

Imagining Peace: The Quest for the Right Solution Across Centuries

Research project

Éva Bóka

The aim of the research

The aim of the research is to rethink the narrative of the European social organization, from the point of view of reality and truth, by concentrating on the values and principles of European culture of peace, and the dichotomy of peace and war with the hope to find ways for a peaceful future.

European civilization has a double-faced cultural heritage which was thriving for power, was expansive and violent, but was also lawful and peaceful. The antagonism of these two opposing facets contributed to the complex nature of European social history. Supporters of a European and world unity were usually part of the tradition of a law abiding and peaceful federal state organization. They represented an opposition to authoritarian, absolutist and totalitarian tendencies of state organization in every period of European social history. While Europe was also characterized by the emergence of nation states pursuing policies of territorial conquests both on the continent and beyond, the struggle for peace in Europe demanded a conscious fight for the improvement of the legal principles of the state organization and of international policy. The combat for a European unity and peace played an important role in a more general struggle toward a peaceful world unity. This long, conscious strive for harmony, peace and social improvement motivated humanist thinkers to develop and modernize their ideas on the principles of a lawful, constitutional federate state organization, in opposition to the unitary, authoritarian and centralizing tendencies of nation states. Thus developed gradually, across centuries, the values and principles of a democratic state organization representing the culture of peace in Europe.

The values and principles of European culture of peace can be found in projects on European and world organization, and in important legal documents on the rights of man and citizen. These important cultural heritage proves that the thinking on the creation of peace was present in all periods of European history. It contributed to the emergence of international law and human rights. Therefore the culture of peace represents such a European cultural heritage which needs to be protected and educated. It is necessary for personal self-determination, and for finding ways for the future.

The emergence of European peace culture has a long history composed of the following main periods:

1. The formation of the roots of European civilization: Greek political thinking, Aristotle, Plato; Roman law; the moral principles of Christianity
2. The opposition of feudal territory incorporation policy and wars
3. The opposition of absolutism, colonialism, and the usage of might
4. Shaping and discussing “European (Western) modernity” and its values and principles, 18-19th century
5. Economic and commercial liberty versus state controlled economy and commerce
6. Opposition to ethnic and racial nationalism, chauvinism, racism and totalitarian tendencies of some European nation states
7. Renewing the principles of international organization after the Second World War
8. Shaping and discussing the values and principles of the European Union
9. Shaping and discussing the values and principles of new regionalism
10. Reform of the international organizations, and the United Nations

The European culture of peace was protected in all of the above mentioned periods by famous political and legal thinkers. They framed important legal documents of liberty and rights opposing conflicts and wars, and proposed peaceful ways and principles for economic and political community-, state-, and international organization in political essays and projects. This European heritage of the culture of peace should be protected, managed, and improved by all future generations.

European peace culture developed in interrelation and mutuality with the other - American, South-American, African, Turkish, East-Asian, Indian or Russian - civilizations. What the Europeans did, and believed about social organization was criticized and rethought by the important representatives of peace of other civilizations. All these helped to improve European peace culture, and to develop common values and principles for peaceful world organization. This also belongs to the history of European culture of peace, and should be studied.

The research concentrates on European state- and international organization from a world view. It means that it searches also how did the famous representatives of peace of other civilizations (among them the Chinese, Japanese, Singaporean, Indian, Turkish and African) interpret the values and principles of “European modernity”. The aim is to rethink, and by rethinking to research, criticise, safeguard and protect the European- and the world peace heritage.

The research and the education material is based on the analysis of important

political essays, projects, and legal documents on state and international organization belonging to the European, and world heritage of peace, in a historical perspective.

The main chapters of the research

1. Antic and medieval roots of the European culture of peace

1.1. Aristotle's Politics, and Plato's Republic on democracy and on its contradictions

Aristotle's Politics, and Plato's Republic represent the roots of European political thinking. They were studied and rethought by all generations with the aim to renew and develop democracy. Therefore European civilization is a new Platonic and new Aristotelian civilization.

The question raises whether European civilization could solve the dilemmas of democracy, liberty and peace.

1.2. Differentiation between religious and secular community, state and international organization

The division of state and religion made the way possible toward religious freedom, and free political thinking. In this Saint Augustine's *The City of God* played an important role.

1.3. Dante and the universal monarchy

Dante: *Monarchia*, 1306

Dante defended the reign of a single monarch ruling over a universal empire. He believed that peace was only achievable when a single monarch replaced divisive and squabbling princes and kings.

