

# Global Democracy is the Best Road



graphic: Bert Monterra

## Anatomy of Peace

Excerpt from the 1945 best seller  
Anatomy of Peace.

By Emery Reves

There is not the slightest hope that we can change the course into which we are rapidly being driven by the conflicting nation-states so long as we recognize them as the supreme and final expression of the sovereignty of the people. At ever-increasing speed we shall be

hurled toward greater insecurity, greater destruction, greater hatred, greater barbarism, greater misery, until we resolve to destroy the political system of nation-feudalism and establish a social order based on the sovereignty of the community by the founders of democracy and as it applies to the realities of today.

It is commonly taken for granted that we can never abolish war between nations, because war is in the nature of man. It is even more widely accepted that war has innumerable causes and that to try to abolish all of them would be a hopeless task. We must refuse to accept such basically deceptive statements to avoid becoming the helpless victims of this superstition. No one knows just what "human nature" is. Nor is this a relevant question. Assuming or even admitting that certain evils are part of "human nature," this does not mean that we should sit passively and refuse to investigate the conditions which cause the evils to become deadly and the possibility of avoiding their devastating effects.

Two clear and unmistakable observations emerge.

- Wars between groups of men forming social units always take place when these units — tribes, dynasties, churches, cities, nations — exercise unrestricted sovereign power.
- Wars between these social units cease the



moment sovereign power is transferred from them to a larger or higher unit.

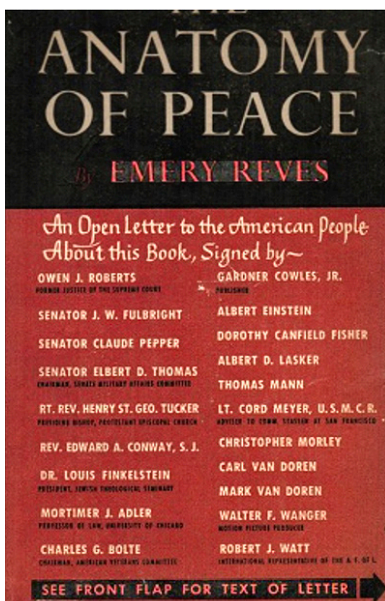
From these observations we can deduce a social law to explain each and every war in the history of all time. War takes place whenever and wherever non-integrated social units [nation-states] of equal sovereignty come into contact.

War between given social units of equal sovereignty is the permanent symptom of each successive phase of civilization. Wars always ceased when a higher unit established its own sovereignty, absorbing the sovereignties of the conflicting smaller social groups. After such transfers of sovereignty, a period of peace followed, which lasted only until the new social units came into contact. Then a new series of wars began.

Peace between fighting groups of men was never possible and wars succeeded one another until some sovereignty, some sovereign source of law, some sovereign power was set up over and above the clashing social units, integrating the warring units into a higher sovereignty.

Logical thinking and historical empiricism agree that there is a way to prevent wars between nations once and for all. There is one way and one way alone to achieve this end: the integration of the scattered conflicting national sovereignties into one unified, higher sovereignty, capable of creating a legal order within which all peoples may enjoy equal security, equal obligations and equal rights under law. Peace is order based on law. There is no other imaginable definition.

*Emery Reves was an internationally known author and publisher, as well as a close friend of Churchill and others. Twenty supporters of his book from Albert Einstein to Senator J.W. Fullbright signed an open letter to the American people declaring that we must establish a global democracy or "mankind is doomed." For full text of letter see <https://tinyurl.com/mtjeruwp>*



Emery Reves and Winston Churchill  
graphic: Hillsdale College Press