

Quotes about World Peace that Matter

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“In order to change an existing paradigm you do not struggle to try and change the problematic model. You create a new model and make the old one obsolete.” Buckminster Fuller

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Quotes were selected, then arranged **by category**, then put in **alphabetical order according to the surname of the person quoted**. Categories appear as chapters in the order below. If there is a quote you would like to see included in this list, please send it to voteworldparliament@webruler.com and we'll consider it.

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*NOTE: Many of the astronaut quotes came from <http://www.spacequotations.com/earth.html>.

Other reliable and excellent sources for quotes related to VWP's mission are:

<http://www.worldbeyondborders.org/quotes.htm>

http://www.skenko.com/quotes_peace.html

<http://en.proverbia.net/citastema.asp?tematica=877>

http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/topics/topic_peace.html

http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/world_peace.html

Chapter 1

QUOTES FROM ASTRONAUTS

NOTE: Many quotes found in this chapter come from <http://www.spacequotations.com/earth.html>

Looking outward to the blackness of space, sprinkled with the glory of a universe of lights, I saw majesty—but no welcome. Below was a welcoming planet. There, contained in the thin, moving, incredibly fragile shell of the biosphere is everything that is dear to you, all the human drama and comedy. That’s where life is; that’s where all the good stuff is. Loren Acton, astronaut

We were flying over America and suddenly I saw snow, the first snow we ever saw from orbit. I have never visited America, but I imagined that the arrival of autumn and winter is the same there as in other places, and the process of getting ready for them is the same. And then it struck me that we are all children of our Earth. Aleksandr Aleksandrov, astronaut

We came all this way to explore the moon, and the most important thing is that we discovered the Earth. William Anders, astronaut, in the 2008 Discovery TV series “When We Left Earth”

It suddenly struck me that that tiny pea, pretty and blue, was the Earth. I put up my thumb and shut one eye, and my thumb blotted out the planet Earth. I didn’t feel like a giant. I felt very, very small. Neil Armstrong, astronaut

It isn’t important in which sea or lake you observe a slick of pollution, or in the forests of which country a fire breaks out, or on which continent a hurricane arises. You are standing guard over the whole of our Earth. Yuri Artyukhin, astronaut

As I looked down, I saw a large river meandering slowly along for miles, passing from one country to another without stopping. I also saw huge forests, extending along several borders. And I watched the extent of one ocean touch the shores of separate continents. Two words leaped to mind as I looked down on all this: commonality and interdependence. We are one world. John-David Bartoe, astronaut

Frequently on the lunar surface I said to myself, “This is the Moon, that is the Earth. I’m really here, I’m really here!” Alan Bean, astronaut

The first day or so we all pointed to our countries. The third or fourth day we were pointing to our continents. By the fifth day, we were aware of only one Earth. Sultan bin Salman Al-Saud, astronaut (His surname is “bin Salman,” hence his placement here in alphabetical order.)

To fly in space is to see the reality of Earth, alone. The experience changed my life and my attitude toward life itself. I am one of the lucky ones. **Roberta Bondar**, astronaut, *Space Shuttle: The First 20 Years*

When you're finally up at the moon looking back at the Earth, all those differences and nationalistic traits are pretty well going to blend, and you're going to get a concept that maybe this really is one world, and why the hell can't we learn to live together like decent people. **Frank Borman**, astronaut

I think the one overwhelming emotion that we had was when we saw the Earth rising in the distance over the lunar landscape.... It makes us realize that we all do exist on one small globe. For from 230,000 miles away it really is a small planet. **Frank Borman**, astronaut

This planet is not terra firma. It is a delicate flower and it must be cared for. It's lonely. It's small. It's isolated, and there is no re-supply. And we are mistreating it. Clearly, the highest loyalty we should have is not to our own country or [to] our own religion or [to] our hometown or even to ourselves. It should be to, number two, the family of man, and number one, the planet at large. This is our home, and this is all we've got. **Scott Carpenter**, astronaut

I really believe that if the political leaders of the world could see their planet from a distance of 100,000 miles, their outlook could be fundamentally changed. That all-important border would be invisible, that noisy argument silenced. The tiny globe would continue to turn, serenely ignoring its subdivisions, presenting a unified façade that would cry out for unified understanding, for homogeneous treatment. The Earth must become as it appears: blue and white, not capitalist or Communist; blue and white, not rich or poor; blue and white, not envious or envied. **Michael Collins**, astronaut, *Carrying the Fire: An Astronaut's Journeys*, 1974

It was a texture. The blackness was so intense. **Charles Duke**, astronaut

From space I saw Earth ... indescribably beautiful, and with the scars of national boundaries gone. **Muhammad Ahmad Faris**, astronaut

What beauty! I saw clouds and their light shadows on the distant dear Earth.... The water looked like darkish, slightly gleaming spots.... When I watched the horizon, I saw the abrupt, contrasting transition from the Earth's light-colored surface to the absolutely black sky. I enjoyed the rich color spectrum of the Earth. It is surrounded by a light blue aureole that gradually darkens, becoming turquoise, dark blue, violet, and finally coal black. **Yuri Gagarin**, astronaut

Seeing Earth from space gives me such a feeling of wild grandeur. My fundamental goal is to get people to be able to see the world that way ... as one small place, and just how close we are to each other, one bubble of air that keeps us all alive, [and] that we're responsible for. **Chris Hadfield**, astronaut

As we got further and further away, it [the Earth] diminished in size. Finally it shrank to the size of a marble, the most beautiful you can imagine. That beautiful, warm, living object looked so fragile, so delicate, that if you touched it with a finger it would crumble and fall apart. Seeing this has to change a man. James B. Irwin, astronaut

After an orange cloud—formed as a result of a dust storm over the Sahara and caught up by air currents—reached the Philippines and settled there with rain, I understood that we are all sailing in the same boat. Vladimir Kovalyovok, astronaut

The Earth was small, light blue, and so touchingly alone, our home that must be defended like a holy relic. The Earth was absolutely round. I believe I never knew what the word round meant until I saw Earth from space. Aleksei Leonov, astronaut

The scenery was very beautiful. But I did not see the Great Wall. Yang Liwei, China's first astronaut, 2003

The colors are stunning. In a single view, I see—looking out at the edge of the Earth—red at the horizon line, blending to orange and yellow, followed by a thin white line, then light blue, gradually turning to dark blue and various gradually darker shades of gray, then black and a million stars above. It's breathtaking. Willie McCool, astronaut

It's beyond imagination until you actually get up and see it and experience it and feel it. Willie McCool, astronaut

A tear-drop of green. Ron McNair, physicist and astronaut

For the first time in my life I saw the horizon as a curved line. It was accentuated by a thin seam of dark blue light—our atmosphere. Obviously this was not the ocean of air I had been told it was so many times in my life. I was terrified by its fragile appearance. Ulf Merbold, astronaut

Suddenly, from behind the rim of the Moon, in long, slow-motion moments of immense majesty, there emerges a sparkling blue and white jewel, a light, delicate sky-blue sphere laced with slowly swirling veils of white, rising gradually like a small pearl in a thick sea of black mystery. It takes more than a moment to fully realize this is Earth ... home. Edgar Mitchell, astronaut

My view of our planet was a glimpse of divinity. Edgar Mitchell, astronaut

You develop an instant global consciousness, a people orientation, an intense dissatisfaction with the state of the world, and a compulsion to do something about it. From out there on the moon, international politics look so petty. You want to grab a politician by the scruff of the neck and drag him a quarter of a million miles

out and say, “Look at that, you son of a bitch.” Edgar Mitchell, astronaut, *People* magazine, 1974

We went to the Moon as technicians; we returned as humanitarians. Edgar Mitchell, astronaut

If the space age had opened new ways of seeing mere matter, though, it has also fostered a strange return to something reminiscent of the pre-Copernican universe. The life that Lowell and his like expected elsewhere has not appeared, and so the Earth has become unique again. The now-iconic image of a blue-white planet floating in space, or hanging over the deadly deserts of the moon, reinforces the Earth’s isolation and specialness. And it is this exceptionalism that drives the current scientific thirst for finding life elsewhere, for finding a cosmic mainstream of animation, even civilization, in which the Earth can take its place. It is both wonderful and unsettling to live on a planet that is unique. Oliver Morton, astronaut, *A Point of Warlike Light*, 2002

The world looks marvelous from up here, so peaceful, so wonderful and so fragile. Everybody, all of us down there, not only in Israel, have to keep it clean and good. Israeli Air Force Col. Ilan Ramon, astronaut

It’s the abject smallness of the Earth that gets you. Stuart Allen Roosa, astronaut

I left Earth three times and found no other place to go. Please take care of Spaceship Earth. Wally Schirra, astronaut

It truly is an oasis—and we don’t take very good care of it. I think the elevation of that awareness is a real contribution to saving the Earth. Dave Scott, astronaut, interview for the 2007 movie *In the Shadow of the Moon*

Once during the mission I was asked by ground control what I could see. “What do I see?” I replied. “Half a world to the left, half a world to the right, I can see it all. The Earth is so small.” Vitali Sevastyanov, astronaut

My mental boundaries expanded when I viewed the Earth against a black and uninviting vacuum, yet my country’s rich traditions had conditioned me to look beyond manmade boundaries and prejudices. One does not have to undertake a space flight to come by this feeling. Rakesh Sharma, astronaut

If somebody had said before the flight, “Are you going to get carried away looking at the Earth from the moon?” I would have said, “No, no way.” But when I first looked back at the Earth, standing on the moon, I cried. Alan Shepard, astronaut

My first view—a panorama of brilliant deep blue ocean, shot with shades of green and gray and white—was of atolls and clouds. Close to the window I could see that this Pacific scene in motion was rimmed by the great curved limb of the Earth. It

had a thin halo of blue held close, and beyond, black space. I held my breath, but something was missing—I felt strangely unfulfilled. Here was a tremendous visual spectacle, but viewed in silence. There was no grand musical accompaniment; no triumphant, inspired sonata or symphony. Each one of us must write the music of this sphere for ourselves. Charles Walker, astronaut

A Chinese tale tells of some men sent to harm a young girl, but upon seeing her beauty, they become her protectors rather than her violators. That's how I felt seeing the Earth for the first time. I could not help but love and cherish her. Taylor Wang, JPL physicist and astronaut

For those who have seen the Earth from space ... the experience most certainly changes your perspective. The things that we share in our world are far more valuable than those which divide us. Donald Williams, astronaut

Now I know why I'm here. Not for a closer look at the moon, but to look back at our home, the Earth. Alfred Worden, astronaut

Quietly, like a night bird, floating, soaring, wingless
We glide from shore to shore, curving and falling
but not quite touching;
Earth: a distant memory seen in an instant of repose,
crescent shaped, ethereal, beautiful,
I wonder which part is home, but I know it doesn't matter ...
the bond is there in my mind and memory;
Earth: a small, bubbly balloon hanging delicately
in the nothingness of space.

Alfred Worden, astronaut

Chapter 2

“EXISTENTIAL” THREATS

[Existentialism as a noun is a branch of philosophy, but the adjective “existential” can be used in another sense. An “existential threat”—such as a nuclear war, climate change, a pandemic, a collision with a big asteroid, etc.—is one that threatens the very existence of humanity, and perhaps all life on Earth.]

