Kant’s Idea of Perpetual Peace:  
With the Benefit of 200 Years’ Hindsight

Prof. Jürgen Habermas

Professor Jürgen Habermas is Professor Emeritus of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University of Frankfurt.

His “scholarly work, which aspires to a comprehensive critical theory of contemporary society, ranges across most of humanities and social sciences. From the time of his involvement with the German student movement in the 1960s, he has also been prominent as a public intellectual, speaking out on issues such as violations of civil liberties and the ‘historicization’ of the Holocaust.

In ethics proper, Prof. Habermas is closest to the Kantian tradition. He defends a cognitivist position that focuses on questions of the right and the just (...) ‘Discourse Ethics’ replaces the categorical imperative with a procedure of moral argumentation; normative justification is tied to the reasoned agreement of those subject to the norm in question. (...

Prof. Habermas’ extensive writings can be viewed as a sustained reflection on the historical, social, psychological, and cultural preconditions of practical discourse.