

F *orcing Change*

Setting the World Agenda: Understanding the Big Picture

By Carl Teichrib



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In early September 2007, a French-language newspaper reported,

“The World Federalist Movement? Behind this unfamiliar name hides an organization militating for ‘a world order through a reinforced United Nations.’ Based in New York, the movement claims nearly 50 000 sympathizers throughout the world. Last week, in Geneva, was held its 25th International Congress. The delegates took advantage of the Congress to go to Montreux, Thursday afternoon, where their movement was founded, just sixty years ago.”¹

For the average citizen the World Federalist Movement (WFM) is an unheard of entity, yet the goals and aspirations of this organization are far-reaching, potentially touching each nation and individual. So what is the main objective of the WFM? Consider this statement taken from their website,

“The ultimate goal of world federalists is world federation, but this goal can be reached only after intermediate stages. The challenge that world federalism now must face is to show that it is capable of taking the lead in the process of transition towards world government.”²

The World Federalist Movement would be easy to dismiss as utopian – maybe even a little megalomaniac. However, the organization and its ideals have become highly respected within the international community. Currently, twelve national governments and one European Union office financially support the WFM [see the side-bar “Institutional Supporters”], and over the years moral support for the world federalist agenda has come from a host of famous personalities such as Bill and Hillary Clinton, Walter Cronkite, Kofi Annan, and Ted Turner [for a list of others see the side-bar “Notable Supporters”]. In fact, the historical list of members and supporters represents a swath of

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leaders from the fields of diplomacy, political life, law, academia, and finance.

If this wasn't enough, the WFM, as the globe's largest pro-world government lobbying group, has an extensive array of national and regional affiliates, and often partners with a multitude of other organizations and agencies. All of this has given the organization an impressive record of networking, and has made it a credible voice in progressive world development.

Founded in 1947 during the first international congress of the "World Movement for World Federal Government," held in Montreux, Switzerland,³ the WFM now has consultative status within the United Nations⁴ and plays a role in many UN meetings, such as during the historical Millennium conferences of 2000.

The author of this article witnessed this involvement first-hand while attending the United Nations Millennium Forum. Throughout the event, the WFM and its US branch (then known as the World Federalist Association) engaged the Forum at all levels; from accreditation of participants to setting event goals, from coordinating the agendas to stacking the working group on UN empowerment. If you were part of the World Federalist camp you even had a VIP seat in the first three rows of the UN General Assembly hall.

Beyond involvement in global events, world federalist fingerprints can be seen in a host of far-reaching concepts, including the push for global taxation, the long-standing quest for an international police force, and the development of a United Nations parliamentary system – which will take a major step forward in 2008.

But probably the most significant WFM move has been its subtle yet influential participation behind the scenes in creating the International Criminal Court. Bill Pace, WFM's Executive Director, was pivotal in coordinating lobbying groups, and soliciting UN officials and government leaders in supporting the ICC campaign. Today, world federalists view the ICC as one of their most important contributions towards global governance.⁵

Notable Supporters of World Federalism

Over the decades, these individuals, and many more have actively endorsed and supported the work of the world federalist community.

- » Strobe Talbott [US Deputy Secretary of State, 1994-2001]
- » Jean Stapleton [actress]
- » U Thant [UN Secretary General]
- » Robert Muller [UN Under-Secretary-General]
- » Pope Pius XII
- » Bertrand Russell [author and philosopher]
- » Isaac Asimov [author]
- » Lloyd Bridges [actor]
- » Cord Meyer, Jr. [CIA Assistant Deputy Director of Plans]
- » Alan Cranston [US Senator]
- » Joseph S. Clark [US Senator]
- » Sir Peter Ustinov [actor]
- » Lloyd Axworthy [Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs during the Chrétien administration]

All of this points to an inescapable fact, the world federalist community is active and its ideas are being considered in global circles. And although many of its members have expressed frustration at how slow the process of global governance appears, it is progressing at a tangible pace.

If, as every indication shows, the agendas of the WFM are advancing, and if the world community is catching its grand vision, then we too must sit up and pay attention.

Setting Goals

This summer the WFM met for their 25th World Congress, August 27-31, in Geneva, Switzerland. Over five days, approximately 200 members and observers gathered to discuss and develop actionable plans towards United Nations-styled global governance.

