

*You and the
United Nations*



Written and illustrated by LOIS FISHER

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UNITED NATIONS

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Childrens Press, Inc. Chicago

Childrens Press expresses gratitude to
Mrs. Harriet Thomas, Educational Director,
American Association for The United Nations, Inc.,
for her help in editing this book.

T. J. F. and R. E.

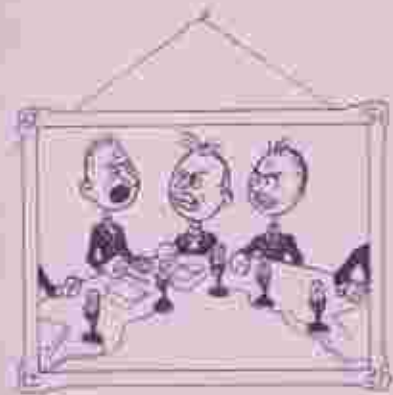
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If you move back far enough, you get perspective.



It looks like a fight.



THE WORLD
IN ACTION



It was,



They talked the same language but, even so, it took them thirteen years to weld the United States into one nation under the constitution, 1776-1789.

The nations of the world can follow the example of the thirteen quarrelling colonies. It will take the long-sighted faith of leaders like Washington, Jefferson, and Madison.

And it will take time.



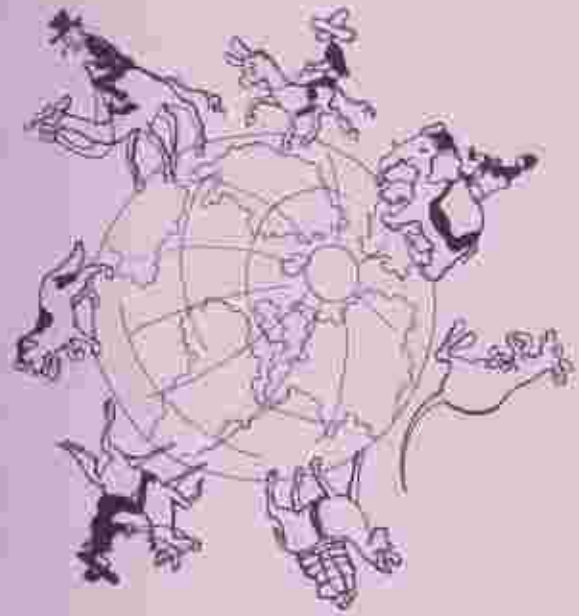
Once upon a time there were many different peoples, separated by little fences. These fences were made up of mountains, rivers, oceans, jungles, deserts.



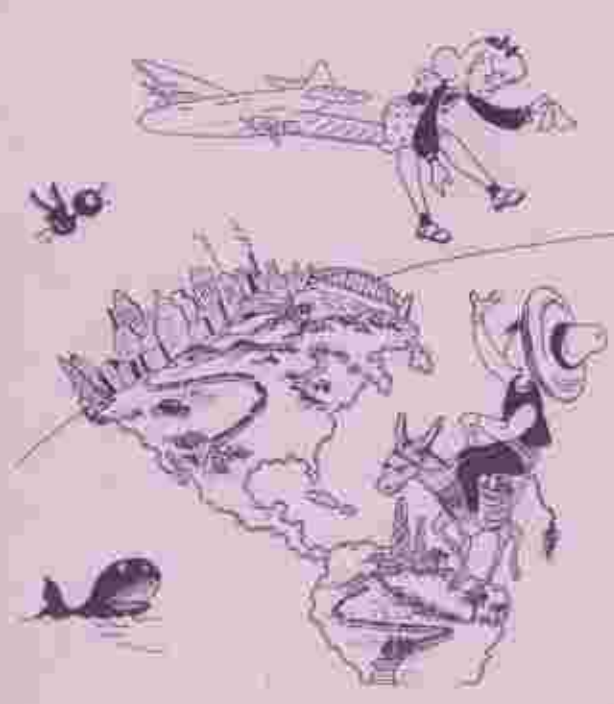
The fences were pulled together with prejudice, ignorance, and fear. Each nation thought it was the most important.



