

World Order Models Project

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS*

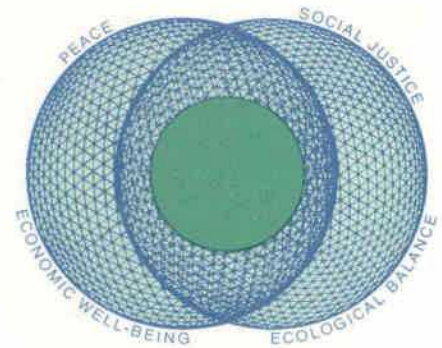
Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, 29 Rajpur, Delhi 110054, INDIA.

Institute for World Order, 777 United Nations Plaza, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A.

Synergic Developments, associated with Fundacion Bariloche, 8400 San Carlos de Bariloche, ARGENTINA

World Order Studies Project, c/o Y. Sakamoto, University of Tokyo, Tokyo 113, JAPAN.

CO-DIRECTORS Rajni Kothari Saul H. Mendlovitz



October 30, 1979

Prime Minister Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo
Av. Sto. Antonio Capuchos, 4-5º
Lisbon, Portugal

Dear Maria de Lourdes:

A brief follow-up to the very nice conversation we had on Saturday.

As you can tell from the enclosed, I am keeping contact with Melo Antunes as well as Palmeiro. I liked both of them very much and was particularly impressed by Melo Antunes. I do hope that WOMP will find a way for you and him to participate with us over the coming years.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

Knowing that your schedule is extraordinarily busy, I want to preface these remarks by telling you that if you do not find time to deal with these matters I will of course understand. However, I really would like very much to receive your comments on the World Authority project and look forward eagerly to hearing what you have to say about it.

Secondly, I have discussed with some of my colleagues the possibility of our holding the WOMP meeting in Portugal from July 15 - 22 and they are very enthusiastic about it. In that connection, I am still scurrying about looking for the funds to hold the conference and would like very much to pursue the possibility that Gulbenkian would provide a good portion of it. The main purpose of the meeting would be to review the papers on Culture and Global Polity: Normative Factors in World Reform. At the same time we would probably have a day dealing with the World Authority project. In thinking about this conference, if we were to hold it in Portugal it might be sensible to have a translator so that a number of Portuguese might be observers if not full participants in the meeting, but I shall pursue that matter with Palmeiro.

Let me make clear that I do not think the Portuguese Government should make any financial contribution to this conference. We would of course appreciate whatever administrative assistance someone like Dr. Palmeiro could give us and the kind of logistic support there was at the airport; but hopefully the monies can be raised through Gulbenkian or UNESCO or the major foundations.

I have given some thought to the notion that I might participate in a seminar with your young group of economists. My training, as you know, is not in economics but rather social science and law, and my experiences with professional economists have been somewhat mixed. Nor is it merely a matter of their being technocratic versus grand manner. It has to do rather with a kind of openness of mind to new ideas. Withal, I think it might be very stimulating and even important to meet with your group. If possible, I would like to bring along Rajni Kothari, whose training is as a development economist and therefore might speak more directly to the interests of the individuals. One possibility is that we might try to arrange for a seminar just prior to the July 15 meeting. However, if it seems sensible to do it before then, perhaps--let us say--in the first three weeks of January, that also might be worked out.

Your suggestion that perhaps this group might become an affiliate institute of WOMP is really very attractive. I have discussed it quite confidentially with two of my colleagues and they have asked me to pursue it.

I do want to thank you very much for having met with me Saturday morning and been so gracious with your time, hospitality, and thoughts. It was a very, very nice morning. Please give my best to both Teresas.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Cordially,



Saul Mendlovitz

SM:ms
Enclosures

P.S. Since you seem to like to read, here are three more monographs.

P.P.S. I have not indicated to either Melo Antunes or Palmeiro that you have received carbon copies of their letters, but of course you are free to tell them.