1.4. Confederal and federal-type defensive cooperation among feudal rulers against the Ottoman Empire aiming to establish peace in Europe

The first federal-type defence project aiming to achieve the cooperation among feudal rulers in the framework of a European council against the Ottoman Empire was proposed by George Podiebrad, the King of Bohemia in his "*Tractatus pacis toti christianitati fiendae*" 1462-64.¹

¹ G. Podiebrad: *Tractatus pacis christianitati findae*. In: *The Universal Peace Organization of King George of Bohemia. A Fifteenth Century Plan For World Peace, 1462-1464*. Publishing House of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague, 1964. 71-82.

2. The opposition to the territorial incorporation policy, expansion, and wars in the early-modern Europe

Erasmus

The revolt of Erasmus against the wars of European rulers and princes.

His *The Complaint of Peace*, written in 1521, represents the beginning of the rejection of wars as a political means. He permitted war only in the case of defence against the Ottoman Empire. So, the culture of peace in Europe started with him.

Grotius

Hugo Grotius continued the work of Erasmus, and summarised the ideas of his age on war and peace in his *The Rights of War and Peace*, 1625. He did not prohibit war, but legally limited the usage of war as a means of solving problems. Therefore his work is very discussed.

3. The opposition of absolutism, colonialism, and the usage of might

3.1. Famous projects on European unity and on universal peace, 16-18th century

European states could not establish peace. Europe disintegrated into a collection of monarchical nation states and national empires as a result of a feudal rivalry, territorial conquests, the emergence of colonization inside and outside the continent. But the culture of peace continued to be protected by famous peace projects written for example by Crucé, Penn and Saint-Pierre. They enlarged the peace culture with important ideas on community organization.

Crucé

Crucé in his [Le Nouveau Cynée](#) 1623, proposed the freedom of trade, religious toleration, and an international court at Venice. He was for the establishment of a *pax universalis* through a general peace agreement: a world union of economic, political and commercial cooperation.

Penn

Penn, in his political essay entitled *An Essay Towards the Present and Future Peace of Europe by the Establishment of an European Dyet, Parliament, or Estates*, (1693), proposed to create constitutional states (law states), to establish a European council, parliament and court of justice, to create the law of European federation; to secure the equality of the participating states by the voting system (one vote to each states). He rejected territorial conquest as unlawful, and proposed disarmament.

Saint-Pierre

Saint-Pierre in his [Project de paix perpetuelle](#) suggested to convoke the European constitutional convention in The Hague, and to establish the European constitutional federation. He also outlined the main principles of a European constitution: European Council of sovereign states based on the principle of subsidiarity and division of powers; status quo; free trade based on the international law of trade; economic union; prohibition of war for the member states; and international arbitration.

Sully

Al thee were in discussion with the controversial ideas of the *Grand Project* of Sully (published in his [Memoires](#)) on the reconstruction of the territorial and power structure of Europe under French hegemony, but based on new ideas, like religious and national toleration, balance of power policy, rejection of the status quo, establishment of a new system of states based on cultural nationality.

All three contributed to the development of the principles of the international law, and of European peace culture.

3.2. The principles of federalism

Althusius

Althusius elaborated the model of a peaceful world-federation.

In his *Politica*, 1614, proposed the principles of federalism and framed the model of a peaceful world-federation. It was based on personalism, and a peaceful community association policy of the persons according to their real needs and interests regarding livelihood and security: persons associate, and create larger and larger communities from below (local community, province, state, federation of states), based on legal agreements. He discovered personal federalism as the basic principle of democracy and popular sovereignty in state and international organisation.

3.3. The principles of a civil government

Locke

Locke formulated the idea of religious toleration. He elaborated also the principles of a civil government (a constitutional representative monarchy): the monarch is subordinated to the law established by the parliament and the senate. The state is the free association of the citizens with the aim to safeguard the life, liberty and propriety of the citizens. For this the citizens establish a civil government with legislative, executive and federative power, and represent their interests through elected representatives.

Civil constitutional states should create federal republics as the framework of inter-state cooperation.

4. Shaping and discussing “European (Western) modernity” and its values and principles, 18-19th century

4.1. Development of the principles of federalism in opposition to anti-federalism

[The Federalist Papers](#) summarized the knowledge about state- and international organization from the Greek politicians till the victorious days of the American fight for independence. It contains those political essays which were written by Hamilton, Madison and Jay to discuss the principles of the future American constitution.

[The American Constitution, 1787](#)

Surpassing feudalism based on privileges from birth; self-determination, popular sovereignty, democracy, representative parliamentary system, division of powers, federalism, two chamber parliament representing the interests of persons as citizens of their own communities, and as citizens of the federation, division and transfer of competences to the federal institutions, subsidiarity, checks and balances.

Democracy of those having voting rights based on wealth, women, Native Americans and the African Americans were excluded. Racism and slavery remained alive in the social organization. The U.S. also pursued an expansive policy.

[Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, 1789](#)

Rejection of feudalism; self-determination; popular sovereignty, equality of the rights of persons, human rights, the sovereign is the nation, unitary one national state; no federalism, no diversity management, no democracy among states.

