

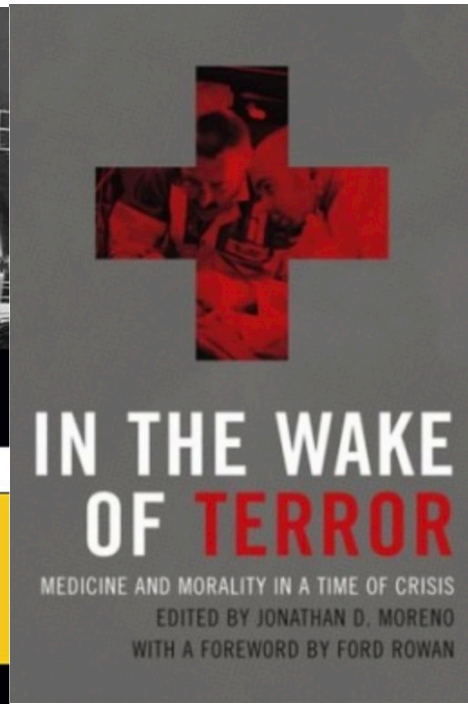
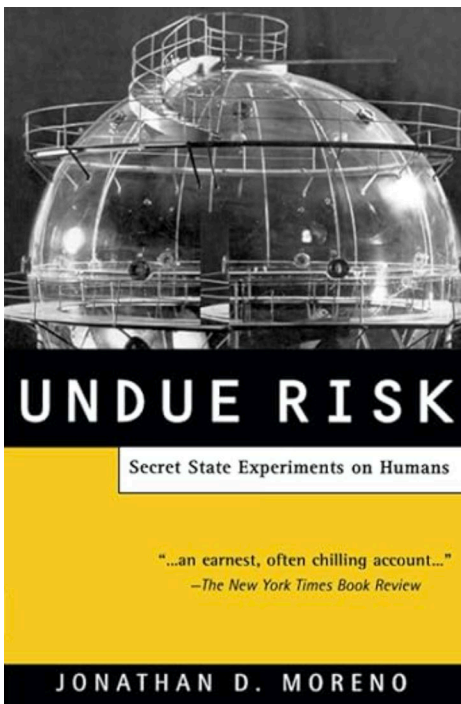
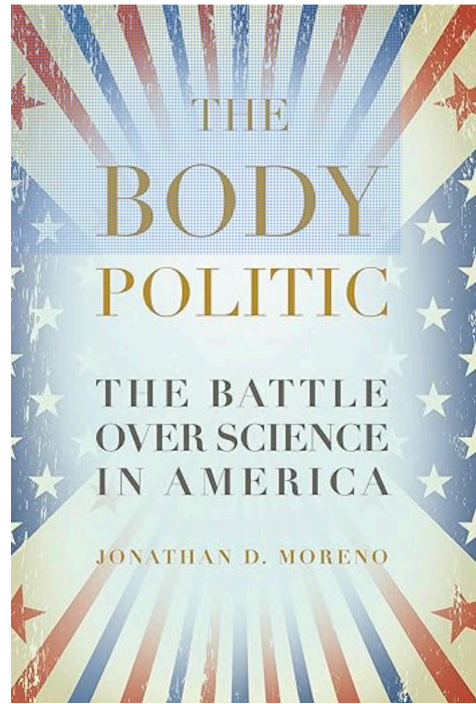
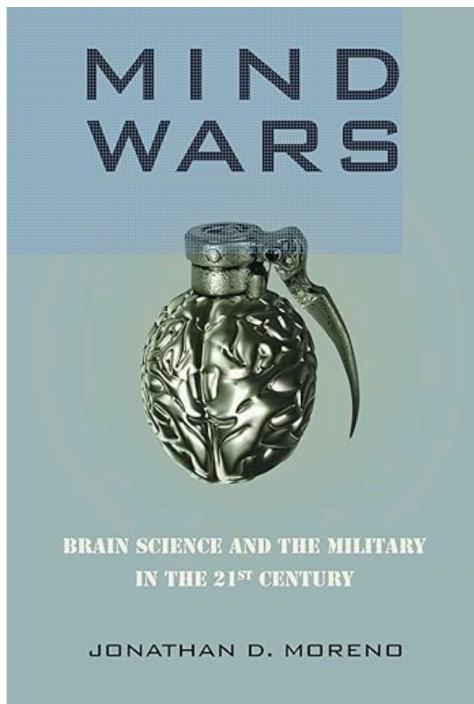
Jonathan D. Moreno