There are no nations! There is only humanity. And if we don't come to understand that right soon, there will be no nations, because there will be no humanity. Isaac Asimov

History has given our generation an enormous responsibility and two daunting tasks: If civilization is to survive, we must not only stabilize global population, but also, even more importantly, we must eliminate the institution of war. John Avery, “Against the Institution of War”

Behind the black portent of the new atomic age lies a hope which, seized upon with faith, can work out a salvation. If we fail, then we have damned every man to be the slave of fear. Let us not deceive ourselves: we must elect world peace or world destruction. Bernard Baruch, speech to UN Atomic Energy Commission, August, 1946

Evidence of the new Congress and administration’s national priorities was confirmed in President-elect Barack Obama’s victory speech [when he] called on America to defend a “planet in peril” as one of the three great challenges of our time. Sue Brown, Executive Director, National Wildlife Federation Action Fund

The terror-filled anaesthesia which numbed rational thought, made nuclear war thinkable and grossly excessive arsenals possible during the Cold War is gradually wearing off. A renewed appreciation for the obscene power of a single nuclear weapon is taking a new hold on our consciousness, as we confront the nightmarish prospect of nuclear terror at the micro level. General Lee Butler, Former Commander, Strategic Air Command, speech at the State of the World Forum, San Francisco, 1996

It’s okay to be passionate about the survival of planet Earth. Dr. Helen Caldicott

Unless we establish some form of world government, it will not be possible for us to avert a World War III in the future. Unless some effective world supergovernment for the purpose of preventing war can be set up, the prospects for peace and human progress are dark. Winston Churchill

Almost imperceptibly, over the last four decades, every nation and every human being has lost ultimate control over their own life and death. For all of us, it is a small group of men and machines in cities far away who can decide our fate. Every

day we remain alive is a day of grace as if mankind as a whole were a prisoner in the death cell awaiting the uncertain moment of execution. And like every innocent defendant, we refuse to believe that the execution will ever take place. Members of the Five Continent Peace Initiative, Argentina, India, Mexico, Tanzania, Sweden, and Greece, *The Delhi Declaration*, 1985

There are plenty of problems in the world, many of them interconnected. But there is no problem which compares with this central, universal problem of saving the human race from extinction. John Foster Dulles, former U.S. secretary of state, speech to the UN General Assembly, 1952

I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that. Thomas Edison, almost 100 years ago!

Mark my words ... the only problem which deserves the devotion of contemporary man, the problem to which I myself am determined to devote the rest of my life, up to my very last day ... is, very simply, the survival of the species. It is a question of knowing whether mankind ... will disappear by its own hand, or whether it will continue to exist. Albert Einstein

I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones. Albert Einstein

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. The world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. Dwight D. Eisenhower

Our [American] nuclear arsenal is, in effect, a doomsday machine, capable of causing human extinction. Daniel Ellsberg, nuclear expert and "Pentagon Papers" whistleblower

I decline to accept the end of man. William Faulkner, speech upon receiving the Nobel Prize, 1950

Either war is obsolete or men are. Buckminster Fuller, *New Yorker*, 1966

We're borrowing money from China to buy oil from the Persian Gulf to burn it in ways that destroy the future of human civilization. Every bit of that has to change. Al Gore at the Democratic National Convention where Barak Obama accepted the presidential nomination in Denver, Colorado (August 28, 2008)

The world faces a true planetary emergency. Al Gore, former U.S. vice-president

Nature is on the run! Future generations will suffer ... and they will ask, "What in God's name were they doing? Didn't they see the evidence? Didn't they hear the warnings?" Al Gore, former American VP and Nobel laureate (for his work on climate change and his role in the film, *An Inconvenient Truth*), from his March, 2007 testimony to committees of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate

What we need [to fight climate change] is comparable to the mobilization [in Canada] for World War Two.... People have to realize the enormity and the magnitude of the effort that is going to be needed to turn this around. Danny Harvey, University of Toronto contributor to the IPCC, *Ottawa Citizen*, 2007

As scientists, we understand the dangers of nuclear weapons and their devastating effects, and we are learning how human activities and technologies are affecting climate systems in ways that may forever change life on Earth. As citizens of the world, we have a duty to alert the public to the unnecessary risks that we live with every day, and to the perils we foresee if governments and societies do not take action now to render nuclear weapons obsolete and to prevent further climate change. Stephen Hawking in a news conference January 17, 2007, organized by the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*

Nuclear weapons are clearly inhumane weapons in obvious violation of international law. So long as such weapons exist, it is inevitable that the horror of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be repeated -- somewhere, sometime -- in an unforgivable affront to humanity itself. Takashi Hiraoka, Mayor of Hiroshima, *Hiroshima Peace Declaration*, 1995

The nuclear weapon is obsolete. I want to get rid of them all. General Charles Horner, Commander of U.S. Space Command, 1994

From now on it is only through a conscious choice and through a deliberate policy that humanity can survive. (Pope) John Paul II, address in Hiroshima, 1981

Mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind. John F. Kennedy

The supreme reality of our time is ... the vulnerability of this planet. John F. Kennedy

We must all learn to live together as brothers [and sisters] or we will all perish together as fools. Martin Luther King Jr.

Every war already carries within it the war which will answer it. Every war is answered by a new war, until everything, everything is smashed. Kathe Kollwitz

Population and environmental problems created by non-sustainable resource use will ultimately get solved ... if not by pleasant means ... then by unpleasant ones. Thomas Malthus, 18th-century philosopher

Different groups of species are now going extinct 100 to 1,000 times faster than expected. Scientists expect that species extinction rates of 1,000 times higher than expected will be typical within the next few decades. Stuart Pimm, author of *The world according to Pimm, a scientist audits the Earth*

The people of the world must understand the forces driving them toward the coming holocaust. It has nothing whatever to do with Communism or capitalism, with individualism or collectivism. It is the inevitable conflict between non-integrated sovereignties [nation-states] in contact. Emery Reves, *The Anatomy of Peace*, 1945

The real horror ... is accepting the fact that we might never be able to repair the damage already done. We can hardly celebrate the fact that we're all living on a dying planet. Martin Sheen, TV/film star, April, 2001, on receiving the Distinguished Environmentalist Award in Los Angeles.

In just 100 months' time, if we are lucky, and based on a quite conservative estimate, we could reach a tipping point for the beginnings of runaway climate change. Andrew Simms, policy director, New Economics Foundation

I remember that during the Cold War, we¹ tried to nail down what we'd called the "GOF," or "global overkill factor." The lowest estimate that we found (uttered by then-U.S. Congressman Leon Panetta) was ten. This was in the 1980s ... so it would not be "alarmist" to go with that estimate today, and say that there are, in the early 21st century, enough nuclear weapons to assassinate humanity ten times over. Jim Stark in *Rescue Plan*

The sea ice in the Arctic is toast (meaning it will all be gone soon), but (action to combat climate change) may change whether or not we are toast too. Andrew Weaver, climate modeler, School of Earth and Ocean Sciences at the University of Victoria in Canada, in an article entitled "Arctic ice cover shrinks to new low after summer thaw." (When you say in North America that something is "toast," that means it is already dead or is destined to die or disappear in the near future.)

¹ I headed Operation Dismantle, a Canadian nuclear disarmament organization, at the time

Chapter 3

WORLD GOVERNMENT, WORLD PARLIAMENT AND WORLD DEMOCRACY

It is no longer sacrilegious to consider that democracy can be applied even outside the state. Daniele Archibugi, in his book, *The Global Commonwealth of Citizens: Toward Cosmopolitan Democracy*

It is quite clear that as long as the nations of the world spend most of their energy, money, and emotional strength in quarreling with words and weapons, a true offensive against the common problems that threaten human survival is not very likely. A world government that can channel human efforts in the direction of the great solutions seems desirable, even essential. Isaac Asimov, "The Dreams of Science Fiction"

If democracy is understood as enjoying equal rights to partake in decision-making about the rules and policies that bind and affect us, the fact that global institutions like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and powerful multinational corporations are unelected, unrepresentative and unaccountable to people affected by their decisions is hugely problematic. Kym Beeston, journalist, in an article entitled "Time for Democracy 2.0? The Launch of the Manifesto for a Global Democracy," about the Manifesto's 2012 launch

A Parliamentary Assembly would make the UN more transparent, more efficient and more democratic. Boutros Boutros-Ghali

Democracy is the best revenge. Bilawal Bhutto Zardid, 19-year-old son of Benazir Bhutto, three days after his mother's assassination (it was one of her favorite sayings)

The concept of world government should be looked at in a new millennium as part of a grown-up and sensible discussion. Harold Bidmead, author of *Parliament of Man and Tilting at Windbags: The Autobiography of a World Federalist*

For the first time in human history, world government of some sort is now possible. Geoffrey Blainey, Australian historian

We need to promote the democratization of globalization before globalization destroys the foundations of national and international democracy. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The only way to escape our dilemma is to put world law above the national governments, and to make a parliament to create such world law, we need to constitute this world parliament by way of global elections in which all people will vote. Albert Camus

Unless some effective world supergovernment for the purpose of preventing war can be set up ... the prospects for peace and human progress are dark.... If ... it is found possible to build a world organization of irresistible force and inviolable authority for the purpose of securing peace, there are no limits to the blessings which all men [and women] enjoy and share. **Winston Churchill**, 1947

At the bottom of all the tributes paid to democracy is the little man [or woman], walking into the little booth, with a little pencil, making a little cross on a little bit of paper. **Winston Churchill**

It is not possible to have a global commercial system without a global economic policy, and without global environmental, educational and sanitary policies, and without a global agreement on security. **Bill Clinton**

Those advocates who work for world peace by urging a system of [democratic] world government are called impractical dreamers. Those impractical dreamers are entitled to ask their critics what is so practical about war. **Walter Cronkite**

I have no country to fight for: my country is the Earth, and I am a citizen of the world. **Eugene V. Debs**

We must apply at the global level that which we apply at the national level: democracy. **Dominique de Villepin**, Radio France Interview, 2003 [Originally in French: "Il faut appliquer au niveau mondial ce que nous appliquons au niveau national: la démocratie."]

