

Popper's Open Society: Crush the nation-state

George Soros loves to boast that he is the protégé of Oxford's Aristotelian Society head, Sir Karl Popper, even naming his Open Society Institutes after Popper's infamous 1942 book, The Open Society and Its Enemies (New York: Harper Torch Books/The Academy Library, 1963), from which we excerpt here. Popper assailed the very notion of man in the living image of God, and savaged Plato for daring to suggest that man could craft republican institutions, wedding the best interests of the individual citizen with those of the state. It should come as no surprise that Soros's operations throughout the world are aimed at destroying the pillars of national institutions.

The attempt to find some "natural" boundaries for states, and accordingly, to look upon the state as a "natural unit," leads to the principle of the national state and to the romantic fictions of nationalism, racialism, and tribalism. But this principle is not "natural." . . . Here, if anywhere, we should learn from history; for since the dawn of history, men have been continually mixed, unified, broken up and mixed again; and this cannot be undone, even if it were desirable.

. . . The complete renunciation of the principle of the nation-state (a principle which owes its popularity solely to the fact that it appeals to tribal instincts and that it is the cheapest and surest method by which a politician who has nothing better to offer can make his way), and the recognition of the necessarily conventional demarcation of all states, together with the further insight that human individuals and not states or nations must be the ultimate concern even of international organizations, will help us to realize clearly, and to get over, the difficulties arising from the breakdown of our fundamental analogy. . . .

It seems to me that the remark that human individuals must be recognized to be the ultimate concern not only of international organizations, but of all politics, international as well as "national" or parochial, has important applications. We must realize that we can treat individuals fairly, even if we decide to break up the power-organization of an aggressive state or "nation" to which these individuals belong. It is a widely held prejudice that the destruction and control of the military, political and even of the economic power of a state or "nation" implies misery or subjugation for its individual citizens. But this prejudice is as unwarranted as it is dangerous.

It is unwarranted provided that an international organization protects the citizens of the thus-weakened state against exploitation of their political and military weakness.

longtime public advocate of total legalization of harmful drugs. In a Nov. 17, 1991 interview with the *Washington Times*, Friedman stated: "There's overwhelming evidence the war on drugs is doing more harm than good." The anti-drug war has been a "failure because it's a socialist enterprise," and should be "eliminated." The government, Friedman added, "has no business telling me what to ingest."

U.S. District Court Judge **Robert Sweet**, a New York federal judge who, in December 1989, came out publicly advocating the total legalization of possession and sales of all illegal drugs.

Dr. Thomas Szasz, like Soros, a protégé of Oxford University's Sir Karl Popper, a practicing psychiatrist, and the self-help guru of the libertarian right-wing.

Nicholas Pastore, police chief of New Haven, Connecticut, who launched some of the earliest needle exchange programs in the country—dispatching police to hand out hypodermic needles to known heroin addicts—and publicly pushed for drug legalization.

R. Keith Stroup, one of the earliest lobbyists for dope legalization, founder of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

Michael Michaelson, an attorney with the prestigious Washington law firm, Covington and Burling, who also pushed for "medical marijuana" to be accepted by the courts.

Ethan Nadelmann, former Princeton University professor, now the director of Soros's Lindesmith Center, longtime legalization advocate. Former Secretary of State George Shultz identified Nadelmann as the person who recruited him to the dope legalization crusade.

Joseph D. McNamara, now with the Hoover Institution, former police chief of Kansas City, Missouri and San Jose, California.

Hugh Downs, television news anchor, host of the ABC News broadcast "20/20," and a long-standing peddler of drug legalization.

Thomas Frazier, commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department, under Mayor Kurt Schmoke.

Frank Jordan, ex-San Francisco mayor, and a 34-year veteran of the San Francisco Police Department.

James P. Gray, Orange County, California judge and open advocate of government-regulated legalized drugs.

Herbert M. Klein, Associate Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court in Dade County (Miami), Florida.