

# Ismael Velasco

## "Peace" in the Baha'i Scriptures

2001

### OVERVIEW

#### BAHA'U'LLAH

##### I- Gestation of Peace Thought

- ⇒ Babi/proto-Baha'i community –
- ⇒ Peace as conflict avoidance/community building (ethical/intellectual/mystical/social) (Ridvan; HW; KI;7v; Commentary on Rumi; GPB (Nabil Quote).
- ⇒ Ridvan as peace festival(cf. Cole)

##### II – The Lesser Peace in the writings of Baha'u'llah 1868-1892 (Adrianople/Palestine)

#### THEMES

- 1<sup>st</sup> mention of Lesser Peace apparently Letter to Queen Victoria.
- Taken up again after the Aqdas.
- Peace as world order/ institutionalisation (political/regulatory) – Suriy Muluk/KA/Ishraqt –
- sacralisation of politics (cf. Buck on Ishraqat)
- disarmament/Collective security/Summits = Lesser Peace (political)
- vs.**
- Most Great Peace = Recognition of Baha'u'llah (Consultation/Baha'i Houses of Justice/ Hands of the Cause)/ World Language (Cf. Name of God Educator)

#### CONTEXT

##### Sacred Text

- Muhammad's declaration to Kings;
- Messiah as Legislator/ source of civilization

##### Milieu

- Assumption of authority;
- need for administration;
- Baha'i community identity;
- engagement with the West

##### World trends

- Globalisation
- Rise of Diplomacy;
- Tanzimat/Young Turks;
- Esperanto;
- Peace Movement in Europe

Queen Victoria	c. 1868-73	<p>Now that ye have refused the Most Great Peace, hold ye fast unto this, the Lesser Peace, that haply ye may in some degree better your own condition and that of your dependents.</p> <p>O rulers of the earth! Be reconciled among yourselves, that ye may need no more armaments save in a measure to safeguard your territories and dominions... Be united, O kings of the earth, for thereby will the tempest of discord be stilled amongst you, and your peoples find rest, if ye be of them that comprehend. Should any one among you take up arms against another, rise ye all against him, for this is naught but manifest justice. ("Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah", pp. 253-254)</p>	<p>Lesser Peace vs. Most Great Peace</p> <p>Political reconciliation = foundation of disarmament Global tranquillity dependent on political harmony Principle of collective security enunciated</p>
Bisharat	1873+	<p>The sixth Glad-Tidings is the establishment of the Lesser Peace, details of which have formerly been revealed from Our Most Exalted Pen. Great is the blessedness of him who upholdeth it and observeth whatsoever hath been ordained by God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. ("Tablets of Baha'u'llah Revealed after the Kitab-i-Aqdas", p.23)</p>	<p>Lesser Peace part of the Messianic promise. He who upholds it is greatly blessed because it is divinely ordained</p>
Lawh-I Dunya	1873+	<p>First: It is incumbent upon the ministers of the House of Justice to Promote the Lesser Peace so that the people of the earth may be relieved from the burden of exorbitant expenditures. This matter is imperative and absolutely essential, inasmuch as hostilities and conflict lie at the root of affliction and calamity. ("Tablets of Baha'u'llah revealed after the Kitab-i-Aqdas", p. 89)</p>	<p>Promoting the Lesser Peace a duty of the House of Justice. Lesser Peace will liberate people of burden of exorbitant expenditures. Promoting Lesser Peace essential b/c hostility = root of affliction</p>

