

FOUR ALLEGED OBSTACLES TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE,
AND ANSWERS THERETO BY ANDREW
CARNEGIE, PRESIDENT NEW YORK PEACE
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“Our Peace Congress has brought four objections clearly before us.

“First—Nations cannot submit all questions to arbitration.

“Answer—Six of them have recently done so by treaty—Denmark and the Netherlands, Chili and Argentina, Norway and Sweden.

“(Note.—Since Norway has just secured independence, the treaty provides that its integrity shall not be questioned, but whether it is or is not affected in any dispute is to be decided by the Hague Conference.)

“So much for the claim that nations cannot submit all questions. They have done it.

“Second—Justice is higher than peace.

“Answer—The first principle of natural justice forbids men to be judges when they are parties to the issue. All law rests upon this throughout the civilized world. Were a judge known to sit upon a case in which he was secretly interested, he would be dishonoured and expelled from his high office. If any individual refuses to submit his dispute with a neighbor to disinterested parties (arbitrators or judges) and insists upon being his own judge, he violates the first principles of justice. If he resorts to force in defense of his right to judge, he is dishonoured as a breaker of the law. Thus peace with justice is secured through arbitration, either by court or by tribunal, never by one of the parties sitting as judge in his own cause.

“ Nations being only aggregates of individuals, they will not reach justice in their judgments until the same rule holds good, viz : that they, like individuals, shall not sit as judges in their own cause. What is unjust for individuals is unjust for nations. Justice is justice, unchangeable, and should hold universal sway over all men and over all nations.

“ Third—It is neither peace nor justice, but righteousness that exalteth a nation.

“ Answer.—Righteousness is simply doing what is right. What is just is always right ; what is unjust, always wrong. It being the first principle of justice that men shall not be judges in their own cause, to refuse to submit to judge or arbitrator is unjust, hence not right, for the essence of righteousness is justice. Therefore, men who place justice or righteousness above peace practically proclaim, as it appears to me, that they will commit injustice and discard righteousness by constituting themselves sole judges of their own cause in violation of law, justice and right.

“ Civilized man has reached the conclusion that he meets the claims of justice and of right only by upholding the present reign of law. Our pressing duty is to extend its benignant reign to combinations of men, called nations. What is right for all individuals must be right for the nation. This union of law and justice, insuring peace and good will among men through disinterested tribunals, is the ‘ righteousness which exalteth a nation.’ The demand that interested parties shall sit in judgment is the self-righteousness that degrades a nation.”

“ Fourth—Upon the governors of every country falls the heavy duty of preventing it from ever being dishonored.

“ Answer--If a country ever be dishonored it must be by its governors themselves, for no nation, nor all nations combined, can dishonor another nation. No nation ever did and no man ever dishonored another since history began. All honor’s wounds are self-inflicted.”