording as suggested in the *GlobeScan* poll

**Do you favor or oppose the creation of a new UN Parliament
made up of representatives directly-elected by citizens and
equivalent to the UN General Assembly?**

If, say, 99% of all human adults voted in favour of the creation of a democratic world parliament and government, I think no one would dare to even *try* to prevent us from building what we had all (or *almost* all) voted for. No political issue gets 99% support, but there was an 18-nation *GlobeScan* poll on this idea in 2004, and it predicted that a global referendum on building a democratic world parliament would pass quite handily. The *overall* *GlobeScan* numbers (see the chart below) were 63% in favour and just 20% opposed.

To see the voting percentages *country by country*, again ... see the *GlobeScan* chart (below). In short, Canadians were 65% in favour, 28% opposed! Americans were 55% in favour, 35% opposed. Russians were 33% in favour, 22% opposed, and (somewhat to my surprise) the Chinese were 68% in favour and 20% opposed.)

These preliminary and limited results may be too high in every instance. In time, I think there will be VWP *opponents* hollering that "the sky is falling" (or other panicky warnings about our **Rescue Plan**). My words of caution are these: alarmism is never completely out of fashion, and *sometimes* alarmists do get it right. The numbers below seem to indicate a probable "slam dunk" for world democracy, but time (and your reaction to this book and others) will tell. Fearmongers usually end up on the losing end

Book summary: *World Democracy through a Global Referendum*

of debates they enter or provoke ... but again, time will tell ... well, time *and a hefty dollop of reason* will tell.

However, in terms of coming to grips with the fact that this transition period would be the equivalent of a “political Super Bowl,” the most important and very last game of a thousand-lifetimes-long tournament, a contest to settle a key matter once and forever, we just can’t afford to put a foot wrong, and both sides can’t seem to see their way to a list of positive outcomes that does not amount to a total or permanent victory for “their enemy,” meaning us. “World BEYOND War” is one political group that has named its organization and initiative as a gift to all people from current generations and to their vision of a great future. Sorry to be the bearer of badish news, but haters and their brain damaged friends are highly motivated, and they will try to block our path forward and mock our **Rescue Plan** forever and a day, so buckle up, exercise, eat well and pay attention to the **VWP Plan**. Please! This is about you, and your progeny!

% of Eligible Voter Population from this country that voted “YES” <u>or</u> “NO” ↓ ↓ ↓	% of Eligible Voter Population from this country that voted “YES” ↓ ↓	% of Eligible Voter Population from this country that voted “NO” ↓
Mexico	80%	5%
Brazil	73%	10%
Indonesia	73%	13%
Italy	70%	20%
China	68%	20%
Argentina	66%	6%
Germany	66%	24%
Canada	65%	28%
Philippines	65%	29%
Chile	64%	8%
Great Britain	64%	28%
South Korea	62%	33%
Poland	59%	9%
India	56%	22%
Australia	56%	35%
Turkey	55%	18%
USA	55%	35%
Russia	33%	22%
Average	63%	20%

Yet another poll! And what is a “supranational organization” anyway?

We found yet *another* poll precisely on point. What was billed as “a major new survey” said that the “vast majority of people all over the planet” are “ready to embrace a global

government or parliament in the hope that it would save humanity from catastrophes of our own making or other major threats.” This survey was conducted by ComRes, a research consultancy specializing in building corporate reputations, public policies and communications) for the Stockholm-based group, Global Challenges Foundation.⁵ They found that 71% of the general public wanted to see the creation of a new “supranational organization” (specifically a Democratic World Parliament, to make (or to recommend) *enforceable* global decisions concerning major threats to humanity, like climate change, weapons of mass destruction, natural disasters, asteroids, unstoppable pandemics and/or AI (“Artificial Intelligence”) turning against human civilization ... to which list I must respond with a breathless: “WHEW”!

What exactly is a “supranational organization?” Well, it’s an international or global political body made up of “member countries.” A “supranational organization” like the one we seek at VWP would not replace national governments, of course, *but it would place all or most vital global interests above those of our nation-states*. As the *London Independent* reported, almost 70% of people in the UK supported the idea of a global government, with 62% saying they already considered themselves “global citizens.” Another 54% of British respondents said they would “happily” give up *some* degree of national sovereignty in order for major threats to be dealt with more readily by this new supranational body! This survey collated information from 8,100 people in eight major countries, encompassing about half of the world’s population. The eight countries were Australia, Brazil, China, Germany, India, South Africa, the UK and the USA. The exact wording of this survey’s operative question was: “Do you think a new supranational organization should be created to make enforceable legal decisions to address global risks?”

World Democracy presents a two-pronged approach to gathering global support for a democratic world parliament—an internet-based, bottom-up vote, and, if needed, a UNGA Resolution (should countries want to participate *as countries*, rather than as a collection of self-motivated citizens). Once national governments notice such a massive number of internet votes flowing in from their own citizens, some national legislators will surely want to participate in this more traditional approach. VWP has prepared a draft UNGA Resolution on national components of a global referendum in concert with their next national election (for democratic countries).