University Professor Emeritus

Absolutely Essential:
Bioethics and the Rules-Based
International Order

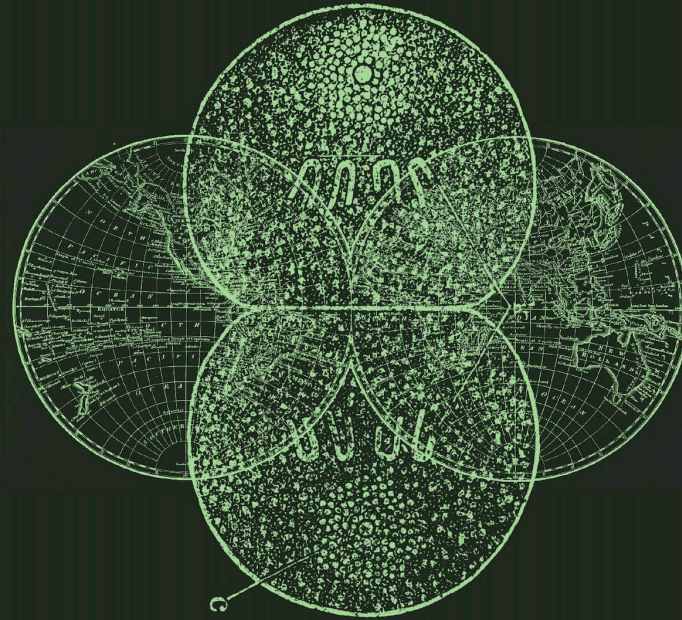


I could be accused of mission creep in bioethics.



ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL

Bioethics and the Rules-Based
International Order



Jonathan D. Moreno

And then there's the war.

Well, I think however this ends, it is a critical juncture. It is the end of American global leadership. It is the end, or the diminishment, of our partnerships and alliances that have been so critical in the postwar era in preserving stability and security and prosperity in many places.

Susan Maloney, Brookings Institution
April 3, 2026
The New York Times



Trump's Legacy and the Liberal International Order: Why Trump Failed to Institutionalise an Anti-global Agenda

Andrea Locatelli  & Andrea Carati 

Pages 92-108 | Published online: 16 Dec 2022



It's tough to make predictions,
especially about the future.

— *Yogi Berra* —



Trump's Legacy and the Liberal International Order: Why Trump Failed to Institutionalise an Anti-global Agenda

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

POLITICS | POLICY

Trump Is Changing the World Order With Unprecedented Speed

Global leaders, chief executives and lawmakers are navigating whipsaw changes touching healthcare, schools and the global supply chain



President Trump's swift and dramatic moves track his campaign promises. He departs the White House Friday for a trip to Florida and the Super Bowl this weekend. PHOTO: ANDREW LEYDEN/ZUMA PRESS

By [Aaron Zitner](#) , [Scott Patterson](#)  and [Eliza Collins](#) 

Updated Feb. 8, 2025 9:53 am ET



Trump's Legacy and the Liberal International Order: Why Trump Failed to Institutionalise an Anti-global Agenda

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[Photo story] Talks between Henry Kissinger and Zhou Enlai

21 DEC 2023 | HISTORY



By **Hsu Chung-mao**

Historical photo collector, author

Translated by Candice Chan

Henry Kissinger passed away recently at the age of 100. Declassified records of talks between Kissinger and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai in 1971 revealed the attitudes of both towards each other, and towards Japan - which was not always complimentary.



