

# EVOLUTIONARY WORLD GOVERNMENT

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Development of the concept of “evolutionary socialism” around the turn of the twentieth century had a major impact on political and socioeconomic trends throughout the century. Revisionist thinkers such as Eduard Bernstein abandoned the orthodox Marxist position that socialism must necessarily involve social ownership of the nonhuman factors of production, and that socialism in this pure sense could only be achieved through violent revolution. In so doing, they laid the basis for the later success of social democracy in Western Europe and throughout the world. This essay argues that an analogous concept, “evolutionary world government,” might lay the basis for a successful world federalist movement during the twenty-first century. By abandoning the current world federalist ideal of the omnipotent world state, and envisioning as the immediate objective a limited rather than an unlimited world government, a solid foundation might be laid for gradual, evolutionary progress toward the long-term goal of an authoritative and effective, yet democratic and benign, federal world government.

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## INTRODUCTION

The currently prevailing concept of world government, among both the large majority of world government skeptics and the small minority of world government supporters (the “world federalists”), is that of a very strong state entity that would stand in relation to its component member nations much as the federal government of the United States stands in relation to the fifty component states. Such a government would encompass all nations

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