A world government with powers adequate to guarantee security is not a remote ideal for the distant future. It is an urgent necessity if our civilization is to survive. There is no salvation for civilization, or even the human race, other than the creation of a world government. **Albert Einstein**

Perfection of means and confusion of goals seem to characterize our age. If we desire sincerely and passionately the safety, the welfare and the free development of the talents of all men [and women], we shall not be in want of the means to approach such a state. **Albert Einstein**

There is no salvation for civilization, or even the human race, other than the creation of a world government. **Albert Einstein**

A world government with powers adequate to guarantee security is not a remote ideal for the distant future. It is an urgent necessity if our civilization is to survive. **Albert Einstein**

This world of ours ... must avoid becoming a community of dreadful fear and hate, and be, instead, a proud confederation of mutual trust and respect. **Dwight D. Eisenhower**

... 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, has become convinced that no other method than world government can be expected to prove effective, and that the attainment of world government is therefore the most urgent problem now facing mankind. **Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists, 1948 Resolution**

The Founding Fathers [of the USA] created ... a political entity [a federal government] of sufficient mass to meet the challenges at hand, yet with sufficient safeguards to allow liberty to flourish.... The only way [for the world] to avoid both tyranny and destruction is to act as America's Founding Fathers did ... by ceding just enough power to a higher authority to combat the threat. **Tim Flannery, *The Weather Makers***

There is an increasing awareness of the need for some form of global government. **Mikhail Gorbachev**

War is a social *sickness* ... There should be some worldwide democratic political institutions by means of which the conflicts can be worked out without resorting to violence. [... The] sickness of war at all levels ... should be curable by the same kinds of democratic political and judicial institutions that keep conflict under control within most democratic national communities. **Ronald J. Glossop, *Confronting War: An Examination of Humanity's Most Pressing Problem***

Obviously, the thinking and actions of individuals can have an impact on whether war gets abolished, but ... any solution to the problem of war in the end must involve influencing our *social* practices and modifying our *social* and *political* institutions. The problem of war is a problem to be dealt with in *social* philosophy ... [because] war is always a matter of organized group against organized group. **Ronald J. Glossop, *Confronting War: An Examination of Humanity's Most Pressing Problem***

On today's agenda is not just a union of democratic states, but also a democratically organized world community. An awareness of the need for some kind of global government is gaining ground, one in which all members of the world community would take part. **Mikhail Gorbachev**

A parliament at the U.N. would symbolize the notion of humanity as a community of world citizens. **Günter Grass, German writer and social democrat, Nobel Prize Laureate in literature (1999)**

We believe that we can protect ourselves against inter-national wars only through the establishment of constitutional life in world affairs, and that such universal Law must be created in conformity with the democratic process, by freely elected and responsible representatives. **Angela Harkavy, *The Earth Charter***

The continued reliance on purely national forms of democracy has become radically insufficient in a global age. It is no longer a question of whether democracy should define the contemporary world, but of which type of democracy we should wish and indeed hope to have. Patrick Hayden, *Cosmopolitan Global Politics*

Everything has gone global except democracy. Fernando Iglesias, university professor, activist and former Member of the Argentine Parliament as quoted by Kym Beeston (who noted that “We have a global marketplace, global communications, global institutions, global risks like climate change, and a global financial crisis.”)

... the present world situation ... makes it necessary to have a world constitution, a world parliament, and a world government.... Throughout her long history, India has always believed in the idea of humanity as a single family. Bairam Jakhari, then-Speaker of the Lok Sabha (the People’s House of India) in 1985

Every man [and woman] possesses the right of self-government. Thomas Jefferson, 1743–1826; the last words he ever wrote

The international community should support a system of laws to regularize international relations and maintain the peace in the same manner that law governs national order. (Pope) John Paul II

The common good of all nations involves problems which affect people all the world over: problems which can only be solved by a public authority ... whose writ covers the entire globe. We cannot therefore escape the conclusion that the moral order itself demands the establishment of some sort of world government. (Pope) John XXIII in the encyclical, *Pacem in Terris* (Latin for *Peace on Earth*)

The most important decisions have migrated away from institutions under citizens’ control and towards international power centres free from any form of democratic supervision. Globalisation thus brings about the crisis of democracy. How long can democracy last in a world where citizens are excluded from participating in decisions which determine their destiny? Globalisation must be democratised before it destroys democracy. Lucio Levi, *Crisi dello Stato e governo del mondo* (*Crisis of the state and world government*)

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)

Our planetary environment does not belong to any nation. It belongs to the people of Earth. And nowhere on our planet do we have institutions that represent the people of Earth; nowhere do we have a democracy that represents people in their humanity. Countries only represent people as Filipinos, Americans, or Russians, not as human beings with universal human rights and with the right to planetary peace

and a protected planetary environment. Dr. Glen T. **Martin**, GUSI International Peace Prize acceptance speech, Manila, Philippines, 27 November, 2013

You need a global and democratic system of political decision-making. **Thabo Mbeki**, President of South Africa, Reuters, 2000

In both war and peace, anything less than enough soon proves to be the equivalent of nothing.... The mere existence of a world organization (he was referring here to the UN), however inadequate, may cause too many to trust it one day too long, and we may never have another chance. **Vernon Nash**, *The World Must be Governed*

Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary. **Reinhold Niebuhr**, a crucial contributor to modern "just war" thinking

Before one can decide if world government is good or bad, it is necessary to define what world government is. If government is the institution that governs society, it seems self-evident that we already have world government. We don't have [world] democracy. And we don't have a [world] legislature. But plenty of governments throughout history haven't been democratically accountable to the citizenry. **Carl Nyberg**, in an article² entitled "World government? We already have world government." Nyberg is an activist and an independent media production professional

The World Trade Organization has rules that get enforced through a judicial process. Effectively the rules supersede national law. The WTO is a theocratic oligarchy with a theology which holds that an economic system [capitalism] is the supreme being of the universe. **Carl Nyberg**, in the article referred to above

The existing international economic system is an oligarchy devoted to imposing neo-liberal economic policy, and [it is] completely insulated from democratic accountability. **Carl Nyberg**, in the article referred to above

It took World War I to get Woodrow Wilson to advocate for the League of Nations. It took World War II to get Franklin Delano Roosevelt [*et al*] to create the United Nations. I fear [that] fixing the current mess in the world government will be preceded by the conflict between the West and the Islamic world getting enormously destructive. **Carl Nyberg**, in the article referred to above

History is open-ended: even if an end-point should have been achieved, the future must remain open. In this critical-reflexive sense, there is nothing final about any particular historical telos such as global democracy realized within the framework of a world political community of some sort. Thus understood, global democracy is not the only purpose or the ultimate end-point of human history; but it provides a normatively compelling direction to the world history in the 21st century. **Heikki**

² *Journal of Oak Park and River Forest*, December 13, 2005. Nyberg is an activist and an Independent Media Production Professional

Patomäki

Cosmopolitan, planetary identity implies the acknowledgement of irreducible differences within humanity itself, however unstable and changing they may be. Moreover, these differences can also be seen as drivers of further human learning – also concerning our place in the wider cosmic scheme of things. Heikki Patomäki

For the first time in my life, I think the formation of some sort of world government is plausible. A “world government” would involve much more than co-operation between nations. It would be an entity with state-like characteristics, backed by a body of laws. Gideon Rachman in “And now for a world government,” *Financial Times*, December 8, 2008

... this planet must to some degree be brought under unified control. Our task, our duty, is to attempt to institute this unified control in a democratic way ... Emery Reves, *The Anatomy of Peace*, 1945

There is no first step to world government; world government is the first step. Emery Reves, *The Anatomy of Peace*, 1945

Institutions such as a world parliament and a world government would go a long way in eliminating the exclusivism based on race, region, religion and language. Indian Justice P.B. Sawant, President of the WAPC (World Association of Press Councils), 2004

**For I dipped into the future, far as human eye could see,
Saw the vision of the world, and all the wonders there would be,
Saw the heavens fill with commerce, argosies of magic sails,
Pilots of the purple twilight, dropping down with costly bales...
Till the war-drum throbbed no longer, and the battle-flags were furled
In the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world.**

“Locksley Hall,” a poem by Alfred Tennyson, 1842

Mankind’s problems can no longer be solved by national governments. What is needed is world government. Jan Tinbergen, when with the World Bank, 1994 *Human Development Report*

It is obvious that no difficulty in the way of world government can match the danger of a world without it. Carl van Doren

We are struggling badly in the world, and have not adopted a proper solution to our problems.... We need to either create new organizations or reform the United Nations. We need a global parliament ... and a global ministry of defense.... We will not allow anyone to violate the rules or else the global forces will bring order. This is what is still needed. Lech Walesa, former Polish President, 2004

No matter how muscular the inputs from informal and formal networks, no matter how copious the resources from private foundations and corporations, no matter how much goodwill from individuals and governments, we cannot continue to ignore and rationalize the absence of overarching authority. Continued advances in global governance are desirable, feasible and beneficial; but we are obliged to honestly ask, is adequate let alone good global governance imaginable without world government? No. Thomas G. Weiss, Presidential Professor of Political Science and Director, Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, City University of New York, "Conclusion" in *Governing the World? Addressing "Problems without Passports"*

A federation of all humanity, together with a sufficient measure of social justice to ensure health, education, and a rough equality of opportunity, would mean such a release and increase of human energy as to open up a new phase in human history. H.G. Wells, *The Outline of History*, 1922

Chapter 4

LAW (ESPECIALLY WORLD LAW) AND CORRUPTION

Corruption hurts the poor disproportionately by diverting funds intended for development, undermining a government's ability to provide basic services, feeding inequality and injustice, and discouraging foreign investment and aid. **Kofi Annan**, UN Secretary-General, in his statement on the adoption by the General Assembly of the *United Nations Convention against Corruption*

Secrecy is a form of corruption ... lack of transparency is a threat to democracy as lethal as stealing public funds. **Oscar Arias**, president of Costa Rica and winner of the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize

Global governance is just a euphemism for global government.... [the] core of the international financial crisis is that we have global financial markets and no global rule of law. **Jacques Attali**, adviser to former president Nicolas Sarkozy of France

The essential notion is the replacement of anarchy with the rule of law reaching to individuals. **Joseph Preston Baratta**, PhD, from an article entitled "The World Citizens Party: Ideas for the Future"

To reduce corruption effectively, some features that lead to greater transparency and accountability need to be consciously built into the design [of a global system of governance]. **Subhash Bhatnagar**, when working with the World Bank

The world needs to be governed by constitutional law, not by war. True law acts directly on the individual, not on sovereign states or whole communities as such. Genuine law is law that can be enforced on individual law-breakers (not on Sovereign States, which is impossible without the use of military force). Preferably it derives from a democratic legislature, applies equally to every separate member of the community, and is peaceably enforceable through the courts. **Harold S. Bldmead**, *Tilting at Windbags: The Autobiography of a World Federalist*

Democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried. (Often misquoted or paraphrased as "... except for the alternatives.") **Winston Churchill**

The first priority of humankind in this era is to establish an effective system of world law that will assure peace with justice among the peoples of the world ... democracy—civilization itself—is at stake. **Walter Cronkite**, American broadcast journalist, best known as anchorman for the *CBS Evening News* (1962-81). Often cited in viewer opinion polls and elsewhere as "the most trusted man in America."