Note to UN Ambassadors: Agreeing to be a partner with other national delegations in a UN resolution will eventually require *another* decision by the national government that you represent, a decision to sponsor or to co-sponsor, or at least to vote in favour of a resolution in the UN General Assembly, restarting the process by shifting it to a one-week or two-week or a one-month blitz. Here is a draft of such a **UNGA resolution**.

A United Nations’ General Assembly Resolution
(as developed by VWP.org) presses for a
Global Referendum
on the proposed creation of a
Democratic World Parliament

⁵ The **Global Challenges Foundation** was founded by a former stock market trader, Swedish billionaire Laszlo Szombatfalvy, in 2012. Good on you, Mr. Szombatfalvy!

Book summary: *World Democracy through a Global Referendum*

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS,

EXPRESSING deep concern over the danger of nuclear war and the danger that other WMD (weapons of mass destruction) may be used by national governments and/or non-national groups, either of which could imperil the existence of life on Earth,

MINDFUL of the profound problems (climate change, HIV/AIDS, etc.) that persist and worsen for lack of resources while more than one trillion (1,000 billion) dollars are spent on armaments every year,

BEARING IN MIND that all nations and all people need security in this age of “overkill” weapons, and that real security is now possible only through the establishment of an effective and widely supported world legal authority,

AFFIRMING the interest of all individuals in expressing their preferences on a matter as fundamental as the survival of humankind, and asserting a human right on the part of all adults to participate meaningfully in such a basic choice,

RESPECTING the principle of subsidiarity, whereby issues are best handled by the lowest appropriate level of government, thus leaving national issues to national governments, local issues to municipal governments, and so on,

REALIZING that people of every background would be inclined to support the creation of a directly-elected world parliament that is authorized by the human race to adopt and enforce legislation on such supranational issues as security, justice, peace, and the protection of the natural environment;

RECALLING that Article 21 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* provides that “The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government, (and that) this “will” shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which ... shall be held by secret vote or by an equivalent free-voting procedure,”

KNOWING that because the will of the people is the basis of all political power and authority, a clear expression of that “will” in a mandate emerging from a successful Global Referendum must be given effect to by all national and other governments;

ACCEPTING that the above principles find strong support in the *Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of their Independence and Sovereignty*, whose Preamble states that: “... all peoples have an inalienable right to ... the exercise of their true sovereignty ... and that, by virtue of that right, they freely determine their political status;”

SEEING that a substantial mandate from the people of all nations would provide a compelling base of legal and political support for the establishment of a democratic world parliament and government to effectively address threats posed to humankind such as weapons of mass destruction and environmental degradation;

DETERMINED to provide to all adult human beings (aged 16 or older) the opportunity to formally express their views on these matters,

1. **RESOLVES** to seek the unanimous agreement of all Member-States to a brief, simple expression of the goals expressed above;

2. **PROPOSES** to use this ballot wording (below) for a Global Referendum, commencing ASAP

Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative, transparent and democratic world parliament that is authorized by the human race to legislate on global issues?

3. **CALLS UPON** each Member-Nation to voluntarily collect its “national component” of the *formal* Global Referendum before January 1, 2030. (Hey, if not then, then as soon as possible thereafter.)

Book summary: *World Democracy through a Global Referendum*

4. **ENCOURAGES** each Member-Nation to seek full and open debate of all sides of these issues prior to holding the referendum vote among its national population. “**YES**” and “**NO**” ballots collected in the **internet-based preliminary referendum** from citizens of that nation will be destroyed if and when a *formal* national referendum using borrowed official voters’ lists is launched in any given nation;
5. **DETERMINES** that no one may cast a ballot before having attained the age of sixteen (16);
6. **RESOLVES** that the collection of each “national component” of the Global Referendum must be accompanied by a minimum level of United Nations’ supervision to ensure the fairness of the voting procedures; and
7. **DECIDES** to form a committee to study the idea of a Global Referendum on the creation of a Democratic World Parliament and report back to the next Session of the General Assembly.

Key numbers

If a town of 7,000 people participated in a local referendum and only ten people voted, yielding six “**YES**” votes and four “**NO**” votes, that mayor would be laughed out of office if he or she then said: “The ballot proposition has passed by a 3-to-2 margin, so it will be included in our town’s municipal bylaws!” While this odd aspect of referendum voting can be argued back and forth, let’s all agree that *at least 50% of eligible voters* (residents of the town who are 16 or older) must vote for the final tally to have its full force and effect. And let’s also agree that *at least 50% of eligible voters* must cast their ballots in a *global* referendum for *its* outcome to be considered worthy of inclusion in an emerging body of *World Law*.

