

THE WORLD IN THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY : TOWARDS A GLOBAL SOCIETY

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The objective of this paper is to probe the possibility of the formation of a global society in the twenty first century, from both theoretical and practical angles. The world, free from the East-West bloc conflict, is passing through a process of revolutionary transformation. The basic argument of this paper is that this global change can result in the formation of a global society in the course of the twenty first century. It assumes that the world is, at bottom, a philosophical problem. This concerns the problem identifying the conceptual basis of a world order. It is argued that the problem of striking the right balance between freedom and equality could be the only basis for the establishment of a peaceful, durable, and equitable world order. If a world order is established on the basis of striking a right balance between freedom and equality, then there will be a global society. From a conventional point of view the only alternative to this is the idea that the world order can rest upon equilibrium of power among the great powers. In this fast changing and inter-dependent world this proposition is untenable.