Political thinkers are beginning to say ... that the cause of civilization is lost unless nation-states will agree to abandon some part of their sovereignty. **Lionel Curtis**, *World Order*, Oxford University, 1939

All those who seek to destroy the liberties of a democratic nation ought to know that war is the surest and shortest means to accomplish it. **Alexis de Tocqueville**

World federalism is an idea that will not die. More and more people are coming to realize that peace must be more than an interlude if we are to survive; that peace is a product of law and order; that law is essential if the force of arms is not to rule the world. **U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas**

The liberties of none are safe unless the liberties of all are protected. **U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas**

There is no end in sight to the misuse of power by those in public office.... There is a worldwide corruption crisis. **Peter Eigen**, then-Chair of Transparency International announcing the Corruption Perceptions Index 2001

Our defense is not in armaments, nor in sciences, nor in going underground. Our defense is in law and order. **Albert Einstein**

With all my heart I believe that the world's present system of sovereign nations can only lead to barbarism, war and inhumanity, and that only World law can assure progress towards a civilized, peaceful community. **Albert Einstein**

Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important affairs. **Albert Einstein**

With all my heart I believe that the world's present system of sovereign nations can only lead to barbarism, war and inhumanity, and that only world law can assure progress towards a civilized peaceful community. **Albert Einstein**

The world no longer has a choice between force and law; if civilization is to survive, it must choose the rule of law. **Dwight D. Eisenhower**

We have been warned by the power of modern weapons that peace may be the only climate possible for human life itself. There must be [democratic] law, steadily invoked and respected, because without law, the world promises only such meagre justice as the pity of the strong upon the weak. **Dwight D. Eisenhower**

I prefer law to war under all circumstances. **Benjamin Ferencz**, Nuremberg prosecutor

Fighting terrorism was dangerous, but fighting corruption was much more dangerous ... The big powers are very strong. **Alberto Fujimori**, former president of Peru

Our ideal is a world community of states which are based on the rule of law and which subordinate their foreign policy activities to law. Mikhail Gorbachev, in a speech to the UN in 1988

The Constitution is not an instrument for the government to restrain the people, it is an instrument for the people to restrain the government ... lest it come to dominate our lives and interests. Patrick Henry, American lawyer

No national law, no national precautions, can save the planet. Thor Heyerdahl, Norwegian ethnographer and adventurer, famous for his Kon-Tiki Expedition

Public- and private-sector corruption ... are among the greatest threats to democratic governance.... Public access to State information promotes transparency, [and] is an essential element for combating corruption and an indispensable condition for ... the enjoyment of human rights. Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, XIII Iberoamerican Summit of Chiefs of State and Government

The document [referring to the 1948 Declaration of Human Rights] represents an important step on the path towards the juridical-political organization of the world community. (Pope) John XXIII

We prefer world law in the age of self-determination to world war in the age of mass extermination. John F. Kennedy, in a speech to the UN General Assembly, 1961

We must create worldwide law and law enforcement as we outlaw worldwide war and weapons. John F. Kennedy

Legislation may not change the heart, but it will restrain the heartless. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Constitution does not grant rights, it recognizes them. Jason Laumark (He meant the U.S. Constitution, but the principle stands.)

If nations could only depend upon fair and impartial judgments in a world court of law, they would abandon the senseless, savage practice of war. Belva Lockwood (1830-1917), U.S. attorney and the first woman to run for president of the United States

To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity. Nelson Mandela

I was made, by the law, a criminal, not because of what I had done, but because of what I stood for, because of what I thought, because of my conscience. Nelson Mandela

When a man is denied the right to live the life he believes in, he has no choice but to become an outlaw. Nelson Mandela

Today's [U.S.] Constitution is a realistic document of freedom only because of several corrective amendments. Those amendments speak to a sense of decency and fairness that I and other Blacks cherish. Thurgood Marshall (1908 - 1993), top aide to Bill Clinton and the first African-American Supreme Court Justice, in his book, *We The People*

It is time to use international co-operation to enforce a policy of zero tolerance of political corruption and to put an end to practices whereby politicians put themselves above the law—stealing from ordinary citizens and hiding behind parliamentary immunity. Akere Muna, President, Transparency International, Cameroon chapter

The mandate from a successful global referendum on establishing a world parliament would be the first legitimate expression of the people's world sovereignty to make world law. World law will be at a higher level than what we know as international law, and what we are really doing with the global referendum is embryonic world law. Francisco Plancarte, President of the Mexican NGO Planetafilia and a member of the Inter-American Bar Association.

We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark. The real tragedy of life is when men [or women] are afraid of the light. Plato

Unlimited power is apt to corrupt the minds of those who possess it; and this I know, my lords, that where law ends, tyranny begins. William Pitt, Prime Minister of Great Britain, 1770 (or Margaret Thatcher or John Locke, depending on Google's mood)

Corruption can destroy the strongest democracy if it is not dealt with, so fight it. Former U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell

To fight corruption of an international nature, we need an international jurisdiction. Baltazar Garzon Real, Investigating Judge, Spain, 10th International Anti-Corruption Conference in Czech Republic

The question is not one of surrendering national sovereignty. The problem is not negative and does not involve giving something up we already have. The problem is positive—creating something we lack ... but ... imperatively need—the extension of law and order into another field of human association which heretofore has remained unregulated and in anarchy. Emery Reves, *The Anatomy of Peace*

No man who is corrupt, no man who condones corruption in others, can possibly do his duty by the community. Theodore Roosevelt, 1900

Government is more than the sum of all the interests; it is the paramount interest, the public interest. It must be the efficient, effective agent of a responsible citizenry, not the shelter of the incompetent and the corrupt. Adlai Stevenson, 1948

Those who corrupt the public mind are just as evil as those who steal from the public purse. Adlai Stevenson, 1952

The [U.S.] *Constitution* ... divides power ... among branches of government precisely so that we may resist the temptation to concentrate power in one location as an expedient solution to the crisis of the day. Unknown. Source: U.S. Supreme Court, 1992, *New York v. United States*

A world under law is realistic and attainable. Former UN Secretary-General U Thant

Since corrupt people unite amongst themselves to create a force, honest people must do the same. It is as simple as that. Leo Tolstoy, *War and Peace*

I am standing here with a degree of Doctor of Laws. That means that we live, in this country at least, in an age of law and an age of reason, an age in which we can get along with our neighbors. Now we must do that internationally. It will be just as easy for nations to get along in a republic of the world as it is for us to get along in the republic of the United States. Now, if Kansas and Colorado have a quarrel over a watershed, they don't call out the National Guard of each State and go to war over it. They bring suit in the Supreme Court and abide by its decision. There isn't a reason in the world why we can't do that internationally. Harry Truman, U.S. President, 1945

There is enough bad in people to make law necessary, and enough good in people to make it workable. Source unknown

If we are ever to legalize peace, we must criminalize war. Source unknown

History is now choosing the founders of the World Federation. Any person who can be among that number and fails to do so has lost the noblest opportunity of a lifetime. Carl Van Doren

Law is merely what enables us to live together in peace without having to love one another. Mark Van Doren, American Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and critic

All war is now civil war. The sluggish general intelligence has still to grasp that fact. World unity under a common law is now ... the only alternative to chaos. H.G. Wells, *Guide to the New World*, 1941

Corruption is an ever-present aspect of the exercise of governmental power and a persistent and often chronic handicap of political life around the world. Richard D. White, Jr. in *Where Corruption Lives*

Chapter 5

PEOPLE POWER

The hope that a radical transformation will occur in world politics lies in the entry onstage ... of a new political subject, the only political subject that possesses democratic legitimacy: the citizen.... Empowering the citizen of the world means to build up at the global level those checks and balances that have nurtured the evolution of democracy. **Daniele Archibugi**, *The Global Commonwealth of Citizens*

If there is one consistent theme of the global democracy movement, it is that citizens are the nominated agents of global change. **Kym Beeston**, in an article entitled “Time for Democracy 2.0? The Launch of the Manifesto for a Global Democracy”

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men [and women] to do nothing. **Edmund Burke** (1729–1797), attributed

If and when the number of [global referendum] votes cast for a democratic world government crosses the two billion mark, it [the global mandate] automatically acquires moral legitimacy and legal sanctity even if not one national government supports it. **Raj Shekhar Chandola**, then-Head of the World Unity and Peace Education Department at City Montessori School in Lucknow, India

A third Parliament of World Religions convened in Capetown, South Africa, in 1999 and another convened in Barcelona, Spain, in 2004. Key themes discussed in 1999 were: pursuit of world peace, improved environmental stewardship, global sustainability and fair economic practices. Key topics in 2004 were: religious violence, access to safe water, fate of refugees and the elimination of developing countries’ debts. Notice that most of the topics discussed in both 1999 and 2004 were not about theology; they were about people and environmental issues. **David E. Christensen**, *Healing the World*

The enumeration in the [U.S.] Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people. **Ninth Amendment, United States Constitution**

Nothing will end war unless the people refuse to go to war. **Albert Einstein**

I like to believe that people in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than our governments. Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it. **Dwight D. Eisenhower**

Controlled, universal disarmament is the imperative of our time. The demand for it by the hundreds of millions whose chief concern is the long future of themselves and

their children will, I hope, become so universal and so insistent that no man, no government anywhere, can withstand it. Dwight D. Eisenhower, address to the Indian parliament, New Delhi, 1959

If leaders won't lead, let the people lead, and the leaders will surely follow. Benjamin B. Ferencz

Leaders are indispensable, but to produce major social change many ordinary people must also be involved. Anne Firor Scott

Be the change you want to see in the world. Mahatma Gandhi, major political and spiritual leader of the Indian Independence Movement, the pioneer of resistance through mass civil disobedience

Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man. Mahatma Gandhi

Our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal. John F. Kennedy

Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation. Robert F. Kennedy

You may say that I'm a dreamer / But I'm not the only one / I hope someday you'll join us / And the world will live as one. John Lennon, singer-songwriter with The Beatles, from his song, "Imagine"

A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality. John Lennon, The Beatles

If everyone demanded peace instead of another television set, then there would be peace. John Lennon, who was himself murdered in 1980

Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment nothing can fail; without public sentiment nothing can succeed. Consequently, he who molds public sentiment goes deeper than he who enacts statutes or pronounces decisions. He makes statutes or decisions possible or impossible to be executed. Abe Lincoln, 1858

It always seems impossible until it's done. Nelson Mandela

The people made the Constitution, and the people can unmake it. It is the creature of their own will, and lives only by their will. John Marshall (He meant the U.S. Constitution, but the principle stands.)

