

# The Philosophy of Democracy: Ways to Approval and Extensions

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## Abstract

Human rights, democracy and the rule of law, which are the goals of many national societies, require nowadays their expansion so they became the qualifiers in solving of the international problems as well. We are talking about the same phenomenon, but manifesting at various levels of the people's lives and, as a result, of the different actors' activity. Criteria for international democracy require their further systematization. The article draws attention to the paradox, when some leaders of the democratic countries, strictly observing the standards of democracy in their own countries, are opponents of the equal rights of the people and principles of international democracy. The article traces the evolution of the trends of international democracy on examples of the United Nations and European Union.

## Introduction

In a broad sense of the word, democracy means the optimal form of relationship between free and equal people in all spheres of life and at all levels of human communities [1-4]. Actors of democracy within countries are members of their societies and citizens of the states, and those of international democracy—members of the universal civil society, entire people, societies, states and international institutions.

Accordingly, the principal agents of international relations are the people, societies and states, their unions and institutions. Individuals act here first and foremost as forming of the national institutions and their guards, performers of their laws, adherents of their customs, traditions, mentality and as representatives of distinct cultures. Just as a sole state aspires by its laws to contribute to the achievement of personal benefits, Grotius believed, so all states have some laws made together and consisting with common interests all of them together. It is the law of nations or international law.

After the Second World War, the democracy of international relations has reinforced contrary to the heightened up cold war. With all its imperfections, all natural and artificial contradictions between states and sophisticated forms of the cold war, the maintenance of which demanded astronomical sums of money, the world order for four decades after the second world war proved to be the best, the most democratic and most favorable to the progress of humankind. Democratic principles of relations between people and nations, even accounted by the language of Aesop (the principle of sovereign equality of all member-states of the United Nations and at the same time a factual 'more equal' status of the permanent members of the UN security council, the general obligation not to interfere into internal affairs of each other and, at the same time, an international protection of the human and people's rights) were declared in the United Nations' charter. Due to collective efforts of the nations, the role of secret diplomacy has restricted considerably. The world has become more open, and humankind more informed about what was happening in it. The annual sessions of the general assembly, gathering together leaders of almost all the nations of the world, gave each of them an opportunity to appeal to the international community with their problems and concerns, and the inhabitants of the planet—to know, what primarily concerns humanity. The aspirations of the people to independence and international recognition of the right assisted to origin of more than 100 new independent states, which immediately became active participants of the world politics, and to the voice which the 'more equal' countries had to listen. As it doesn't sound weird, the division of the world into different systems and a rivalry between them has contributed significantly to this. Each of these systems has sought to attract the young and developing nations to its side, not only promising, but providing them with economic and other assistance and by supporting their status as non-aligned countries. The UN member-states had agreed on standards and rules of conduct in the seas, oceans and outer space, and declared the space, the deep seabed and its resources common heritage of humankind.

The United Nations charter proclaimed mission «to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race,

sex, language, or religion". Of paramount importance are the universal declaration of human rights, the 'Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights' and the 'Covenant on Civil and political rights'. The states-signatories undertook to create all necessary conditions for the realization of the declared rights and freedoms. Developing the universal declaration of human rights and the international covenants on human rights, the UN, UNESCO, the council of Europe, the continental and regional institutions in Asia, Africa and Latin America have adopted hundreds of declarations and conventions on the rights and freedoms of various groups and layers of population. International atmosphere was favourable for scientific and technical, information, cultural and other revolutions, and contributed to an unprecedented so far acceleration of the growth of the world production. As at the XVII congress of the socialist international has noted in 1986, 80% of the total economic growth in the world in the 20th century was achieved in the period from 1950 to 1985, when the economic growth in the world were the highest in the history of humankind—approximately 5% per year [14].

The world had got certain balance of power, which did not give either party a noticeable superiority and the key actors sought to preserve this balance. Almost all conflicts in 1960 to 1980's, except for the Vietnam War, were aimed at preventing a reversal of the balance of power in the world.

The long cold war between two social systems little by little changed this ratio, led to the restoration of the capitalist order in several countries and the beginning of a new phase in international relations. With the collapse of the Soviet Union and disappearance of one of the parties of antagonism must disappear the hostile antagonism as well, the cold war, and will weaken the contradictions between the leading nations of the world; the world order should become more harmonious and without conflicts, which, naturally, will lead to further acceleration the social progress' pace. President of the United States Bush the senior said in his message to Congress in September 11, 1990 that it will be an era, freer from fear, stronger in the pursuit of justice and more confident in achieving peace, the era, when the people of the world will achieve prosperity. It will be a world, where the rule of law replaces the rule of the jungle, a world in which the people recognize assumed responsibility for freedom and justice, a world where the strong will to respect the rights of the weak, the president of the United States predicted. Even search for formulas of a new world order started.

There were hasty and exaggerated assessments of the new situation in the world also in essays of some American authors (Fukuyama, Huntington). When many expectations not only failed, but new threats emerged, and the 'new' once again turned out to be worse than the old, they begun to argue about a 'Clash of civilizations', although many conflicts took place within, rather than between them. It would be more accurate to define a new stage in the development of international relations as "The stage of the old rivals fights with new armour and under new slogans".