<p>ESW</p>	<p>1875?+</p>	<p>We pray God -- exalted be His glory -- and cherish the hope that He may graciously assist the manifestations of affluence and power and the daysprings of sovereignty and glory, the kings of the earth -- may God aid them through His strengthening grace -- to establish the Lesser Peace. This, indeed, is the greatest means for ensuring the tranquillity of the nations. It is incumbent upon the Sovereigns of the world -- may God assist them -- unitedly to hold fast unto this Peace, which is the chief instrument for the protection of all mankind. It is Our hope that they will arise to achieve what will be conducive to the well-being of man. It is their duty to convene an all-inclusive assembly, which either they themselves or their ministers will attend, and to enforce whatever measures are required to establish unity and concord amongst men. They must put away the weapons of war, and turn to the instruments of universal reconstruction. Should one king rise up against another, all the other kings must arise to deter him. Arms and armaments will, then, be no more needed beyond that which is necessary to ensure the internal security of their respective countries. If they attain unto this all-surpassing blessing, the people of each nation will pursue, with tranquillity and contentment, their own occupations, and the groanings and lamentations of most men would be silenced. We beseech God to aid them to do His will and pleasure. He, verily, is the Lord of the throne on high and of earth below, and the Lord of this world and of the world to come. It would be preferable and more fitting that the highly-honoured kings themselves should attend such an assembly, and proclaim their edicts. Any king who will arise and carry out this task, he, verily will, in the sight of God, become the cynosure of all kings. Happy is he, and great is his blessedness!</p> <p>("Epistle to the Son of the Wolf", rev. ed. , pp. 30-31)</p>	<p>Lesser Peace to be established, with the assistance of God, by the rulers of the earth.</p> <p>Lesser Peace greatest means for tranquility and chief instrument for protection of the world - if its rulers unite in upholding it.</p> <p>Lesser Peace calls for an all-inclusive assembly of world rulers and/or their ministers.</p> <p>This assembly must agree terms of disarmament and focus on universal reconstruction.</p> <p>Disarmament linked to the principle of collective security and limited by considerations of internal security.</p> <p>The above provisions would largely remove the grievances of humanity and refocus their strivings on pursuing their occupations.</p> <p>It is preferable that rulers themselves attend and proclaim its edicts in person.</p> <p>The king that rises to achieve the above will be blessed, happy and exalted among others.</p>
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## 'Abdu'l-Baha's WRITINGS AND TALKS (1875-1921) – Universal Peace

### Themes

- No mention of Lesser Peace in English translations – even recent ones.
- SDC – Binding Treaty
- Prophecy fulfilled – extension of Baha'u'llah's emphases
- Community: Middle East?; West = spiritualised vision (cf. Louis Gregory/CH No mention in an early pilgrimage) Growing emphasis on Most Great Peace (Esslemont)
- Context: Engagement with West (text)
- **Second Stage** (1900-1921) (externalist) Content: Peace concepts fleshed out. Little mention of lesser peace, much mention of Most Great/universal peace, yet Lesser Peace elaborated upon
- Timeline added –20<sup>th</sup> century – seven candles of unity – tablet to the Hague – Peace societies – WW1- League of Nations – Woodrow Wilson

True civilization will unfurl its banner in the midmost heart of the world whenever a certain number of its distinguished and high-minded sovereigns --the shining exemplars of devotion and determination -- shall, for the good and happiness of all mankind, arise, with firm resolve and clear vision, to establish the Cause of Universal Peace. They must make the Cause of Peace the object of general consultation, and seek by every means in their power to establish a Union of the nations of the world. They must conclude a binding treaty and establish a covenant, the provisions of which shall be sound, inviolable and definite. They must proclaim it to all the world and obtain for it the sanction of all the human race. This supreme and noble undertaking -- the real source of the peace and well-being of all the world - - should be regarded as sacred by all that dwell on earth. All the forces of humanity must be mobilized to ensure the stability and permanence of this Most Great Covenant. In this all-embracing Pact the limits and frontiers of each and every nation should be clearly fixed, the principles underlying the relations of governments towards one another definitely laid down, and all international agreements and obligations ascertained. In like manner, the size of the armaments of every government should be strictly limited, for if the preparations for war and the military forces of any nation should be allowed to increase, they will arouse the suspicion of others. The fundamental principle underlying this solemn Pact should be so fixed that if any government later violate any one of its provisions, all the governments on earth should arise to reduce it to utter submission, nay the human race as a whole should resolve, with every power at its disposal, to destroy that government. Should this greatest of all remedies be applied to the sick body of the world, it will assuredly recover from its ills and will remain eternally safe and secure.