Now that the WFM's 25th congress is on record, it's possible to review the big picture being set before the international community. Not surprisingly, world regionalism as an integrated part of the UN system was on the table. This makes sense; after all, the World Federalist Movement has already said that the goal of world government "can be reached only after intermediate stages."

Four WFM Congress Commissions were established to study specific issues. As an aid to understanding the trends in macro-politics, you'll find each commission numbered and listed below, along with a summary of the main points. As our society transforms, watch to see how these ideas come to light in the media, in political discussions at the national level, and in the arena of world affairs. Moreover, watch how they don't come to light until, and unless, a major world shake-up unfolds. For political analysts and researchers, be observant as these ideas pop up in political debates and through international forums.

Please note: Due to space not all WFM Congress Commission proposals are listed and/or discussed. Furthermore, where the author of this paper adds commentary to the points below, it is prefaced with a the word NOTE in capital letters. One final notice on sources: All points below have been extracted, either in exact wording (in quotations), or in summary format, from the WFM Commission's 25th World Congress *Final Resolutions*.

1. International Justice, the Rule of Law and Human Rights

- » **To continue strengthening the International Criminal Court, endorsing "the concept and practice of universal jurisdiction..."**
- » **"To recognize the creation of the Human Rights Council as an important step within the human rights system, and to support the Human Rights Council especially over the next critical time period as it develops procedures and operational norms..."**

NOTE: The Human Rights Council has shown itself to be a sham. Find below part of an incredible speech presented to the UN Human Rights Council on March 23, 2007 by a representative from UN Watch (www.unwatch.org).

"Faced with compelling reports from around the world of torture, persecution, and violence against women, what has the Council pronounced, what has it decided?

Nothing. Its response has been silence. Its response has been indifference. Its response has been criminal.

One might say, in Harry Truman's words, that this has become a Do-Nothing, Good-for-Nothing Council.

But that would be inaccurate. This Council has, after all, done something.

It has enacted one resolution after another condemning one single state: Israel. In eight pronouncements – and there will be three more this session – Hamas and Hezbollah have been granted impunity. The entire rest of the world – millions upon millions of victims, in 191 countries –continue to go ignored. So yes, this Council is doing something. And the Middle East dictators who orchestrate this

campaign will tell you it is a very good thing. That they seek to protect human rights: Palestinian rights.

So too, the racist murderers and rapists of Darfur women tell us they care about the rights of Palestinian women; the occupiers of Tibet care about the occupied; and the butchers of Muslims in Chechnya care about Muslims.

But do these self-proclaimed defenders truly care about Palestinian rights?

Let us consider the past few months. More than 130 Palestinians were killed by Palestinian forces. This is three times the combined total that were the pretext for calling special sessions against Israel in July and November. Yet the champions of Palestinian rights – Ahmadinejad, Assad, Khaddafi, John Dugard – they say nothing. Little 3-year-old boy Salam Balousha and his two brothers were murdered in their car by Prime Minister Haniyeh's troops. Why has this Council chosen silence?

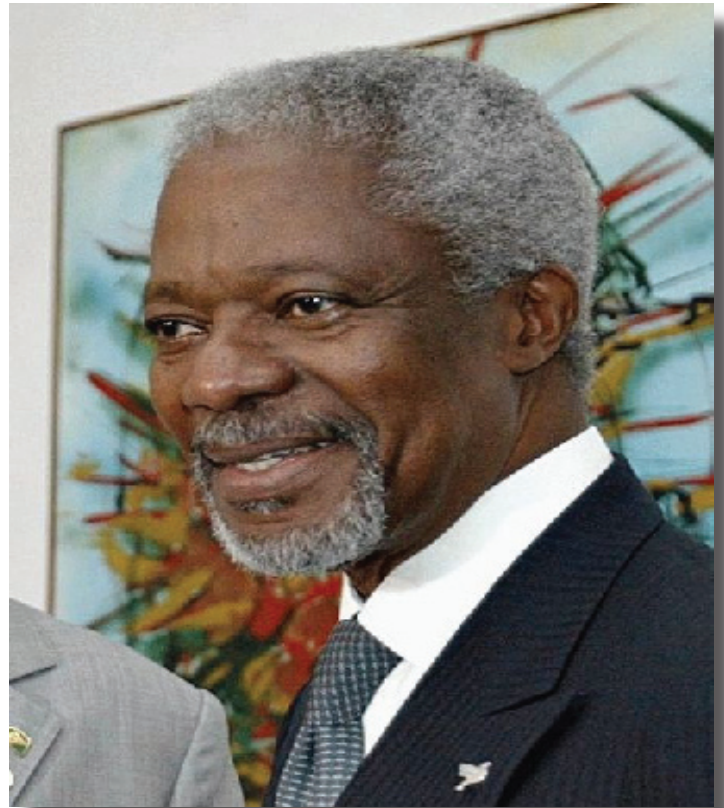
Because Israel could not be blamed. Because, in truth, the despots who run this Council couldn't care less about Palestinians, or about any human rights.