The customary criterion for declaring a “winner” in a **YES** or **NO** referendum is 50% + 1, a simple majority *of those who voted* “**YES**” or “**NO**” (to the *meaning* of the ballot proposition, or question). However, this basis for deciding *our* winner is just *not sufficient* for present purposes. Creating a DWP (Democratic World Parliament) will amount to a permanent and truly profound change in the world’s political and legal order, so it simply cannot be settled by a margin of one ballot (like the “1” in “50% + 1”). Therefore, let us also agree that in any genuine *global* referendum, “**substantially more**” than half of all eligible votes must be “**YES**” votes for the ballot proposition to “pass” and then be included in an emerging body of **World Law**. A 2/3rds majority would do the job nicely, though a higher “**YES**” vote percentage would be even more useful in becalming those who voted “**NO**” and may still feel a little bit bitter about the “loss” that their “side” of the issue had suffered.

Let’s now look at some other critical numbers. One third of the 7.5 billion people alive today (2020) are designated “children,” since they are under the age of 16 and are thus ineligible to vote. So, the **total** electorate in a *global* referendum isn’t 7.5 billion, but (at present) just 5 billion, and if the minimum 50% of all *eligible* adults *do* vote (that’s 2.5 billion votes), and if 2/3rds (67%) of these 2.5 billion votes are in the “**YES**” column (67% of 2.5 billion ballots comes to *1.68 billion* “**YES**” votes). Such a huge mandate would be claimed by most legal scholars (and by most of us “common folks”) as being “**legally binding under International Law**.” As I wrote in *World Democracy* (modified a bit here for the sake of brevity):

In 2005, we asked Dr. Terence P. Amerasinghe (a distinguished Sri Lankan professor of law) whether a mandate from a “*successful* global referendum” would embrace our “much-hoped-for

Book summary: *World Democracy through a Global Referendum*

legal force and effect. “**OF COURSE a winning global mandate would be legally binding under International Law,**” he said ... again. Then he added that the **bold** part of the previous sentence beginning with “**OF COURSE a winning ...**” were *his* emphases, not mine.) “**But ...**” he added nervously, “**it will never be possible to conduct such a global referendum or collect such a global mandate.**” In other words, we had explained to him how his awesome goal could be **accomplished**, and he literally threw up his arms at the **train-load of work that would be involved** ... and the great number of roadblocks we would surely encounter along that path. I expect that VWP will *disprove* these last two assertions or predictions. My best advice for the good doctor? “Never say never, Sir.”

I also expect that “we, the people” will get at least 60% of our supportive national governments to also commit to conducting their own “national component” of the global referendum (perhaps three or four years down the road). I even predict that if all of the opinion polls on this **Rescue Plan** for democratic global action are done honestly and openly, they will show that a very strong majority of adult world citizens (70% to 80%) intend to cast their ballots using the “**YES**” box to indicate their support for VWP’s ballot proposition.

Consent of the governed

If you already “believe in” democracy, then you already know that **democracy means**, most prominently, “**governance with the consent of the governed.**” In other words, if we seriously hope and intend to create a democratic world parliament, step #1 **must** be to conduct a global referendum to secure the consent of those who would be governed ... meaning effectively the consent of Earth’s *entire human race* (or let’s say, a great majority of us). A public opinion poll will simply not do the job, even if surveys can inform and influence the “**YES**” and the “**NO**” campaigns if and when a clearly global issue is being “put to the people” in a Global Referendum. As I also wrote in *World Democracy*:

It took the devastation of **19 million MORE deaths in WWI** to prompt us to establish the League of Nations, but ... oops, *we got it wrong ... AGAIN* ... because that institution failed to prevent a recurrence of megadeath. It took **WWII, and 50 million more pointless deaths**, to prompt us to create the *United Nations* ... *and we got it wrong YET AGAIN!* Then, the “Cold War” (from 1945 to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991) caused about **20 million more deaths** ... (and) these allegedly worthy forebears *still* did not grow the UN into a directly-elected, democratic body, into the kind of world parliament and world government that we needed to have, and to trust, if “**omnicide**” is to be **avoided forever** (or at least until our life-supporting Sun goes kaboom, which it will do in about 5 billion years, scientists tell us).⁶

The most effective trigger for global political reform might well be a decision to lob 50 or more Hiroshima-sized nukes into the 21st-century’s history books. That might

⁶ Our “**Sun**” does not have nearly enough mass to explode as a **supernova**. That is something only large stars experience at the end of their “main-sequence life.” Instead, in approximately 5 billion years, it will expand to become a **red giant** when it burns out all the hydrogen at its very core. At that point, it will be sufficiently large to engulf the current orbits of our Solar System’s inner planets ... Mercury, Venus, and quite possibly Earth. After that, it will shed its outer layers as a planetary nebula and settle down to be or to become a **white dwarf**. It would need to be, at a minimum, eight times more massive to “nova.” Also, for our **Sun** to be involved in a white dwarf supernova explosion, it would surely need to have a close binary companion which (it seems this has to be accepted) it just doesn’t have now, and may never have.

smarten us up (well, let's say those of us who *survive* WWII), but only a madman (or a madwoman, I suppose) would consider this to be an ethical or a legitimate motivator. As Einstein famously wrote: "The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything ... save our modes of thinking ... and thus we drift toward unparalleled catastrophe." So, how the hell (or how the heck, or how the devil) do we get ourselves unstuck from this ghastly fate?

