

Concept of world community

- "The World Community" by Dr.S.Radhakrishnan is a plea to the great powers of the world to unite under a single umbrella, namely, a world federal government. To achieve this, he enumerates on the dangers posed by nuclear weapons and wars. According to him, world peace is not a dream in a shrinking world. It is a necessity, an essential condition for the survival of the human race. For this, a world federal government is the way out; with powers limited to establishing and maintaining law and order among the nations of the world.

Meaning Of World Community

- Just as people within a community depend on each other, countries of the **world** also depend on each other to fulfil their needs.
- Like people in a community, they also need to exchange goods, services, information and money. Thus, they are interdependent.
- Interdependence has many advantages. For instance, it allows the benefits of advances in science and technology to reach different parts of the world within a short period
- It enables countries to work together to fight deadly diseases, cope with disasters, protect the environment, increase food production, and so on. A cultural exchange among nations helps the peoples of the world to understand one another's cultures and maintain friendly relations.
- As nations are interdependent, a political, social or economic development in one country often has impacts on other countries. This may not always be an advantage, especially if the impacts are produced by developments such as wars, epidemics, and so on.

Wars-An illegitimate Instrument of Politics

- In World War I, of the ten million people who were killed, 95 per cent were soldiers and five per cent were civilians. In World War II, of the fifty million people who were killed, 52 per cent were soldiers and 48 per cent were civilians. In the Korean War, of the nine million killed, 84 per cent were civilians and 16 per cent soldiers. Thus, war has degenerated into mass murder of the defenseless, women and children. It has become an illegitimate instrument of politics.

Dangers Posed by Nuclear Weapons

- Nuclear developments have given enough power to the great countries to annihilate the human race many times over. Politicians have become indifferent to this growing danger. The apathy and indifference among the masses have resulted in a creeping paralysis of the people. The building of nuclear armaments means, the destruction of cities, the ruin of countries, the suffering of millions of human beings and the demoralisation of the world. There is no protection from nuclear weapons through shelters or emergency regulations.
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Alternative for the Military Methods

- In a world, where peace is becoming more and more precarious, the great powers have a special responsibility. William James in a famous essay on “The Moral Equivalent of War” proposed a ‘substitute for war’s disciplinary functions’. It is necessary that we devise alternatives for the military methods. Issues which were hitherto decided through wars should hereafter be decided by peaceful means. In political life, we cannot exclude conflicts altogether.
- These have to be settled by a world organization, an international authority. Kant, in his essay on “Perpetual Peace”, suggested a group of states’. Observing minimal rights of civilized behavior. He proposed a notion of world citizenship without the support of an overall sovereignty. World control by a single authority is an illusion. A federal solution is the way out, a world community which substitutes the processes of law for armed conflicts. Dharma, in Indian thought means a gathering in, a binding together, integration; adharma, its opposite, is a scattering out, a falling away, disintegration. Thus, a world federal government capable of establishing and maintaining law and order among the nations of the world is a practical way of achieving just and lasting peace.

Sharing of goods and services

- In modern times, transport and communication systems have improved vastly. Thus, goods, services, information, money and people can move swiftly from one part of the world to another. Many of the things that we use in our everyday life come from other countries. We can also quite easily travel to other countries to study, work, meet people or see new places.
- Professionals like doctors, engineers, scientists and artists across the globe can thus travel to any country to offer their services. They can also share information to improve their skills.
- We can access the Internet from any part of the world to get information, exchange e-mail and even do business. All this allows goods, services, information and ideas to be shared by people around the world.

- Goods and services are also shared by way of aid. For instance, during severe earthquakes, floods, epidemics, major accidents, and so on, countries share available supplies, technical know-how and trained personnel with the affected countries to help them cope with the effects.
- India has a good communication network, which helps in the exchange of goods, services, personnel and information between India and other countries.

Trade

- Trade involves buying, selling or exchange of resources and manufactured goods between countries or people. Countries have been trading with each other since ancient times. As natural resources are unevenly distributed over the world, a country usually has an excess, or surplus, of some resources and a shortage of others.
- A country sells its surplus resources to countries that need them. It meets its own shortages by buying from countries that have enough to sell. A country also sells goods that it produces in excess and buys goods that it needs to meet the demands of its people.
- India sells iron ore, manganese, cotton textiles, coir and jute products, etc., to other countries and buys machines, defense equipment, crude oil, chemical products, etc.
- Nowadays, there is also trade in technical know-how. Countries sell know-how to less advanced countries and buy from more advanced ones. This allows the benefits of technological advances to spread across the world.

- Foreign trade plays an important role in the economic development of a nation. Most countries of the world are now independent and can pursue foreign policies that best serve their economic interests.
- Today, like never before, foreign trade is regulated by international rules. However, the advanced countries usually dictate the terms of trade. This often places less advanced countries at a disadvantage.
- Countries sometimes work together in groups and form organizations to secure favorable terms of trade. For instance, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was set up to coordinate petroleum production and export by its members.

Pre-requisites for a World community

- For a world authority to be effective, a world understanding is necessary. We should work for a world community, for, the alternatives are chaos or world tyranny. The Hammurabi code of the Babylonians, and the Egyptian Book of the Dead contain suggestions of the Ten Commandments of the Israelites. One of them reads, “Thou shalt not oppress the stranger for ye were once strangers in Egypt”. Alexander looked upon the whole inhabited world as his fatherland. All good men are of this world; the wicked are the aliens. Ashoka, Harsha, and Akbar represent this view of life. By continually dwelling on the selfishness of others, we ourselves become more selfish. Not by accusing others do we get out of our selfishness, but by purifying ourselves.
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- Jesus could not accept the primitive morality of an ‘eye for an eye’. ‘Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Return good for evil. Bless those that curse you’, he said. Professor Max Mueller, who did a great deal for the interpretation of Indian religion to the Western world said that the aim of human existence was a world community. The real force working for world unity is man’s inborn compassion for others.