

The background of the image is a dark blue and purple night sky filled with numerous white stars of varying sizes. In the foreground, there is a dark silhouette of a forest of evergreen trees. The overall aesthetic is serene and celestial.

TOPIC OF THE WEEK

SEPTEMBER'19 (19 to 25 Sep)

Our planet Earth, our Identity

Albert Einstein regarded nationalism as a "disease" and wanted to see a world without borders, with one international government having power over individual states. Even during World War I, he supported the possible creation of "United States of Europe", and was very much on board the formation of the League of Nations in 1919, and the subsequent United Nations, which came about in 1945. He predicted limitations on the power of the U.N., which have proven to be correct. He saw an advisory organization that answers to national governments as ultimately being toothless, unable to stop wars or have significant power. Only a world government could have that level of impact. Einstein already considered himself as a world citizen, saying:

"I am by heritage a Jew, by citizenship a Swiss, and by makeup a human being, and only a human being, without any special attachment to any state or national entity whatsoever."

While most debates about the feasibility of a world government focus upon whether authority can be transferred upwards from of governments of nation-

states, another important question is whether the idea of government itself can actually be invoked in an era where the idea and practice of governance is so prominent.

Philosophers, legal scholars, and economists have long contemplated the possibility of establishing a world government: a super-state that will rule over planet Earth and prevent war to achieve the dream of perpetual peace. Both advocates and critics of the idea of world government have adopted an array of contrasting ideologies—from anarchism and liberalism to Nazism and communism—in order to justify their positions. Before pursuing the project of establishing a world government, perhaps as an outcome of globalization, policymakers and scholars must discuss the theoretical question of whether world government is a solution to humanity's problems, or a curse that threatens states' self-determination.

Our problem is that techniques have established a rudimentary world community but have not integrated it organically, morally or politically. They have created a community of mutual dependence, but not one of mutual trust and respect. Without this higher integration, advancing techniques tend to sharpen economic rivalries

within a general framework of economic interdependence; they change the ocean barriers of yesterday into the battlegrounds of today; and they increase the deadly efficacy of the instruments of war so that vicious circles of mutual fear may end in atomic conflicts and mutual destruction. To these perplexities an ideological conflict has been added, which divides the world into hostile camps.

Humanity now shares a common destiny. Whether they like it or not, all people are now linked together in a shared civilization which reaches around the entire Earth. The dangers posed by nuclear war, global pandemics, environmental devastation, biodiversity loss or climate change affect everybody. Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere knows no borders.

Will it be not enough to have one single identity that is we are the citizen of this earth? Taking care of the Earth is important to our well-being. As discussed in a recent UN Assembly meeting, we only have 11 years to prevent irreversible damage from climate change. So the time is now! Economists observed that the dominating development model tends to focus on economic growth as precedence rather than people's rights or welfare, and environmental processes and limits. This requires a shift

in the worldview from treating the environment as part of the economy to treating the economy as part of the environment; strategically this means the economy should be adapted to ensure environmental services are maintained. In the educational sector there is a lack of innovation-oriented research. This means that there has to be a closer connection between research institutes and the economy, which would also overcome problems concerning the knowledge transfer to applications in real life.

For reference:-

- <http://wgresearch.org/global-governance-against-world-government/>
- <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/1949-04-01/illusion-world-government>
- <https://www.democracywithoutborders.org/7085/on-the-need-of-a-democratic-global-government/>

Additional Readings:-

- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/sep/17/the-guardian-view-on-iran-and-saudi-arabia-maximum-pressure-maximum-risks>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/sep/08/the-guardian-view-on-tourist-taxes-travellers-should-pay-their-way>
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- <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/blogs/et-editorials/oil-not-as-slippery-as-it-might-appear/>
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