The new values and principles of a modern European civil state: self-determination, popular sovereignty, parliamentary representation, right to vote, pluralism, right to property, legal defence, right to speaking and thinking freely, taxation.

4.2. Interpretation of the new values and principles of European modernity and the dilemma of peaceful cooperation among sovereign civil states

The dilemma of sovereignty versus autonomy

Kant

Kant in his political project on perpetual peace (*Perpetual Peace*, 1795), outlined the framework of a world union of peace. His project was based on the following principles: indivisibility of sovereignty, legal harmonization among sovereign republican states, international law, human rights, union of peace.

In Kant's view a modern international policy has to be based on international law, and legal harmonization of the values and principles of sovereign republican states directed by the most modern and democratic ones as developers. He imagined a world republic of similar sovereign republican states based on a law of nations and legal harmonization which we might call a *pacific federation* (*foedus pacificum*). It would differ from a *peace treaty* (*pactum pacis*).

Tocqueville

Tocqueville in his political essay entitled *Democracy in America*, 1835, 1840 emphasised the following federalist principles: sovereignty is divisible, autonomy, subsidiarity, multilevelism, transfer of competences, personalism, human rights.

In opposition to Kant, Tocqueville – interpreting the American constitution in the *Democracy in America* - made the emphasis on the division of the sovereignty of states and multilevelism as the means of peaceful cooperation among civil states. He believed that only the division of sovereignty – more precisely the voluntarily fusion of states into one in specific areas of common interest – and a multilevel governance was able to establish peace among states.

His most important idea which challenged European federalists was the following:

“Another form of society is afterwards discovered in which several states are fused into one with regard to certain common interests, although they remain distinct, or only confederate, with regard to all other concerns. In this case the central power acts directly upon the governed, whom it rules and judges in the same manner as a national government, but in a more limited circle. Evidently this is no longer a federal government, but an incomplete national government, which is neither exactly national nor exactly federal; but the new word which ought to express this novel thing does not yet exist.”²

Proudhon

Proudhon in his writings [On federalism](#) and [Mutuellisme et fédéralisme](#) emphasised the following federalist principles: personalism, free association policy from below, transfer of competences by safeguarding autonomy, subsidiarity, and multilevelism.

Proudhon's personalist federalism was based on the recognition of society as a multi-layered entity. At the bottom it was based on the individual and was built up from bottom up via families, groups, economic units and local communities, and

² Alexis de Tocqueville (1990): *Democracy in America*. The Henry Reeve text as revisited by Francis Bowen, now further corrected and edited with introduction, editorial notes, and bibliographies by Phillips Bradley. vol. 1. Vintage Books Edition, A Division of Random House INC., New York, 158-159.

extended even beyond the state into an all-embracing transnational federation. Human beings were complete persons in the sense that their liberty and autonomy were achieved through their responsible interaction with the other humans.

In his federalist system the autonomy principle played a conflict-solving role. It attributed the competences among the different parts of the federation, and between the federal government and the member states by safeguarding all kind of autonomous rights.

Eötvös

Eötvös in his *The Dominant Ideas of the Nineteenth Century and Their Impact on the State* realized that the management of diversity was not solved by the Declaration of the rights of man and citizen. Therefore - based on the ideas of Tocqueville and Proudhon - he elaborated the idea of a personalist federal state, and the principles of the nationality (minority) law.

Eötvös imagined a state, able to solve the linguistic and cultural claims of persons by a well managed local autonomy system on the level of the villages and provinces diminishing by this way the role of state intervention in this field. In his view managing diversity demanded the involvement of the principle of subsidiarity and multilevelism in state- and international organization. He contributed to the development of subsidiarity, multilevel governance, and human rights.

Bentham

Bentham, in his [Principles of International Law](#), (Essay IV), proposed A Plan for an Universal or Perpetual Peace.

He rejected wars because a war regarding its causes and consequences, cannot be the means to solve problems. The real way should be the international law. He emphasised also that classical territorial colonialism is not the interest of the British people. Commercial and economic cooperation has to serve the livelihood of all people.

Thoreau

Henry David Thoreau, in his political essay entitled *Civil Disobedience*, 1849, realised and expressed the basic contradictions of a democratic system (which was originally a Greek idea). He raised the question how is it possible to oppose a democratic system which is based on the acceptance of the majority decision in the case of unjust laws. If the oppositional minority also should be subordinated to unjust law than the improvement of democracy is impossible.

He emphasised the importance of being able to “saying no”, i.e. civil disobedience, in the case of wrong things accepted by the majority. Improvement only by this way – by civil disobedience - is possible. In his view social peace and prosperity depends on the persons and their culture of peace.