In my opinion, the best way to proceed would be for the UN General Assembly to pass a resolution calling for the "formal" global referendum to be held nation-by-nation in the expectation that people everywhere will vote very strongly in favour of the VWP ballot question. However, getting a resolution proposed and then passed in the General Assembly can't be accomplished simply by asking politely for what we want. We must start by using the internet to tap into the membership lists of hundreds or thousands of sympathetic NGOs, service clubs, religions, governments, political parties and so on to collect votes in our *unsanctioned, internet-based* global referendum, as we continue to seek national governments that may be willing to sponsor our draft resolution in the UN General Assembly.

See pages seven to nine in this book summary for the VWP draft UN resolution. It's not ultra-sophisticated, nor does it have to be. It'll do the job. Nuff said.

Let's collect that bare minimum of 1.68 billion "YES" votes ourselves!

Legal issues can be argued six ways from Sunday, as you likely know, so it is important to point out that even if our collected global mandate is incomplete and not accepted in some places as "legally binding under International Law," it will nonetheless be judged by most world citizens to be "politically compelling," which is *basically* the same thing as being "legally binding" (see Chapters 10 and 11 of *World Democracy* for more on this). So ... let's try to collect that "bare minimum" of 1.68 billion "YES" votes on our live internet ballot, and then, through the efforts of many other NGOs (see Chapter 14 of *World Democracy*), try a little later to assemble our hoped-for series of government-run (and now *national*) referendums, the *formal* global referendum, using voters' lists that, in the past, we had "borrowed" from whatever governments (municipal, and/or provincial, and/or national) we were cooperating with.

But why not stick with the **Plan** of voting on the internet and through other NGOs? If we could get our "bottom-up," unsanctioned effort off the ground and establish some real momentum, there will be serious efforts by our opponents to corrupt our systems. We will, after all, be in the business of challenging the traditional power and authority of the "sovereign nation-state" through our **Plan** to collect those 1.68 billion ballots by ourselves, and thereafter form a "people's house" within (or "alongside") the larger UN structure. If our efforts are said to be the result of a mere "*consultative*" or "*advisory*" referendum, there will be lineups of legal experts and scholars ready to argue that our "bottom up" referendum result is itself an "*ex post facto World Law*" (meaning that it has already acquired *retroactive* legal force and effect, and that the near-unanimity (of the "YES" vote that we would claim) should be **rebranded** as a "legally-binding global mandate" ... even accepting that it is still under construction).

We concede that only a government-run referendum could be properly scrutinized, and thus produce a result that is most *assuredly* valid. National governments will use

Book summary: *World Democracy through a Global Referendum*

official voters' lists for their elections, of course, but we will again need to "borrow" those lists to apply them to the government-run national referendums. In May, 1981, the NGO I headed at that time (Operation Dismantle) used an old piggybacking method to achieve more than 200 Canadian municipal referendums on balanced and verifiable nuclear disarmament (see Chapter 8 of my first published book, *Cold War Blues*). Vote World Parliament's 194 proposed *national* referendums (one per nation) should be held in tandem with national elections to keep costs down, and referendum organizers would (with permission from whichever government "owns" these official voters' lists) use the official voters' lists to prevent anyone from voting more than once in the national election *or* in their national segment of the *formal* global referendum.

More key numbers

The emergency committee of atomic scientists, having explored for two years all means other than world government for making responsible the control of atomic energy effective, has become convinced that no method other than world government can be expected to prove effective, and that the attainment of a world government or parliament is therefore the most urgent problem now facing mankind. United Nations Resolution (1948)

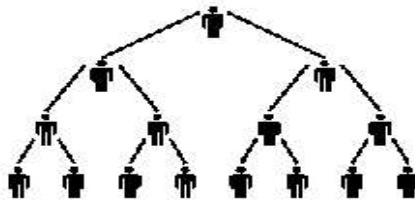
If we get that "bare minimum" of 1.68 billion "YES" votes that we needed to prove the value of a "compelling" global mandate, I can't imagine anyone even *trying* to tell the entire human race that what it wants and demands doesn't matter. ***We, the people, are the supreme political authority on Earth!*** (See section below, starting "*The will of the people.*") If the whole human race were to say "NO" to *all war forever* by clearly saying "YES" to the creation of a democratic world parliament tasked with *preventing* all war forever, then, that is how history *must* unfold! "Says who?" you may well ask. "Says *you*," I hope (and frankly expect)! These words echo the U.S. *Declaration of Independence*, and are mirrored in Article 21 of the UDHR (*Universal Declaration of Human Rights* of December 10, 1948, U.N.G.A. Resolution 217A (III), which provides, inter alia, that:

The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this "will" shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be (held) by **universal and equal suffrage** and shall be held by secret vote **or by equivalent free-voting procedures.**

The **bold** emphases above are all mine. I can't find one *good* reason why a global referendum on the creation of the Democratic World Parliament *wouldn't* qualify as an "equivalent free-voting procedure." In my opinion, we don't have to spend a lot of time debating this tiny point, since all current levels of governance (county, municipal, provincial, state and national) run into problems that could profit from the application of their traditional problem-solving responses." As for the hundreds or thousands of technical glitches and mini conundrums that will crop up, these can be handled routinely by persons who inherited such roles from the folks who got assigned the job in any previous referendum that was held in the same county, town, city, province (state) or nation.

