

The Global Challenge for Humanity – Stated Simply

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As simply as possible, let's identify the present challenge before humanity.

- 1) The key issues humanity now faces are global in nature: nuclear war, climate change, pandemics, cyber/information malfeasance, pollution, species extinction, over population, uncontrolled genetic engineering, unsustainable demand on and waste of natural resources, runaway expanding capitalist economy, vulnerable global financial system, inequality within and among nations, escalating pressure of human migration/refugees.
- 2) Many of these challenges require relatively immediate attention at the global scale if the potential catastrophic impacts to humanity are to be avoided.
- 3) Adequately addressing these challenges requires a very high degree of cooperation among all the nations/citizens of the world.
- 4) Unfortunately, individual states and nations are consumed for the most part by their internal concerns and issues and by their pursuit of their exclusive external interests. As such, their basic orientation to one another tends to be more competitive than cooperative.
- 5) Individual states and nations tend to deny or avoid responsibility for global issues since they assert that they have limited capacity to address/resolve them.
- 6) Many nations are restrained from attending to these challenges as a result of the worldviews of their dominant religions which predict and invite catastrophic consequences for humanity [Armageddon, the Hour, Kali Yuga]. Fundamentalist Christians, Muslims and Hindus regard these challenges and their potential catastrophic consequences as fulfilling God's pledge to extinguish a depraved humanity and to admit true believers to a "better" existence in a new phase.
- 7) Individual states and nations tend to consider cooperation on a global scale only in response to immediately present, major global challenges or after global level catastrophes. They are not good at anticipatory planning and implementation to avoid challenges that have not yet manifested.
- 8) No global governmental structure currently exists that is capable of addressing/resolving any of these challenges in a timely manner.

9) Some regional federations of states and nations exist but they are usually focused on particular goals, some of which can even exacerbate the larger global challenges: defense and trade treaties.

10) NGOs with international scope exist with particular interests and goals, but they are mostly restricted to assisting at the discretion of nations and federations of nations.

11) The United Nations is the only global level organization that is comprehensive in the scope of its concerns. But, unfortunately, as it is presently structured, the UN is not empowered as a government to effectively and efficiently act and direct the actions of nations in behalf of the collective good of all nations.

So, what are the alternative conclusions to be reached from these facts:

The fatalist looks at the situation and throws his or her hands in the air and says, "We're doomed." "There is nothing humanity can do."

The pessimist looks at a) the immediacy of the many overlapping needs, b) the complexity and diversity of the situation politically across 193 nations, c) the lack of collective will/motivation to develop and pursue the solutions, d) the primacy of the competitive rather than cooperative orientation among nations, and e) the resistance to do anything until the conditions become dire. The pessimist then concludes that humanity will not be able to get its act together in a timely manner, and at a minimum civilization is doomed to extinction. After all, he/she observes: every species and civilization that has ever existed has suffered eventual collapse/extinction; so, it makes little difference whether the cause of this inevitable collapse/extinction is geological, cosmological, or the activities of humanity itself.

The optimist/idealist looks at the overall situation and assumes that humanity will come up with the needed solutions in sufficient time to avoid catastrophe just as it has been able to do in its outstanding development to the present under the umbrella of civilization. Some combination of democracy, capitalism, rule of law, science, technology, bio-engineering, robotics, artificial intelligence, and Big Data will provide the answers to the survival of humanity in some state that will lead to fulfilling its destiny to continue to progress. No need to worry excessively; it will all work out. Just be smart, adjust, and stay the course.

The realist looks at the overall situation and recognizes all of the factors that contribute to the high degree of difficulty in seeking the global solutions required.

But he or she allows that humanity has no choice other than to make a good faith effort to do what it takes to sustain the species in a state that can support the civilized condition for as long a term as possible. So, the realist supports any and all strategies, activities and changes that can resolve humanity's global challenges individually and collectively. The realist says, "Get on with it; win or lose, every day counts."

Each of us as individuals, communities and nations has to decide to which of these perspectives we subscribe. The time for denial/procrastination is over.

I am a realist. So, from this perspective, what needs to be done?

- 1) Every individual, community and nation must accept responsibility for and significantly curtail their level of contribution to humanity's global challenges.
- 2) The developed and developing nations of the world must recognize their primary responsibility for creating the problems that now threaten humanity.
- 3) These developed/developing nations must come together, take the lead, and provide most of the financial and technical means to resolve these problems.
- 4) The United Nations must be reformed on a comprehensive basis to provide a fair and empowered, federally structured global government which is fully capable of developing, implementing, overseeing, and requiring the changes in the activities of all states and nations that will lead to resolution of humanity's current and future challenges.
- 5) These U.N. based, required changes must be implemented by 2030.
- 6) Steps #2, #3 and #4 must occur more or less conjointly.

Significant global challenges necessitate the presence of a fully functional, efficient, and effective global government. There is no other realistic solution if humanity's collective problems are to be resolved in a timely manner.

An organization already exists that is promoting global level goals that address humanity's global level challenges within a fully reformed U.N. as an empowered global scale government. Citizens, communities, states and nations can support the efforts of this organization, which has been around for many years under outstanding, international, expert leadership:

World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy: www.wfm-igp.org [with affiliated national organizations]

In the U.S.: Citizens for Global Solutions: www.globalsolutions.org

See especially: Joseph E. Schwartzberg, Transforming the U.N. System, (U.N. Univ. Pr.) 2013. [Summary <https://globalsolutions.org/portfolio/transforming-the-united-nations-system-by-joseph-e-schwartzberg/>]