

The Failure of Globalism

Commentary for March 1, 2022 — A Short Piece By Victor Davis Hanson

Victor Davis Hanson is an American conservative scholar, a classicist, and a respected military historian. Hanson's comments below are from a 5 minute internet video, "[The Failure of Globalism](#)," which is part of a longer free video course.¹ He tells about desires through history to unify humanity. (Bullets and numbered paragraphs are inserted for emphasis.) Below are Professor Hanson's words. *DWS*

... In the ancient world Socrates, of all people, said he was not a citizen of Athens alone. He was a citizen of the world (our word "cosmopolitan" comes from that concept), that he had affinities with all the city-states and indeed with all the people in the world.

In a very cynical fashion when Alexander the Great in the latter 4th century BC at the demise of the [Greek] city-state² went into Asia Minor and then on to conquer the Persian Empire, he needed a propaganda talking point. One ... was that he was going to usher in what he called "the brotherhood of man," a new ecumenical idea that whether you were Persian or Greek, you were a human. It sounds wonderful, but the idea was that enlightened rulers from the Hellenic world would spread their superior civilization all over the world ...

In Roman times, the Romans being far more practical, they did not talk about globalization as much as reified it, they made it concrete. But immediately there were voices within Rome ... the further a sovereign nation expands and globalizes, the more difficult it is to maintain the solidarity of the people [with] the purity of the original concepts. The more we think we are making people into Romans, the more they think they are making us into other peoples other than Romans.³

One of the problems that globalists or cosmopolitans learned very early in the 20th century during the progressive movement was when you surrender sovereignty to these international bodies, then who is the police. Who polices the police?

¹ The free course is "[American Citizenship and Its Decline](#)," by Victor Davis Hanson, the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution. *DWS*

² "A city-state is a small independent sovereign political entity which serves as the center of political, economic, and cultural life over its contiguous territory" ("[City-State](#)," Wikipedia). Ancient city-states were common until they became part of Alexander's empire. City-states had a variety of governing systems. Many forms of government were expressed in city-states: kings, oligarchies, dictators, or religious leaders, etc., but first loyalty of the people was to their city. The apostle Paul said in Athens that all men were created by and were responsible to God for their actions (Acts 17:15-33). *DWS*

³ This is the theme of Dr. Ernest Martin's book, [The People That History Forgot](#) (free online). The Roman Republic and Empire were transformed by Roman citizens who were children of former conquered peoples of Anatolia (Turkey today) and the Middle East. Dr. Martin shows how Christianity was transformed to its status today, riddled with pagan concepts, traditions, rituals, and holidays. *DWS*

So, the League of Nations [founded in 1920, DWS] which was envisioned under Woodrow Wilson's Versailles agenda for a very brief time seemed to be successful in adjudicating international disputes of trade or jurisdiction of borders until Adolf Hitler, or the Japanese military, or Joseph Stalin said, "I don't need to listen to you." So, World War II doomed the first incarnation of a united group of nations, the League of Nations.

After World War II the same suspicious idea resurfaced with the United Nations. But this time we were going to have a Security Council and they were going to be the world's top powers, the strongest, the most successful [countries], and then they could be the enforcer. But the problem, of course, was that very early on the Soviet Union was not the solution to the problem, but it was the problem itself.

Because there always is going to be some country who is powerful by breaking the rules, and going beyond its own prerogative — in other words China ... **The problem is ... an aggressive, Communist, autocratic, and anti-democratic China**

- that currently has a million and a half people in camps, yet
- they are on the United Nations [Security Council], and
- they are a citizen [a major nation] of the world,

and if the United Nations would decide that the Chinese, contrary to the [UN] charter

[1] are putting people in concentration camps, or

[2] they are harvesting [human] organs from people deemed not necessary, or

[3] they are forcing people to have abortions that do not fit their idea of family planning, or

[4] they are bullying their neighbors, or

[5] they illegally created a base in the Spratley Islands,

what is the United Nations going to do? The answer is **they cannot do anything**.

In 2020 we saw an international pandemic and our United Nations charter medical organization, the World Health Organization, warned us from the very beginning, do not issue a travel ban against China. Then we learned that the World Health Organization was essentially parroting or mimicking what China wanted. Why did they do that? [It was] because of Chinese money and Chinese pressure.

This is not an aberration, **it is inherent in the idea of global governance** that there are always going to be strong powers who have agendas that are not global in scope, but they are national and sovereign, but if **all the other countries in the world surrender their sovereignty** and **one powerful nation does not**, then they have to come up with a mechanism of collective defense. So far in the history of man that has never worked.

Victor Davis Hanson