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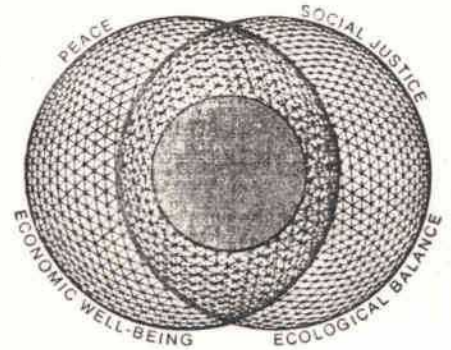
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October 30, 1979

Dr. Joao Palmeiro
Av. Marechal Carmona, 8, 1:Eas
2750 Cascais, Portugal

Dear Dr. Palmeiro:

A note to thank you very much for having seen to it that my stay in Portugal was both pleasant and productive. I do appreciate very much the extra courtesies you showed me.

I would like to follow up on the Gulbenkian Foundation. I had an opportunity to discuss the matter with the Prime Minister and she feels that it is sensible to pursue the matter. I am now sending you additional materials about the World Order Models Project and a recent book review of Ali Mazrui's contribution in the first phase of WOMP. There are other materials I could send but perhaps I should wait to hear from you as to what you might desire.

Would you please let me know as soon as possible what steps if any we should take here to go forward on submitting a proposal to Gulbenkian.

If for any reason you or any of your colleagues should be coming to New York City, we are literally across the street from the United Nations and would very much like to act as your hosts in some fashion.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Cordially,

Saul Mendlovitz
Saul Mendlovitz

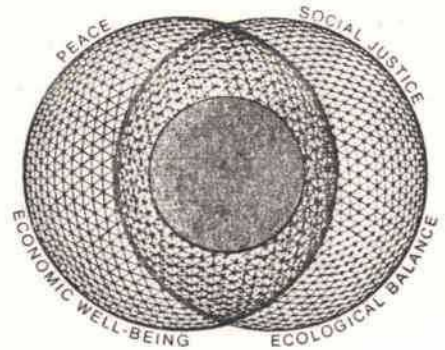
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October 30, 1979

Mr. Ernesto Augusto Melo Antunes
Rua Gregorio Lopes, Lote 1515, 12º
1400 Lisbon, Portugal

Dear Mr. Melo Antunes:

This is a follow-up to the brief conversation we had during my participation in the conference on the New International Order.

First, let me congratulate you on the success of the conference. The unique group of individuals and the seriousness with which they took their task is a tribute to both your organizational and intellectual capacities. I found your "summaries" particularly useful and stimulating.

I have had sent under separate cover some additional materials of the World Order Models Project. There are more there than I'm sure you will want to read, but I thought it would be best to give you a chance to see the kind of work we have been doing over the past ten years. Of course, any reactions you have to these materials we would appreciate very much.

I realize that your schedule is very busy but I do hope you will be able to respond to the materials on World Authority which I gave to you. It is precisely because they are still in draft form that we want your response, since we will be able to use it in our final version of the proposal.

I did have an opportunity to speak at length with the Prime Minister about this project. She was pleased that I had spoken to you about it, and indeed about the work of the World Order Models Project itself. I do hope we will have an opportunity, therefore, to pursue our acquaintanceship over the years.

My thanks again for hosting such a marvelous conference. I look forward to hearing from you.

Cordially,


Saul Mendlovitz

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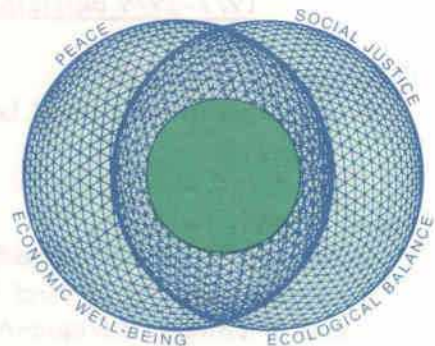
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In the ten years since its inception, it has been the task of those participating in the World Order Models Project to provide a framework for change in the structure of international relations. In its various position papers and publications, which include a series of books on Preferred Worlds for the 1990's and Alternatives: A Journal of World Policy, emphasis has been on linking diagnosis of the present to prescription for the future through an inquiry into transition processes. The new series, WORKING PAPERS, provides a format for examining specific global problems and tensions in order to consider possible alternative resolutions.