Observe that if such a happy situation be forthcoming, no government would need continually to pile up the weapons of war, nor feel itself obliged to produce ever new military weapons with which to conquer the human race. A small force for the purposes of internal security, the correction of criminal and disorderly elements and the prevention of local disturbances, would be required -- no more. In this way the entire population would, first of all, be relieved of the crushing burden of expenditure currently imposed for military purposes, and secondly, great numbers of people would cease to devote their time to the continual devising of new weapons of destruction -- those testimonials of greed and bloodthirstiness, so inconsistent with the gift of life -- and would instead bend their efforts to the production of whatever will foster human existence and peace and well-being, and would become the cause of universal development and prosperity. Then every nation on earth will reign in honour, and every people will be cradled in tranquillity and content...

The apparatus of conflict will, as preparations go on at their present rate, reach the point where war will become something intolerable to mankind.

The rise of true civilization linked to the determination and vision of a number of sovereigns to pursue universal peace

They must make peace the object of general consultation and use their resources to achieve it.

They must make a sound, inviolable and definite peace treaty

This treaty should be globally proclaimed and the consent of all the human race secured.

**This treaty should:**

fix national borders

regulate international relations

limit the size of national armaments and stop the armament race

Guarantee its provisions through commitment to collective security

Global Covenant foundation of disarmament

Armaments would be maintained for internal security only.

Disarmament would dramatically cut burdens of taxation, on one hand, and increase productivity on the other

The development of the global apparatus of conflict will eventually become intolerable, and itself contribute to change.

TAB	1907	<p>Thou hast written concerning the universal peace, that before long the congress of The Hague will be opened and discussion will be made in regard to the universal peace.</p> <p>This problem cannot be solved by the congress of The Hague, whose members are the representatives of nations; nay, rather, this graceful beloved will unveil her face in all the regions through the penetrative power of the Word of God.</p> <p>The congress of The Hague is as follows: The wine sellers call a meeting so that they may discuss the evils of wine and remove from the world the drinking of wine; yet their own vocation is wine selling.</p> <p>Nations who are constantly thinking wither of worldly conquest, the expansion of their own dominion or waging war upon their contemporaries, send ministers and representatives to the congress of The Hague to discuss the problem of universal peace and legislative registrations for the prevention of war!</p>	<p>Peace cannot be accomplished by Hague.</p> <p>Only penetrative power of the Word of God can accomplish it.</p> <p>Limitations of the Hague Convention are fundamentally to do with absence of will.</p> <p>Wine-sellers analogy.</p>
ABL	1911	<p>All knowledge is good, but it can bear no fruit except by action. It is well to know that riches are good, but that knowledge will not make a man rich; he must work, he must put his knowledge into practice...</p> <p>to know that riches are good, but that knowledge will not make a man rich; he must work, he must put his knowledge into practice...</p> <p>The Czar of Russia suggested the Hague Peace Conference and proposed a decrease in armament for all nations. In this Conference it was proved that Peace was beneficial to all countries, and that war destroyed trade, etc. The Czar's words were admirable though after the conference was over he himself was the first to declare war (against Japan).</p> <p>What of the Peace Congress?</p> <p>It resembles many drunkards gathered together to protest against the drinking of alcohol. They say drink is horrible and they straightway go out from the house to drink again.</p> <p>...By what ... will this peace on earth be established? Will it come at once after a universal declaration of the Truth?</p> <p>No, it will come about gradually, said Abdu'l-Baha. A plant that grows too quickly lasts but a short time.</p>	<p>Knowing what is necessary is not sufficient, it must be accompanied by action.</p> <p>1907 Hague Conference proposed disarmament and condemned war, Czar initiated it but was first to enter war with Japan</p> <p>Drunkard analogy</p> <p>Peace will not be established suddenly but gradually, otherwise short-lived.</p> <p>Plant analogy.</p>