Good boy, SPock:
Engineer trains robot to protect power tunnels

straitstimes.com

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The Rules-Based International Order

- Since the Peace of Westphalia (1648) the international order was dominated by *sovereign* imperial states.
- After WWI this system was increasingly seen as unstable.
- According to the rules-based order, international relations are to be organized according to principles of open markets, liberal democracy, and multilateral organizations.
- Examples include the UN, WHO, WTO, World Bank/IMF, etc. LOAC/IHL built on Geneva and Hague conventions.
- Also security institutions like IAEA, OPCW, BTWC etc.

Threats to the Rules-Based Order: 2015-2025

- Intensified immigration to the global North
- The fumbled response to the pandemic
- The Russian invasion of Ukraine
- Rising populism, ethnonationalism and protectionism

Criticisms of the Rules-Based Order

Westphalia was originally a limited treaty between Holy Roman Empire and France and Holy Roman Empire and Sweden.

- Established hegemony of the “Great Powers”.
- Legitimized colonialism.
- In the 21st century does not take into account globalized markets and global corporations, philanthropic foundations, social media, etc.

Criticisms of the rules-based order range from the claim that it is illusory to the argument that it has enabled the United States to be a “global hegemon”.

News | Vladimir Putin

Russia says US will not be at the centre of ‘new world order’

Kremlin backs US President Joe Biden’s call for a new order but says any new system should not revolve around the US.



Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov (Maxim Shemetov/Reuters)

23 Oct 2023



Russia has criticised the United States president’s assertion that Washington must be the driving force in a new “world order”, saying such an “American-centric” vision is outdated.

The Rules-Based International Order is Quietly Disintegrating

It hasn’t been this threatened since the 1930s.



By [Walter Russell Mead](#) [Follow](#)

Sept. 25, 2023 6:06 pm ET

16 Oct, 2023 04:01 / [Home](#) / [Russia & FSU](#)

‘Rules-based order’ a smokescreen – Putin

The concept is just a front for bypassing international law, the Russian president has insisted



EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS [ecfr.eu](#)

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● Asia

Xi Jinping’s idea of world order

The real battle for international supremacy today is not between democracies and autocracies, but between different models of global order, with China and the West each offering its own distinct account of “democracy”. The sooner that Western leaders recognise this, the better chance they will have of attracting new partners



[Mark Leonard](#) [X](#)

Director

Commentary · 5 April 2023 · 4 minute read

The Washington Post

TODAY’S WORLDVIEW

The worry in Davos: Globalization is under siege



Analysis by [Ishaan Tharoor](#)

Columnist

January 17, 2023 at 12:01 a.m. EST

National Security Strategy

of the United States of America

November 2025



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

By [David Luhnow](#) [Follow](#) and [Max Colchester](#) [Follow](#)

March 3, 2026 12:15 pm ET

U.S. Actions Reflect a Go-It-Alone Approach to the World

President Trump has long been skeptical of multilateralism and the rules-based international order.

America is, understandably, sentimentally attached to the European continent—and, of course, to Britain and Ireland. The character of these countries is also strategically important because we count upon creative, capable, confident, democratic allies to establish conditions of stability and security. We want to work with aligned countries that want to restore their former greatness.

Over the long term, it is more than plausible that within a few decades at the latest, certain NATO members will become majority non-European. As such, it is an open question whether they will view their place in the world, or their alliance with the United States, in the same way as those who signed the NATO charter.

NATO

Climate Change

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Explainers ▾

Research & Analysis ▾

Communities ▾

Events ▾

from [The Internationalist](#) and [International Institutions and Global Governance Program](#)

On International Treaties, the United States Refuses to Play Ball

In lists of state parties to globally significant treaties, the United States is often notably absent. Ratification hesitancy is a chronic impairment to international U.S. credibility and influence.

