

It doesn't happen, or hardly ever does it happen.

So that the mere fact of moving from a mostly dictatorial world to a mostly democratic world, which we have accomplished, in itself is liable to diminish steeply the scale and frequency of war, and I think that has happened.

If the world has changed like that, and is changing further in that direction now, what are the implications for foreign policy? Well, let me just offer you a couple of thoughts about the scale of change. I've been quoting examples before; now let me offer you some statistics. The world in 1980 had under one third of its people living in more or less democratic countries. Everybody else lived under dictatorships of one kind or another: communist dictatorships, right-wing military dictatorships all over Latin America, and so on. Only one third or slightly less of the world's people lived in more or less democratic countries, and I'm being pretty generous in my definition of democratic. (What's a more or less democratic country? It is a country more democratic than Joey Smallwood's Newfoundland.) Now, in 1998, by the same rough and ready criteria, over two thirds of the world's people live in more or less democratic countries. We've doubled it in less than two decades. And I don't think we're finished.

At the moment, two thirds, or 70 percent, of the world's people live in more or less democratic countries. But we only need two more countries, Indonesia and China, to get with the program and we're over 95 percent. I think we may see Indonesia do it this year. It could also get very messy in Indonesia, but I've been there recently and I've learned by now to trust the optimistic. You know, I went through the whole Russian experience waiting for blood to flow, I went through all of the South African thing waiting for blood to flow. Now I actually don't wait for blood to flow. I assume that quite likely they will get it right. So Indonesia perhaps a democracy by the end of the year. A shoddy, shaky one, but nevertheless, I think Suharto's had it.

And China. China will sort itself out. It's far too late to shut the door in China. Far too many people know what they want, know what the rest of the world is like, know how China could be. So I think we're heading for a world where almost everywhere is democratic. We're already in a world where over 80 percent of the members of the United Nations, just counting countries, are democratic regimes (which is, by the way, why the United Nations in the 1990s finally has begun to act in defence of democracy).

The UN certainly doesn't act in defence of democracy every time. But, for example, sending troops into Haiti to get rid of a military regime and institute a democracy is actually a violation of the UN charter, which is all about protecting sovereignty however the rulers of the particular country got power. But when you get a democratic majority in the UN, suddenly we change the rules, or at least we don't remember the rules, and we will go to defend democracy.