Mahatma Gandhi highly appreciated his ideas on civil disobedience.

The Constitution of the Swiss Confederation, 1848

Federal republic under a federal government

The *Swiss Constitution of 1848* declared the Swiss Confederation (Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft) a parliamentary federation composed of the Bundesversammlung (Federal Assembly) and the Bundesrat (Federal Council). The Federal Assembly was the legislative organ. It was bicameral, composed of the Ständerat (Council of the States) and the Nationalrat (National Council). In the Ständerat the interests of the citizens, as the citizens of their own cantons, were represented, and in the Nationalrat the interests of the citizens, as the citizens of the Swiss Confederation (Nationalrat). At the head of the Swiss Confederation stood the Bundesrat (Federal Council) under the leadership of the Bundespräsident. The Federal Council had seven members and represented the executive branch of the country. The President of the Swiss Confederation was elected for one year and had no power. The Federal Council was the collective head of the state. The Swiss cantons conferred competences to the federal power (Bundesgewalt) but they remained sovereign in all other things. To the federal government belonged, for example, foreign policy, alliances, custom duties and commercial policy.

4.3. The European (Western) system of liberties

The development of the European (Western) system of liberties, i.e. the basic principles of democracy, popular sovereignty, and federalism, was the most important historical achievement of all these above mentioned struggles for peace, liberty and the humanization of power.

The most important internal and external principles of the European (Western) system of liberties corresponding to state and international organization were the followings: Representative parliament created by general elections, elected by the people for a specific length of time; separation of powers; executive branch that is either responsible to the parliament, or subject to popular recall; judiciary power independent of the executive branch; free press; freedom of conscience, assembly and other civic rights; extensive local autonomy.³

In the field of international policy the idea was to establish democracy among

³ István Bibó: Reflections on the Social Development of Europe (1971-1972). In: *Democracy, Revolution, Self-determination. Selected Writings*. Edited by Károly Nagy. Translation by András Boros-Kazai. Atlantic Research and Publications, Highland Lakes, Distributed by Columbia University Press, New York, 1991, 467.

the states, based on a supranational (i.e., “above” the state) parliamentary representative system following the principles of the system of liberties. These principles were valid in the case of the democratic union of states, too.

The idea of personal federalism, in opposition to the authoritarian centralized states, corresponded to the concepts of democracy and popular sovereignty. It meant a bottom up contractual association policy of free and autonomous persons, and (by the persons created) states in all those fields of life which demanded common organization. This association policy was based on the transfer of common fields toward larger - provincial, state, and regional - units directed by the principle of subsidiarity and multilevelism.

5. Economic and commercial liberty versus state controlled economy and commerce

Regarding peaceful cooperation between persons and countries two important questions were raised in a historical perspective:

Which one, economic and commercial liberty or a state controlled capitalist economy and commerce, could serve peaceful cooperation among people?

Whether the liberal public credit and state debt system or a limited and state controlled one could safeguard livelihood and peace in a long run?

5.1. Adam Smith versus List (liberal economic theory versus the national system of political economy)

Adam Smith

Adam Smith, free market economist, the founder of modern liberal economic theory. In his *Wealth of Nations*, Smith argued that the key to national wealth and power was economic growth. His liberal trade theory was based on the idea of universal benefits of specialization, on comparative costs, and comparative advantages. It is based also on the belief that international trade is mutually beneficial, and an “invisible hand” will shape the world economy following the interests and needs of people if there is freedom of commerce, of enterprise and of movement of goods, persons, and capital.

Friedrich List

The Central European thinker, List, opposed Smith liberal economic theory and emphasised the importance of state regulation. He believed that states have to find the way to defend themselves against the “colonial imperialist-type modernization” pursued by liberal free market economist politicians.

List realised that Adam Smith used the idea of perpetual peace when he proposed his liberal free market economic theory. But he ignored the real working of political economy. List believed that this can be only a future plan when all

states will achieve the same level of development. In the 19th century the free market economists have to be balanced by the supporters of modernised national economies. He actually searched the ways of a fair trade and a fair political economy. In opposition to Smith he developed the national system of political economy in his work entitled *The National System of Political Economy*.

In Europe Great Britain established the virtues of liberalism, and Germany legitimized the doctrine of economic nationalism as a guide to trade policy and economic development.

Whether List or Smith was right remained a challenge to answer. Non-European politicians who aimed to modernize their countries, among them, for example, Fukuzawa Yukichi, Kang Yu-wei, Sun Yat-sen, Deng Xiao-ping, or Lee Kuan Yew, also had to face to answer this question.

5.2. Hamilton versus Jefferson: A discussion on state debt between industrialists and agrarians

Hamilton formulated his political economic principles on the basis of the British political economic principles with the aim to defend freedom and liberty in the US. He could formulate a protective economic system against the English colonization, and this made from the United States of America a world power.