Chain voting and sovereignty

If every “YES” voter agrees to get two new people to vote “YES” within a week or two of casting his/her own ballot, and gets both of his or her new “YES” voters to commit to finding two *more* brand new “YES” voters within another week or two (to continue the chain), **the overall vote count will increase exponentially** (1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, 256, etc.), *doubling every week or two*, and we can reach or surpass our target of 1.68 billion “YES” votes *in 31 weeks ... far less than a year!* Below is a new diagram representing the math that supports a geometric progression where the “common ratio” or “common factor” is two.



The miniature person at the top of the diagram is you, or some other person taking on the task of world-saving or world-building. The next level down represents the second week of the new chain and the slanted lines to your left and right indicate that in your first fortnight, you have recruited two brand new people who say they are going to vote “YES”⁷ and each of them has already recruited two new “YES” voters. I cropped this diagram from the internet where it was being used to show, visually, how a single case of an infectious disease could cause a huge epidemic in a very short period of time.

As I wrote in *World Democracy*, “Chain letters, pyramid schemes and some multi-level marketing programs are deemed immoral because they depend on a false hope of easy riches.” They are *designed to steal money from people ...* which is why many national (and state-wide and municipal) legislatures have made such schemes “illegal.” But ... they do work *up to a point*, and sadly, some folks do fall for them every day. However, if we were to modify our pyramid design such that *no money is ever solicited* and the only reward or prize at the end of the process is the achievement of world peace through **World Law**, surely no one would object. And ... who knows? Some people may even break out into spontaneous applause! So, VWP is launching a pyramid-type scheme like the one above, meaning a “good” one, a “chain reaction” type of event that could end up playing a decisive and positive role in eliminating war, thus saving all of humankind (not to mention myriad other life forms) from being fried by WWII.

So, here is your personal fast-track assignment, your *suggested* participation in our new approach to world peace. Please bear in mind that *numbers themselves cannot lie*. However, *people can and do lie*, and I expect collecting our global mandate will be far

⁷ You are not asking them to vote “YES” or to vote “NO,” just to vote their mind, or conscience. If they ask which side *you* are on, you can tell them ... *if you wish ...* but use your best judgement as to whether to tell them you are “in it to win it” for the “YES” campaign. If you find you must disagree with someone who is challenging or ridiculing our **Plan** or the overall wisdom of creating a DWP, please **try to disagree with them without being disagreeable**.

more complicated than anything you will ever see on a plain graph. Some people will lie about their age—say they are 16 when they are only 15—or claim that they have not voted in an “advance poll” when in fact they have done. Also, cheating in a referendum is effectively to admit that the cheater’s side of the issue just can’t win *in the absence of that cheating*. But ... these are tomorrow’s problems. Today’s challenge is to get our people-powered, bottom-up global referendum off the ground and to find new ways to anticipate or counter any voter fraud or election meddling that we might encounter.

We must also consider the possibility, however remote, that our global referendum may well fail ... by attracting more “NO” votes than “YES” votes, for instance. Public opinion polls and VWP’s online voting results (to date) indicate that such a failure is quite unlikely for us, but ... well, you never really know, eh? As of Saturday, January 11, 2020, a modest 22,350 people have voted, and 95.32% of these were “YES” votes!

However, we must face the fact that our ultimate success is not assured. We must hold fast to our conviction that humanity is *far* better than war, and that democratic world governance is necessary and (using the herein-presented VWP **Plan**) deliciously possible. Today’s wondrous technologies allow us to act politically on a global scale! With the internet serving our purposes accurately, this global referendum might well go viral, and if it does, we all win!

And yes, there will always be a trainload of work awaiting our attentions, and there will be many reasons why tired workers will want to back away, or take a year off, or whatever. Sorry, but the need for us to win this round is urgent, so we can get on with the actual empowerment of the human race (via the “real McCoy” Global Referendum).

Hearken not to the voice which petulantly tells you that the form of government recommended ... is impossible to accomplish. James Madison, No. 14 of *The Federalist Papers*, 1787-88 (all 85 essays were published under the pen name Publius)

“Petulantly,” you say? Mr. Madison?

