

is the key to real progress. Most of the "functional organizations" that help states groups and individuals to maintain and deepen these linkages have functioned relatively well, but even they have suffered at times from the fractiousness of the Cold War and thus can now be strengthened further.

One of the best examples is the European Community, that great experiment launched by Jean Monet and his colleagues essentially to render impossible war between the bellicose tribes of Western Europe, by knitting together their economies, societies, values and cultures. In spite of all the remaining chauvinisms and obstacles to integration, it is now inconceivable that the nations of Western Europe would go to war against each other. This is a striking victory for the integration of societies, and elements of the Western European experience are certainly very significant for their applicability to other regions and to the wider world.

In that wider world, the issue of economic opportunity must certainly be recognized as one key element, and it is worth noting that even when the primary concern is security in its traditional sense, the outcome of the GATT talks in Geneva may well prove to be the most crucial determinant of how much world order will progress in the next decade. The agricultural subsidies issue – the most down-to-earth kind of political, economic and social problem – will provide the proof of whether or not the industrialized countries will abide by some fundamental, sensible laws of economics or whether they will continue to use governmental power in a protectionist way to try and advance narrow national or regional interests. If leaders now fail to maintain the basis of an open international trading system between Western Europe, North America, and Japan, by definition they will also be failing to open that system to all the other countries of the world who ask only for a chance to compete on a fair basis. And the agricultural subsidies issue is of the essence for developing countries. If the Western countries, which shape the system, cannot even provide a modicum of fair opportunity for trade (under their own Western rules) in those sectors critical to developing countries, how can the developing countries fail to be institutionally alienated from the system? They will be forced to conclude that the rules are stacked against them – that these in fact are not their rules, that if this is order, it is not their order.