Hamilton is regarded as the representative of economic nationalism, a so called mercantilist. As economic nationalist he opposed the liberal trade theory: emphasised the costs of trade to particular groups and states, and favored economic protectionism and state control over international trade. List was under his influence.

Hamilton modernized the 18th century mercantilist thesis and developed a dynamic theory of economic development based on the superiority of manufacturing over agriculture. He set forth what we today would call an “import-substitution” strategy of economic development.

Hamilton's conception of economic development influenced agricultural or underdeveloped nations facing to modernization world-wide. All these countries made the emphasis on protectionism, industrialization, and state intervention.

Hamilton's aristocratic capitalism and the creation of state debt

Hamilton preferred aristocracy (an aristocratic rule), and was for aristocratic capitalism. He opposed agrarian democracy. His *Report on Public Credit*⁴ is an example how he imagined the establishment of an aristocratic capitalism based on the acceptance of public credit and state debt. He accepted also speculation. His

⁴ Alexander Hamilton: Report on Public Credit. Treasury Department, Jan. 9, 1790. In: Georges Rogers Taylor (ed.) (1950): *Hamilton and the National Debt*. D. C. Heath and Company, Boston

ideas on state debt were very discussed by the agrarians.

For example, James Jackson (Georgia) attacked and rejected the plan of Hamilton on state debt and speculation. He emphasised that such an economic system would result in permanent troubles, crises, and in a speculative state- and world economy braking with the reality and real needs of the people. Such a world economy will serve the interests of speculators, and harpies.⁵

Jefferson

Jefferson also opposed Hamilton's concept on public credit and state debt. He believed that one generation had no right to incur debts for another.⁶ In his view public debt leads to misery and decay.

He emphasised the advantages of an agricultural economy over a commercial one. Commercial economy, based on liberal public credit and state debt, would result in a troubled state- and world economy, and devastating crises.

In his view only agricultural democracy could be a realist idea, while commercial democracy is a false one. He favoured the agricultural society composed of farms.

But Hamilton could gain. The growth of the USA from a small agrarian federal republic on the periphery of European civilization to a world power is the result of the realisation of Hamilton's economic vision. Or the opposite is true: Hamilton laid the foundation for the calamity.

6. Federalists in opposition to ethnic and racial nationalism, chauvinism, racism and totalitarian tendencies of some European nation state, 20th century

The values and principles of European culture of peace ended in an impasse between the two world wars and during the two world wars. The new ways out of the dead lock of the European peace culture were showed by the members of the Pan-European Movement and the European federalists of the Resistance Movement.

The Paneuropean Movement (Vienna), led by the count Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi, represented constitutional federalism in Europe in opposition to authoritarian nation states and Stalinism. Paneuropean constitutional federalists opposed the emergence of totalitarian states in Europe by strengthening the world federalist model, mentioned above, and based on the personal principle, the

⁵ The Debate in the United States House of Representatives, January 28, 1790. In: Georges Rogers Taylor (ed.) (1950): *Hamilton and the National Debt*. D. C. Heath and Company, Boston, 20-21.

⁶ Saul K. Padover (ed) (1946): *Thomas Jefferson on Democracy*. Penguin Books, Inc., New York, 71-73.

autonomy (subsidiarity) principle and multilevelism. Coudenhove-Kalergi's idea on "the Revolution of Brotherhood" is a good example.⁷

Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi

Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi in his political essay *Europe Must Unite* was for a constitutional federation under a federal government (two chamber parliament and federal government, i.e. a Swiss-type European United States). He favoured a parliamentary European federation as part of the world federation. He emphasised the necessity of the implementation of the principles of the Declaration of the rights of man and citizen, 1789 in civil state organization. Regarding human rights his ideal was the creation of a common moral codex of humankind composed of free persons who are able to reject authoritarian and totalitarian type states.

Ortega y Gasset

Ortega y Gasset in his political essay entitled *The Revolt of the Masses*, 1930, emphasised that people rejected the principles of European civil state and of federalism, as contradictional principles causing troubles and wars in the period of territorial expansion and colonization of the European national empires. But they could not propose anything new to replace them in a peaceful and democratic direction. They protected Fascism and national socialism (ethnic and racist nationalism) which resulted in an impasse of social organization, and blocked humanist thinking. The result was destruction and wars.

Ortega y Gasset raised the question to answer: why do people protect nationalism and its aggressive ethnic and racial form, instead of searching the ways of peaceful federalism in the age of popular sovereignty, self-determination and international organization.