Because of fences, distance, and differences in language, nations had little to do with each other.



It was not easy for people to get together. For thousands and thousands of years, animals were about the only ways of travel and carrying things long distances.



Then suddenly, in the short space of our own century, airplanes, radios, movies, and jet made all people neighbors.





He sat still at 12 The Terrace



got up and got to New York



waited in London



sat in Paris



ski in the Alps in the afternoon



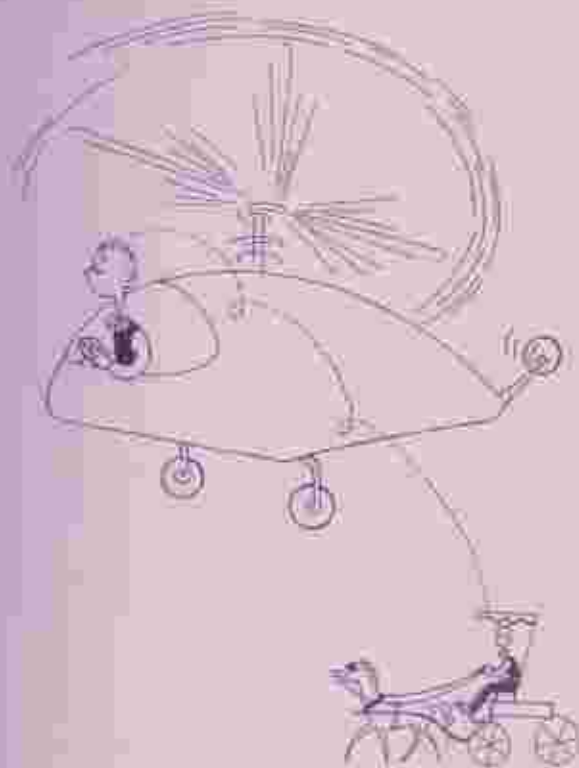
dance in Spain that night



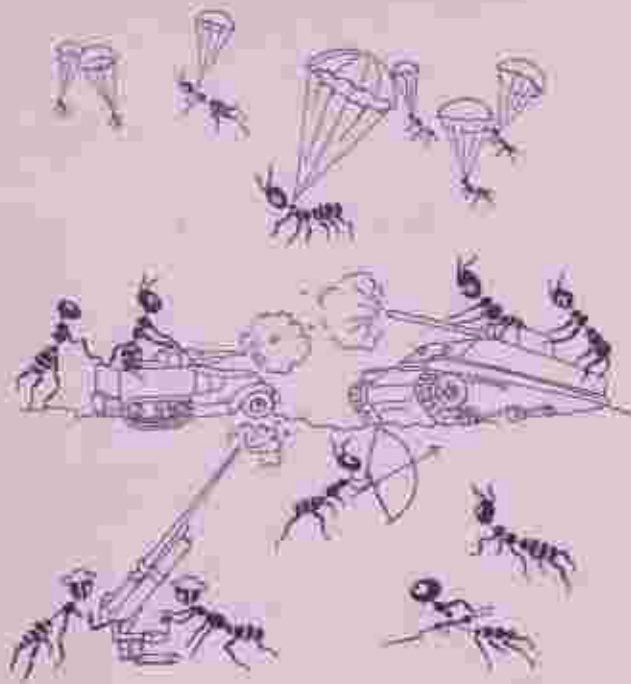
take a morning dip in the sea



and go to bed the next night in Rome Africa



Actually we are living and moving in one world. But this has all happened so fast that our minds have not kept pace

