

INSTITUT FÜR POLITISCHE WISSENSCHAFT

AN DER UNIVERSITÄT HEIDELBERG

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The decisive new vistas of our time are three:

First, that mankind is at last one in full consciousness of its multiplicity of beliefs,

Second, that mankind's continued survival and growth is placed in jeopardy by recent advances in technology, especially nuclear weapons, and

Third, that the unprecedented polarization of power in and conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union raises the spectre of a world-wide civil war.

If this letter is ever opened, it will mean that the year 2008 arrived with civilization in tact. It would mean that the regenerative forces were strong enough to overcome the destructive possibilities of the three novel factors suggested. I presume that this happened, because in lieu of the power polarity of the United States and the Soviet Union a plural system of great cultural bodies politic came into being, that effective agreements were developed for the discontinuance of nuclear weapons development, and that a common bond of faith in the future, an effective panhumanism was created in the fifty years which must elapse between now and then.

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