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead, American cultural anthropologist

In this great nation [the USA] there is but one order, that of the people, whose power, by a peculiarly happy improvement of the representative principle, is transferred from them, without impairing in the slightest degree their sovereignty, to bodies of their own creation, and to persons elected by themselves, in the full extent necessary for the purposes of free, enlightened, and efficient government. Former U.S. president James Monroe (1758-1831)

There is an emerging second superpower, but it is not a nation. Instead, it is a new form of international player, constituted by the “will of the people” in a global social movement. James F. Moore, *The Second Superpower, Extreme Democracy*

Global problems—from climate change to nuclear proliferation—need global solutions. Existing structures of international governance are failing to deliver in these and other key areas, such as the Millennium Development Goals. This suggests that a step change is needed to create effective, legitimate and democratic global governance. Such a development would need to be backed by decisive support in a worldwide referendum open to all global citizens. Oliver Tickell, author of *Kyoto2: How to Manage the Global Greenhouse*

It is tragic that in places where there is destructive conflict, peace has gotten a tainted name because it is so elusive and challenging to achieve. Many people throw around the word peace in a manner that does a disservice to the concept. Peace, at its core, is living one’s life with respect and dignity, and treating others that way. We need to take back the concept of peace and focus on it more at an individual level. That is something attainable by all of us. If enough individuals do that, slowly the communities, countries, and the world we inhabit will begin to truly embody the concept. Joshua N. Weiss, Ph.D., President, Negotiation Works, Inc., Co-Founder and Senior Fellow, Global Negotiation Initiative, Harvard Negotiation Project

Chapter 6

THE UNITED NATIONS

It is becoming increasingly clear that the concept of the absolutely sovereign nation-state is a dangerous anachronism in a world of thermonuclear weapons, instantaneous communication, and economic interdependence. Probably our best hope for the future lies in developing the United Nations into a World Federation. John Avery, “Federalism and Global Governance”

Genuine federalists and world government advocates cannot support the deluded windbags who advocate “reform” or “strengthening” of the UN.... [The UN] needs to be replaced. No amount of reform or “strengthening” of a debating society will convert it into a government. Harold S. Bidmead, “The Mirage of UN Reform”

The cure for terrorism lies at its source. Systems like the UN (that second League of Nations) are merely efforts to constitutionalize and legalize world anarchy, attempts to keep the peace by warlike means, which inflict misery on the weak and the innocent while the guilty go untouched. Thus all systems based on national sovereignty are pretending to cure the disease of war without harming the germ that causes it. Harold S. Bidmead, *Tilting at Windbags: The Autobiography of a World Federalist*

I hope my presidency will address what has become a universal clamor all over the world for the democratization of the United Nations. I promise to give full support to the working group on the revitalization of the General Assembly. (Father) Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, former president (2008-2009) of the UN General Assembly

It is absolutely undeniable that ... some of [the UN’s] most influential and powerful members do not buy, as applicable to them, the principles therein contained [meaning in the UN Charter]. In fact, they defend and apply the law of the jungle—might makes right.... The United Nations has not achieved the fundamental goals for which it was created.... If the United Nations is evaluated having those [goals] in mind, then ... it has failed.... I have come to the conclusion that the time has already passed for reforming or mending our organization [the UN]. What we need to do is reinvent it. (Father) Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, former president (2008-2009) of the UN General Assembly

The UN must evolve towards a world government. Jacques Delors (Original in French: “L’ONU doit aller vers un gouvernement mondial.”)

The United Nations is an extremely important and useful institution provided the peoples and governments of the world realize that it is merely a transitional system toward the final goal, which is the establishment of a supranational authority vested with sufficient legislative and executive powers to keep the peace. Albert Einstein

The method of representation at the UN should be considerably modified. The present method of selection by government appointment does not leave any real freedom to the appointee. Furthermore, selection by governments cannot give the peoples of the world the feeling of being fairly and proportionately represented. The moral authority of the UN would be considerably enhanced if the delegates were elected directly by the people. Were they responsible to an electorate, they would have much more freedom to follow their consciences. Albert Einstein (in 1947)

The United Nations is not living up to its expectations in curbing conflicts among nations and we need a new charter.... No country should possess veto power. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, former president of India

I think we're in a new era where the advancing tide is towards human unity, where people all around the world want to come together. The United States is in a position where it can lead the way towards that and it can do it in practical ways by affirming the power of the United Nations so that the international process makes decisions on international security. Dennis Kucinich, U.S. congressman

The nations of the world have a stake in one another. Barack Obama, "A time for global action," an Op-Ed piece, March 23, 2009

Our goals are the same as those of the UN's founders, who sought to replace a world at war with one where the rule of law would prevail, where human rights were honored, where development would blossom, where conflict would give way to freedom from violence. Ronald Reagan in his address to the UN General Assembly, September 26, 1983

We face problems we hadn't even imagined, and they're cropping up all over. I think the ability of the nation-state to deal with them individually, the way we used to, is disappearing, because national borders are eroding.... This financial crisis ... has shown us that we have a global economic system, [but] we don't have a global political system.... Almost all our institutions were built or refined during, or for, the Cold War." U.S. General Brent Scowcroft, co-author (with Zbigniew Brzezinski), *America and the World*

I am a citizen, not of Athens, or Greece, but of the World. Socrates (5th Century BCE)

Chapter 7

RESCUE PLAN FOR PLANET EARTH

[These quotes are from reviews of or reactions to the book behind the [global referendum](#) on world democracy (now a free download at www.voteworldparliament.org). Written by Jim Stark and published in 2008, all rights to *Rescue Plan* were purchased back from the publisher in 2012 by Vote World Parliament. The plan now is to re-write the book under a new title, *World Democracy through a Global Referendum*.]

I loved your book.... I think you have a brilliant idea that bypasses governments and puts the power in the hands of ordinary people. I was particularly impressed with the way you addressed the questions that arise in the mind of the reader. Mary-Wynne Ashford, MD, PhD, co-author (with Guy Dauncey) of *Enough Blood Shed: 101 Solutions to Violence, Terror and War*

The concept of nuclear deterrence is seriously flawed, and it violates the fundamental ethical principles of all major religions. Besides being morally unacceptable, nuclear weapons are also illegal according to a historic 1996 decision of the International Court of Justice, a ruling that reflects the opinion of the vast majority of the world's peoples. Even a small nuclear war would be an ecological catastrophe, not only killing civilian populations indiscriminately in both belligerent and neutral countries, but also severely damaging global agriculture and making large areas of the earth permanently uninhabitable through radioactive contamination. John Avery, "Flaws in the Concept of Nuclear Deterrence")

Jim Stark's wonderful idea deserves our full support. Raj Shekhar Chandola, then-Head of the World Unity and Peace Education Department at City Montessori School in Lucknow, India

Jim Stark quotes freely (in *Rescue Plan*) from statesmen, scientists, writers, singers and others ... to convince his readers that he is not alone in his beliefs. Whether or not he succeeds in his goal is a different matter. What is most important here are the sincere and achievable beliefs of the author that have already started stirring the ocean of inaction. He deserves to be admired for pointing out a way to save planet Earth. Dr. Stephen Gill

I'm reading your fabulous book [*Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*]. Best compendium of ... quotes I've ever read. You've put a great deal of thought into these issues and I salute you for the important groundbreaking work you are doing. You can quote me on that. Thank you so much for sending it to me. Arthur Kanegas, American filmmaker

***Rescue Plan for Planet Earth* is a triumph. It belongs in a class with Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*.** John Kintree, St. Louis Public Library

The idea of a **global vote** is a powerful one and Jim Stark needs to be commended for putting all the arguments together and presenting them with clarity, logic and passion.... I think the steady development of such a worldwide appeal has the potential to be one of the great forces leading the world in the direction of democratic world government. Lyndon **Storesy**, author of *Humanity or Sovereignty: A Political Roadmap for the 21st Century*

Rescue Plan for Planet Earth should be required reading in every school and by every politician. Jerry **Tetalman**, co-author (with Byron Belitsos) of *One World Democracy: A Progressive Vision for Enforceable Global Law*

Chapter 8

THE GLOBAL REFERENDUM

Thank you for ... your idea for a **global referendum**. Mr. Annan has asked me to convey his admiration for your enthusiasm and energy, and sends you his best wishes for the success of your endeavour. Ruth McCoy, on behalf of Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations

It's about time someone did this. All great visionary ideas seem mad or utopian—until they become reality. A **global referendum** on whether we, the people of the world, wish to democratically govern ourselves is about as sane a political idea as I can imagine. Syd Baume], Winnipeg, Manitoba, National Council member of the World Federalists Movement—Canada

The **global referendum** on democratic world government is an excellent initiative. World government is urgently needed to help solve the global problems we can foresee, such as global warming and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Frank Barnaby, editor, *The Gaia Peace Atlas*

This **global referendum** ... is hands-down the best, most effective tool we have to leverage people and technology around the world in service of Earth and humanity. So go vote, and I encourage all of you to vote “Yes!” [*Rescue Plan*] is a great book, a brilliant concept. William Dudley Bass

Brilliant idea, Jim. Robert Bernstein, Canadian physician

Jim Stark's suggestion for a **global referendum** is a great idea to kick-start a real democratic global government movement. I hope millions of people around the world join in! David E. Christensen, author of *Healing the World: A Primer About the World and How We Must Fix it for Our Children*

Love the idea. Keep up the wonderful work. Brian Coughlan, a “world citizen” from Sweden

I'm very supportive of what you are putting together ... I wish you the best ... keep me posted. Walter Cronkite (October 5, 2004)

If we cast our minds ahead into the future, and ponder our past history, it becomes totally obvious that a civilized planet like ours must have a democratic world government. Future generations will be surprised that it took us so long. Guy Dauncey, *Stormy Weather: 101 Solutions to Global Climate Change*

At best, the UN is part of the bureaucratic system that has brought us the IMF and the World Trade Organization but has failed to do much about preventing mass

murder or the violation of human rights even in Rwanda or Somalia, let alone in more organized and powerful states. I think we are as likely to grow a lily from an acorn as [we are] to grow a democratic world parliament from the UN. Caspar Davis, Victoria Branch of the World Federalist Movement—Canada. In an article called “Two Views of a Democratic Global Parliament,” he compares our global referendum initiative with the idea of a UN Parliamentary Assembly, and concludes that “Stark’s idea sounds more radical and perhaps quixotic, but I think it may actually be more practical.”

There are two superpowers in the world: the United States and global opinion.
Reverend Dr. Bob Edgar, General Secretary of the U.S. National Council of Churches (in 2003)

In order to change an existing paradigm you do not struggle to try and change the problematic model. You create a new model and make the old one obsolete.
Buckminster Fuller

A candle has to burn itself in order to give light to others. You are that candle, Jim. Fire symbolizes also Holy Spirit. According to Greek mythology, fire was in possession of gods only. Prometheus stole it from god Zeus to give to humans when they lived in dark caves. This gift brought productivity also in the field of art and literature. You are bringing productivity in the field of peace with your new thoughts and fresh energy. Congratulations. Dr. Stephen Gill, Poet Laureate of Ansted University and the author of more than 20 books

Problems such as global warming and nuclear weapons make it clear that the global community needs a functioning democratic government. We need a global constitution, an elected global parliament that can make global laws, a global judicial system that can determine which individuals are guilty of breaking those laws and a global police force and prison system that can apprehend and punish those individual criminals rather than trying to punish whole nation-states. The global referendum gives individuals the opportunity to register their views on this important but generally-neglected issue. Ronald J. Glossop, author of *Confronting War: An Examination of Humanity’s Most Pressing Problem*

I am really impressed by the faith and courage of the VWP team. Most people are not very interested in problems of global governance, unfortunately ... [so] I’m not terribly optimistic ... but you never know, perhaps it [the global referendum] might suddenly take off! Christopher Hamer, author of *A Global Parliament: Principles of World Federation*

Referendums are a substantial part of the transformation of a delegative democracy into a participative one. Using them at the global scale in order to democratize the international political order constitutes an extraordinary way of appealing for a world democracy through worldwide democratic tools. Fernando Iglesias, author of *Globalizar la Democracia: Por un Parlamento Mundial (Globalizing Democracy: Appeal for a World Parliament)*

You are leading the way, brother. Somehow, some way, this species needs to embrace your leadership or, eventually, cockroaches will be running the whole gig. Bless you for your vision. Jim Kanady, author of *Capital Offenses* and *A Different Winter*