<p>7 Candles</p> <p>WOB38-39, and PDC</p> <p>pp. 120-121)</p>	<p>1910-11?</p>	<p>All the members of the human family, whether peoples or governments, cities or villages, have become increasingly interdependent. For none is self-sufficiency any longer possible, inasmuch as political ties unite all peoples and nations, and the bonds of trade and industry, of agriculture and education, are being strengthened very day. Hence the unity of all mankind can in this day be achieved. Verily this is none other but one of the wonders of this wondrous age, this glorious century. Of this past ages have been deprived, for this century – the century of light – has been endowed with unique and unprecedented glory, power and illumination. Hence the miraculous unfolding of a fresh marvel every day. Eventually it will be seen how bright its candles will burn in the assemblage of man.</p> <p>Behold how its light is now dawning upon the world’s darkened horizon. The first candle is unity in the political realm, the early glimmerings of which can now be discerned. The second candle is unity of thought in world undertakings, the consummation of which will ere long be witnessed. The third candle is unity in freedom which will surely come to pass. The fourth candle is unity in religion which is the corner-stone of the foundation itself, and which, by the power of God, will be revealed in all its splendour. The fifth candle is the unity of nations – a unity which in this century will be securely established, causing all the peoples of the world to regard themselves as citizens of one common fatherland. The sixth candle is unity of races, making of all that dwell on earth peoples and kindreds of one race. The seventh candle is unity of language, i.e., the choice of a universal tongue in which all peoples will be instructed and converse. Each and every one of these will inevitably come to pass, inasmuch as the power of the Kingdom of God will aid and assist in their realization.</p>	<p>Society at all levels, local to global, is becoming interdependent</p> <p>Interdependence makes world unity achievable</p> <p>This process is the hallmark of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, hence this is a century of light.</p> <p>The 20<sup>th</sup> century is in driving unification in seven areas: politics, world undertakings, freedom, religion, nationality, race, and language.</p> <p>No timeline associated with these processes.</p> <p><b>Except:</b></p> <p>All linked to C20<sup>th</sup></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> glimmers of political unity could already be seen c. 1910</p> <p>Unity of nations, associated with consciousness of world citizenship would be “securely established” in C20<sup>th</sup></p>
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<p>PUP /AB London</p>	<p>1912</p>	<p>May this American democracy be the first nation to establish the foundation of international agreement.</p> <p>(“The Promulgation of Universal Peace: pp. 36)</p> <p>I find these two great American nations [the United States and Canada] highly capable and advanced ... it is my hope that these revered nations may become prominent factors in the establishment of international peace and the oneness of the world of humanity...</p> <p>(“The Promulgation of Universal Peace p. 318)</p> <p>...Because I find the American nation so capable of achievement and this government the fairest of western governments, its institutions superior to others, my wish and hope is that the banner of international reconciliation may first be raised on this continent</p> <p>(“The Promulgation of Universal Peace: pp. 83-84)</p> <p>So it will come to pass that when women participate fully and equally in the affairs of the world, when they enter confidently and capably the great arena of laws and politics, war will cease; for woman will be the obstacle and hindrance to it. This is true and without doubt.</p> <p>(“The Promulgation of Universal Peace: pp. 134-35)</p> <p>As to the question of disarmament, all nations must disarm at the same time. It will not do at all, and it is not proposed, that some nations shall lay down their arms while others, their neighbours, remain armed. The peace of the world must be brought about by international agreement. All nations must agree to disarm simultaneously...</p> <p>Are there any signs that the permanent peace of the world will be established in anything like a reasonable period? Abdu'l-Baha was asked.</p> <p>It will be established in this century, he answered. It will be universal in the twentieth century. All nations will be forced into it.</p> <p>Economic pressure will tell?</p> <p>Yes: the nations will be forced to come to peace and to agree to the abolition of war. The awful burdens of taxation for war purposes will get beyond human endurance...</p> <p>(pp. 34-35)</p>	<p>Establishment of international agreement linked to American democracy.</p> <p>Not only U.S but also Canada called to lead cause of peace, on account of superior capacity and institutional development (i.e. Federalism)</p> <p>Leadership in International Reconciliation extended to whole American continent.</p> <p>Full and equal participation of women in world affairs linked to establishment of peace.</p> <p>Disarmament must be universal and simultaneous, unilateral /bilateral/multilateral disarmament will only increase conflict.</p> <p>Universal peace will be established in 20<sup>th</sup> century</p> <p>All nations will be forced into peace, primarily for economic reasons associated with excessive taxation.</p>
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Star of the West", vol. 5, no. 8 (August 1914), pp. 115-117)