Blog Post by Anya Wahal, Guest Contributor

January 7, 2022 5:08 pm (EST)

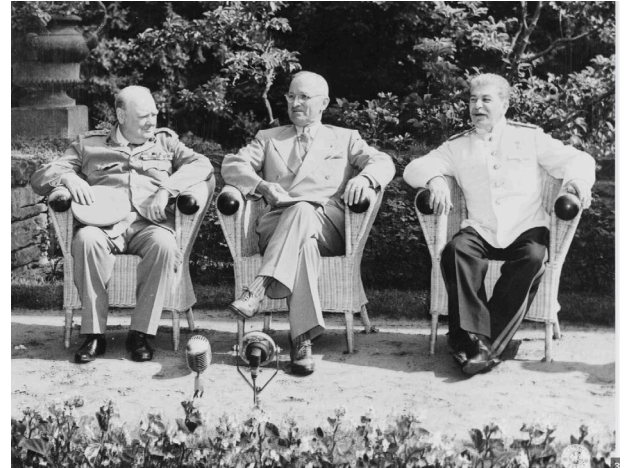


U.S. President Joe Biden speaks during the seventy-sixth Session of the General Assembly at UN Headquarters in New York on September 21, 2021. Timothy A. Clary/Pool via Reuters



The United States enters into [more than two-hundred treaties](#) each year on a range of international issues, including peace, defense, human rights, and the environment. Despite this seemingly impressive figure, the United States constantly fails to sign or ratify treaties the rest of the world supports. It has failed to ratify treaties that tackle biodiversity and greenhouse gas emissions, protect the rights of children and women, and govern international waters. For a country frequently looked to as a global leader, the United States has consistently failed to step up in international partnerships. In fact, the United States has one of the worst records of any country in ratifying [human rights](#) and [environmental treaties](#).

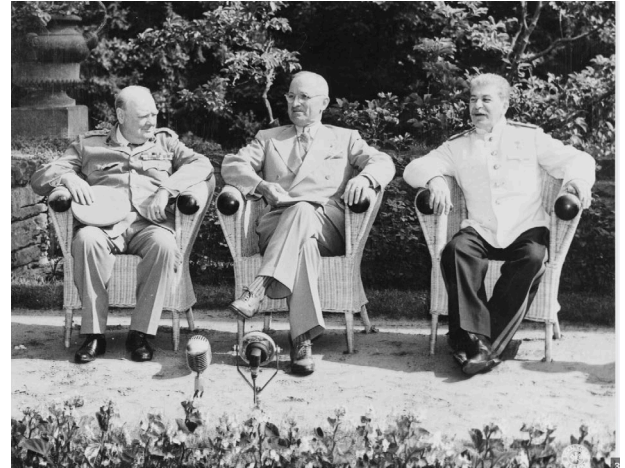
Norms Matter



Admiral Leahy, who was a participant as the President's adviser at Potsdam, disagreed. He said there readily was only one accomplished fact, the Polish situation and in that, he said, of course nothing could be done when the conference was held. The President mentioned Stalin's remark that these (the Poles) were a proud people. He said he thought the funniest remark at the conference was Stalin's during the discussion of Polans when Churchill, in referring to the Polish Catholics said the Pope would be very displeased and Stalin turned to him, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ took a tug at his moustache and asked: "How many divisions did you say the Pope has?"

An excerpt from the 24 January 1946 diary entry of Assistant Press Secretary Eban Ayers.
Provided by the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, Independence, MO.

Norms Matter



POPE

POPE LEO XIV

WAR

PEACE

EASTER

DIALOGUE

Pope appeals to Trump and world leaders: Find solutions to end war

In remarks to journalists, Pope Leo XIV calls on world leaders to “come back to the table” and solve their problems through dialogue.

Vatican News

Weakening of humanitarian norms.