They seek to demonize Israeli democracy, to delegitimize the Jewish state, to scapegoat the Jewish people. They also seek something else: To distort and pervert the very language and idea of human rights.”⁶

2. Peace, Human Security and Conflict Prevention

» **To support the “Right to Protect.”**

NOTE: This is known as R2P, and essentially gives the international community the right to forcibly intervene in domestic affairs if the citizens of a particular country are not being protected by their own national government. On the



“Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General and a supporter of the world federalists.”

surface this idea sounds noble, however, it gives the United Nations and other international bodies expanded powers in the field of military operations, policing, and nation building. Although Canada's Lloyd Axworthy was instrumental in bringing this concept to the UN, World Federalists have been part of the conceptualization of the R2P program, and a major supporter from the beginning. This comes as no surprise when one realizes that Axworthy has a strong personal relationship with current leaders of the World Federalist Movement, and members of its Canadian branch.

» **To allow the UN its own satellite data for early warning monitoring of potential conflict zones, and to bring civil society (Non-Governmental Organizations) into this early warning process.**

NOTE: Fundamentally, this course of action gives the United Nations its own intelligence apparatus,

Institutional Supporters of the World Federalist Movement

The following institutions, governments, and agencies have been publicly recognized by the WFM as supporting entities. Take a look to see if your tax dollars are being used towards world government.

- » The John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- » The Ford Foundation
- » Foundation Open Society Institute Zug, Switzerland
- » The Planethood Foundation
- » European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights of the European Union
- » The Government of Belgium
- » Department of Foreign Affairs, Government of Canada
- » The Government of Denmark
- » The Government of Finland
- » The Government of Ireland
- » The Government of Liechtenstein
- » The Government of Luxembourg
- » The Government of The Netherlands
- » The Government of Norway
- » The Government of Sweden
- » The Government of Switzerland
- » The Government of The United Kingdom

through satellite technology, and more importantly through specialized NGO's working on the ground (such as aid and development agencies). Not only does this grant the UN unprecedented access to national/domestic information, it automatically places undue suspicions on NGOs and aid agencies working in a watched nation, potentially causing the government to remove aid personnel, development workers, missionaries, and other expatriates from their soil in order to lessen intelligence risks.

- » **To establish a UN Peace Service.**

NOTE: This is a United Nations commanded and controlled, rapid reaction military and police force. If implemented, the UN would have its own armed units at its disposal. An active UN Peace Service arrangement would work hand-in-glove with the R2P concept.

- » **To develop international rules regarding the use of outer space for military purposes.**
- » **To encourage national governments towards accepting the principles of world federation.**
- » **To combat the use of small arms and light weapons through a global gun registry, "marking, tracing and record keeping" of small arms, and the restriction of civilian ownership of small arms.**

NOTE: Small arms means rifles, shotguns, and handguns. Unfortunately, small arms are the most used weapons in civil wars, revolutions, and uprisings. For private gun owners in stable countries, and for those seeking legitimate personal protection in zones of instability, this gun control agenda is potentially viewed negatively.

- » **"Work closely with all faith bodies on issues of mutual agreement and for the creation of globally united religions for world federation."**

NOTE: Such a move constitutes the creation of a world religion, established to provide the backing and support of a world government. A "globally united religions for world federation" would constitute the manipulation of an internationally imposed set of beliefs and values. If such a spiritual partnership were to occur (and this has been

in the works), modern culture would place enormous pressure on Christianity to conform to the new global faith standard.