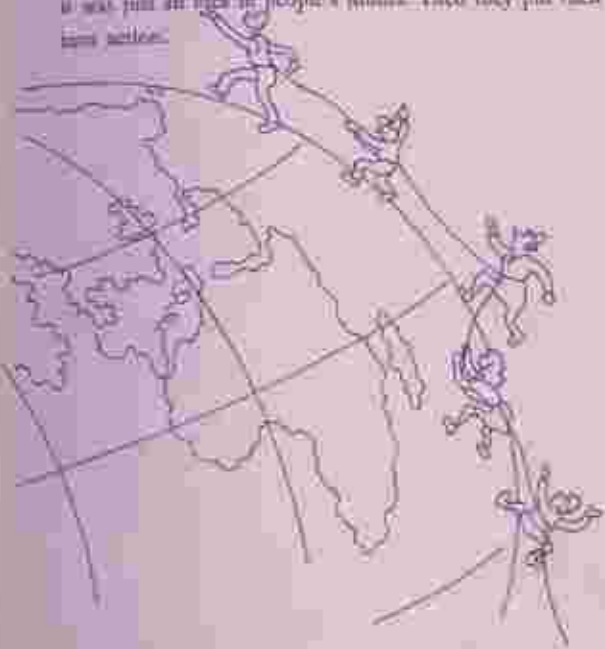


Of all living things, men and ants are the only ones who go in for organized destruction of their own kind. Ants will continue to practice the art of war.

But men have the power of reason. Men should know enough to fight their real enemies—ignorance, hunger, disease. It is plain silly to fight each other.



People began to think seriously about how they could live together as world citizens, and that is how the United Nations began. First it was just an idea in people's minds. Then they put their thoughts into action.



UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations is an international organization through which nations may expect to promote peace.

The United Nations wants people all over the world to get into the habit of working together. At the same time, it strives to wipe out the causes of war. Within four short years, from the time this idea was conceived, almost every nation in the world had applied for membership.

Our own constitution was amended every time to make it a working model. The United Nations, too, can be changed.

As Bob Hope has said:

Some people say this will always be UN-organized business, that nations will always be like small boys around a watermelon - but every summer wants to eat out their own, and the United Nations is the only man to get left. You know, if American kids had been friendly and willing to give as well as take, we might never have wound up a parcel of time. We might've wound up all little nations. This amount of all things there's no overnight thing and it won't stay. No, we do it small, but I think I've had to give a lot, take a lot, and learn a lot to believe a World Peace. Let's try to do as much to achieve a United Nations.

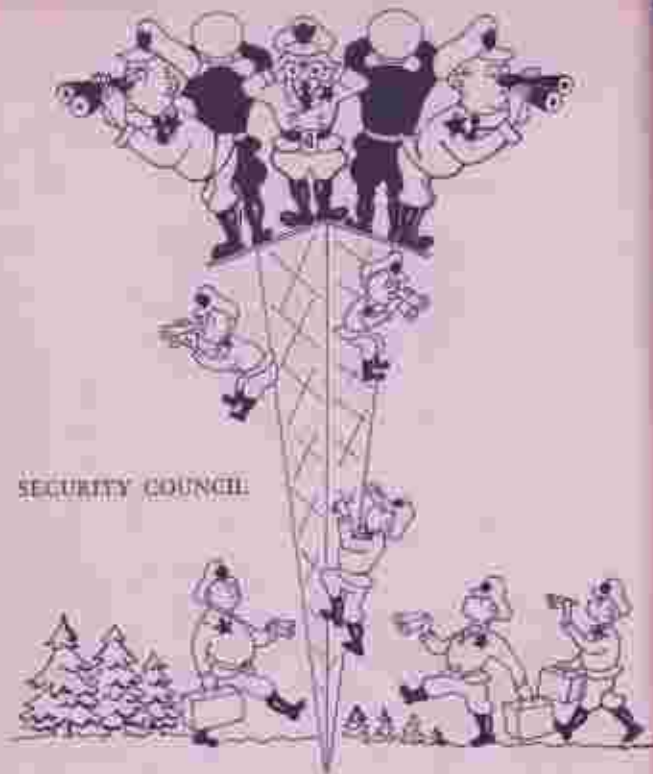
Quoted in *Highways of History*, page 400-401

The United Nations has six main parts.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the most meeting of the world. It meets once a year. Each nation, regardless of size, has one vote although it may send five delegates. In this meeting the nations talk about world problems and come to a general agreement as to what should be done. Their discussions are based upon public opinion.