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Professor of International Law and Organization, Graduate Institute of International Studies,
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Eqbal Ahmad, Pakistan

Director, Third World and Special Studies Project, Transnational Institute for Policy Studies,
Washington, D.C. and Amsterdam

Board of editors, Afrique-Asie, L'Economiste du Tiers Monde, and Race and Class

Fouad Ajami, Lebanon

Department of Politics and Center of International Studies, Princeton University

Chadwick Alger, USA

Mershon Professor of Political Science and Public Policy and director, Program in Transnational
Cooperation, Mershon Center, Ohio State University

President, International Studies Association

Claude Alveres, India

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Georgi Arbatov, Russia

Director, Institute of U.S. and Canadian Studies, Academy of the Sciences of the USSR, Moscow

Silviu Brucan, Romania

Department of Social Science, University of Bucharest
Former Romanian Ambassador to the UN

Graciela Chichilnisky, Argentina

Department of Economics, Columbia University

Director of Research, Technology and Basic Needs Project, UNITAR

Board of editors, Applied Mathematical Modeling and Journal of Development Economics

Cheryl Christensen, USA

Department of Government, University of Maryland

Board of editors, The American Journal of Political Science and Alternatives

Giri Deshingkar, India

Department of China Studies, Delhi University

Senior fellow, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi

Billy Dudley, Nigeria

Department of Political Science, University of Ibadan

Richard Falk, USA

Alfred G. Milbank Professor of International Law and Practice, Princeton University

Senior fellow, Institute for World Order, New York

Board of editors, Foreign Policy Magazine, American Journal of International Law and
Alternatives

Herbert Fieth, Australia
Department of Political Science, Monash University

Johan Galtung, Norway
Director, Goals, Processes and Indicators of Development (GPID) of the UN University
Project, Geneva
Consultant to UNESCO, UNCTAD, WHO, UNEP, OECD, Council of Europe

Martha Gavensky, Argentina
Teacher and critic in the fine arts

Gennadi Gerasimov, Russia
APN political observer, Moscow

David Halloway, Britain
Department of Political Science, University of Edinburgh

Robert Johansen, USA
President, Institute for World Order, New York

Mary Kaldor, Britain
Department of Political Science and fellow, Science Policy Research Unit, University of
Sussex

Marcos Kaplan, Argentina
Distinguished Professor of Public Administration, National University of Mexico

Michael Thomas Klare, USA
Fellow, Center for International Studies, Princeton University
Associate fellow, Transnational Institute-Institute for Policy Studies, Washington, D.C.

Gernot Kohler, Canada
Centre quebecois de relations internationales, Universite Laval, Quebec

Rajni Kothari, India
Chairman of the board, Indian Social Science Research Council
Department of Political Science, Delhi University
Co-director, World Order Models Project
Co-editor, Alternatives

Paul Lin, Canada
Director, Centre for East Asian Studies, McGill University, Montreal

Carlos Mallmann, Argentina
Executive President and Director, Future Studies Program, Bariloche Fundacion, Province
de Rio Negro
Past director, Bariloche Atomic Center

Eleonora Masini, Italy
Secretary-General, World Future Studies Federation, Rome

Ali Mazrui, Kenya

Department of Political Science and Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan. President, African Studies Association of the United States

Saul Mendlovitz, USA

School of Law, Rutgers University

Ira D. Wallach Professor of World Order Studies, Columbia University (1978-79)

Co-director, World Order Models Project

Co-editor, Alternatives

Ward Morehouse, USA

President, Council on International and Public Affairs, New York

Fellow, Research Policy Program, Lund, Sweden

Research fellow, School of International Affairs, Columbia University

Ashis Nandy, India

Senior fellow, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi

Vijay Pillai, India

Senior fellow, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi

Yoshikazu Sakamoto, Japan

Professor of International Politics, Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo

President, Peace Research Society, Japan

Dieter Senghaas, West Germany

Peace Research Institute, Frankfurt

Duyga Sezar, Turkey

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

School of Science, Middle East Technical University, Ankara

International Institute for Strategic Studies, London (1978-79)

Nathan Shamuyarira, Zimbabwe

Department of Political Science, University of Dar-es-Salaam

Minister of Education, ZANU, Zimbabwe

D. L. Sheth, India

Senior fellow, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi

Bart van Steenberghe, The Netherlands

Sociologisch Instituut, Rijksuniversiteit, Utrecht

Board of editors, De Sociologische Gids

William Sweet, USA

Political journalist, Washington, D.C.