Salvador de Madariaga

Madariaga in his political essay entitled *Anarchy or Hierarchy* proposed the model of a unanimous organic democracy in the framework of a peaceful economic world federation

He favoured personalism instead of nation states. Persons associate in states composed of two parts: the functional economic state and the moral political one. The functional economic state should be based on the freedom of private initiative, and the moral political state on liberal and democratic principles, but the state should limit and control liberty and inequality. Persons should serve the functional state, but the state should serve the moral and protect persons.

As a means against world economic crises and wars Madariaga proposed to divide economy and policy inside the state, and establish an economic world

⁷ Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi (1937): *Totaler state – totaler Mensch*. Paneuropa Verlag, Wien, 182-183.

federation through economic functional integration. The League of Nations should deal with disarmament.

The economic council of the economic state has to be independent of the politics of the state. Its function should be to give information about the national and world economy and finances, and to harmonize and unite the persons, the state, and the world economy (world federalist economic model). The state can not use the means of centralization during economic crises.

The political state can not be centralized, and should serve the persons from below (security, education, information).

Mitrany

Mitrany's ideal was a working peace system. He believed that it should be based on the functional cooperation among sovereign civil states.

The Resistance Movement

During the Second World War, the Resistance Movement was for federalism in Europe and in the world. The new ways for the future were proposed by Spinelli in the [Ventotene Manifesto](#), 1941.

Altiero Spinelli

Altiero Spinelli, one of the most important leaders of the international Resistance Movement, was for a European Federation continuing the principles of the American constitution, 1787. He regarded the *Federalist papers*, the American constitution, and Tocqueville's ideas on American democracy as examples for a European social organization after the Second World War.

He founded the European Federalist Movement that adopted the *Ventotene Manifesto* as its political program. The Manifesto emphasised that the main division was between the supporters of the national sovereignty and the supporters of the creation of a solid international state. The latter used national power for achieving international unity. Spinelli's Constitutional Federalist strategy had a strong institutional component and focused on the immediate establishment of federal political institutions, above all a supranational government directly responsible to the European citizens instead of national governments.

7. Renewing the principles of international organization

Wilson and the principles of international peace

[President Wilson's Fourteen Points](#) on the new principles of international law: open covenants of peace; absolute freedom of navigation upon the sea; the removal, so far as possible, of all economic barriers and the establishment of an equality of trade conditions among all the nations consenting to the peace; adequate guarantees given and taken that national armaments will be reduced to

the lowest point consistent with domestic safety; a free, open-minded, and absolutely impartial adjustment of all colonial claims; self-determination of the nations; a general association of nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike.

The League of Nations

The first important result of democratic international legal thinking was the establishment of the [League of Nations](#) in 1918, and the drafting of the *Covenant of the League of Nations*. The vision of a world federation was expanded with new democratic international organizational principles: popular sovereignty, self-determination, international organization and international law. However, the development of the democratic international legal thinking was paralysed by the strengthening of colonial imperialism, European-universalism, and Fascism, National Socialism, and Stalinism (Communism).

After the Second World War the idea of a peaceful world federation revived. The League of Nations was dissolved and the United Nations Organization was established with the aim of saving future generations from war, to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights and to promote social progress. To this end it aimed to practice tolerance and living together in peace with one another as good neighbours, to unite to maintain international peace and security and to promote the economic and social advancement of all peoples.⁸

The United Nations Organization

The principles of renewed international law were declared in the *The Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, and the principles of human rights in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, in 1948. The most important achievement of the new international organization was the rejection of imperialism and colonialism, exploitation, slavery, and racism. UN played an important role in decolonization.

In 1963 the General Assembly of the United Nations unanimously adopted the *Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*.⁹

[The Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), 1948 declared the equal and inalienable human rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. Disregard and contempt for human rights resulted in barbarous acts. The Declaration rejected slavery, racism, and nationalism:

Article 1. "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act

⁸ Ian Brownlie (ed.) (1995): *Basic Documents in International Law*. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 2.

⁹ Ian Brownlie (ed.) (1995): *Basic Documents in International Law*, 310-327.

towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”

Article 2. “Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.”

Article 3. “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.”

Article 4. “No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.”¹⁰

Article 15. “Everyone has the right to a nationality.

No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality”¹¹

The Declaration acknowledged the right of freedom of thought, conscience and religion, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and the right of peaceful assembly and association. It recognized property rights.

The Universal Declaration accepted the family as the basic unit of society:

Article 16.3 “The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State”.¹²

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* aimed to become a common universal standard for all people in the world. It specified the rights of the individuals with the aim to protect diversity.

The UN was an intergovernmental organization dominated by great powers, but represented the idea of independent supranational coordinating agencies (functionalism). A European union was imagined as regional part of it.

8. Shaping and discussing the values and principles of the European Union as a new regional union

Social organization based on international law and human rights as a global political process following the vision of world federation started with the establishment of the United Nations, and the *Universal Declaration of Human*

¹⁰ Ian Brownlie (ed.) (1995): *Basic Documents in International Law*, 19.

