

Association of World Citizens

Johnson Chapter

"We are going to win the war, and we are going to win the peace that follows." President Franklin D. Roosevelt

Merely to wish for peace is not enough, as Col. Tchou pointed out so clearly when the rest of us were smugly confident of our power and safety. Peace cannot be maintained by wishing, but only by intelligent, concerted effort, and world-wide organization.

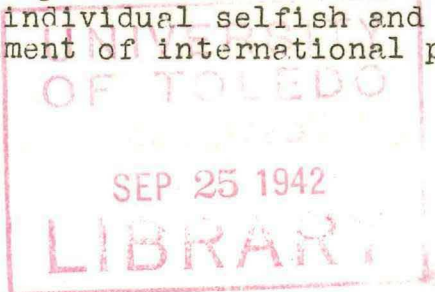
Once before we fought a war to end all wars, but when it came to a close, and victory was in our grasp, we lost the Peace because we were not prepared for it. We must win this war. But what will it avail us if we do not also win the Peace? To do that we must begin to prepare now; the end of the war will be too late, as it was last time.

To anyone familiar with the diverse backgrounds of the original thirteen American Colonies, the idea of combining all the nations of the world under a form of World Government should not seem visionary and impracticable. Panama and Singapore are much closer together now than Florida and Maine were in 1780, and the peoples of all nations are much more keenly aware of the forces that bind them all together.

For over a year groups have been forming throughout the United States and neighbor countries to plan for the just, equitable, and lasting peace which it is hoped will follow this war. With the entry of the United States into the conflict, some may have felt that a continuation of this effort was out of order. But more careful reflection must show that we should not have less concern for the final outcome of the war now that we are in it, but should more than ever resolve that this time some lasting benefit shall result from our struggle and sacrifice.

Here, then, is a challenge which no thinking, responsible person can ignore: shall we hereby resolve that our world shall be organized on a basis of law and order, of honor and goodwill, or shall we sit back and sadly deplore the energy of the forces of evil? Are we capable of the same determination, the same resolve endurance and self-sacrifice that are evinced by the legions of Nazi youth? Indeed we are, and we will never admit Hitler's claims of superiority in race and government, nor reconcile ourselves to a place of inferiority and subordination in the world of tomorrow.

Our eventual salvation lies, rather, in working out a plan for world government: a thing which depends for its success on the active support and participation of all intelligent and influential people throughout the world, who will be willing to work to help bring it about. You should join the association if you believe that in the future, after the present menace is crushed, peace-loving people the world over should join in some sort of co-operative effort to ensure themselves against possible aggression by individual selfish and vindictive powers, and to outlaw war as an instrument of international policy.



What is World-Citizenship?

World-Citizenship is a plan of organization to establish a better world, in which racial co-operation, political freedom, individual initiative, tolerance, international reciprocity, justice, peace, economic security and prosperity shall prevail. These objectives are the basis of the Atlantic Charter and the Malvern Conference.

Democracy must be reinforced and strengthened so that the ideal can inspire the enthusiasm and devotion necessary successfully to combat totalitarianism. Only through revitalizing the ideal can the destructive advances of the totalitarian philosophy against the fundamental democratic freedoms be effectively opposed. We propose that the democratic ideal be revitalized through the principles of World Citizenship.

The natural evolution of society has been through the family, clan, community, state and nation. The next and only logical step is a federation of nations. Any federation of nations must be founded upon the rock of the will and support of the people in order to endure. Thus the plan of the Association of World Citizens is to vitalize this federation of nations through instruction of and study by the world citizen in order that he understand and practice his rights, privileges and obligations to the world as he understands and practices his rights, privileges and obligations to his home, community, and nation.

The principles of organization of the World Citizenship movement are such that each individual is expected to make his contribution toward the establishment of the new world order. It is the responsibility of the World Citizen to determine the nature of his rights, privileges and obligations to the world, and to develop these relationships through study. Only when the individual understands the nature of his rights and obligations can he intelligently participate in an effective world organization, and only when it is founded on and buttressed by our cherished principles of democracy can any such organization long endure.

"Experience has shown : often that if you do not prepare for war until your country is invaded, it is then too late, but it is equally true that if you do not prepare for peace until an armistice is declared it is also too late." E. A. Wickenden in the N. Y. Herald Tribune

"From the practical standpoint of putting first things first, at a time when there are not enough hours in the day and every minute counts, planning for the future peace must of necessity be a part of our all-out war program." Henry a. Wallace in The Atlantic Monthly, Jan. 1942

"'Now is the time!' Those who put the winning of the war and some subsequent 'winning of the peace' into watertight compartments are the victims of fantasy. The peace is being won with the war . . ."
N. Y. Herald Tribune editorial

"One must not forget that in 1919 the victorious nations held unlimited power in their hands to bring about the changes which could have prevented the present disaster. Because of egotism and lethargy they have made bad use of their plenipotence. Thank God there are indications today that this time more courage, imagination, and wisdom will reign."

from "How To Win The Peace", by Thomas Mann, Atlantic Monthly,
Feb. 1942