3. UN Reform and Global Governance – Federalism at the Global and Regional Level

- » **To “pursue a reformed United Nations system and the democratization of global governance” through the “reorganization of the Security Council on the basis of regional grouping of states (such as EU and AU).” Furthermore, the WFM encourages the continued development and expansion of regional/supra-national governments.**

NOTE: What is being proposed is a system of global governance, directed through a reformed UN Security Council no longer comprised of nations, but built around regional blocks such as the European Union and the African Union. This is a significant development, giving us a heightened understanding of how regionalism is being viewed as a major structural tool for global management. Watch as momentum for regionalism increases in intensity, and how these new continental entities are being positioned in the world community.

- » **That the decisions in the General Assembly should be “progressively more binding, enforceable and authoritative.”**
- » **To call a general conference and review the UN Charter with the prospective of global federalism.**
- » **Develop funding mechanisms for the United Nations through “revenues derived from progressive taxation of the international economy, on specified transnational corporate activities, a Carbon**



“U Thant, former UN Secretary General and supporter of world federalism.”

tax, or other new innovative means of financing...”

NOTE: How do you pay for the world government systems being proposed, including a UN military/police presence? With taxes, of course. See the previous issue of Forcing Change to read about proposed world taxation schemes.

- » **Organize and constitute a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly, “conceived as a step toward a world parliament directly elected and endowed with legislative powers.”**

NOTE: Over the last ten years or so, world federalists have been building momentum towards the creation of a world parliament. Such a parliament, or “permanent people’s assembly,” would either

be attached to the United Nations General Assembly or the World Trade Organization. In the fall of 2008, an international meeting will be held to flesh out this idea. Watch for an upcoming article on this very important development.

- » **To establish an international forum “devoted to discussing the building of federal democratic institutions above nations states at the regional and global levels.”**
- » **To attach “international judicial regimes” to global treaties.**

NOTE: Placing binding “judicial regimes” into treaties automatically gives those treaties the status of hard law, and places nations, corporations, and individuals under an umbrella of world-enforceable regulations.

4. Global Environmental and Economic Governance; Managing the Global Commons and the Effects of Economic and Social Globalization

- » **A call for nations, the UN, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank to convene a special meeting in the quest to formulate a “new worldwide monetary order.”**

NOTE: What would a “new worldwide monetary order” look like? Based on the research this author has done, such a development would incorporate a system of regional currencies to replace national monies. For certain, a regime of world taxation would be dovetailed into the WFM global monetary proposal.

- » **To create an “all-embracing suprana-**

tional institution...the World Environmental Agency.” This World Environmental Agency would have; “supranational authority,” “real powers,” and its own funds “deriving from a world tax to be paid by developed countries, for example a carbon tax...”

NOTE: A World Environmental Agency, as proposed, would by its nature act as an eco-bureaucracy. Such an entity would very likely become tyrannical, not just in theory but in practice, as global regulations would be imposed over local environmental realities.

- » **That nations should form a Global Climate Community to combat climate change.**

NOTE: How would the Global Climate Community enforce its climate change mandates? The most logical route would be through the World Environmental Agency.

The Big Picture

Putting each proposal of the World Federalist Movement together into a single frame, a clear picture emerges.

- Regional/continental governments would form the core of a world government structure through a reformed United Nations.
- Religions would find themselves co-opted into a global faith and ethics platform.
- Global decision makers would be given an intelligence and military/policing capability.
- The world community would form its own entrenched moral mandate through an em-

powered bureaucracy: environmentalism, gun control, and the Right to Protect would give justification for domestic interference. Other reasons would no-doubt follow.

- An international taxation regime would be implemented, and a revamped global monetary system would replace current arrangements.
- The world government would have its own judicial mechanisms and legal codes. Nations, corporations, community organizations, and individuals would be subservient to the global community through transnational treaties and regulations.