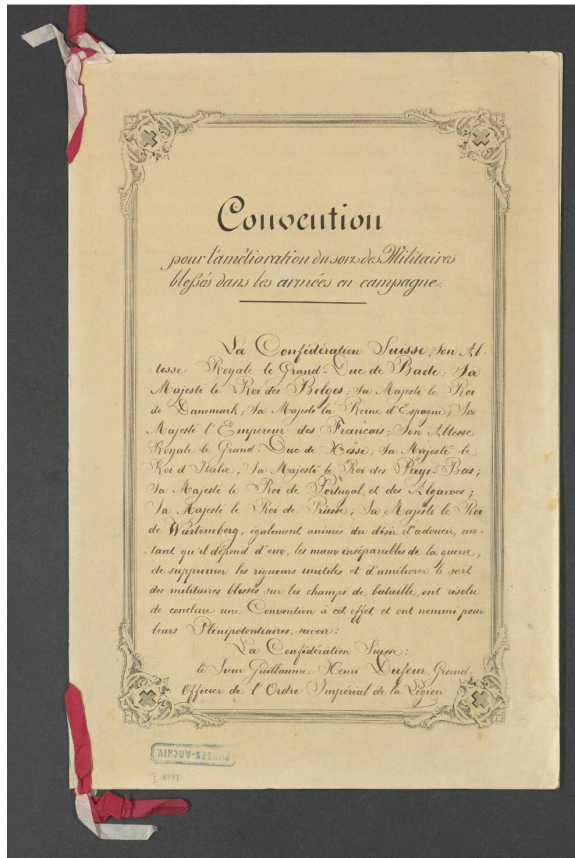
- Protection of noncombatants (civilians, medical religious personnel, and wounded, captured)
- Medical neutrality (Geneva conventions since 1864)

The First Geneva Convention



ICRC

Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded on the Field of Battle, 1864



Who, after having exchanged their Powers, found in good and due form, have agreed

Article 1. Ambulances and military hospitals shall be recognized as neutral, and, as such, protected and respected by the belligerents as long as they accommodate wounded and sick.

Neutrality shall end if the said ambulances or hospitals should be held by a military force.

Art. 2. Hospital and ambulance personnel, including the quarter-master's staff, the medical, administrative and transport services, and the chaplains, shall have the benefit of the same neutrality when on duty, and while there remain any wounded to be brought in or assisted.

tion, continue to discharge their functions in the hospital or ambulance with which they serve, or may withdraw to rejoin the units to which they belong.

When in these circumstances they cease from their functions, such persons shall be delivered to the enemy outposts by the occupying forces.

Art. 4. The material of military hospitals being subject to the laws of war, the persons attached to such hospitals may take with them, on withdrawing, only the articles which are their own personal property.

Ambulances, on the contrary, under similar circumstances, shall retain their equipment.

Art. 5. Inhabitants of the country who bring help to the wounded shall be respected and shall remain free. Generals of the belligerent Powers shall make it their duty to notify the inhabitants of the appeal made to their humanity, and of the neutrality which humane conduct will confer.

The presence of any wounded combatant receiving shelter and care in a house shall ensure its protection. An inhabitant who has given shelter to the wounded shall be exempted from billeting and from a portion of such war contributions as may be levied.

Art. 6. Wounded or sick combatants, to whatever nation they may belong, shall be collected and cared for.

Commanders-in-Chief may hand over immediately to the enemy outposts enemy combatants wounded during an engagement, when circumstances allow and subject to the agreement of both parties.

Those who, after their recovery, are recognized as being unfit for further service, shall be repatriated.

The others may likewise be sent back, on condition that they shall not again, for the duration of hostilities, take up arms.

Modern Bioethics in the Rules-Based International Order

- Bioethics is a creature and exemplar of the post WWII rules-based order.
- What would it mean for bioethics if the rules-based order is diminished?
- What are the implications for standards of practice, e.g., in peer review? Or the assumption of universal human equality?
- The U.S. has been the “global hegemon” in bioethics.

