

GLOBAL CITIZENS

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- Even if we are legally national citizens, every other dimension of our lives underscores that we are, in fact, global citizens. Our genes, bodies, societies, economies, environment, possessions, civic life, religions are global.
- To shift our level of awareness from the ethnocentric to the geocentric, we must challenge ourselves to leave our comfort zone. Whatever narrow identity we were born into, it is time to step out of it and into the larger world. We can still cherish our own heritage, lineage, and culture, but we must liberate ourselves from the illusion that they are separate from everyone else's.
- "Jihad" roughly translates into "hard work" or "perseverance".
- Ultimately, the challenge of global citizenship involves building a bridge that connects "us" and "them".
- Four core skills:
 1. Witnessing: becoming aware of the lens through which we are viewing the world. To change our worldview, we first need to become conscious of having one.
 2. Learning
 3. Connecting
 4. Geo-partnering.
- Most of today's wars are civil wars, rooted in hatreds between competing groups that are defined by tribe, race, ethnicity, religion or ideology. The explosion of communal violence is the paramount issue facing the human rights movement today.
- As the twentieth century tragically illustrated, a unified nationalistic "we" can demonize and attack a foreign "them" and trigger world wars that leave civilization in ashes. Nationalism is an infantile disease, said Albert Einstein prophetically in 1934.
- Citizen 4.0 represent a wider level of civic awareness because it breaks "out of the box" of nationalism. Citizen 4.0s don't build bridges between cultures; they are bridges.
- Some specialists in global education even state as their goal to "prepare the next generation of students to embrace multiple loyalties".
- Citizens 1.0 can maintain singular loyalty to themselves.
- Citizens 2.0 must balance their self-interest against the interests of their group, clan, tribe, party, etc.
- Citizens 2.0 must subordinate self and group loyalty to the interest of their nation.
- Citizens 4.0 have loyalties to multiple cultures.
- Citizens 5.0 must integrate all of the above into their loyalty to the Earth and all living things.
- For those who allow themselves to feel the pain of the world, the burden can be traumatic. We have a lot to learn how to process all of the information that we receive in a way that enables the witness to move from being merely a receiver of information to becoming an active participant.
- The risk of information overload falls most heavily on the under-thirty generation in the developed world. Raised in the cell phone, global music, news, and Web culture, they have access to more information without leaving their at-home technology than exists in the most extensive libraries in the world. The advantage they have is that the data is abundant; the danger is that, in the over-abundance, they lose the ability to respond.

- The walls we human beings build are reflections of our identities. They symbolize our attachment to an identity that makes us want to keep “them separate from “us”. The practice of witnessing can help us avoid this fateful mistake. Witnessing enables us to stop projecting onto the world our simplistic, black and white images of Them and Us and start seeing the Technicolor reality.
- Since there are always external threats, the key to security is witnessing those threats accurately. If our hearing is weak, we cannot heed a warning. If our vision is blurred, we cannot identify the attacker. If we cannot witness, we are shooting in the dark.
- If we see parts, we will build walls; but if we can witness the whole, we will build bridges.
- Westerners tend to see separate individual objects (figure); Asians tend to see context and relationship (ground).
- If we want to see globally and think globally, then we must learn something that our own culture alone cannot teach us.
- All of us, no matter in what culture we were raised, inherit cultural, national and religious belief systems. Unless we unlearn them, we inevitably project these worldviews onto the world.
- I am a Buddhist practitioner, said the Dalai Lama in word which Thich Nhat Hanh would certainly affirm, but if I mix up my devotion for Buddhism with an attachment to it, my mind will be biased toward it. A biased mind never sees the complete picture, and any action that results will not be in tune with reality. This capacity for cross-boundary learning is essential for all of us today, whether we are world leaders or ordinary citizens. (It enables us to transcend the borders of our own identities and to learn from anyone, anywhere.)
- If you want to change your stereotypes, seek first-hand experience. Do not believe everything you are told. Find out for yourself. Talk with someone from France. Talk to a demonstrator, or an activist. Talk with people who you do not understand. Your stereotypes will change.
- Because most of us were trained inside cultural borders and taught that they were real, our minds are not free. The hallmark of this kind of learning is what one business leader in Bahrain called the three Rs: Read, Remember and Regurgitate. The challenge of global citizens is to unlearn the half truths that separate us and relearn the deeper truths that connect us.
- If we spend our entire lives learning inside the cultural and national borders in which we were raised, we develop a colonized mind. The more we learn inside these boundaries, the more certain we become that our interpretation of the world is correct. Such inside the box learning is relatively easy because its base is additive: it never requires that we question or let go of anything we have learned.
- To claim our global future, we have to re-examine our culturally limited education.
- One of the most difficult illusions to release is the comforting idea that our own nation is the greatest nation on Earth. By shifting from an arrogant perspective of being the greatest to being a valuable part of the larger whole, we can evolve beyond Citizen 3.0 toward a more inclusive identity.
- Decoding competing versions of the same event will emerge again and again. It is an inevitable part of living in a global village.
- Perhaps humility is the ultimate lesson of cross-boundary learning. Instead of puffing out our chest with pride about how much we do know, we bow our heads in reverence to what we do not.
- Cross-boundary learning is about deconstructing the boundaries so that we, like the astronauts, can see the essential unity of the whole.
- Citizen 1.0 – 3.0: Since I already know the truth, I will fit everything inside it.
- Citizen 4.0 – 5.0: I will witness the world as fully as I can in order to learn its deepest truths.
- Knowledge is like milk. It has a shelf life. Replace it or your career is going to turn sour.
- Trying to cope with the breakneck speed of change in a cyber-driven global economy, organizations and nations that play by the old rules are falling behind. The new rules of learning organizations –