Once the Parliament of Man is established and its constituent parts organized, the governments of the world having entered into a covenant of eternal friendship will have no need of keeping large standing armies and navies. A few battalions to preserve internal order, and an International Police to keep the highways of the seas clear, are all that will be necessary. Then these huge sums will be diverted to other more useful channels, pauperism will disappear, knowledge will increase, the victories of Peace will be sung by poets and bards, knowledge will improve the conditions and mankind will be rocked in the cradle of felicity and bliss. Then, whether a government is constitutional or republican, hereditary monarchy or democratic, the rulers will devote their time to the prosperity of their nations, the legislation of just and sane laws and the fostering of closer and more amicable relations with their neighbours – thus will the world of humanity become a mirror reflecting the virtues and attributes of the Kingdom of God.

By a general agreement all the governments of the world must disarm simultaneously... It will not do if one lays down the arms and the other refuses to do so. The nations of the world must concur with each other concerning this supremely important subject, thus they may abandon together the deadly weapons of human slaughter. As long as one nation increases her military and naval budget, another nation will be forced into this crazed competition through her natural and supposed interests... Consequently the advocates of Peace must strive day and night, so that the individuals of every country may become peace-loving, public opinion may gain a strong and permanent footing, and day by day the army of International Peace be increased, complete disarmament be realized and the Flag of Universal Conciliation be waving on the summit of the mountains of the earth.

The ideals of Peace must be nurtured and spread among the inhabitants of the world; they must be instructed in the school of Peace and the evils of war. First: The financiers and bankers must desist from lending money to any government contemplating to wage an unjust war upon an innocent nation. Second: The presidents and managers of the railroads and steamship companies must refrain from transporting war ammunition, infernal engines, guns, cannons and powder from one country into another. Third: The soldiers must petition, through their representatives, the Ministers of War, the politicians, the Congressmen and the generals to put forth in a clear, intelligible language the reasons and the causes which have brought them to the brink of such a national calamity. The soldiers must demand this as one of the prerogatives.

In short, every means that produces war must be checked and the cause that prevent the occurrence of war be advanced; -- so that physical conflict may become an impossibility. On the other hand, every country must be properly delimited, its exact frontiers marked, its national integrity secured, its permanent independence protected, and its vital interests honoured by the family of nations. These services ought to be rendered by an impartial, international Commission. In this manner all causes of friction and differences will be removed. And in case there should arise some disputes between them, they could arbitrate before the Parliament of Man, the representatives of which should be chosen from among the wisest and most judicious men of all the nations of the world. (Star of the West, vol. 5, no. 8 (August 1914), pp. 115-117)

Parliament of Man to be established

Global treaty will make armaments race obsolete and bring dissolution of large standing armies.

Only a few battalions for internal security and an international Police to keep highways of the seas clear will remain.

The huge material resources associated to the arms trade will revert to the eradication of pauperism, the advancement of knowledge and global prosperity.

Diversity of national governments might remain (constitutional, republican, hereditary monarchichy, democracy) but the focus of all will be fundamentally constructive.

Disarmament must be universal and simultaneous.

Peace activists must focus on influencing public opinion

Financiers and bankers must impose economic sanctions on belligerents.

Transport chiefs must ban the import and export of arms.

Soldiers must lobby their representatives to make it a soldier's prerogative to be given clear justification of the objects of war.

All mechanisms for war should be checked and mechanisms for peace strengthened.

**Every country should have:**

Its exact borders marked,

Its national integrity secured

Its permanent independence protected

Its vital interests honoured

International Commission implements above and arbitrates disputes

International Parliament should be representative of all nations.