At the risk of repeating myself, yes ... we can do all that *if* the first “YES” voter brings in just **two more** “YES” voters within a week or two of his or her own vote, *and* if he or she receives **rock-solid** promises that those two people will **each** do the same thing and bring in two **other** new “YES” voters the following week or two. If you will grant VWP this premise, then we can pretty much guarantee this end result!

However ... beware the fast-talking critic who swears that it cannot happen the way we say it can, or who suggests we are somehow tricking people into voting this way or that. Most people are fundamentally honest, but some ... are not. I stand with that first group (as do most of you folks, I expect) unless you do or say something regrettable that changes your status among your workmates, relatives, teachers, peers, etc. Please do this “job” that I have assigned to you. Do it properly ... and soon, and it will become one of the great memories of your life if it all works as per the VWP **Plan**, something that your kids, grandkids and great-grandkids will be very proud of you for, since they will be the main beneficiaries of your gift of genuine peace for their entire lives, and so on through hundreds or even thousands of new human generations to follow.

Book summary: *World Democracy through a Global Referendum*

The hardest part of our campaign will likely be the start-up. We will do our part, but this massive “job” will require that millions of us ordinary people take up the cause all over the world. Remember, we are asking you to work at this for just a couple of hours, and that over the course of a week or two, so ... ***please do it now ... or tomorrow***. And if you find you want to work at this for *more* than two or three hours per week ... go ahead and just ***do it!*** We can’t afford to pay anyone just yet, but maybe in a year or two ... **or** never,⁸ if that’s the only way we can engage the human race in this effort to save itself.

Chain voting checklist

- 1 Did I cast my vote (“YES” or “NO”) at voteworldparliament.org? _____
- 2 Did I tell my recruiter that I had voted and promised to start two new chains? _____
- 3 Did I get one other person to vote “YES” and promise to advance my chain? _____
- 4 Did I get a second person to vote and also promise to advance my chain? _____
- 5 Did my first recruit ***confirm*** that he or she got two more new recruits? _____
- 6 Did my second recruit ***confirm*** that he or she got two more new recruits? _____
- 7 Did I tell my recruiter that my 2 recruits voted *and got their 2 recruits each*? _____
- 8 Did I start a new chain if one of my recruits failed to do his/her entire “job”? _____
- 9 Did I confirm that my 2 recruits have both done their *full* jobs? _____
- 10 Did I consider starting a new chain even though I’d already done “my job”? _____

You are encouraged to scan your filled-in copy of this page and keep it safely stored for your family and future family to look at and value. If you want to send a copy of your results to voteworldparliament@tlb.sympatico.ca, you can rely on VWP to keep all of your records private. You can also order ***World Democracy*** from Amazon.

A “live referendum ballot” and our UN resolution await your attention

If you haven’t voted yet, a “live ballot” awaits you at voteworldparliament.org. Also, a draft UN resolution for a formal, nation-by-nation global referendum (see pages six and seven of this book summary) awaits the day when a few national governments realize fully that the human race, if it is to survive and thrive, assuredly *does* need a directly-elected, representative, transparent and democratic world parliament.

Consider yourself encouraged to write to the head of your national government and to your nation’s foreign minister about these ideas, and consider yourself encouraged to

⁸ The last time I poured my energies into launching a peace initiative was in 1977. We started with no salaries for any staffer, but we ended up (eventually) with a *very* successful fund-raising program and a very good income structure. And so it was that we got more than 200 Canadian cities and towns to run the Global Referendum ballot in tandem with their next local (municipal) election.

ask your national government to sponsor (or at least to “co-sponsor”) the UN resolution mentioned above, and establish the creation of a democratic world parliament as a goal that your national parliament and government should now embrace. Most importantly, please *complete* your two voting chains and get your friends and relatives to vote by telling them about this **VWP Rescue Plan** in person ... or by directing them to our VWP website, voteworldparliament.org, to vote.

At the bottom of the ballot you will find icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Simply clicking any one of those three will open your application and present a posting automatically for you. VWP participants are also encouraged to post one or more of 40 YouTube videos on your social media—each featuring a well-known person promoting our Global Referendum initiative. Bloggers and webmasters can also install a portable voting booth using a few lines of HTML code, which can be found on the website.

Or you can key in the new person’s details as dictated to you by a new voter (except for the overall “**YES**” or “**NO**” response to the referendum question itself). Or you may decide to show off the VWP site. Under two links (“Vote Info” and “Public Record”), voters’ *first names only* are presented publicly, usually within 24 hours of our learning of the new vote and new voter.)

What about the Canadian Prime Minister? Will he partner up with VWP?

As reported by **THE CANADIAN PRESS** on October 21, 2019, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the following:

As a government, we need to look forty years down the road, not just four—to the next generation, not just to the next election—because when a government takes that long view, it can deliver extraordinary results for Canadians.

If Mr. Trudeau fleshes out the above perspective with realistic policies, VWP and many other NGOs in this space will offer to work with his government and contribute all that we can to VWP’s plans, preparations, execution and records-keeping. Looking 40 or more years into the future will *not* be an easy or quick assignment, but it will also *not* be an “impossibly difficult” task.