The United States, be considered as the winner in the cold war, felt that they have the right to define the fate of not only defeated countries, but the world, i.e., to become its ruler. At last, it seemed, that the age-old dream of the United States is fulfilling. Woodrow Wilson, developing the spirit of the 'Manifest of Destiny', guiding by which the United States had extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans, announced during the presidential campaign of 1912 that he believed "that God has planted in us visions of liberty...that we are chosen and prominently chosen to show the way to the nations of the world how they shall walk in the paths of liberty". Bush Jr. in fact drove himself as Lord of the world. "We are now an empire, and when we act, we create our own reality. We are creators of history that others must simply learn", he said. The prime minister of the United Kingdom Blair acted in unison with Bush. In a 1997 speech Blair said: 'century upon century it has been the destiny of Britain to lead other nations. That should not be a destiny that is part of our history. It should be part of our future. We are a leader of nations or nothing'. The claims of this kind and determined by them foreign policy has led to the rapid destruction of the world order and to return to one of the 19th century, but with many participants.

Dividing the world into 'friends' and 'enemies' of Washington, as at times of the ancient Rome, attributing some of the 'enemies' to 'rogue states', and the imperial aspirations of the White House, have distorted the principles of democracy in international relations. The so-called 'humanitarian' interventions, carried out primarily on the initiative of the United States after 1991 [15], began to resemble the intervention of dictatorial and tyrannical regimes in the states where the people rebelled against their rulers. Their effects in almost all cases were tragic for the 'survived' and 'democratized' countries—Somalia, Bosnia, Iraq, Libya,

Afghanistan, Ukraine, etc. Some of them were performed not only without the consent of the United Nations, but contrary to its prohibition, such as in Kosovo in 1999.

Termination of economic aid to developing countries after the end of the rivalry between the contesting systems and disappearing of the need to engage them on their side, as well as economic sanctions against countries, refusing to unquestioningly obey the will of Washington, have led to a slow-down in development of almost all countries of the world. Natural consequences of it became lowering of living standards in some of them and slowing its growth in others, as well as frequent economic crises. Undue interference of developed countries in life and culture of the rest of the world has given rise to a new resistance movement, including in the form of terrorism [16] that in turn was used by the great powers as a pretext to justify a continuing increase of the military expenditures, as well as attacks on signed in 1950 to 1980 international agreements on human and people's rights.

The most intelligible and natural way of democratization of international life is an application at the global level the same principles that have contributed to the democratization of national life. If the actors of democracy in separate countries are their citizens collectively, their active majority, at the universal level this role execute all sovereign nations and their unions, also acting under the law of majority with due respect for the opinion of the minority. They all must treat each other as equal partners, having the same rights and obligations. But, unfortunately, such a conscious aspiration to promote democracy among all the people of the world did not exist in the time of creation of the United Nations.

So, each of the five permanent members of the Security Council has greater rights and opportunities in discussing issues of international life than the other UN member states all together, and its veto could undermine their collective will. They set the rules by which the world must live. In the end of the Second World War, it was to some extent understandable. The UN was set up as a kind of 'Orchestra of the peace', in which the 'places' were defined in accordance with contribution of the states to the defeat of Germany and its allies, as well as with their role and status in the world in those specific conditions. This determined also the structure, functions and powers of the governing bodies of the United Nations. The Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States played a decisive role in the defeat of the common enemy of humankind, and rallied around them all the people fought against it or remained neutral. The UN was created as a tool to maintain and consolidate the spirit of the nations, united for a common purpose. The role of the conductor of this 'Orchestra' was assigned to the five leading countries simultaneously, each of which had its own goals. Hence the right of each of the 'big five' to absolute veto, emergency powers of a conductor and the role of the choir, reserved for the rest states.

The situation in the world and the relationship between the countries has noticeably changed almost immediately after the start of the activities of the United Nations. For decades after the war, new generations of people grew up; the political map of the world has changed beyond recognition. Germany and Japan from sources of threats to the peace, as they were when UN was formed, have turned into the states, committed to peace and democracy. A dictatorial authority, delegated to the victorious powers, is not more justified now; rather they harm the cause of peace and security on the Earth. Especially as, these countries, except China, have become in the following decades the main perpetrators of whipping up international tension. The United Nations reform in the direction of transformation into a truly global institution for peace and cooperation based on true equality of the people is, therefore, one of the most important conditions for the approval and extension of international democracy.

## Conclusion

According to laws of nature and nations, the principal agents of international relations are the people and formed by them societies and states. All the people are parts of humankind with equal rights, and that is recognized in international law. Fundamental objectives of all individuals and people are survival, communication, coexistence, cooperation to solve human problems, creative work for obtaining the means of subsistence, while maintaining the autonomy and freedom of action, and much more. Substitution of people as the main actors in international relations by states established as societies' institutes of special competence-institutes for the protection of human rights and security-leads to a change the relationship between the principal actors of world politics and international law: Instead of cooperation of the equal people occur a rivalry of leviathans which differ in strength and appetite. There can be no equality among them, except of declaratively.

Predicting the future development of the international political processes, it can be assumed that the principal actors of the world politics then will be not the states directly, but forming by them, and based on the principles of democracy unions of the people of entire regions and continents. This will be a repeat of the transition from direct democracy to representative at the global level, with all its pros and cons. The pros will consist in reducing number of the parties to deal with the emerging international issues and in opportunities for their well-timed solving. But solutions to these problems will be defined through a multi-levels discussion—at the national, federal and global levels, reducing the possibility of haste and errors. Cons would be related to the possible alienation of the representatives of the people in the unions' authorities, as well of the representatives of unions in global bodies from electorate, as it is traditional for the parliamentarians. But one may to believe that some effective ways, firstly, to prevent such a separation, and, secondly, to the quick fix of situation, when this will happen, will be found.

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