Hague	17-12-1919	<p>For example, the question of universal peace, about which Baha'u'llah says that the Supreme Tribunal must be established: although the League of Nations has been brought into existence, yet it is incapable of establishing universal peace. But the Supreme Tribunal which Baha'u'llah has described will fulfil this sacred task with the utmost might and power. And His plan is this: that the national assemblies of each country and nation – that is to say parliaments -- should elect two or three persons who are the choicest of that nation, and are well informed concerning international laws and the relations between governments and aware of the essential needs of the world of humanity in this day. The number of these representatives should be in proportion to the number of inhabitants of that country. The election of these souls who are chosen by the national assembly, that is, the parliament, must be confirmed by the upper house, the congress and the cabinet and also by the president or monarch so these persons may be the elected ones of all the nation and the government. The Supreme Tribunal will be composed of these people, and all mankind will thus have a share therein, for every one of these delegates is fully representative of his nation. When the Supreme Tribunal gives a ruling on any international question, either unanimously or by majority rule, there will no longer be any pretext for the plaintiff or ground of objection for the defendant. In case any of the governments or nations, in the execution of the irrefutable decision of the Supreme Tribunal, be negligent or dilatory, the rest of the nations will rise up against it, because all the governments and nations of the world are the supporters of this Supreme Tribunal. Consider what a firm foundation this is! But by a limited and restricted League the purpose will not be realized as it ought and should. This is the truth about the situation, which has been stated....</p> <p>(“Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha pp. 306-307)</p>	<p>Peace should be approached holistically, giving attention to other areas addressed by Baha’u’llah’s teachings.</p> <p>League of Nations incapable of establishing peace</p> <p>Supreme Tribunal should be established as follows:</p> <p>National parliaments elect two-three delegates through proportional representation.</p> <p>Elected delegates should be confirmed by upper house, congress, cabinet and president or monarch in order to ensure the widest legitimacy and support</p> <p>Every nation should have its representatives</p> <p>Tribunal’s decisions would be binding when they obtain a majority of votes, not just unanimity</p> <p>Tribunal’s decisions would be enforced via collective security, which would be assured by its being universally representative</p>
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## Shoghi Effendi – New World Order

Lesser Peace mentioned primarily in letters to America and letters to the world.

- Most Great Peace/Lesser Peace differentiated clearly
- New World Order emphasised
- Peace as trajectory
- Twin Processes delineated
- Rise of Admin; WW2; UN; US involvement
- Internalist focus
- Synchronic processes introduced – admin./ arc/ lesser peace

<p>Unfoldment of World Civilization</p>	<p>4-mar-36</p>	<p>No machinery falling short of the standard inculcated by the Baha'i Revelation, and at variance with the sublime pattern ordained in His teachings, which the collective efforts of mankind may yet devise can ever hope to achieve anything above or beyond that "Lesser Peace" to which the Author of our Faith has Himself alluded in His writings. "Now that ye have refused the Most Great Peace," He, admonishing the kings and rulers of the earth, has written, "hold ye fast unto this the Lesser Peace, that haply ye may in some degree better your own condition and that of your dependents." Expatiating on this Lesser Peace, He thus addresses in that same Tablet the rulers of the earth: "Be reconciled among yourselves, that ye may need no more armaments save in a measure to safeguard your territories and dominions... Be united, O kings of the earth, for thereby will the tempest of discord be stilled amongst you, and your peoples find rest, if ye be of them that comprehend. Should any one among you take up arms against another, rise ye all against him, for this is naught but manifest justice."</p>
<p>Letter to NSA US (Peace Comp.)</p>	<p>14-mar-39</p>	<p>With reference to the question you have asked concerning the time and means through which the Lesser and Most Great Peace, referred to by Baha'u'llah, will be established, following the coming World War: Your view that the Lesser Peace will come about through the political efforts of the states and nations of the world, and independently of any direct Baha'i plan or effort, and the Most Great Peace be established through the instrumentality of the believers, and by the direct operation of the laws and principles revealed by Baha'u'llah and the functioning of the Universal House of Justice as the supreme organ of the Baha'i superstate -- your view on this subject is quite correct and in full accord with the pronouncements of the Guardian as embodied in "The Unfoldment of World Civilization". (14 March 1939 to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States and Canada, and to an individual believer)</p>