How real is any of this? Presently, different political players, agencies, and institutions are examining every one of these proposals in detail; and each concept is advancing in different degrees. Regionalism is fast becoming a reality (it already is in Europe), and world taxation/monetary reform has been under serious discussion for some time. Likewise, finding ways to bind international law and judicial actions has been an ongoing field of study for decades – it’s just a matter of time and circumstance before political will is sufficient to implement these concepts. And the creation of a military arm for the world community isn’t a fantasy either; NATO’s evolvement into a global force has been the focus of more than a few international conferences, and the UN has toyed with creative police options since its inception.

Incrementally, or through a monumental global crisis, this big picture does come together. Moreover, by carefully examining the blueprints of the World Federalist Movement, it helps us better understand what subtle pressures our national governments are under. It gives us a heads-up regarding the serious changes Christian churches and faith groups will encounter as global belief standards reshape our culture. And it draws our attention to how doing business may be radically

altered under a new global society.

Our world is facing mounting changes, and the World Federalist Movement demonstrates that if world government does occur, *it won’t be accidental.* **FC**

Endnotes:

¹ A French copy of this article, and an English translation, can be obtained at the WFM website [www.wfm.org/site/index.php/events/856].

² World Federalist Movement, *About World Federalism*, [www.wfm.org/site/index.php/pages/7].

³ *World Federalist Association Activists Guidebook*, Section 1, p.17. The World Federalist Association is the US national body of the WFM.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ To see a memo on the WFM’s creation of the ICC, see *The Power Puzzle*, page 92. *The Power Puzzle* is available to all *Forcing Change* subscribers in the membership section.

⁶ Speech before UN Human Rights Council, 4th Session, 23 March 2007, Delivered by Hillel Neuer, Executive Director of UN Watch (www.unwatch.org). Italics in original.

Brainwashing a Generation

By Henry Lamb

Editor’s Note: I’ve known Mr. Lamb for a decade, having first met him during the spring of 1997 at a Sovereignty International conference in Washington, DC. Mr. Lamb’s work regarding environmental issues and global governance is exceptional, and if you have an opportunity, I would encourage you acquire his reports and materials (found at www.freedom.org/bstore.htm). This article, “Brainwashing a Generation,” is used with his permission.

People who reached adulthood in the 1960s were greeted with the growing notion that a “population explosion” would wreak havoc upon civilization. In his 1968 book, *The Population Bomb*,

Paul R. Erlich predicted that: “In the 1970s and 1980s hundreds of millions of people will starve to death in spite of any crash programs embarked upon now.”

CBS television produced a special program based on his writing to scare the pants off an unsuspecting generation. The media jumped on this new, “enlightened,” progressive revelation by this Stanford University butterfly expert, and for years, nations set out to prevent this certain disaster.

It didn’t happen, of course. In fact, throughout the world, population is either declining, or stable. Only in the poorest parts of the world is population increasing.

When people refused to fall dead of starvation in the streets of New York, as Erlich had predicted, another catastrophe was created: a new “ice age.” This same Paul R. Erlich predicted that the man-made increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide would “... keep the energy of the sun from warming the Earth in the first place.”

Newsweek picked up the story. The article claimed that scientists were “almost universal” in their agreement that global cooling would result in devastating crop losses. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientist, Murray Mitchell, reported a half-degree decline in ground temperature between 1945 and 1968. Other media joined the parade, and convinced a generation that human activity would result in a new period of glaciation.

It didn’t happen, of course. Paul Erlich, and many of the same scientists who predicted a coming “ice age,” have now joined the bandwagon that is predicting another imagined catastrophe: global warming. Another Stanford professor, Stephen Schneider, who was first an advocate for global cooling, flip-flopped, and now is a proponent of global warming. His statements about global warming to *Discover* magazine (pp. 45-48, Oct. 1989) are quite revealing, “...we have to offer up scary scenarios, make simplified, dramatic statements, and make little mention of any doubts we might have.”

Schneider admits what many people have long suspected: there’s more to the motive of these doom-sayers than meets the eye – or the scientific evidence.

The population explosion myth, and the global cooling myth came and went. But the global warming myth lingers and lingers. Why?

The major difference between the current, lingering global warming hysteria, and the other predictions of catastrophe, is the United Nations. The U.N. didn’t fully recognize the value of the environment as a funding source until the 1972 Conference on the Environment held in Stockholm, headed by Maurice Strong. By the time global cooling shifted to global warming, the U.N. had created the United Nations Environment Program, and international treaties on wetlands, and on endangered species. Global warming was an idea that promised unlimited funds.