This [global referendum] initiative is vital to the very future of humanity. People everywhere must understand the necessity of democratic world government for the survival and flourishing of life on the Earth. Vote World Parliament brings our one real option for a decent world order to the attention of humanity. God bless this movement. Glen T. Martin, author of *Ascent to Freedom: Practical and Philosophical Foundations of Democratic World Law*

The [global referendum] on democratic world government is a compelling mobilizing strategy to jumpstart a grassroots movement to usher in a just world order for the human polity Saul Mendlovitz (editor), *On the Creation of a Just World Order: Preferred Worlds for the 1990s*

If given a choice between what we have now—a hodgepodge of uncoordinated, contested, non-representative, under-resourced international organizations and institutions of “global governance”—and what we could have—a democratic world “government”—I am convinced that the vast majority of humanity would choose the latter. The problem has been that this choice has not been available ... until now. The [global referendum] on democratic world government offers a means for humanity to make such a choice. James P. Muldoon Jr., *The Architecture of Global Governance: An Introduction to the Study of International Organizations*

I would be proud and honoured to be a part of the group advocating a [global referendum] on democratic world government. Your proposal sounds practical, and I hope with all my will that it becomes a reality. Kai Nielsen, author of *Globalization and Justice*

What VWP [Vote World Parliament] offers is a credible strategy. This [global referendum] initiative has my support ... and I encourage you to participate. Mathieu Ravignat, Canadian MP, from his letter of July, 2013 to all New Democratic Party members in his riding of Pontiac, Québec

I have worked all my life to get a democratic world government, but obviously we don't have one yet. Too many of us did too little to save the world. Now I am dying. My dying wish is that you get off your butt and give this [global referendum] plan a chance to work.” The late Ross Smyth, former national president, World Federalist Movement—Canada, and author of *One World or None*

Sadly, our political evolution is lagging far behind our ability to effectively address our most pressing problems. One of my favorite quotes comes from the genius of Buckminster Fuller: “You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To

change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.” Vote World Parliament is building that new model. Ted **Stalets**, futurist (several years before he became the president of VWP)

There are ... many analogous precedents and legal principles to support both the process and the binding effect of ... a global referendum. David Wright, in *Rescue Plan*

Today we live in a globalised but anarchic world of sovereign nation states, in which the lack of effective global governance ensures the dominance of military and economic might over justice and law. The proposal for a **global referendum** on democratic world government offers a desperately-needed opportunity to save ourselves from the inevitable and ultimately terminal conflicts of a world system based on competition rather than cooperation, an escape from the looming disasters of climate change, resource depletion, overpopulation, injustice, poverty and runaway military expenditures. Hugh **Steadman**, President, Sapiens

Jim, I’ve always admired your total commitment and your passion. We need millions more like you. David **Suzuki**, David Suzuki Foundation, Canada

All acts of creation begin with a single step. The creation of a **global referendum** is a necessary first step in creating the political will necessary to create a viable global government. Jerry **Tetalman**, author (with Byron Belitsos) of *One World Democracy: A Progressive Vision for Enforceable Global Law*

I have high hopes that the Vote World Parliament project [the **global referendum**] will harness the awesome power of the Internet to initiate a serious dialogue on the possibility of establishing an effective federal world government. James A. **Yunker**, author of *Political Globalization: A New Vision of Federal World Government*

Chapter 9

THE EARTH FROM ABOVE ... FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING

If I'd been born in space, I would desire to visit the beautiful Earth more than to visit space. It's a wonderful planet. **David Brown**

Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will never die, but long after we are gone will be a living thing, asserting itself with ever-growing insistency. **Daniel Burnham**, architect of first skyscraper (1864-1912)

The love of one's country is a splendid thing. But why should love stop at the border? **Pablo Casals**

What was most significant about the lunar voyage was not that men set foot on the Moon but that they set eye on the Earth. **Norman Cousins**, *Cosmic Search* magazine, 1979

There are no boundaries in the real Planet Earth. No United States, no Russia, no China, no Taiwan. Rivers flow unimpeded across the swaths of continents. The persistent tides, the pulse of the sea, do not discriminate; they push against all the varied shores on Earth. **Jacques-Yves Cousteau**, oceanographer

If the name of the country has such a nature as to create bonds between those who have a common country, why do not men resolve then that the Earth should become the country of all? **Erasmus**, *Peace Protests*, 16th century

There is the sky, which is all men's together... **Euripides** (412 B.C.) [If Euripides were alive today, I'm sure he would have added "and women's" before the word "together."]

All wars are civil wars, because all men are brothers.... Each one owes infinitely more to the human race than to the particular country in which he was born. **François Fénelon**, theologian and writer (1651-1715)

God grant, that not only the Love of Liberty, but a thorough Knowledge of the Rights of Man, may pervade all the Nations of the Earth, so that a Philosopher may set his foot anywhere on its Surface, and say, "This is my Country." **Benjamin Franklin** (1706-1790)

Civilization is a process in the service of Eros, whose purpose is to combine single human individuals, and after that families, then races, peoples and nations, into one great unity, the unity of mankind. **Sigmund Freud** (1856-1939)

If you could see the Earth illuminated when you were in a place as dark as night, it would look to you more splendid than the moon. Galileo Galilei, *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems*, 1632 (Italian-language book)

Once a photograph of the Earth, taken from the outside, is available, a new idea as powerful as any in history will be let loose. Sir Fred Hoyle (attributed), 1948

As we begin to comprehend that the Earth itself is a kind of manned spaceship hurtling through the infinity of space—it will seem increasingly absurd that we have not better organized the life of the human family. Hubert H. Humphrey, U.S. Vice President, in a speech at San Fernando Valley State College, 1966

A world community can exist only with world communication, which means something more than extensive shortwave facilities scattered about the globe. It means common understanding, a common tradition, common ideas, and common ideals. Robert M. Hutchins (1899-1977)

How vast those Orbs must be, and how inconsiderable this Earth, the Theatre upon which all our mighty Designs, all our Navigations, and all our Wars are transacted, is when compared to them. A very fit consideration, and matter of Reflection, for those Kings and Princes who sacrifice the Lives of so many People, only to flatter their Ambition in being Masters of some pitiful corner of this small Spot. Christiaan Huygens, *The Immense Distance Between the Sun and the Planets*, 1698

That the sky is brighter than the Earth means little unless the Earth itself is appreciated and enjoyed. Its beauty loved gives the right to aspire to the radiance of the sunrise and sunset. Helen Keller, *My Religion*, 1927

No one, it has been said, will ever look at the Moon in the same way again. More significantly can one say that no one will ever look at the Earth in the same way. Man had to free himself from Earth to perceive both its diminutive place in a solar system and its inestimable value as a life-fostering planet. As Earthmen, we may have taken another step into adulthood. We can see our planet Earth with detachment, with tenderness, with some shame and pity, but at last also with love. Anne Morrow Lindbergh, widow of aviator and conservationist Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr.

The apologists for space science always seem over-impressed by engineering trivia and make far too much of non-stick frying pans and perfect ball-bearings. To my mind, the outstanding spin-off from space research is not new technology. The real bonus has been that for the first time in human history we have had a chance to look at the Earth from space, and the information gained from seeing from the outside our azure-green planet in all its global beauty has given rise to a whole new set of questions and answers. James Lovelock, *Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth*, 1979

Never in all their history have men been able truly to conceive of the world as one: a single sphere, a globe, having the qualities of a globe, a round Earth in which all the

directions eventually meet, in which there is no center because every point, or none, is center—an equal Earth which all men occupy as equals. The airman’s Earth, if free men make it, will be truly round: a globe in practice, not in theory. Archibald MacLeish, “The Image of Victory,” commencement address, Williams College, 1942. Later published in “A Time to Act,” 1943. Twenty-five years later, MacLeish would write again of this view, but this time it would be published on the front page of the *New York Times* with a photograph as illustration.

To see the Earth as it truly is, small and blue and beautiful in that eternal silence where it floats, is to see ourselves a riders on the Earth together, brothers on that bright loveliness in the eternal cold—brothers who know now they are truly brothers. Archibald MacLeish, American poet, “Riders on Earth together, Brothers in eternal cold,” front page of the *New York Times*, Christmas Day, 25 December 1968

There are no passengers on spaceship Earth. We are all crew. Marshall McLuhan

When we contemplate the whole globe as one great dewdrop, striped and dotted with continents and islands, flying through space with other stars all singing and shining together as one, the whole universe appears as an infinite storm of beauty. John Muir, *Travels in Alaska*, 1915.

As I write, highly civilized human beings are flying overhead trying to kill me. They do not feel any enmity against me as an individual, nor I against them. They are only doing their duty, as the saying goes. Most of them, I have no doubt, are kind-hearted law-abiding men who would never dream of committing murder in private life. On the other hand, if one of them succeeds in blowing me to pieces with a well-placed bomb, he will never sleep any worse for it. He is serving his country, which has the power to absolve him from evil. George Orwell

Look again at that dot. That’s here, that’s home, that’s us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every “superstar,” every “supreme leader,” every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there—on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam. Carl Sagan, *Pale Blue Dot: A Vision of the Human Future in Space*, 1994

There is perhaps no better a demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world. Carl Sagan, *Time* magazine, 9 January 1995.

Amid this vast and overwhelming space and in these boundless solar archipelagoes, how small is our own sphere, and the Earth, what a grain of sand! Hippolyte Taine, *The Ancient Regime*, 1881

Viewed from the distance of the moon, the astonishing thing about the Earth, catching the breath, is that it is alive. The photographs show the dry, pounded surface of the moon in the foreground, dry as an old bone. Aloft, floating free beneath the moist, gleaming, membrane of bright blue sky is the rising Earth, the only exuberant thing in this part of the cosmos. Lewis Thomas, "The Lives of a Cell: Notes of a Biology Watcher," 1974

Chapter 10

NATIONS, WAR AND PEACE

Humankind continues to face the threat of nuclear annihilation. Today's hesitation leads to tomorrow's destruction. The fates of all of us are bound together here on earth. There can be no survival for any without peaceful coexistence for all. Takeshi Araki, Mayor of Hiroshima, 6 August, 1985

Our present economic system is one of the main causes of war, and one of the main reasons why we are destroying the earth's environment. We need a new economic system, which will have both a social conscience and an environmental conscience. John Avery, "Ethics for the Future"

In the world of the future, which we now must build, the institution of war will be abolished, and the enormous resources now wasted on war will be used constructively. In the future world as it can be if we work to make it so, a stable population of moderate size will live without waste or luxury, but in comfort and security, free from the fear of hunger or unemployment. The world which we want will be a world of changed values, where human qualities will be valued more than material possessions. Let us try to combine wisdom and religious ethics from humanity's past with today's technology to build a sustainable, livable and equitable future world. John Avery, "Ethics for the Future"

We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount ... The world has achieved brilliance without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living. U.S. Army General Omar N. Bradley

I want to record my strong conviction that the risks entailed by nuclear weapons are far too great to leave the prospects of their elimination solely within the province of [national] governments. General Lee Butler, Former Commander, Strategic Air Command, speech at the State of the World Forum, San Francisco, 1996

