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# John Fonte: Sovereignty or Submission: Will Americans Rule Themselves or Be Ruled by Others? Study Guide, 2012

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**JOHN FONTE: SOVEREIGNTY OR SUBMISSION:  
Will Americans Rule Themselves or Be Ruled by Others?  
STUDY GUIDE, 2012  
Steven Alan Samson**

**FOREWORD: GLOBAL GOVERNANCE v DEMOCRATIC SOVEREIGNTY, John O' Sullivan**

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/magazine/issue/2012/3/global-governance-v-democratic-sovereignty>

**Outline**

- A. JOHN FONTE: SCHOLARLY DEFENDER OF DEMOCRATIC SOVEREIGNTY (ix-x)
  - 1. Peter Spiro
  - 2. Ideology of Global Governance [what Russell Kirk called "globaloney"]
    - a. It is now the prevailing orthodoxy
  - 3. There Is Little Organized Opposition
  - 4. The Book Is a Major Counterblast from the Sovereigntist Side of the Debate
    - a. Disturbingly familiar paradox: a lone voice speaking out on behalf of multitudes [cf. Edmund Burke, Calvin Coolidge, and Ronald Reagan]
    - b. The ideas and institutions built on democratic sovereignty reflect the beliefs of the overwhelming majority
    - c. Most people would oppose any open attempt to replace their democracies with another system [how this has been accomplished is the subject of such books as Erik von Kuehnelt-Leddihn's *Leftism* and Ralph de Toledano's *Cry Havoc!*]
- B. GLOBAL GOVERNANCE: THE OTHER SYSTEM (x-xiii)
  - 1. How It Differs from the Existing International System
    - a. In liberal democracies, legitimacy flows upwards from the voters in elections through sovereign governments
    - b. Under global governance, legitimacy flows from post-national elites in transnational institutions
    - c. So-called "pooling" of sovereignty
      - 1) Voters have no say
      - 2) The elites exercise sovereign power
  - 2. Ideology of Transnational Elites
    - a. Imposed on liberal democracies by covert means
      - 1) Its voice is loud in academic seminars
      - 2) It is muffled in political debates and the media
    - b. Treaties and covenants are negotiated in pleasant foreign cities
      - 1) They are rarely openly crafted and publicly debated
  - 3. These Global Treaties Carry Irreproachable Titles
    - a. They are subject to extravagant reinterpretation [the strategy pioneered by Fabian Socialists and American Progressives]
    - b. Monitoring and enforcement mechanisms transfer authority
    - c. intrusion into domestic policies
    - d. Major impetus behind global governance: Insulation of elites against defeat
  - 4. Political Twilight Zone
    - a. Where the maneuvering by NGOs, lobbyists, and pressure groups takes place
    - b. Examples:
      - 1) UN committee's attack on the First Amendment, 2001
        - a) Thwarted in part by American use of reservations

- 2) Promotion of day care centers
  - a) Complaint by UN monitors that most Slovenian children are not in day care centers
- 3) UN objections to detention of illegal immigrants
- 5. Such Intrusions into Domestic Politics Are Catnip for the Tabloid Press [and Bloggers]
- 6. Soft Soap of Global Governance Eventually Fails to Soothe
- C. EARLY OPPONENTS OF REVOLUTIONS ARE OFTEN DISDAINED BY THEIR NATURAL ALLIES (xiii-xv)
  - 1. The Case of Edmund Burke
    - a. His analysis of the French Revolution's early phases was profound and prescient
  - 2. Fonte and Other Democratic Sovereignists Find Themselves in the Same Position
    - a. Global governance needs a good deal of explaining
    - b. It deceitfully presents itself as the fulfillment of liberalism rather than its negation
  - 3. Fonte's Early Analysis of the Transnational Progressive
    - a. First half of the book is a tour of four centuries of political theory
    - b. The practical difference between the exercise and the surrender of sovereignty
      - 1) Transnationalism first imprisons then eliminates the nation-state in a euthanasia of regulations [cf. Gary North's "EUthanasia"]  
<http://www.lewrockwell.com/north/north381.html>
  - 4. The Logic of Global Governance Leads to a Massive, Remote, Undemocratic Leviathan
    - a. European Union: A bird of the same feather
      - 1) Walter Russell Mead [cf. his series of essays on the Blue State Model]
    - b. Two additional dangers revealed by the Euro crisis
      - 1) Unchecked foolishness in the absence of democratic accountability
      - 2) Failure is no restraint [in fact, it reinforces the need for such policies]
    - c. EU's Common Agricultural Policy
      - 1) Folly can be maintained for a long time [but is eventually term limited: cf. Roger Kimball, [The EU: Steady on Its Course from Tragedy to Farce](#)]
    - d. As Jonathan Swift might observe: Global governance would risk repeating such failures on a world scale and at Brobdingnagian expense
- D. FOUR IDEOLOGICAL CONTENDERS FOR THE TITLE OF DOMINANT POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (xv-xvi)
  - 1. Democratic or "Philadelphian Sovereignty" [the word itself is not used in the Constitution]
    - a. Unfortunately, post-Soviet East Europe soon found itself in a halfway house of global governance [Vladimir Bukovsky and Pavel Stroilov tell part of the story in *EUSSR*; Stroilov's subsequent articles also draw on Soviet archives]
  - 2. Radical Islam and
  - 3. Sovereign Authoritarianism [Charles Hill's *Trial of a Thousand Years* shows both to be a continuing challenge]
  - 4. Global Governance
    - a. Like Marxism, it is a great internal challenge [Philip Bobbitt's *Shield of Achilles* identifies three contenders: liberal democracy, communism, and fascism]
- E. RESULT: A COMPLICATED INTELLECTUAL QUADRILLE (xvi-xvii)
  - 1. Lawfare
  - 2. The Utopian Vision Is Unlikely to Succeed
    - a. A danger that it will attain Gramsci's "ideological hegemony" [cf. Toledano]
    - b. Disabling and disarming the democratic state
  - 3. Slow-Motion Suicide of Democratic Nation-States [cf. James Burnham's *Suicide of the West*]
    - a. National judges are among the chief facilitators [cf. Rick Scarborough's *Confronting the Judicial War on Faith* conference, 2005]
    - b. Popular rebellion against unaccountable power structures in Europe
  - 4. One Potentially Decisive Advantage of the Global Skeptics
    - a. Global governance is the ideology that dares not speak its name
      - 1) It has to dissemble constantly
    - b. Fonte removes the veils of circumlocution that surround the sovereignty issue