

BASIC IDEAS OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL CONCEPT OF PEACE

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INTRODUCTION

The object of this study is to analyse the basic ideas underlying the philosophical concept of peace as expressed by major philosophers, political and social thinkers as well as statesmen from antiquity to our time. The issue of peace is a very topical and crucial matter that now absorbs humanity. Reason dictates peace, which is, and normally should be, a natural state of mankind. Peace is then the principal preoccupation of every rational and compassionate person, because there is no other topic so deeply affecting the happiness both spiritual and temporal of mankind, as the problem of a genuine and just peace.¹

Peace may be generally defined as the existence of internal tranquillity within a State based upon the recognition, guarantee and strict observance of the individual and collective human rights of all peoples living therein, and normal relations among States, based upon mutual recognition and strict observance of the rights and vital interests of each other.² Accordingly, for peace to be genuine, just and lasting, several prerequisites must be satisfied so that such peace can be established, maintained and preserved in relations among peoples, nations and States.

Basic human rights, such as the right to life, right of living, freedom, freedom of religion, right to work, right to education, equality, freedom of expression, freedom of association, unrestricted freedom of movement within one's country and the right to leave and return to one's own country, must be recognized and guaranteed to all individuals and strictly observed by each State. Any kind of oppression, i.e., political, economic, ideological, or religious, either internal or external, of individual persons, or peoples must be forbidden by each State and strictly prohibited by every government.³

The right to self-determination need to be recognized, guaranteed and strictly implemented with respect to all peoples or nations by every State concerned. The occupation, subjugation or domination over other peoples, nations or States by foreign powers must be abolished. The disputes between States, which constitute a threat to international peace and are not capable of being solved by direct negotiations, good offices, mediation or conciliation must be submitted by the States involved to the International Court of Justice for their peaceful settlement.⁴ All these prerequisites must be satisfied for a peace to be genuine, just and durable.