

SOAR Curricular Material #18

International Unity (April 1919—Editorial—Original Version)

For the past few months, all the prominent newspapers and periodicals have contained such a wealth of information, as well as speculation, on world-wide affairs, that *members of the Editorial Staff of the Comenian have thus far been rather disinclined to express their views on the subject in a direct form*. But this does not mean that a consideration of these problems has been neglected. Neither space nor desire permits a detailed compilation of arguments either for or against International Unity. The average man does not wish for war. All people except mercenary fighters devoutly hope for a lasting peace. Then the question arises—*if this is true why can it not be had?* Waiving aside all disputes as to territorial division and race problems, important as they undoubtedly are, and viewing the fundamental principle on which the solution of all these questions rests, the answer can be readily seen. **Human nature**¹ is at the bottom of all these discussions, and the attempt at International Unity is only another vain endeavor to disprove the old saying—“You can’t change Human Nature.” As long as his Satanic Majesty roams abroad and there is rivalry between the forces of good and evil, lasting peace is impossible. It is just as foolish to think that small boys will not fight over a game of marbles, as to try to establish relationships that will keep “big boys” from resorting to force in order to settle disputes arising from conflicting interests. There is only one power on earth that can change human nature, which does not really change but only controls it. That power is religion, and until it becomes more dynamic, International Unity must remain an ideal.

~~W.H.A.

International Unity (April 1919—Editorial—Adapted Version)

For the past few months, the most well-known newspapers and periodicals have discussed and speculated a wealth of information on world-wide affairs, which members of the editorial staff of the *Comenian* have not spoken much about in their pieces. However, this does not mean that a consideration of these problems has been neglected. Neither space nor desire allows for arguments either for or against International Unity. The average man does not wish for war. All people except mercenary fighters devoutly hope for a lasting peace. However, if this statement is true, why can’t peace be achieved? Aside from territorial and race problems, there is a fundamental principle on which the solution to this problem of peace rests---that principle is human nature. The idea of International Unity is just another hopeless attempt to try to change human nature. As long as Human nature remains the same, lasting peace is impossible. It is just as foolish to believe that young boys will not fight while playing a game of marbles, or that through establishing relationships with one another “big boys” will not resort to using force to settle their problems. Religion is the only thing that can control human nature, but international unity must remain an ideal on earth if world peace is to ever be accomplished.

¹ **Human Nature (sociology)**—(n.) refers to the ways of thinking, feeling, and acting that are common to most people (Merriam-Webster definition)

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Primary Source Document Analysis Worksheet

- 1) What is the main idea of this article?
- 2) Summarize the document's main points or supporting arguments.
- 3) "*Members of the Editorial Staff of the Comenian have thus far been rather disinclined to express their views on the subject in a direct form*" Why do you believe this is the case?
- 4) What is the purpose of this article? What evidence in the document helps you know why it was written? Quote from the document.
- 5) What does the document tell you about life in the United States at the time it was written?
- 6) The author states, "*All people except mercenary fighters devoutly hope for a lasting peace... If this is true why can [peace] not be had?*" Provide your own response to this answer. Use textual evidence to support your answer when necessary. **(3-5 sentences)**