The 1992 Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the creation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change became the global institutions for the collection and re-distribution of money. With this money came power, the power to propagandize. Using the IPCC as the perceived “last word” in science, the political arm of the U.N.’s global warming has churned out tons of global warming propaganda, labelled as “official” scientific findings. In truth, the IPCC’s Executive Reports use just enough science to flavor their projections, and, following Stephen Schneider’s advice, “...ignore any doubts” that participating scientists may have.

Younger people, who did not live through the rise and fall of previous predictions of catastrophe, can be forgiven for not seeing through the current rash of global warming hype. Gray-headed folks have no excuse, and should provide leadership to the less experienced.

Politicians and scientists, even those who know better, see the current global warming scenario as a funding source, and are not about to bite the hand that feeds them.

One most interesting observation is this: the

university professors, the scientists, and the politicians who have historically advanced these mythical catastrophic scenarios, are folks who have never lived in the real world. They refuse to acknowledge that real people, who deal every day with real problems, create ways to master them. It seems way beyond their comprehension to realize that a free market is far more responsive to changing conditions than are government policies.

Everyone beyond the ninth grade knows that the climate is changing – as it has done throughout the history of the world. Chances are quite good that the climate will continue to change, regardless of the policies of the U.N., or Washington, or of any State.

The real catastrophe is not global warming, but the fact that governments continue to waste billions of dollars brainwashing and frightening yet another generation. These people will, one day, look back and laugh, much the way we laugh at Paul Erlich's prediction that starvation would cause people to die of starvation in the streets of American cities by the 1980s, and the 1970s hysteria about the coming "ice age." FC

Henry Lamb is Executive Vice President of the Environmental Conservation Organization (www.freedom.org). His research and writing on environmentalism has been foundational for many, offering a logical approach to understanding the role of the United Nations and the power of specialized lobby groups in environmental and global governance processes. **FC**

Question of the Month

Note: From time to time, various questions have cropped up from FC readers and interested parties regarding globalization, regionalism, and other similar topics. When possible, FC will try to incorporate a Q&A section for subscribers. This month, the topic in question relates to an article in the public area of Forcing Change.

Q: I read your article "Re-Zoning the World" in the public area of Forcing Change. I know the article is a few years old, but could you lay down some of the thinking pushing regionalism today in light of what you talked about with the Free Trade Area of the Americas?

A: When I penned, "Re-Zoning the World" in 2003, it was with the understanding that global governance required a tangible stepping-stone process. At that time, the Free Trade Area of the Americas was in full swing, and a 2005 deadline was looming. In researching and analyzing the FTAA agenda, what struck me was how essential the development of regional economic blocks were – such as an anticipated North American common market – to the larger globalization picture.

Years earlier this point had been driven home while attending a 1999 World Federalist Association event (the WFA was the largest pro-world government lobbying group in the US). Maurice Strong, a featured speaker, offered a layering scenario: First, nations would always be around, and we should expect more countries to arise via

nationalist breakaway actions, as was being demonstrated in the former Eastern Block of Europe. Second, regional zones would be developed, thereby bringing diverse countries into common geographic/institutional structures. Once these blocks were sufficiently formed, a new international arrangement would inevitably follow, adding a final governance layer to the world system.

In 1999, few outside observers were catching this big picture potential attached to regionalism. The European Union, a bureaucratic sinkhole, was only two years into its harmonized currency experiment, and the average North American didn't care. After all, economic commentators from CNN to the local coffee shop were singing the praises of a US-led, cheap credit dot-com windfall. The US market was booming and an ocean of easy tech-money was being created from thin air: The gravy train would never run dry, and the idea that Europe would become an economic superpower was either ignored or ridiculed.

However, in a short while, three trend events would shake the foundations of perceived economic reality. First, the United States experienced the dot-com bust, with a looming credit bubble rapidly cresting the horizon. Massive debt, coupled with the loss of home-based manufacturing due to outsourcing, was a cancer poking through the surface of America's economic skin.