¹¹ Ibid., 21.

¹² Ibid., 21.

Rights. The rejection of colonization, slavery, racism and nationalism by the renewed international organization and international law represented the beginning of a new period in the construction of Europe in the framework of the UN.

The basic model of a new federalism in Europe were elaborated by Schuman, Monnet and Spinelli.

Schuman

[The Schuman Declaration](#), 1950 represented the principles of a new supranational Europe.

The European Steel and Coal Community was a legal precedent for supranationalism in Europe.

Jean Monnet

Jean Monnet was for federal-functionalism. The so called Monnet-method was based on the following principles: division and transfer of functional competences from the state level to the above state level, and the organisation of supranational institutions for them. The states remain sovereign (autonomous) in all other spheres. A federalist and intergovernmentalist structure in one institutional structure.

Spinelli

Spinelli elaborated the values and principles of the federal and intergovernmental union of states based on subsidiarity and multilevelism (*Draft Treaty Establishing the European Union* (Spinelli Draft), 1984.

The values and principles of the European Union are summarized in the *Draft Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe*, 2003, in the *Treaty of Lisbon*, 2007, and in the [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#) .

Regarding the citizens' rights and the *Charter of Fundamental Rights* the Treaty of Lisbon preserved existing rights while also introducing new ones. While guaranteeing the freedoms and principles set out in the *Charter of Fundamental Rights*, its provisions regarding civil, political, economic, and social rights have become legally binding. Diversity is also well protected by the following rights and duties: right to human dignity, to liberty and security; respect for private and family life; prohibition of slavery; freedom of thought, conscience and religion; freedom of expression and information; freedom of assembly and association; freedom of the arts and sciences; right to education; equality before the law, and citizens rights. Any discrimination based on any ground, such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, religion or belief are prohibited.

9. Shaping and discussing the values and principles of new regionalism and the international organization

9.1. Are the European values and principles universal?

9.1.1. Centre and periphery world system versus world federal union

In Braudel's view "our economic worlds are thus economies with boundaries, a centre and a hierarchisation of the component spaces".¹³

9.1.2. European universalism

In Wallerstein's view *European-universalism* developed during colonisation.

He believes that there are three main varieties of this appeal to universalism¹⁴:

The first is the argument that the policies pursued by the leaders of the pan-European world are in defence of „human rights” and in furtherance of something called „democracy”.

The second comes in the jargon of the clash of civilizations, in which it is always assumed that „Western” civilization is superior to „other” civilizations because it is the only one that has come to be based on these universal values and truths.

The third is the assertion of the scientific truths of the market, the concept that „there is no alternative” for governments but to accept and act on the laws of neoliberal economics.

9.1.3. East-Asia in emerging as world power

A debat on the emergence of Asia as a world power was started by Kishore Mahbubani, 2008, Singapore.¹⁵

9.2. Thinkers of other civilizations on European (Western) values and principles of modernity (China, Japan, Korea, India, Singapore, Turkey)

European civilization has developed and renewed itself in close interaction with other civilizations of the World. It played an important role in the creation of the phenomenon of modernization, i.e., the development of capitalism as a global

¹³ Fernand Braudel (1978): The Expansion of Europe and the “Longue Durée”. In: H. L. Wesseling (ed.) (1978): *Expansion and Reaction*. Leiden University Press, Leiden, 22.

¹⁴ Immanuel Wallerstein (2006): *European Universalism. The Rhetoric of Power*. The New Press, New York, London, xiii-xiv.

¹⁵ Kishore Mahbubani (2008): *The New Asian Hemisphere. The Irresistible Shift of Global Power to the East*. Public Affairs, New York

economic, commercial, financial, and political system during the 19th and the 20th centuries. The whole World had to face, in all this period, the necessity to understand and interpret modernization – European/Western modernity - as a way for peoples from different countries and civilizations to live and interact with each other. Western countries played a leading role in this process by opening up, by force, the classical agrarian civilizations worldwide. Their goal was to involve these in a free market based economic and commercial world system.

The economic, commercial, financial, and political principles of the West, as well as its idea of a democratic civil society represented a challenge for the political elite of the non-European, - Ottoman, Chinese, Japanese, or Indian - civilizations, reinforced by the issues around colonization, imperialism, or, more recently, the Cold War and globalization. Comparing their own societies to “European/Western modernity” they investigated what to adopt and what to reject; this investigation often resulted in bringing forward the contradictions and possible criticisms of those Western values and principles. At the same time, they became actively involved in the emergence of a capitalist economic, commercial, and financial system in their own countries, which gradually replaced the traditional agrarian societies. As a consequence, these non-Western peoples have developed their own ways of modernization.

