

Building Democracy: Theories and Practice of Global Citizenship Education

Carlos Alberto Torres

Distinguished Professor of Education and
UNESCO Chair in Global Learning and Global
Citizenship Education (UCLA)

Chair Professor NCTU

Presentation at the Taiwan Foundation for
Democracy

Taipei, August 30, 2016

A key claim of this presentation is that global citizenship education contributes to global peace.

- **YET THERE ARE MANY CLUSTER PROBLEMS THAT AFFECTS GLOBAL PEACE**
- *Inequality*
- *Poverty*
- *Neoliberal globalization*
- *Banking Education*
- *Predatory cultures and destruction of the planet*

Why Global Citizenship?

- **An Intervention in Search of a Theory**
- Global citizenship is a form of intervention in searching for a theory and an agency of implementation because the world is becoming increasingly interdependent and diverse, and its borders more porous. There is a deterritorializing of citizenship practices and identities, and of discourses about loyalty and allegiance

Global Democratic Multicultural Citizenship

- ❑ Any definition and theory of global citizenship as a model of intervention to promote global peace and sustainable development should address what has become the trademark of globalization: cultural diversity.
- ❑ Therefore, global citizenship should rely on a definition of *global democratic multicultural citizenship*.
- ❑ It is imperative that global citizenship adds value to national citizenship! Yet the expansion of a universalistic claim of world solidarity rests on the concept of cosmopolitan citizenship nested in a model of cosmopolitan democracies. **National citizenship and National Identity**

Civil Minimums and Civic Virtues

- Two key elements of citizenship should be defined at the outset. First, civic minimums, because full participation in citizenship as argued by T. H. Marshall rest ultimately on material bases
- A second important concept is civic virtue. Amy Gutman has persuasively argued that “education for citizenship should focus on the justification of rights rather than responsibilities, and, at the same time, that schools should foster general virtues (courage, law-abidingness, loyalty), social virtues (autonomy, open-mindedness) economic virtues (work ethic, capacity to delay self-gratification) and political virtues (capacity to analyze, capacity to criticize)”

GLOBAL COMMONS

- I see global citizenship as being marked by an understanding of global ties, relations and connections, and a commitment to the collective good.
- **Global Citizenship, Global Commons and Common Good**

What is Global Commons?

- Global commons is defined by three basic propositions. The first one is that our planet is our only home, and we have to protect it through a global citizenship sustainable development education, moving from diagnosis and denunciation into action and policy implementation.
- Secondly, global commons is predicated on the idea that global peace is an intangible cultural good of humanity with immaterial value. Global peace is a treasure of humanity.
- Thirdly, global commons is predicated on the need to find ways that people who are all equal manage to live together democratically in an ever growing diverse world, seeking to fulfill their individual and cultural interest and achieving their inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.