We are not condemned to repeat the lessons of forty years at the nuclear brink. We can do better than condone a world in which nuclear weapons are enshrined as the ultimate arbiter of conflict. The price already paid is too dear, the risks run too great. The nuclear beast must be chained, its soul expunged, its lair laid waste. The task is daunting but we cannot shrink from it. The opportunity may not come again. General Lee Butler, Former Commander, Strategic Air Command, speech at the State of the World Forum, San Francisco, 1996

Where do we begin? What steps can governments take, responsibly, recognizing that policy makers must always balance a host of competing priorities and interests? First and foremost is for the declared nuclear states to accept that the Cold War is

in fact over, to break free of the attitudes, habits and practices that perpetuate enormous inventories, forces standing alert and targeting plans encompassing thousands of aimpoints. Second, for the undeclared states to embrace the harsh lessons of the Cold War: that nuclear weapons are inherently dangerous, hugely expensive, militarily inefficient and morally indefensible; that implacable hostility and alienation will almost certainly over time lead to a nuclear crisis; that the strength of deterrence is inversely proportional to the stress of confrontation; and that nuclear war is a raging, insatiable beast whose instincts and appetites we pretend to understand but cannot possibly control. General Lee Butler, Former Commander, Strategic Air Command, speech at the State of the World Forum, San Francisco, 1996

It is critical for the human family to learn that the several population, social and ecological crises that are at our doorstep are beyond any nation's abilities to resolve them in the next decades. These crises need global solutions—now! The era of nations must be superseded! Only a global government supported by informed global citizens has a chance of resolving these crises in time to help the human family and the best of our advancements to survive in a more peaceful world. David E. Christensen, *This Apocalyptic Century*

To jaw-jaw is always better than to war-war. Winston Churchill

The age of nations has passed. Now, unless we wish to perish, we must shake off our old prejudices and build the earth. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, 1931 essay, "The Spirit of the Earth"

Nationalism is an infantile sickness. It is the measles of the human race. Albert Einstein

Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved through understanding. Albert Einstein

To my mind, to kill in war is not a whit better than to commit ordinary murder. Albert Einstein

Since I do not foresee that atomic energy is to be a great boon for a long time, I have to say that for the present it is a menace. Perhaps it is well that it should be. It may intimidate the human race into bringing order into its international affairs, which, without the presence of fear, it would not do. Albert Einstein

As a citizen of Germany [before WWII], I saw how excessive nationalism can spread like a disease, bringing tragedy to millions ... I [have no] special attachment to any state or national entity whatsoever. Albert Einstein

General fear and anxiety create hatred and aggressiveness. The adaptation to warlike aims and activities has corrupted the mentality of man; as a result,

intelligent, objective and humane thinking has hardly any effect and is even suspected and persecuted as unpatriotic. Albert Einstein

Nothing that I can do will change the structure of the universe. But maybe, by raising my voice, I can help the greatest of all causes—goodwill among men and peace on earth. Albert Einstein

I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones. Albert Einstein

Peace and justice are two sides of the same coin. Dwight D. Eisenhower

War in our time has become an anachronism. Whatever the case in the past, war in the future can serve no useful purpose. Dwight D. Eisenhower

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. Dwight D. Eisenhower

I hope that mankind will at length, as they call themselves responsible creatures, have the reason and sense enough to settle their differences without cutting throats. Benjamin Franklin, a “Founding Father” of the United States; also an author, politician, printer, scientist, philosopher, publisher, inventor, civic activist and diplomat

There is no such thing as a good war or a bad peace. Benjamin Franklin

War remains the decisive human failure. John Kenneth Galbraith, influential Canadian-American economist, a leading proponent of 20th-century American liberalism and progressivism

The right to live is ours only if we accomplish our duty as a world citizen. Nationalism is no longer the highest concept. The supreme concept is a world community. Mahatma Gandhi

To achieve world peace, we need to take control of the technology of war. We have the power to develop nonlethal technologies that protect against aggression and maintain international justice. Andrew Greig, Nonlethal Security for Peace Campaign

Of course people don't want war.... But after all, it's the leaders of the country who determine the policy, and it's always a simple matter to drag the people along whether it's a democracy, a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism, and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in any country. Hermann Goering, a Nazi military leader, at the Nuremberg Trials (after World War II)

We are here to awaken from the illusion of our separateness. Thich Nhat Hanh (one of the best known and most respected Zen masters in the world today—he is also a poet and a peace and human rights activist)

The bomb that fell on Hiroshima fell on America, too. Hermann Hagedorn

There can be no real safety against nuclear destruction until the weapons themselves have been destroyed, their possession foresworn, their production prohibited, their ingredients made inaccessible to those who might seek to evade the prohibition.... This view may appear utopian, but to reject it is to accept not only the possibility but the inevitability that someday, somewhere, immense numbers of people will again perish under nuclear mushroom clouds like those that obliterated Hiroshima and Nagasaki 50 years ago.... Wherever, whenever, however many mushroom clouds it may be, we say such an outcome is unacceptable and must be prevented. It can only be prevented if nuclear weapons and, ultimately, war itself are banned from this planet. *Hiroshima Declaration of the Pugwash Council, 1995*

Any scientist can testify that a dead ocean means a dead planet.... No national law, no national precautions can save the planet. The ocean, more than any other part of our planet ... is a classic example of the absolute need for international global action. Thor Heyerdahl

The atomic bomb survivors ... cannot wait another 50 years. Their highest hope is to see the abolition of nuclear weapons within their own lifetime. It is a steep climb to this goal, but one from which we must never relent. Iccho Itoh, Mayor of Nagasaki, Nagasaki Peace Declaration, 9 August 1995

Social justice cannot be attained by violence. Violence kills what it intends to create. (Pope) John Paul II

Mounting an expedition to actualize a Compassionate Commonwealth of all peoples... is the great spiritual challenge of our time. Sam Keen

When you call yourself an Indian or a Muslim or a Christian or a European, or anything else, you are being violent. Do you see why it is violent? Because you are separating yourself from the rest of mankind. When you separate yourself by belief, by nationality, by tradition, it breeds violence. So a man who is seeking to understand violence does not belong to any country, to any religion, to any political party or partial system; he is concerned with the total understanding of mankind. J. Krishnamurti, *Freedom from the Known*

The potential beauty of human life is constantly made ugly by man's ever recurring song of retaliation. The oceans of history are made turbulent by the ever rising tides of revenge. Man has never risen above the injunction of the *lex talionis* (the law of retaliation): "Life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot."

In spite of the fact that the law of revenge solves no social problems, men continue to follow its disastrous leading. History is cluttered with the wreckage of nations and individuals that pursued this self-defeating path. **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

[A]ll people are essentially one. [T]he world is interconnected not only on the material level of economics, trade, communication, and transportation, but innerconnected through human consciousness, through the human heart, through the heart of the world, through the simply expressed impulse and yearning to be and to breathe free. **Dennis Kucinich**, U.S. congressman, “A Prayer for America”

Whenever a seedling that you have raised is planted, you’ve made another small contribution to a more peaceful world. **Wangari Maathai**, the *environmentalist* who won the Nobel *Peace Prize* in 2004!

You cannot control war; you can only abolish it. Those who shrug this off as idealistic are the real enemies of peace – the real war mongers. **General Douglas MacArthur**

To be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. **Nelson Mandela**

In countries where innocent people are dying, the leaders are following their blood rather than their brains. **Nelson Mandela**

Warmaking doesn’t stop warmaking. If it did, our problems would have stopped millennia ago. **Colman McCarthy**, former journalist and now peace educator

War is organized murder, nothing else. **Harry Patch**, last surviving (American) soldier of World War I

People do not make wars; governments do. **Ronald Reagan**

In our obsession with antagonisms of the moment, we often forget how much unites all the members of humanity. Perhaps we need some outside universal threat to make us recognize this common bond. I occasionally think how quickly our differences worldwide would vanish if we were facing an alien threat from outside this world. And yet, I ask you, is not an alien force already among us? What could be more alien to the universal aspirations of our peoples than war and the threat of war? **Ronald Reagan**, to the 42nd General Assembly of the United Nations, 1987

Even if we are spared destruction by war, our lives will have to change if we want to save life from self-destruction. **Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn**, Russian novelist, dramatist and historian; awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1970

It is incontestable that the [U.S.] Constitution established a system of “dual sovereignty.” ... Although the States surrendered many of their powers to the new

Federal Government, they retained a residuary and inviolable sovereignty ... The Framers explicitly chose a Constitution that confers upon Congress the power to regulate individuals, not States. The great innovation of this design was that our citizens would have two political capacities, one state and one federal, each protected from incursion by the other. Unknown. Source: U.S. Supreme Court, 1997, *Printz v. United States* [Interior quotes & citations omitted]

Terrorism is the war of the poor, and war is the terrorism of the rich. Sir Peter Ustinov

There must be, not a balance of power, but a community of power; not organized rivalries, but an organized common peace. Woodrow Wilson

Chapter 11

WISDOM AND RELATED ATTITUDES IN A FEW WORDS

We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.
Ancient American **Aboriginal** proverb

Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Lord **Acton** (John Emerich Edward Dalberg-Acton), English historian, 1887

In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame; two is a law firm and three or more is a government. **John Adams**

When possessions are used for the purpose of social competition, demand has no natural upper limit; it is then limited only by the size of the human ego, which, as we know, is boundless. This would be all to the good if unlimited economic growth were desirable. But today, when further industrial growth implies future collapse, western society urgently needs to find new values to replace our worship of power, our restless chase after excitement, and our admiration of excessive consumption. **John Avery**, “Entropy and Economics”

It is easier to burn down a house than to build one, easier to kill a human than to raise and educate one, easier to force a species into extinction than to replace it once it is gone, easier to burn the Great Library of Alexandria than to accumulate the knowledge that once filled it, and easier to destroy a civilization in a thermonuclear war than to rebuild it from the radioactive ashes. Knowing this, we can form an ethical insight: To be on the side of order, construction, and complexity, is to be on the side of life. To be on the side of destruction, disorder, chaos and war is to be against life, a traitor to life, an ally of death. Knowing the precariousness of life, knowing the statistical laws that favour disorder and chaos, we should resolve to be loyal to the principle of long continued construction upon which life depends. **John Avery**, “Ethics for the Future”

It would be unsound fancy and self-contradictory to expect that things which have never yet been done can be done except by means which have never yet been tried. **Francis Bacon**, English philosopher, statesman and essayist, best known for leading the scientific revolution

Say it isn't true
That there always has been and always will be war
Say it isn't true
And apart from all the fine things that man has struggled for
Say it isn't true
There always has been and always will be war

Jackson Browne, musician, “Say It Isn't True”

Foreign aid might be defined as a transfer of money from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries. Douglas Casey, Classmate of Bill Clinton at Georgetown University

A great wind is blowing and that gives you either imagination or a headache.
Catherine the Great

