

citizen of the groups to which we belong. Our only choice concerns the quality displayed in the exercise of citizenship.

Fourth, note a very important fact illustrated by the example of cars and energy. This is the fact that in large-scale groups like societies the mechanism that links an individual's decisions, judgments, and actions to public affairs are aggregative processes. For example, the future supply and price of energy is not a direct result of the decisions made by any one person or even any one organization. Availability and price are rather a cumulative consequence of aggregating the energy-related decisions and actions of millions of people. This is an important point in understanding the character of citizenship in the contemporary world, and I will return to it again.

Fifth, I should note what I mean by public affairs. Public affairs involve the creation and distribution within social groups of such human values as wealth, security, respect, health, power, affection, and enlightenment. For example, a child counseling his or her classmates that it is not right to ridicule a fellow classmate who stutters is linked to the public affairs of the classroom. The child is involved in the public affairs of the classroom precisely in the sense the term is defined above. The child's actions are helping to determine how widely the values of respect and affection are shared (distributed) among members of the class. This child is also linked to the public affairs of a much larger community through the process of aggregation referred to above. The amount of respect enjoyed by so-called handicapped people in the society is a function of the aggregated actions taken by millions of individuals as they relate to handicapped people in the course of their everyday lives.

Let's look at another example: An

individual walking on a public street who observes an assault and does nothing to either aid the victim or alert the public authorities is linked to the public affairs of the community since this inaction affects both directly and systemically the distribution of an important human value; namely, security from violence. The direct and immediate consequence of the inaction is obvious; the victim is left unaided. But the indirect or systemic effects are no less important. One individual's inaction enhances the probability that other individuals will also not take action in the face of assaults they observe. As the frequency of inaction increases, it is likely that the frequency of assaults will also increase, and hence the level of security enjoyed by all members of the community declines.

In summary, let me recapitulate the main features of the conception of citizenship I have just outlined. Citizenship, I have said, refers to decisions, judgments, and actions through which individuals link themselves to the public affairs of the various groups of which they are members. In the case of small, face-to-face groups the links between an individual and the group's public affairs are often direct and immediate. In the case of large impersonal collectivities, it is aggregative processes that link individuals to the public affairs of large groups.

Citizenship may be self-conscious and deliberate or unknowing and inadvertent, but in any case individuals cannot escape from their citizenship in the network of human groups that make up their social universe. Knowingly or unknowingly, each of us makes decisions, reaches judgments, and takes actions that personally or systemically involve us in the shaping and sharing of human values in social contexts that range in size, intimacy, and complexity from families to large, remote, and complicated collectivities such as the city of

Chicago, the state of Illinois, and the United States of America.

### **THE EFFECT ON CITIZENSHIP OF THE ADVENT OF A GLOBAL AGE**

Having discussed the meaning of citizenship let me now turn to this question: How has the advent of a global era affected, altered, or otherwise influenced citizenship? I think we can identify four interrelated ways in which citizenship is being altered by the progressive globalization of the human condition.

**1.** The scale of sociability has been expanded beyond the boundaries of traditional human groups to encompass the whole of humankind. Whether for good or ill, it is a fact that our planet and our species have been progressively transformed into a world system, and hence by virtue of living in the twentieth century individuals are members of a global society.

**2.** Growing involvement in the world system increases the number of occasions in which individuals make decisions that are influenced by and in turn influence the public affairs of global society.

**3.** Growing involvement in the world system increases the number of occasions in which individuals reach judgments about matters, issues, and problems central to the public affairs of global society.

**4.** Growing involvement in the world system increases the number of occasions in which individuals must seek to influence the public affairs of global society in order to protect and further values and interests important to them.

Each of these changes in the character of citizenship is a historic fact. We may become aware of these facts or we may remain unaware of them; we can greet them with approval or disapproval; embrace them enthusiastically or admit them reluctantly; see in them a promise