Second, the euro came into full force as a hard currency, surpassing the US dollar in value and propelling the European Central Bank into a position of influence. For the first time in a long time, the world was handed an international reserve alternative. In a very real sense, a globally recognized escape hatch had been opened, providing a visible way out of the faltering greenback. In response, numerous countries started to swap US dollar reserves in favour of the euro. Even OPEC quietly talked of dumping the dollar as the world's petroleum currency and adopting the euro or some other monetary equivalent. The handwriting was on the wall, even if the average North American citizen didn't recognize it.

Lastly, energy and hard asset commodities started to soar against the crumbling dollar as Asian, Indian, and Middle Eastern economies came alive with an insatiable appetite for resources. South American countries endowed with mineral and petrol assets looked east instead of north for new markets. Russia too found new footing in its energy sector, and the Canadian dollar – tightly linked to the nation's energy and commodity environment – raced uphill as its southern neighbour slid.

All of this helped to fast-forward an alternative political/economic paradigm for North America, one that has been simmering in the background for generations: Regionalism. Although North American unification is a hot-button issue today, the idea is not new. For decades this concept has cropped up in various forms, and has stayed alive through the Organization of American States, which openly pursues hemispheric integration as its major plank: this was, essentially, the FTAA plan. And now that the European model of unification has proven itself on the world stage, other regional groupings are taking shape.

South American nations, recognizing this global trend, are now actively building a regional strategy. In many respects, South America is further ahead than its northern neighbour in this regard. The Middle East, through the Gulf Cooperation Council, is also engaged in a regional program (think about how this may impact the world petroleum stream). So too certain Asian nations are evolving a regional arm through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Even African countries, as disjointed as they may appear, are looking through regional glasses.

Advocates for unification offer a compelling motive: The only way to compete internationally, the only way to move forward as an equal in the world community, is to do what Europe did – go big under a combined regional entity, or become irrelevant.

At the US national/elite level the argument follows a similar logic. Amalgamate into a regional entity, one that incorporates Canadian resources

and Mexican labour options, or economically sink. In other words, if the United States is to maintain and advance its economic status against growing national entities (such as China), and in its relationship to harmonized blocks such as the Gulf Cooperation Council, it needs to join with its neighbours and regroup economically.

Of course historical notions of sovereignty, for all countries involved, becomes mute. Moreover, bureaucracy under such an expanded continental package will mushroom, as public accountability and accessibility of political players dwindle. Government expenditures rise as extra layers are added, and national identities shift to continental and global forms of citizenship. Social restructuring also comes into the picture, including the re-defining of what is acceptable behaviour and beliefs, and what is not permitted under regional democracy. All of these damaging attributes are now observable products of the EU model, and will undoubtedly be part of the trade-off that occurs as we move from national independence to continental interdependence.

Ironically, US power players were active in assisting the Europeans towards harmonization after World War II. In many respects, American elites kick-started the European model through the Marshall Plan, the Atlantic Alliance, and by direct US State Department support. In the Cold War stand-off for the heart of Western civilization, America's hope for Europe was found on the path to regional integration.

Now the US too, along with its closest neighbours, is introducing the European roadmap here. Sovereignty, in this context, must be sacrificed to achieve the broader goal. Not surprisingly, many internationalists (some are the same elites directly working for unification) are delighted at this new phase. After all, it's a cause-and-effect action that lays down the stepping-stones for the next layer of governance: Global.

So what happened to the Free Trade Area of the Americas, which was to link the Western Hemisphere into a common trading system? In Novem-

ber 2005, Brazil and the US found themselves in a deadlock over agricultural concerns. Other matters such as the protection of intellectual property also bogged down negotiations. Furthermore, populist opposition mounted in South America, and leaders from Columbia to Argentina began to work out their own regional program (with assistance from the EU). And in the US and Canada, protests and lobbying pressure against the FTAA became front-page news (Note: some of the anti-globalization rallies, such as in Quebec City, contained a noticeable socialist/proto-Marxist element). In late 2005, the FTAA process effectively ceased.

But the matter of a sweeping hemispheric block isn't dead. The Organization of American States is still involved in developing tighter hemispheric cooperation. Moreover, it's been recognized that if South and North America each form regional zones, the framework for an FTAA-styled agenda will be renewed.

I hope this helps to understand the bigger picture.

FC

– Carl Teichrib FC

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