A global constitution fit for a new world

In addition to a global referendum on creating a democratic world parliament, we must also face the need for a constitution for a radically transformed world. No government can *operate* democratically without a constitution, and if we are to move events in the creation of a *truly democratic* world parliament and government, we will surely need a carefully-crafted **World Constitution**. Generally, we anticipate a need for additional constitutions for lesser or more specified institutions, such as world educational bodies or juridical processes.

At some point in the future, VWP will ask the Government of Canada (along with the governments of a few other established democracies) to host a “world constitutional framing convention, composed of representatives of national, provincial and municipal

Book summary: *World Democracy through a Global Referendum*

governments, non-governmental organizations and religions, as well as constitutional lawyers and scholars, to prepare a draft constitution for the world.

We anticipate as well a great need for a **World Electoral Commission** to prepare for the first-ever global general election, and to prepare for the presentation of that draft world constitution to the whole human race, for ratification, likely through *yet another* formal, nation-by-nation global referendum, perhaps five or ten years down the road ... however long it takes.

Your own portable voting booth, available (so far) in 99 languages

Do you want this **Plan** to work? If so, become a vote collector. Get two more people to do as you have done in the time period following your own Global Referendum vote. This would take little of your time—a few hours, tops—but the effort to grow the vote count is the key to making the global referendum go viral, which is what it is going to take for this huge project to succeed. And for those who feel really enthusiastic about our **Plan**, you can install a “portable voting booth” on your mobile phone by using step-by-step instructions at <https://voteworldparliament.org/shadowbox/getballot.html>.

This could actually work!

For the *biggest* picture, buy *World Democracy*. (The book’s updated third edition will be available from Amazon by spring of 2020.) Whether or not you choose to do this, please realize that you have here a golden opportunity to participate in a truly world-altering initiative that deserves your most enthusiastic support. As the late David E. Christensen wrote to us (he was a Board Member of VWP and author of an impressive book titled *Healing the World*. “**This** (he meant the VWP **Plan**) **could actually work!**”

Now ... today ... is the **time for you to agree** that this **Plan** (the citizen-initiated global referendum) *could actually work*, and if you and I and millions of others all do our small bit, it *will work*, in the immediate future, and *we will literally save the world!* *It just isn’t that hard to find multiple new approaches that will help our volunteers.*

A word from VWP’s current President, Ted Stalets

Ted Stalets, of Franklin, TN, USA (a suburb of Nashville) is the President of Vote World Parliament. A long-time futurist, Ted wrote the following words with the aim of having them included in this book summary:

In my opinion, VWP’s **Rescue Plan** for a global referendum is humankind’s best chance to avert disaster and put us on the road to a sustainable peace and a responsible ecology. The great 20th-century thinker and writer Buckminster Fuller⁹ once opined: “You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a brand new model that makes the existing model obsolete.” Our NGO, Vote World Parliament, and Jim Stark’s books, provide exactly the kind of “new model” that Fuller had in mind!

⁹ Buckminster Fuller (1895 - 1983) was also known as “Bucky” Fuller.

The best way to predict the future is to invent it. Alan Curtis Kay

As a final note, I offer this wonderful Benjamin B. Ferencz quote (a favorite of mine): “If leaders won’t lead, let the people lead, and the leaders will surely follow.” (Ferencz was a Nuremberg prosecutor, a powerful advocate for global justice and the author of *New Legal Foundations for Global Survival*, as well as other works.)

For hundreds of additional relevant quotes, mostly from famous people, see the last 50 or so pages of *World Democracy (the book)*. There, you will realize that we at VWP stand in prestigious company, as all of these quotations are from some highly credentialed or otherwise-famous people.

And finally, make a decision as to what numbers of “YES” votes you want to bring to the fight **by this time next year**. We hope to have a full global mandate (1.68 billion “YES” votes) collected and brought to bear on political decision-makers by then. If you are privately or publicly planning to bring in “NO” votes, we will respect your right to use our materials and our website for such purposes, but I think you may want to chat with some of our people to see if this is a decision you might want to reconsider. We’d all prefer to end up on the “right side of history,” and declining to situate yourself in the august company of these authors, scientists and celebrities simply won’t get you there ... ever. But there is still time to act, and with the VWP **Rescue Plan** in mind, there is a real possibility that you and I can act *decisively*, and literally “save the world.” In 2019, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said bluntly (in Madrid): “The point of no return is no longer just over the horizon. It is in sight and hurtling towards us.

OUR VWP LOGO



Addenda (or tailpiece)

Addenda is the plural of “addendum,” meaning “other items, typically omissions, that are added at the end of a document,” often due to an author’s laziness or fatigue. (Small joke here ... please forgive.)

