

ALFRED HERMANN FRIED (1864-1921):
TRANSITIONING TO WORLD ORDER

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Precedents can become a powerful means for peaceful change. Europe has been known not only for its wars but also for its many peace plans and key developments in international law. The Age of Enlightenment provided an impetus that eventually resulted in the Hague Peace Conferences in 1899 and 1907, which were the first universal Congresses attempting to abolish war as an institution. The two main objectives of the Hague Peace Conferences were disarmament and the creation of an international court with binding powers. Governments had realised that it was not possible to disarm into a vacuum, and that a legal system to deal with international disputes was required. While governments were debating the issues and possibilities for peaceful change and disarmament, activist scholars like Alfred Hermann Fried contributed to creating a public awareness that reflected and supported both the diplomats' and the general public's opposition to war.

“The world has become smaller, human beings bigger and more all-round. We have become citizens of the world, real world citizens.”

—Alfred H. Fried, *Handbuch der Friedensbewegung*, 1905¹

“The largest and most serious question which can be asked today is, how much farther is the militarism of the civilized world to go? . . . Are China and Japan to climb to the war-level—perhaps it would be more true to say descend to the war-level—of England, France, Germany