

The Evolution of Society
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From an address delivered at the Friends' Biennial Conference, held 10 September, 1902. Reprinted from *The Peacemaker*, Vol. 21, No. 10, October, 1902.

It was not until this century, possibly not until the last quarter-century, that the leading men and women of the world began to comprehend that the whole evolution of society has been toward a time when government shall be instituted among men for the welfare of each other, when we shall no longer need to maintain governments, to repress the evil passions of men, but when, instead of that, we shall call into being those forces and factors which work to the uplift of society, to the creation of better intelligence and higher morals, and to the betterment everywhere of our society.

In the olden days it was war. There were armies and navies and courts that made up the great basis of government; and today, while these things exist and must exist for many years to come, yet it is within our philanthropic movements of various kinds that have grown up within a quarter of a century that we find our greatest hope. It is no longer physical force and prowess that we regard as the great forces of government, but it is love and tenderness and kindness and thoughtfulness for each other that is the real basis of the civilization that we know is to come. For instance, what do we care to day concerning our navy and our army of the future? Is there any American who really stands in fear of any great attack from any other nation? Do we fear that this great republic will ever fall because some army will come to fight down our men? No, not one. We realize that if this republic shall ever come to an end it will come because of the forces that are at work within our republic, and that our enemy will never come from without.

Again, here is the great question of peace for which this body stands; and it is an ideal that is growing among our people everywhere. They advocate it in theory, but when the time comes they believe that this particular war or that particular war was justifiable; and when it comes to the sanctioning of administration or of entering criticisms upon them, who has authority to do it? Only men and yet I believe I am correct when I say while there is vast sentiment in this country among men in opposition to war and in favor of peace and arbitration, that that sentiment among women is a very great deal larger than it is among men, and consequently in our present condition we do not have the full force of the sentiment of this country impressed upon that problem upon that problem.