PDC	28-mar-41	<p>To the general character, the implications and features of this world commonwealth, destined to emerge, sooner or later, out of the carnage, agony, and havoc of this great world convulsion, I have already referred in my previous communications. Suffice it to say that this consummation will, by its very nature, be a gradual process, and must, as Baha'u'llah has Himself anticipated, lead at first to the establishment of that Lesser Peace which the nations of the earth, as yet unconscious of His Revelation and yet unwittingly enforcing the general principles which He has enunciated, will themselves establish. This momentous and historic step, involving the reconstruction of mankind, as the result of the universal recognition of its oneness and wholeness, will bring in its wake the spiritualization of the masses, consequent to the recognition of the character, and the acknowledgement of the claims, of the Faith of Baha'u'llah -- the essential condition to that ultimate fusion of all races, creeds, classes, and nations which must signalize the emergence of His New World Order.</p> <p>Then will the coming of age of the entire human race be proclaimed and celebrated by all the peoples and nations of the earth. Then will the banner of the Most Great Peace be hoisted.</p>
MtoA	26-apr-42	<p>From Alaska to Chile, the Americas are astir with the leavening influences of the rising Order of the newborn Revelation. The great Republic of the West is inescapably swept into the swelling tide of the world tribulations, presaging the assumption of a preponderating share in the establishment of the anticipated Lesser Peace.</p>
DoG(184)	19-nov-45	<p>"The Supreme Tribunal is an aspect of a world Superstate; the exact nature of its relationship to that state we cannot at present foresee. Supreme Tribunal is the correct translation; it will be a contributing factor in establishing the Lesser Peace. There is no statement in the teachings indicating that the Lesser Peace will definitely be established by 1957 or 1963."</p>
1946 (UHJ 1974)		<p>All we know is that the Lesser Peace and the Most Great Peace <i>will</i> come – their <i>exact</i> dates we do not know. The same is true as regards the possibility of a future war; we cannot state dogmatically it will or will not take place – all we know is that mankind must suffer and be punished sufficiently to make it turn to God.</p>
CF p.33	5-jun-47	<p>It must [the process leading the American nation (as opposed to the American Baha'i community) to fulfill its destiny], however long and tortuous the way, lead, through a series of victories and reverses, to the political unification of the Eastern and Western Hemispheres, to the emergence of a world government and the establishment of the Lesser Peace, as foretold by Baha'u'llah and foreshadowed by the Prophet Isaiah. It must, in the end, culminate in the unfurling of the banner of the Most Great Peace, in the Golden Age of the Dispensation of Baha'u'llah.</p>
CF p.58	8-nov-48	<p>As the threat of still more violent convulsions assailing a travailing age increases, and the wings of yet another conflict, destined to contribute a distinct, and perhaps a decisive, share to the birth of the new Order which must signalize the advent of the Lesser Peace, darken the international horizon, the eyes of the divers communities, comprising the body of the organized followers of Baha'u'llah throughout the Eastern Hemisphere, are being increasingly fixed upon the progressive unfoldment of the tasks which the executors of Abdu'l-Baha's Mandate have been summoned to undertake in the course of the second stage of their world-girdling mission.</p>

CF p.156	28- July- 1954	<p>The American nation, of which the community of the Most Great Name forms as yet a negligible and infinitesimal part, stands, indeed, from whichever angle one observes its immediate fortunes, in grave peril. The woes and tribulations which threaten it are partly avoidable, but mostly inevitable and God-sent, for by reason of them a government and people clinging tenaciously to the obsolescent doctrine of absolute sovereignty and upholding a political system, manifestly at variance with the needs of a world already contracted into a neighborhood and crying out for unity, will find itself purged of its anachronistic conceptions, and prepared to play a preponderating role, as foretold by Abdu'l-Baha, in the hoisting of the standard of the Lesser Peace, in the unification of mankind, and in the establishment of a world federal government on this planet.</p>
Mess BW	27- Nov- 54	<p>To the general character, the implications and features of this world commonwealth, destined to emerge, sooner or later, out of the carnage, agony, and havoc of this great world convulsion, I have already referred in my previous communications. Suffice it to say that this consummation will, by its very nature, be a gradual process, and must, as Baha'u'llah has Himself anticipated, lead at first to the establishment of that Lesser Peace which the nations of the earth, as yet unconscious of His Revelation and yet unwittingly enforcing the general principles which He has enunciated, will themselves establish. This momentous and historic step, involving the reconstruction of mankind, as the result of the universal recognition of its oneness and wholeness, will bring in its wake the spiritualization of the masses, consequent to the recognition of the character, and the acknowledgement of the claims, of the Faith of Baha'u'llah -- the essential condition to that ultimate fusion of all races, creeds, classes, and nations which must signalize the emergence of His New World Order.</p> <p>Then will the coming of age of the entire human race be proclaimed and celebrated by all the peoples and nations of the earth. Then will the banner of the Most Great Peace be hoisted.</p>

