



# The WorldVoter

the newsletter of

## Vote World Government

— democratic world government through a global referendum —

[www.VoteWorldGovernment.org](http://www.VoteWorldGovernment.org)

Vote World Government President is Jim Stark; Vice President is Ted Stalets

[www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com](http://www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com)

This site, above, is for the new book *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*

### Issue #16, June, 2009

(This issue and all previous issues are posted at [www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com](http://www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com))

### Quotes of the month

**Illegitimus non carborundum.** Mock-Latin aphorism originating from WWII, jokingly taken to mean: “Don't let the bastards grind you down.”

**We're not the public service of Canada. We're not just another department. We are the Canadian Forces, and our job is to be able to kill people.** Former Canadian Chief of the Defence Staff Rick Hillier

**A dead end is just a good place to turn around.** Naomi Judd

### News in brief

#### **Authors' Campaign: Now for the hard part!**

There's a link on VWG site ([www.voteworldgovernment.org/authorscampaign.shtml](http://www.voteworldgovernment.org/authorscampaign.shtml)) to show the world that we have 63 published authors who are lined up in support of a global referendum on democratic world government. The next phase of the Authors' Campaign is about to kick in, where VWG volunteers will be emailing tens of thousands of NGOs in an effort to make the online referendum go viral. We're still looking for more authors, but our original hope was to get 50, and we've done better than that, so we're starting the second phase now. A letter has gone out to all our authors asking them to do a few little things (write a short quote about the initiative, etc.), and then it's off to the races. If you know an additional author we should invite, tell us. If you know an NGO that we should contact, tell us.

## **Mailing to WFI “Fellows”**

There is an American outfit called the World Federalist Institute, or WFI, linked with the Citizens for Global Solutions, or CGS. The WFI has “Fellows,” two dozen scholarly men and women who are active in the area of global governance. Four of these WFI Fellows were already involved with our Authors’ Campaign, Joseph Schwartzberg, Ron Glossop, Didier Jacobs and Saul H. Mendlovitz. At Schwartzberg’s urging, a letter has been sent to the rest of the WFI Fellows, inviting them to consider supporting our initiative.

## **Cooperation between VWG and Simpol**

Recently, we have been encouraged by a new Italian supporter, Jill Phillips, to explore a relationship with Simpol (which means “Simultaneous Policy”), headed by John Bunzl. A series of emails have gone back and forth, and there has evolved a considerable degree of mutual respect. We have our site translated into Italian now, thanks to Jill (and to Bob French, who paid for the translation). We have a list of some 7,000+ NGOs from John (a “verifier” effort by our VP Ted Stalets found that many of these emails were duds, but it still left us with more than 1,000 NGOs that we can contact). Jill is approaching Servas, an international NGO, to see if they will participate in the global referendum. And we are happy to recommend that our supporters visit [www.simpol.org](http://www.simpol.org) and consider giving this organization a little support too (they have a newsletter that you may wish to receive).

## **Editorial**

### **China’s contemplations tend to legitimize global referendum concept**

In recent months, Zbigniew Brzezinski, national security advisor to former US president Jimmy Carter, has been talking up the idea of a “Group of Two,” or G-2 (if two anything can be called a group), patterned after the G-7 or G-20. He has in mind some sort of partnership between the USA and China, to make a world power sometimes nicknamed “Chimerica,” presumably to establish some kind of “pax-Chimericana.” Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao has now rejected this notion, saying at the Sino-European Union (EU) summit in Prague last month: “It is totally ungrounded and wrong to talk about the dominance of two countries in international affairs.”

China made the correct assessment of this very strange proposal, but the aspect of *how* it was rejected is what brings our small newsletter to comment on it. In a May 29, 2009 article in *Asia Times Online* (Kowloon, Hong Kong) entitled “China says ‘no thanks’ to G-2,” Dr. Jian Junbo wrote: “We can imagine the G-2 would be refused by most countries if taken to a global referendum.”

This is one of the very few times the term “global referendum” has shown up in the news, *ever*. As far as I know, I coined the term and defined the concept in 1977 (see *Cold War Blues*, Chapter 2—available free at [www.voteworldgovernment.org/books.shtml](http://www.voteworldgovernment.org/books.shtml)). Whatever the case, by definition, countries don’t vote in referendums. People do.

Countries vote in the General Assembly of the United Nations (for whatever that turns out to be worth). *Individual human beings* vote in referendums, and even the word “referendum” derives from the act of “referring” a decision to the people. In my dictionary, the word is defined as: “The submission of a proposed public measure or an actual statute to a direct popular vote.”

Sensible people realize that we can’t run any government by referendums alone—not even a city or town council—nor would we really want to. People are far too busy earning a living and enjoying their lives to study all the political issues and vote on every single one, which is why we have “representative” governments to do the job. However, there are times when important or very new proposals should be “put to the people.” (There are also situations in which using a referendum is inappropriate, such as to decide the outcome of a debate on minority rights, since minorities have rights whether or not the majority cares to acknowledge and respect those rights. Using a referendum in such instances can lead to the so-called “tyranny of the majority.”)

No issue is more suitable for “direct democracy” (another term meaning the use of a referendum) than the question of whether humanity should establish a brand new order of law at the global level. (This is not to say “international law,” which consists primarily of treaties or agreements among nation-states; it is to say “world law,” which applies *inter alia* to individuals, just like national, provincial and municipal law.) This decision—especially in the absence of a representative democratic world government (DWG) to take such a decision on our behalf—simply must be put to the entire human race in a global referendum ... which of course is the precise mission of our NGO, Vote World Government.

But Jian Junbo is right, no matter how we read his words. A G-2 idea would be voted down in a resolution in the UN General Assembly, and it would most assuredly be voted down in a true global referendum. (It is not absolutely certain that the creation of a DWG would be strongly supported in a global referendum, but we obviously believe that it will be, and should be.)

It is important to appreciate that the mandate from a “successful” global referendum would be taken by most people as legally binding under international law, although it is equally important to realize that such a mandate would be politically compelling no matter what its legal status. (If virtually the entire human race votes for a thing, chances are we’re going to create that thing no matter who objects.) A global referendum can be deemed to be “successful” if at least 50% of all human adults cast votes and at least 67% of those votes are in the “yes” column (see Chapter 10 of *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth: Democratic World Government through a Global Referendum* for the reasoning behind these figures). We, the people, have the power to reshape our world, the power to decide to govern ourselves globally, and if we at Vote World Government have our way, that is how the future will play out.

Kudos to Jian Junbo for sensing, correctly, that the human race *should* have a say in critical decisions affecting the entire world. Once it is generally realized that national

borders and most aspects of national sovereignty are not going to disappear with the advent of democratic world government, and that world law is the key to perpetual peace and the *sine qua non* of human survival, and once the online referendum has “yes” votes in the tens of millions or hundreds of millions, surely a few sensible countries will table a resolution in the UN General Assembly calling for a more *formal* global referendum on democratic world government ([www.voteworldgovernment.org/draftUNresolution.pdf](http://www.voteworldgovernment.org/draftUNresolution.pdf)) so that we, the people of Earth, can finally get past our current need to use the Internet for the taking of this historic decision.

Jim Stark, Founder, Vote World Government

For Dr. Jian Junbo’s entire article, go to [www.atimes.com/atimes/China/KE29Ad01.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China/KE29Ad01.html)  
(Dr. Jian Junbo is an assistant professor of the Institute of International Studies at Fudan University, Shanghai, China)