SECURITY COUNCIL

The Security Council is on the job all the time. The eleven members serve like coordinators, first sergeants and policemen. They spot trouble before it sets the world on fire. There are five permanent members: United States, Great Britain, China, France, and Russia. There are six non-permanent members. These are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms.

The eleven members act on the behalf of all the United Nations.



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Fifteen justices are elected by the General Assembly for nine-year terms. They handle disputes that can be taken care of by judicial procedure, such as: interpretation of treaties or disputes over boundaries.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



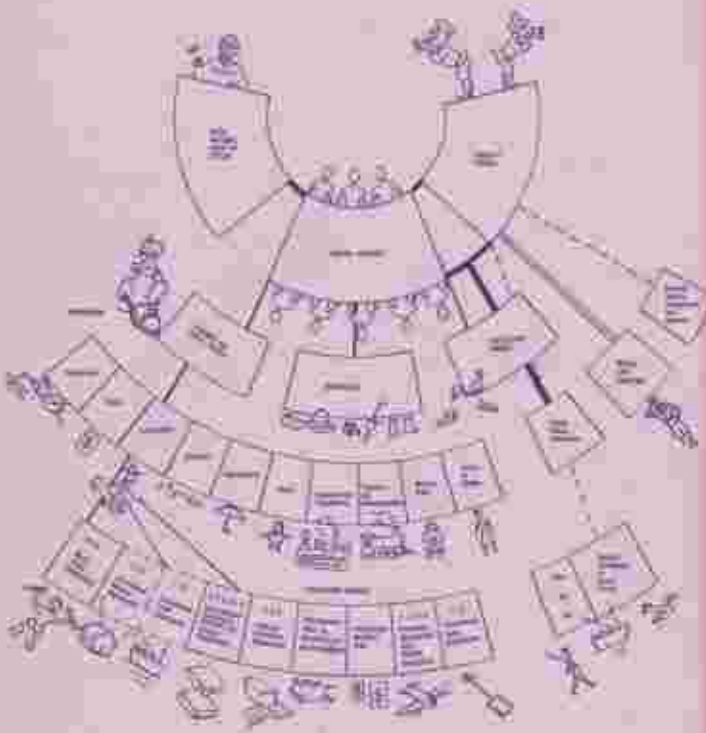
Concerned people don't want to fight. This council promotes better living standards among all peoples. She's like the Old Woman who lived in a shoe and had so many children. But she does know what to do. Like a modern mother, she's sincerely interested in her children's well being. The Council has many commissions which work on such problems as unemployment, care of children, freedom of the press, etc. One commission co-ordinates all Specialized Agencies.

One commission co-ordinates all Specialized Agencies



Some jobs need special organizations to work them out. War-torn countries need loans, people driven from their homes need to be sent back or placed in new homes, and many countries need to know how to raise more and better food.

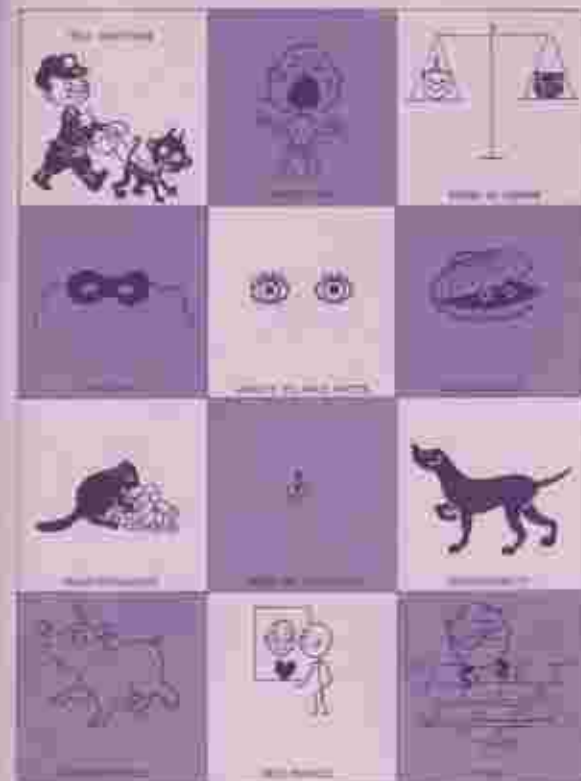
UNITED NATIONS



Power is made in the mind of men. What is your mental attitude regarding our first big step toward world harmony? Are you helping to make it a success? Do you realize what great effect your own thinking has on your neighbor, your country, and your world?