In time, we’ll try to popularize this logo by placing it on coffee cups, T-shirts, etc., as one stream of income for VWP. We love this logo, and we thank New Zealander Hugh Steadman for it. (His brother made it and gave it to Hugh’s group, Sapiens, which later gave all associated rights to me and to VWP). The logo says it all; no great need for words. Although it had been promised that we would never solicit you for money, we’ll need *some* money to carry on our work on the internet, so we placed a “**donate**” button at the bottom of the right-hand column of our internet site, voteworldparliament.org, in

the event that you or others may feel inspired to help get the global referendum off the ground and spreading across the planet.

Is Vote World Parliament a “membership” organization?

VWP is not a membership organization with annual fees, conferences, newsletters and other such activities (although some of these “other such activities” may be added later, as our bank account permits). Rather, it is a narrowly-focused, 21st-century political campaign, and any adult who wants to “participate” is encouraged to do so. If you vote, you are then as involved as any other individual participant, whether you are a “**YES**” voter or a “**NO**” voter. As in many or most referendums, VWP will allow only one vote per adult (aged 16+). We will also accept any endorsements (or ... let’s say “*most*” endorsements) that we receive for our campaign from religious groups, clubs, sports teams, educational institutions, political parties, musicians, commercial enterprises, movie stars, famous authors, etc.

If I change my mind, can I then (or later) change my vote?

Earlier in this book summary, I wrote:

We must also bear in mind the possibility, however remote, that the global referendum may well fail ... by getting more “**NO**” votes than “**YES**” votes, for instance.

Other “for instances” have cropped up, and deserve our focused attention. A **Global Referendum** could fail because too few eligible voters bothered to even vote. As well, it could fail because a global referendum seeking a mandate for the creation of a DWP *had* seemed like a lost cause or even a dangerous idea when this voter first heard of it, but now it seems more realistic, even hopeful. One voter (a young woman, I’d guess to be in her late 20s) didn’t take our new **Rescue Plan** seriously back then, when she’d first voted, so she checked the “**NO**” box on her live ballot. Now, a few years later, this early voter has indeed changed her opinion, but she figured there was no way of changing her vote. What to do?

Three days before the 2016 U.S. election, the American TV networks had wall-to-wall coverage of related events—predictions and such. As I watched all this, I learned a new fact (well, new for me, anyway).

Up until election day, in many states, a citizen who had already voted in an *advance* poll could go back to her polling station, ask for a new ballot, and reverse her choice for President. If this can be done in an American election, it can also be done by us, and that idea would bolster the referendum’s fairness. Since our *formal* world parliament referendums will almost certainly be piggybacked onto national elections, this idea can be implemented for global referendum voters, especially since every referendum ballot has a unique number (to see voter ID list, click on <http://voteworldparliament.org/vote-now/public-record>). To change her vote months or even years after her ballot was first cast in an *advance* poll, this voter just gives her first name *and voter ID number* (which number she had faithfully kept (ever since she’d voted the first time) to the poll worker,

Book summary: *World Democracy through a Global Referendum*

and approves the reversal of her previous referendum vote from a “NO” to a “YES” ... or vice versa, if that’s what the voter now wants.

A personal word about this campaign and its founder

As the person who conceived of this campaign, I have been encouraged to complete my book ... and move on. I try, but that’s difficult for me. I suffer from Parkinsonism. The disease I have is actually called Lewy Body Dementia, and it was summarized for me as being *like* Parkinson’s, “but worse.” It would be a shame if this potentially historic peace initiative failed to even get tried out because of an illness. I guess I don’t really mind not observing the last chapter of our campaign, but I would like to witness the “wheels-up” moment. So do your part, please, and we just may succeed.

Final Word regarding a Global Referendum on the creation of a Democratic World Parliament

While the GlobeScan poll (see page 5 of this document) indicates that in 2004, global public opinion was about 75% in favour of a “world parliament,” and while most people expect that U.S. public opinion in 2020 will run *against* a democratic world parliament proposal such as we are proposing, more than half a century ago a citizen-initiated referendum was held in an American state (Connecticut), piggybacked (meaning “run in tandem with”) onto the 1948 U.S. election, and it was a landslide in favor of a “UN parliament” (as they called a democratic world parliament at that time). An article by Joseph Lyford, “Vote For World Government,” from the *New Republic* of December 12, 1948 (and from the late David Christensen’s book *Healing the World*), describes it thus:

On the day after the (1948 American) election, the anchors, commentators and most other media sages were too busy explaining how it was that Harry Truman was still U.S. President to pay attention to a very interesting political development in the state of Connecticut. Along with the newspapers, they ignored what turned out to be the only real landslide victory in the nation. The victor in this one-sided electoral contest was, oddly enough, not a candidate for public office! It was a referendum proposal to change the United Nations into a “limited world government” ... and it “won” by a vote of 130,548 to 11,467, a stunning 12-to-1 margin!

Signifying what? As indicated above, we humans tried that once before, and though it was a grand success, few people paid any real attention to these brave 20th-century heroes. My advice to you?

**If at first you don’t succeed,
try, try again.**