

International Law/World Government Discussion Questions:

Johansen opens his article by stating: “Those seeking to perfect and apply the tools of peacebuilding as recommended by Chadwick Alger cannot avoid being alarmed by three recent developments that threaten to wreck already overextended tools...In the face of these daunting problems, what can exponents of peacebuilding tools do to strengthen international peace?” (p. 31).

1. What are the three “recent developments” and do you agree that these are overly “daunting” to efforts to use peace tools to create a more peaceful world?
2. What is Johansen’s solution to addressing these issues to strengthen to tools of peace? Do you agree with his recommendations?
3. One area that Johansen focuses on is bolstering international law in relation to the use of force. Why can international law more generally be viewed as a peace tool? When considering international law, how is it made and enforced? Does considering these dimensions make you more or less supportive of Johansen’s plan? Barash & Webel argue that international law has “hidden strengths” – what are these and how strong of a peace tool would you gauge international law to be overall?
4. One way to strengthen international governance would be to move to a world government. How might this be approached as a peace tool? What is your reaction to the idea of world government?
5. Alger, Jeong, and Barash & Webel all talk about functionalism as an alternative approach to peace. How does this “bottom up” approach work, what are the potential problems with functionalism as a peace tool, and what is your opinion of functionalism?