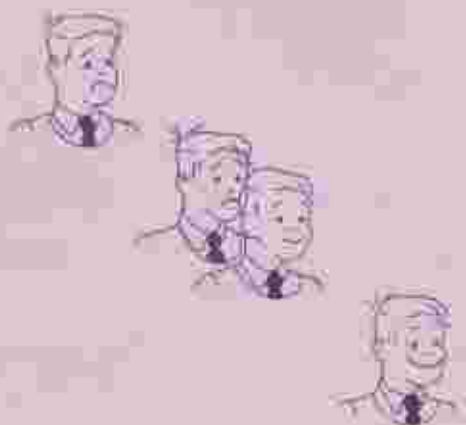


Every personality is like a chessboard. The chessmen are assorted good and bad moods, impulses, traits, emotions. The good and the bad in your personality play against each other.

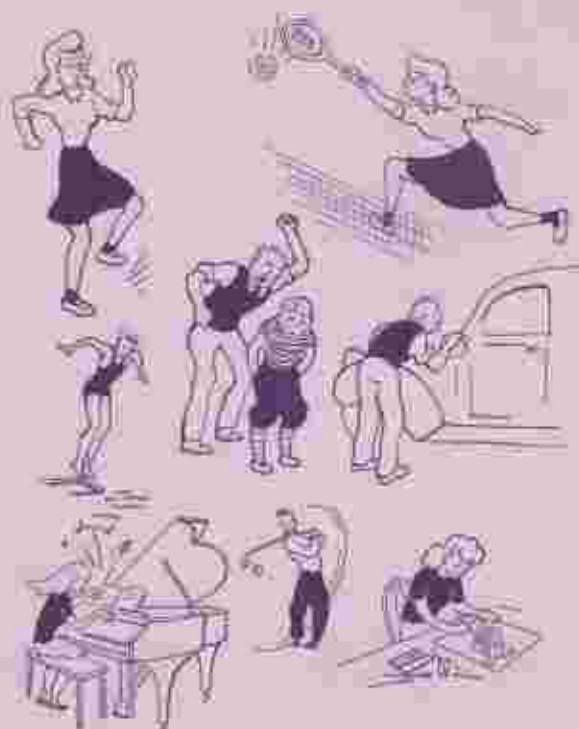


You also decide what, why, and what moves to make and which players—the good or the bad—will win. The challenging chess game goes on all your life.

You can control your affairs more easily than you can control your emotions. Try this experiment. When you feel blue, or happy, for a while you'll be feeling not very, angry, neither. But before long, some will persuade feeling to its point of view. Try it and see.



How do you behave when you feel angry? Have (perhaps, with your little brother, scold yourself? You must express it, and some sort of physical action helps. But don't waste your energy. Get rid of your anger symbolically. Play golf, tennis, or swim. Wash the car, or cut the grass. Play a tune or draw a picture. You must then be at peace with yourself and your little brother before your thinking is big enough and clear enough to be a part of a world-wide movement toward peace.





Think for yourself. Learn to interpret the true meaning behind the words you read. Don't be like the Home Economics student who did her homework in the refrigerator, just because the cookbook said, "Mix ingredients, then set in a cool place."



Express yourself, but keep an open mind. Listen to what your neighbor has to say. There may be some way you can get together....



UNITED WORLD IN ACTION



WAITING

Every nation and every individual, little or big, has an important part to play, without which the whole harmony would be incomplete.



LINE

You, as an individual, have dignity and worth.

You also have responsibility.

The peace and security of the world depend on how you think,
what you say, and how you act.