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk: state-capitalism, “import-substitution” strategy of economic development, protectionism, industrialization, and state intervention, modernization following Kemalist ideas

K'ang You-wei: constitutional monarchy as a civil state could be an alternative based on Confucian values represented in *The Analects*.

Sun Yat-sen: West could not solve the problems of democracy. Confucian capitalism based on family system and the Confucian values could be an alternative

Fukuzawa Yukichi: Western type economic and technological modernization by safeguarding Japanese values.

Mahatma Gandhi¹⁶: rejection of the Western liberal and free market capitalist expansion; rejection of forced industrialization; agrarianism; personalist world-federation; civil disobedience; cooperation among people based on reality and the values represented in [The Bhagavad Gita](#)

¹⁶ [Mahatma Gandhi: All Men Are Brothers](#) ; Mahatma Gandhi (1969): All Men Are Brothers. [Published by the UNESCO](#) Mahatma Gandhi: Hind Swaraj or Indian Home Rule. Gandhi Organization, Bombay.

9.2.1. *Asian values (discussion, Singapore)*

Peter S. J. Chen, for example, raised the question: What are Asian values? ¹⁷

In his view the Asian values are the followings ¹⁸:

- Group Spirit and Paternalistic Employer-employee Relationship
- Mutual Assistance and Community Life
- Parent-child Relationship and Cohesive Family Life
- Friendship Patterns
- Normative Ideology and Value Concept

9.2.3. *Confucian capitalism as an alternative*

Opening up of China voluntarily and searching the ways of modernization based on Chinese Confucian values and principles.

Deng Xiao-ping

Singapore as a “hub” of Asian business life based on Confucian values and principles

Lee Kuan Yew

Confucian state capitalism

9.3. *New regionalism*

Jean Monnet and Walter Hallstein believed that the new European supranationalism could serve as a model for the whole World. Is it true or not?

History showed that states all over the World created functional regional economic and/or trade associations after the Second World War. It was in harmony with the aims of the United Nations Organization. The most important regional experiences are the EU itself, the MERCOSUR (grouping a number of countries in Latin America), NAFTA (North American Free Trade Area), ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations), and African regionalism. On the basis of these emerging new regions one can say that the reality of the contemporary World is not globalization but new regionalism. More precisely associations in which the sovereign states are embedded. This means that the states voluntarily create different functional associations with the aim to safeguard their statehood. States (governments) as regional actors aim to participate in the global economy without denying the sovereignty of the state and the cultural specificities

¹⁷ Peter S. J. Chen (1977): Asian Values and Modernization. A Sociological Perspective. In: Seah Chee-Meow (1977): *Asian values and modernization*. Singapore University Press Pte Ltd, Singapore, 21-40

¹⁸ Ibid., 29-38.

associated with it. They are for inter-state coordinating agencies, and did not establish supranational new regional institutions. Reality shows that globalization as the dominant idea of our age is only a political imagery.

Researching of the most important different regional unions from the point of view of functional-federalism or confederalism.

ASEAN

ASEM

ASEF

SAARC

MERCOSUR

NAFTA

10. Reform of the international organizations, and the UN

Reform-plans on the renewing the United Nations Organization

The European idea of a supranational union of peace could contribute to the vision of a supranational world union of peace as unity in diversity.

Habermas

Habermas believes that the reform of the UN is necessary to avoid to become marionettes in a global economy.

In his view the EU is not a model for the other regions in the world to copy. But the EU-model – representing supranationalism and multilevel governance – can suggest new concepts on renewing international policy to states and regions belonging to different civilizations. It can also motivate the reform of the United Nations Organization.¹⁹

Common moral codex of mankind

The rules of a renewed universal human rights should be crystallised through dialogues among the different civilizations world wide. This could contribute to the framing of a *common moral codex of mankind*.

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¹⁹ Jürgen Habermas (2004): Hat die Konstitutionalisierung des Völkerrechts noch eine Chance? In: Jürgen Habermas (2004): *Der gespaltene Westen*. Suhrkamp, Frankfurt am Main, 174-178.

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Éva Bóka, PhD, is habilitated university doctor and independent researcher in history. As a lecturer she taught MA, MA Erasmus and PhD courses, in Hungarian and in English, at universities in Hungary, among others, the Eötvös Loránd University, and the Corvinus University of Budapest. She was the research lead of the Rethinking Europe Research Group at the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School of International Relations of the Corvinus University of Budapest as honorary associate professor. She published several papers in various journals in Hungary, Germany, and the United States, and she is the author of six books. Her main research areas are the history of the early-modern European international relations, the history of the idea of European unity, the theory and practice of European integration, the comparative history of the modernization of the states and the international relations in the Western World and East Asia, and the history of peace. Homepage: <http://www.eva-boka.name>