I don't want to be an emperor. That's not my business. I don't want to rule or conquer anyone. I should like to help everyone if possible; Jew, Gentile, black men, white. We all want to help one another. Human beings are like that. We want to live by each other's happiness, not by each other's misery. We don't want to hate and despise one another. In this world there is room for everyone. And the good Earth is rich and can provide for everyone... The aeroplane and the radio have brought us closer together. The very nature of these things cries out for the goodness in man; cries out for universal brotherhood; for the unity of us all. Even now my voice is reaching millions throughout the world, millions of despairing men, women, and little children, victims of a system that makes men torture and imprison innocent people. To those who can hear me, I say, "Do not despair." The misery that has come upon us is but the passing of greed, the bitterness of men who fear the way of human progress. The hate of men will pass, and dictators die, and the power they took from the people will return to the people. And so long as men die, liberty will never perish... Now let us fight to free the world! To do away with national barriers! To do away with greed, with hate and intolerance! Let us fight for a world of reason, a world where science and progress will lead to the happiness of us all ... [I]n the name of democracy, let us unite! *The Great Dictator*, Charlie Chaplin's 1940 American comedy-drama

All the great empires of the future will be empires of the mind. Winston Churchill (1953)

If you have an important point to make, don't try to be subtle or clever. Use a pile driver. Hit the point once. Then come back and hit it again. Then hit it a third time—a tremendous whack. Winston Churchill

The individual is capable of both great compassion and great indifference. [We have] it within [our] means to nourish the former and outgrow the latter. Norman Cousins

A human being fashions his consequences as surely as he fashions his goods or his dwelling. Nothing that he says, thinks or does is without consequences. Norman Cousins

War is an invention of the human mind. The human mind can invent peace with justice. Norman Cousins

People are never more insecure than when they become obsessed with their fears at the expense of their dreams. Norman Cousins

Man is not imprisoned by habit. Great changes in him can be wrought by crisis - once that crisis can be recognized and understood. Norman Cousins

History is a vast early warning system. Norman Cousins

[I]gnorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge: it is those who know little, and not those who know much, who so positively assert that this or that problem will never be solved by science. Charles Darwin, *The Descent of Man*, 1871
Pasadena lecture, 1871

Scratch a revolutionary and you'll likely find someone who thinks he [or she!] should be in charge. Gerard J. DeGroot, *The Sixties Unplugged*

There is nothing easier than lopping off heads and nothing harder than developing ideas. Fyodor Dostoevsky

As long as there are sovereign nations possessing great power, war is inevitable. The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking, and thus we drift toward unparalleled catastrophes. Albert Einstein

Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity ... and I'm not sure about the universe. Albert Einstein (attributed to Einstein by Wendy Kaminer in her book *Sleeping with Extra-Terrestrials: The Rise of Irrationalism and the Perils of Piety*)

My pacifism is not based on any intellectual theory but on a deep antipathy to every form of cruelty and hatred. Albert Einstein

Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom. Albert Einstein

Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth. Albert Einstein

Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius -- and a lot of courage -- to move in the opposite direction. Albert Einstein

Violence sometimes may have cleared away obstructions quickly, but it never has proved itself creative. Albert Einstein

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is to not stop questioning. Albert Einstein

Problems cannot be solved at the same level of consciousness that created them.
Albert Einstein

One is born into a herd of buffaloes and must be glad if one is not trampled underfoot before one's time. Albert Einstein

Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one. Albert Einstein

Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible. Saint Francis of Assisi

In spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart. Anne Frank

We are going to have to find ways of organizing ourselves cooperatively, sanely, scientifically, harmonically and in regenerative spontaneity with the rest of humanity around the Earth... We are not going to be able to operate our spaceship Earth successfully nor for much longer unless we see it as a whole spaceship and our fate as common. Buckminster Fuller

First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.
Mahatma Gandhi

The future depends on what we do in the present. Mahatma Gandhi

I have learned through bitter experience the one supreme lesson: to conserve my anger, and, as heat conserved is transmitted into energy, even so our anger controlled can be transmitted into a power which can move the world. Mahatma Gandhi

My country is the world; my countrymen are mankind. William Lloyd Garrison, abolitionist

Where is the justice of political power if it executes the murderer and jails the plunderer, and then itself marches upon neighboring lands, killing thousands and pillaging the very hills? Kahlil Gibran, "The Voice of the Poet"

No army can withstand the strength of an idea whose time has come. Victor Hugo, poet, novelist and dramatist (1802-1885)

All of us might wish at times that we lived in a more tranquil world, but we don't. And if our times are difficult and perplexing, so are they challenging and filled with opportunity. Robert F. Kennedy

A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step. Lao Tzu, ancient Chinese philosopher

We will, I believe, come together in a global community. The members of that enlightened community will recognize that we are made in the image of our environment; i.e., that we are divine and that we have to operate, not in a survival-of-the-fittest manner, but in a way that supports everyone and everything on this planet. Bruce Lipton, *The Biology of Belief*

It always seems impossible until it's done. Nelson Mandela

To think, feel, and act as a global citizen is an essential requirement for significant study and successful struggles in the creation of a just world order. Saul Mendlovitz, Dag Hammarskjöld, Professor, Rutgers Law School-Newark

Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination. Nelson Mandela

As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. Nelson Mandela

If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner. Nelson Mandela

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear. Nelson Mandela

Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again. Nelson Mandela

There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children. Nelson Mandela

The philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways; the point is to change it. Carved into the tombstone of Karl Marx in Highgate Cemetery, London, England

Your people will judge you on what you can build, not on what you can destroy. U.S. President Barack Obama, Inaugural Speech, 2009

Delay is the deadliest form of denial. C. Northcote Parkinson (who coined Parkinson's law: "Work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion." Parkinson is Raffles Professor of History at the University of Singapore.)

I call upon the scientific community in our country, those who gave us nuclear weapons, to turn their great talents now to the cause of mankind and world peace:

to give us the means of rendering these nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete.
Ronald Reagan

H.L. Menken—journalist, beer drinker and sage—said that for every complex problem there is a solution that is simple, neat and wrong. Michael Robotham, in his novel, *Suspect*

They laughed at Galileo. They laughed at Newton. But they also laughed at Bozo the Clown. Carl Sagan (attributed to Sagan by journalist Jennifer Ouellette)

What is called for is an exquisite balance ... if you are only skeptical ... you never learn anything new ... On the other hand, if you are open to the point of gullibility and have not an ounce of skeptical sense in you, then you cannot distinguish useful ideas from the worthless ones. Carl Sagan, "The Burden of Skepticism," Pasadena lecture, 1987

Our greatest responsibility is to be good ancestors. Jonas Salk

Truth: first, it is ridiculed, second, it is violently opposed, and third, it is accepted as self-evident. Andrew Schopenhauer

I am a member of the human family, a citizen of the world. The achievements of men and women throughout the ages are my heritage. My destiny is bound to that of all my fellow human beings. What we jointly create forms our bequest to future generations. May my life serve the good of my family. May our use of the earth preserve it for those yet to come. Joseph E. Schwartzberg, "Affirmation of Human Oneness," Minnesota Chapter, Citizens for Global Solutions

Throughout history it has been the inaction of those who could have acted, the indifference of those who should have known better, the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most, that has made it possible for evil to triumph. Haile Selassie, then Emperor of Ethiopia, to an opening a Special Session of the UN General Assembly in Addis Ababa, 1963

Suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of government. But then I repeat myself. Mark Twain

The good thing about science is that it's true whether or not you believe in it. Neil deGrasse Tyson, an American astrophysicist and science communicator

If you don't dream big enough, even if your dreams come true, they may not address the problem that gave rise to the dream. Source unknown

I would rather fail in a cause that will ultimately triumph than to triumph in a cause that will ultimately fail. Woodrow Wilson

Chapter 12

THINGS THAT JIM STARK WROTE OR SAID

(in *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth* or elsewhere)

Humans will always disagree strongly on all sorts of things, and we will either fight out our differences or talk them out. Given the existence of nuclear weapons and other WMD [weapons of mass destruction], if we keep fighting wars and revolutions to settle our arguments, it is a statistical certainty that, sooner or later, we will commit “omnicide”³ (collective suicide, the death of everyone). But if we criminalize war and permanently commit to talking out *all* disputes, it is entirely possible that our species will live and thrive for millions of generations into the future. However, to do all that talking and arrive at all those just and satisfying end results, there must be agreed rules, and above all else there must be very stable institutions—the main one being a democratic world parliament—that will make and apply world law with the consent of the governed (in this instance, that means the whole human race, or most of us) and remain glued to any problem that could erupt in war for as long as it takes for all parties in conflict to dance away from the negotiating table with big old smiles on their faces. Most people consider that scenario an unrealistic dream, but the time has come to revise our conception of what is realistic and what is not, because the alternative to world peace really is omnicide, and what could be more embarrassing than that as the legacy of the smartest species on planet Earth? Jim Stark in an article, “Consent of the Governed”

Humans are simply too good at war to risk war any more. Jim Stark in *Rescue Plan*

If more than two billion adults vote for something, it is a very safe bet that *the thing they voted for is going to happen*. Jim Stark in *Rescue Plan*

There is no ironclad guarantee that even a strong global mandate will “compel” the construction of a democratic world parliament, even if we believe it will, but one thing is absolutely certain; there will never be a democratic world government or parliament *in the absence* of a strong mandate from the human population of Earth. In fact, one of the most fundamental definitions of democracy is “governance with the consent of the governed.” Jim Stark [paraphrased from *Rescue Plan*]

If we are to create a truly democratic world parliament, the first thing we need to face is the fact that *national governments will never do this*, at least not on their own, and not in the absence of a powerful worldwide demand arising from the grassroots. If national governments had wanted to do this, they would have done it in the 1940s, right after WWII, or in the seven decades since then. Jim Stark in *Rescue Plan*

³ Remember this quote from *Chapter 2*? “Our [American] nuclear arsenal is, in effect, a doomsday machine, capable of causing human extinction.” Daniel Ellsberg, nuclear expert and “Pentagon Papers” whistleblower”

Anything said or done in the public interest must be public. Anything not public is likely not in the public's interest. Jim Stark in *Rescue Plan*

To be corrupt and succeed, one must lie. We, the people of planet Earth, cannot afford to have liars in high political offices if the survival of humanity is at stake, and—as I trust you know by now—that is *minimally* what is at stake. We will surely establish a policy of *total* transparency at the global level to assure ourselves that the issue of having dishonest people in politics *does not even come up*. Jim Stark⁴ in *Rescue Plan*

If the standard of integrity required at the DWP [democratic world parliament] is not the highest possible, the DWP may fail, and if this were to happen, it follows, as a statistical certainty, that humanity will commit omnicide, accidentally or intentionally ... *either* of which qualifies as the most idiotic idea that ever was, or ever will be. Jim Stark in *Rescue Plan*

⁴ I remember Colin Powell dramatically telling the UN General Assembly that the USA had proof that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction (WMD), and I recall then-president Bush assuring us all that Powell's assessment was true. (In the [2003 State of the Union address](#) he said: "We *know* that Iraq, in the late 1990s, had several mobile biological weapons labs.") That lie cost or resulted in more than 100,000 deaths in Iraq, and that war is not over yet, some ten years in. The Iraqi defector turned informant (cutely nicknamed "Curveball") was Rafid Ahmed Alwan al-Janabi, and he now admits that what he told the CIA was a pack of lies. (We must wonder why the CIA didn't use lie-detection technology on this informant, or, worse yet, if they *did* use a lie detector and chose to disbelieve the technology rather than the liar.)