## UHJ - Influencing the Lesser Peace

8 December 1967	<p>We are told by Shoghi Effendi that two great processes are at work in the world: the great Plan of God, tumultuous in its progress, working through mankind as a whole, tearing down barriers to world unity and forging humankind into a unified body in the fires of suffering and experience. This process will produce, in God's due time, the Lesser Peace, the political unification of the world. Mankind at that time can be likened to a body that is unified but without life. The second process, the task of breathing life into this unified body -- of creating true unity and spirituality culminating in the Most Great Peace -- is that of the Baha'is, who are labouring consciously, with detailed instructions and continuing Divine guidance, to erect the fabric of the Kingdom of God on earth, into which they call their fellow men, thus conferring upon them eternal life.</p> <p>(8 December 1967, pp. 131-34)</p>
29 July 1974	<p>The Lesser Peace and the Calamity.</p> <p>It is true that 'Abdu'l-Baha made statements regarding unity of nations in C20th (%th Candle/ PDC). Yet the Guardian said we don't know exact time, nor whether there will be future war or not. Do not worry, take heart, and focus on tasks of the hour.</p>
(19/1/ 1983 to an individual believer)	<p>As you are no doubt aware, the Guardian indicated that the development of mankind from its present chaotic condition to the stage of the Baha'i World Commonwealth would be a long and gradual one. The coming into existence of a World Authority and the initiation of the Lesser Peace, is one major transformation in this process, and will be followed by other stages of the development of the Faith as outlined by Shoghi Effendi in his writings. Undoubtedly, as these developments are taking place, the counsel the institutions of the Faith can give to governments, the pattern of world administration offered by the Baha'i community and the great humanitarian projects which will be launched under the aegis of the Universal House of Justice, will exercise a great influence on the course of progress.</p> <p>(19 January 1983 to an individual believer)</p>

31 January 1985  
to an individual  
believer

Baha'u'llah's principal mission in appearing at this time in human history is the realization of the oneness of mankind and the establishment of peace among the nations; therefore, all the forces which are focused on accomplishing these ends are influenced by His Revelation. We know, however, that peace will come in stages. First, there will come the Lesser Peace, when the unity of nations will be achieved, then gradually the Most Great Peace -- the spiritual as well as social and political unity of mankind, when the Baha'i World Commonwealth, operating in strict accordance with the laws and ordinances of the Most Holy Book of the Baha'i Revelation, will have been established through the efforts of the Baha'is.

As to the Lesser Peace, Shoghi Effendi has explained that "this will initially be a political unity arrived at by decision of the governments of various nations; it will not be established by direct action of the Baha'i community. This does not mean, however, that the Baha'is are standing aside and waiting for the Lesser Peace to come before they do something about the peace of mankind. Indeed, by promoting the principles of the Faith, which are indispensable to the maintenance of peace, and by fashioning the instruments of the Baha'i Administrative Order, which we are told by the beloved Guardian is the pattern for future society, the Baha'is are constantly engaged in laying the groundwork for a permanent peace, the Most Great Peace being their ultimate goal.

The Lesser Peace itself will pass through stages; at the initial stage the governments will act entirely on their own without the conscious involvement of the Faith; later on, in God's good time, the Faith will have a direct influence on it in ways indicated by Shoghi Effendi in his "The Goal of a New World Order". In connection with the steps that will lead to this latter stage, the Universal House of Justice will certainly determine what has to be done, in accordance with the guidance in the Writings, such as the passage you quoted from "Tablets of Baha'u'llah", page 89. In the meantime, the Baha'is will undoubtedly continue to do all in their power to promote the establishment of peace.

(31 January 1985 to an individual believer)