Marek Thee, Norway

Fellow, International Peace Research Institute, Oslo

Editor, Bulletin of Peace Proposals

Raimo Vayrynen, Finland

Chairman, International Peace Research Association

Director, Tampere Peace Research Institute, Tampere, Finland

Department of Political Science, Helsinki University

A World Federation of Cultures: an African perspective

Ali A. Mazrui

New York: Free Press for Institute for World Order, 1976. pp. xx, 508

Ali Mazrui has emerged as Africa's leading political scientist over the last decade because of his insightful, elegant, and voluminous output; his status is further enhanced by his latest and longest book. In this he employs the twin themes of cultural convergence and dependence (437) to examine trends and paradoxes in world society. And in his own inimitable way he relates these core concepts to a wide variety of issues, dealing with language and literature, sex and schizophrenia, protest and power, race and religion. He adopts approaches and notions from several disciplines—psychology and sociology as well as theology and technology—and ranges from individual tastes to global interactions. But this eclecticism produces neither fragmentation nor disjointedness but rather a great work of synthesis and scholarship, in which diverse ideas and theories are juxtaposed and integrated.

Mazrui has a great capacity to discover or assert original connections amongst phenomena and norms. This ability is further displayed in this volume; he proposes four types of culture (75-76), miscegenation (89-95) and language (332-33) and deals with a rich variety of images and interests, including "race, railways and revolution" (156) and the "transformation of the yellow peril into the yellow paradigm" (163). He is particularly concerned with imperialism and the "dependency complex" (294-96); and in a rather rhetorical way identifies cultural as well as class cleavages (248) and a horizontal as well as a hierarchical division of labour (291).

Mazrui also revives and develops some of his earlier concepts, such as "cultural engineering" (2), political violence and the dilemmas of independence. Although in this new work he concentrates on "world culture," two of his pervasive concerns remain the politics of inequalities and ideas. Whilst Mazrui deals with such diverse topics as curriculum changes in African universities and a pendulum model of modernization he is particularly controversial in his attack on Marxist scholarship. He appeals for an end to both intellectual and international dependency (13, 454-56) instead he proposes counter-penetration and inter-penetration in both trade and diplomacy. He advocates mature interdependence rather than the strategy of disengagement (307-28) although he recognizes—as revealed in his own analysis of Afro-Arab tensions—that "Third World inter-penetration could be deeply divisive if it lacks balance and symmetry" (469). Nevertheless, he insists that Third World resources have been converted "from their old role as sources of dependency to a new role as sources of power" (441).

Mazrui suggests, then, that a universal cultural federation, based on linguistic and regional as well as national representation, is more feasible than world government. However, cultural convergence is partial and problematic: "The socialization of the metropolis and the nationalization of the periphery could produce the kind of ideological complementarity necessary for the coming decades" (471). As always, Mazrui's work is refreshingly nonconformist; despite his advocacy of global "ecumenicalism" (19) he is at times irreverent and iconoclastic. In this new treatise he courts controversy and contradiction but in a complex and confounding world he remains a sensitive and provocative intellectual.

Ali Mazrui's continuing concern with the politics of language and culture should make this work particularly relevant for Canada with its potential for disintegration, although his references to Canada are infrequent and rather inconsequential. As a study of the comparative and international politics of Africa and the Third World, however, this is a masterful and massive monograph. As always, Mazrui stimulates and sometimes infuriates; but this work deserves, and will no doubt enjoy, serious attention and reaction.

TIMOTHY M. SHAW *Dalhousie University*

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