

Principles of Governance

World Peace

The Secret of Divine Civilization

Bahá'í Administration 14

World Peace

With war causing suffering and devastation for thousands of years, another important principle of governance explained by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in *The Secret of Divine Civilization* is the need today for World Peace.

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

('Abdu'l-Bahá (1875), [The Secret of Divine Civilization](#), p.67)

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True civilization will unfurl its banner in the midmost heart of the world whenever a certain number of its distinguished and high-minded sovereigns... shall, for the good and happiness of all mankind, arise... 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.

('Abdu'l-Bahá (1875), [The Secret of Divine Civilization](#), pp.63-64)

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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.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá (1875), [The Secret of Divine Civilization](#), pp. 63-64)

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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.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá (1875), [The Secret of Divine Civilization](#), pp. 63-64)

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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.

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