

Mundialization



Etymology

The word itself stems from the Latin word "mundus" which means "world".

Definition

"**Mundialization**" is the act of a city or local authority declaring itself a "world citizen" and being aware of global issues with a sense of shared rights and responsibility.

Explanation

As a social movement, mundialization expresses the solidarity of populations of the globe and aims to establish institutions and supranational laws of a federative structure common to them, while respecting the diversity of cultures and peoples.

Mundialization is an old municipal peace activity whereby city council declares its city to be a "world city," and people as "global citizen" interdependent with other communities worldwide. It involves the linking or twinning of cities around the world, in the belief that future peace and progress are dependent on co-operation, goodwill and understanding.

Global citizenship is the idea that one's identity transcends geography or political borders and that responsibilities or rights are derived from membership in a broader class: "humanity". This does not mean that such a person denounces or waives their nationality or other, more local identities, but that such identities are given "second place" to their membership in a global community

The movement advocates for a new political organization governing all humanity, involving the transfer of certain parts of national sovereignty to a Federal World Authority, Federal World Government and Federal World Court.

Basing its authority on the will of the people, supporters hope it could develop new systems to draw on the highest and best wisdom of all humanity, and solve major planetary problems like hunger, access to water, war, peace-keeping, pollution and energy.

Currently, the nation-state system and the United Nations offer no way for the people of the world to vote for world officials or participate in governing our world. International treaties or

agreements lack the force of law. Mundialization seeks to address this lack by presenting a way to build, one city at a time, such a system of true World Law based upon the sovereignty of the whole.

When we speak of “our world,” we usually mean the manners and customs, ideas, language and the like which are in our particular community or communities of reference. It is not geographic at all, though place may be a part of it. When we speak of the world at large, we are referring to the peoples and cultures around the globe. With these connotations in mind, we can see that mundialization thus would mean that some aspect of some part of the world at large has been globalized, that is, has undergone some sort of transfer, and, most would agree, some sort of transformation in the process.

Linkages take place not only at the municipal government level but also at the citizen level. Mundialization fosters people-to-people linkages and friendships, to further peace, justice and understanding.

Other Words for Mundialization

City twinning, sister cities, friendship agreements, peace in the world **and** global democracy.

History of Mundialization Movement

- **Japan**

The **mundialization** movement was born in **Hiroshima**, Japan in 1945. The surviving citizens of this city devastated by the world’s first atomic bomb signified their resolve to work for a world federation which would make forever impossible a repetition of the tragedy which their city had undergone.

Understandably, Japan has witnessed the greatest development in mundialization. The city of Ayabe, Kyoto Prefecture, was mundialized in 1950. The movement speeded up greatly in 1956 when Japan was allowed to become a member of the United Nations.

Presently the **World Council for Mundialization** is in Okayama which links all the mundialized satellites.

- **France**

The idea of this new technique for promoting global consciousness and a sense of responsibility to our fellow world citizens originated in the **French Mundialization Research and Study Center** following the wave of enthusiasm aroused by Garry Davis, then a young, former U.S. bomber pilot who renounced his nationality in 1948, declared himself a world citizen and subsequently pitched his tent on the grounds of the United Nations headquarters in Paris.

Davis, with the Center’s members, went to Cahors, a French town of some 50,000 inhabitants and formulated the first Mundialization Charter. This charter was submitted for adopted by Cahors Town Council in 1949. Following the lead of

Cahors, many other French communities subsequently adopted their own Mundialization Charters. Today there are more than 500 mundialized municipalities in France.

- **Canada**

The city of Dundas, Ontario, was the first Canadian community to mundialize in 1967. It also initiated the "sister-cities" movement. Dundas, Ontario became the first mundialized municipality in North America, twinning with *Kaga, Japan*. Hamilton soon followed in 1968 and twinned with *Mangalore, India*.

- **USA**

Minneapolis, Minnesota and Richfield, Ohio are generally acknowledged as the first communities to adopt Mundialization Declarations. Under the leadership of Lynn Elling, a Minneapolis businessman, Minnesota became the first USA State to mundialize on March 26, 1971.

Discussion Points

- Is mundialization practically possible?
- Criticism on mundialization
- What will be the situation if all world is mundialized?