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A CONVERSATION ON GLOBAL ISSUES WITH DAVID IGNATIUS AND FAREED ZAKARIA



BILL EMMOTT

Great Britain

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Replace G8 with G20

London, England -- The rich industrialised countries -- supposed democracies -- meeting in St. Petersburg are either incapable or unwilling to implement solutions likely to matter. There is one proposal, however, they ought to discuss that could make a difference: Abolish the G8 itself and create a properly representative body instead.

But surely, you might object, those eight countries are the world's big shots? Not really. Think of any issue they might want to discuss. Israel-Palestine? Though the eight matter in the conflict, none of the big frontline states in the Middle East is there: not Saudi Arabia, not Egypt. Nuclear energy and weapons proliferation? You'd need India and China present for a serious discussion of that. North Korea? You'd need China, of course. Capital flows, the world economy, energy security? Again, you'd need China, India and Saudi Arabia at the very least. Environment, climate change? I rest my case.

Some of those countries do send their leaders to the G8 meetings these days, but they are not party to the full discussions; they are there essentially for bilaterals, banquets and photo opportunities. This needs to change, and urgently. The world is changing, with power more dispersed as emerging countries well, ahem, emerge, and as more of those countries play a crucial part in global issues.

So here is the agenda item for the G8: Abandon these costly annual charades and replace them with a larger, broader grouping that has to be the G20 or so. It will be unwieldy and will find it hard to make decisions. Sounds just like the G8. At least G20 will involve everyone that matters.

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POSTED BY [BILL EMMOTT](#) ON JULY 17, 2006 12:30 PM

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ARIF:

G8 is not a problem solver for the world. oppositely, it may cause problems or crisis for the rest of the planet. G8 is a compromising mechanism for the crossing benefits or actions of those brothers. only the benefits! in that manner I think Palestinians or Sudanians do not bother G8. therefore, they do not need extra problem producing brothers.

JULY 18, 2006 7:49 AM | [REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENTS](#)

JOEL E.:

At this point the folks in the United States Government have told us we have to have the global economy. There hasn't been much on explaining at all... just it is this-a-way, do it. Umm Humm.

As time goes by, and facets of the current 'globalization' continue, we discover 'globalization' means the various business move away and find a cheap place to produce the goods, and then export them from say, Mexico back to the United States, and make a much better profit as American Citizens .. and they do own this country... take a beating.

And as we look at the processes, the economists, seeking stable conditions in X country seem to be making decisions which are not particularly good for MY country. And I most certainly didn't vote for that 'global' economist, or his ideas.

I think the United States should pull out of the 'global' economy until this nation develops a national ballot initiative that would enable the people to make decisions about their future that will be applied

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An Irishman's America

Amar C. Bakshi » As a child, checks from America financed his abusive father's alcoholism. Yet he idolized JFK and today sits in Trafalgar Square hoping to chat with American strangers.



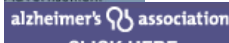
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directly to the processes. As it stand, a whole lot of people are saying gimme, gimme in our processes, and I am very sure I don't want our nations heavy manufacturing processes in direct competition with the lowest bidder who uses slave labor. No I sure don't like that at all!

MARCH 8, 2007 10:14 AM | [REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENTS](#)

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