Robert Baker: *The post-WWII liberal order shaped bioethics “as an ethics of covenants and conventions grounded in human rights.”*

The Nuremberg Code

1. **The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential.** This means that the person involved should have legal capacity to give consent; should be so situated as to be able to exercise free power of choice, without the intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, overreaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion; and should have sufficient knowledge and comprehension of the elements of the subject matter involved as to enable him to make an understanding and enlightened decision. This latter element requires that before the acceptance of an affirmative decision by the experimental subject there should be made known to him the nature, duration, and purpose of the experiment; the method and means by which it is to be conducted; all inconveniences and hazards reasonably to be expected; and the effects upon his health or person which may possibly come from his participation in the experiment. The duty and responsibility for ascertaining the quality of the consent rests upon each individual who initiates, directs, or engages in the experiment. It is a personal duty and responsibility which may not be delegated to another with impunity.
2. The experiment should be such as to yield fruitful results for the good of society, unprocurable by other methods or means of study, and not random and unnecessary in nature.
3. The experiment should be so designed and based on the results of animal experimentation and a knowledge of the natural history of the disease or other problem under study that the anticipated results justify the performance of the experiment.
4. The experiment should be so conducted as to avoid all unnecessary physical and mental suffering and injury.
5. No experiment should be conducted where there is an a priori reason to believe that death or disabling injury will occur; except, perhaps, in those experiments where the experimental physicians also serve as subjects.
6. The degree of risk to be taken should never exceed that determined by the humanitarian importance of the problem to be solved by the experiment.
7. Proper preparations should be made and adequate facilities provided to protect the experimental subject against even remote possibilities of injury, disability or death.
8. The experiment should be conducted only by scientifically qualified persons. The highest degree of skill and care should be required through all stages of the experiment of those who conduct or engage in the experiment.
9. During the course of the experiment the human subject should be at liberty to bring the experiment to an end if he has reached the physical or mental state where continuation of the experiment seems to him to be impossible.
10. During the course of the experiment the scientist in charge must be prepared to terminate the experiment at any stage, if he has probable cause to believe, in the exercise of the good faith, superior skill and careful judgment required of him, that a continuation of the experiment is likely to result in injury, disability, or death to the experimental subject.

“Absolutely Essential”

- Virtually all of the commentary on the Code focuses on the consent doctrine.
- What about “absolutely essential”? Essential for what and for whom?
- My answer: Essential for ethical research with human beings (of course), but also *the management of the life sciences in the new rules-based international order.*

The Nuremberg Principles

Principle I

Any person who commits an act which constitutes a crime under international law is responsible therefor and liable to punishment.

Principle II

The fact that internal law does not impose a penalty for an act which constitutes a crime under international law does not relieve the person who committed the act from responsibility under international law.

Principle III

The fact that a person who committed an act which constitutes a crime under international law acted as Head of State or responsible Government official does not relieve him from responsibility under international law.

Principle IV

The fact that a person acted pursuant to order of his Government or of a superior does not relieve him from responsibility under international law, provided a moral choice was in fact possible to him.

Principle V

Any person charged with a crime under international law has the right to a fair trial on the facts and law.

Principle VI

The crimes hereinafter set out are punishable as crimes under international law:

(a) *Crimes against peace:*

- (i). Planning, preparation, initiation or waging of a war of aggression or a war in violation of international treaties, agreements or assurances;
- (ii). Participation in a common plan or conspiracy for the accomplishment of any of the acts mentioned under (i).

(b) *War crimes:*

Violations of the laws or customs of war which include, but are not limited to, murder, ill-treatment or deportation to slave-labour or for any other purpose of civilian population of or in occupied territory, murder or ill-treatment of prisoners of war, of persons on the seas, killing of hostages, plunder of public or private property, wanton destruction of cities, towns, or villages, or devastation not justified by military necessity.

(c) *Crimes against humanity:*

Murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation and other inhuman acts done against any civilian population, or persecutions on political, racial or religious grounds, when such acts are done or such persecutions are carried on in execution of or in connection with any crime against any civilian population, or persecutions on political, racial or religious grounds, when such acts are done or such persecutions are carried on in execution of or in connection with any crime against peace or any war crime.

Principle VII

Complicity in the commission of a crime against peace, a war crime, or a crime against humanity as set forth in Principle VI is a crime under international law.

The Consent Doctrine

The consent doctrine was an intentional effort to bring medical science under the ambit of the new rules-based order.