moving beyond blame, avoiding symptomatic solutions, focusing on areas of high leverage, thinking systemically – are not a passing trend, but a fact of life.

- The ultimate challenge for global citizens is not merely to communicate, but to connect. The challenge of connecting is to build a bridge of trust across a divide in order that the two or more individuals or groups can work together more effectively.
- Any border that divides us can also be a border that connects us. But first we have to change our point of view.
- Skills that make connecting possible:
 1. asking questions that open up new possibilities,
 2. witnessing the multiple identities that make ourselves and others fully human,
 3. being willing to truly listen to others, even if we do not like what we hear,
 4. using communications media to find common ground, not to judge,
 5. having the discipline to meet with and listen to our enemies,
 6. responding to injustice by seeking reconciliation rather than revenge.
- When we fail to recognize the complexity of the Other, then the real Technicolor world becomes a black and white “you’re with us or against us” storyboard for a political fantasy.
- It is not enough for high-minded global citizens to preach love; we must also study hate. If we are to truly celebrate the light of the world, we must also face its darkness.
- Regardless of the type of political system, the people always can be brought to the bidding of the leaders. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the peacemakers for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in any country.
- Listening is rarely taught or studied because it is so profoundly undervalued. Nothing builds understanding and trust more reliably than listening. Nothing depletes trust more than failing to do so. How strange it is, then that we think of leadership more in terms of speaking brilliantly, not listening deeply.
- Ubuntu: recognizing the common humanity that transcends all differences. It embraces more than just what I am. It celebrates what we are.
- Interdependence will make us both stronger and will help us keep the peace.
- The only way humanity can forge a sustainable future is for human beings to partner together in new ways across the borders that divide us: in other words, to geo-partner.
- Partnerships are not about corporations deciding unilaterally whom to compensate with a gift for what they have taken from a country. They are about corporations witnessing, learning and connecting with local communities, and deciding together how their combined asset can benefit them both.
- Twenty ways to Raise our Global Intelligence.
 1. Be the change that you want to see in the world. (Internal change is a means to achieving external change.)
 2. Use both sides of your brain
 3. Remember that “one” comes before “two”. (Before we split into many, we were one.)
 4. Make sure your house has a door.
 5. Think like a minority.
 6. Increase your knowledge, including how to not-know.
 7. Test your worldview against the actual facts. (Let your experience challenge your mental map of the world. Continue to renew and revise your world view as long as your heart beats.)
 8. Know your enemy inside and out
 9. Transform stereotypes into relationships

10. Ask questions that stretch your mind
11. When the Earth speaks, listen.
12. Focus patiently on what works (Paying attention to what works can raise our GI as much as, if to more than, learning about what does not.)
13. Think both profits and values.
14. Do it across borders.
15. Travel far from – and close to – home.
16. Seek common ground
17. Speak more than one language (In addition to learning more than one culture-based language, we also need to learn to communicate with other belief-based languages.)
18. Learn to see through walls.
19. Explore the mysteries of the sacred.
20. Global citizens, unite!