“The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential.”

-The Nuremberg Code, 1947

Research Ethics:

The Declaration of Helsinki (1964)

- An effort to bring human research ethics under the control of the medical profession rather than jurists.
- Two key differences from the Code:
 - Consent by “legal guardian” in cases of “legal incapacity”.
 - “The investigator or the investigating team should discontinue the research if *in his or their judgement* it may, if continued, be harmful to the individual” (rather than the “human subject”).

Trickle Down:

The Emergence of the Consent Doctrine in the U.S. and Western Europe

From the late 1940s to the late 1970s the consent doctrine became widely accepted in the US. and Western Europe.

This first happened in consent to research, but gradually also in consent to therapy.

The Blue Book
of the American Medical Association

Medical Ethics

By Edward J. Brady



*I will follow the method of treatment
which, according to my ability
and judgment, I consider for the benefit*

*of my patients. . . . I will give to every
to whom I am called, my whole heart
and attention to produce relief.*

*Aspirin . . . I will give to every
patient who is suffering from
fever, pain, or inflammation, and
who is not suffering from
any contraindications.*

“What to Tell Cancer Patients” 1956

Case 10: Concealing the Nature of His (sic) Disease from a Patient

Miss A has chondrosarcoma. “Tell me,” she pleads with Dr. B, “do I really have a cancer?” Dr. B., knowing that Miss A has ample time to prepare for death and wishing to spare her needless mental suffering, answers, “Your pains are due to arthritis.”

B. 1917

ZERKA MORENO

She had little doubt that acting out experiences and feelings could save people — and help with child-raising.

BY BENOIT DENIZET-LEWIS DEC. 21, 2016

THE LIVES THEY LIVED

2016



Zerka Moreno with her son, Jonathan, in Beacon, N.Y., in July 1955. From Regina Moreno

Solution: If Miss A actually has arthritis, or if Dr. B is convinced that everyone at her age does have at least a mild case of arthritis, his answer is not morally wrong.

-Healy, 1956

Explanation: Dr. B does not affirm that Miss A's pains are due *solely* to arthritis. If she does have arthritis, even in a mild form, Dr. B is justified in thinking that her pain is due in part to the arthritis, and hence his answer is not a lie. If Miss A really wanted the entire truth, she would ask, "Are *all* my pains due to arthritis?" In such cases patients often do not wish to pursue the matter, preferring to accept an answer which leaves them with some ray of hope, even though in their hearts they know what the facts are.

-Healy, 1956

“What to Tell Cancer Patients,” 1961

“...whether or not physicians tell their patients they have cancer....[there is] a strong and general tendency to withhold this information. Almost 90 percent of the group is within this half of the scale. Indeed, a majority tell only very rarely, if ever.”

-Oken, JAMA 175, 1961

“Changes in Physicians’ Attitudes Toward Telling the Cancer Patient,” 1979

98% of those surveyed reported a policy of disclosure to cancer patients.

- Novack et al., JAMA 241, 1979

Beauchamp and Childress, *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, first edition 1981, now in 8th edition

- Work on the book began in 1976.
- Beauchamp became staff philosopher for the National Commission, 1977.
- Beauchamp was charged with drafting text for the principles in the Belmont Report.
- Beauchamp: “the commission was confused in the way it drafted the principle of respect for persons” (2003)
- The PBE principles did not emerge from the Belmont principles, a common misconception

PBE principles:

Respect for autonomy

Non-maleficence

Beneficence

Justice

These four items can fit on a single slide, (formerly a 3X5 card).

This “checklist” has been crucial to the infiltration of bioethics into medical practice, especially in the hospital.

Clinical Trials in the Russian Federation

October 20, 2023

From the “classic site” of clinicaltrials.gov, soon to be retired

Search Details

Showing: 1-10 of 6,275 studies studies per page [Download](#) [Subscribe to RSS](#) [Show/Hide Columns](#)

Row	Saved	Status	Study Title	Conditions	Interventions	Locations
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recruiting NEW	Induction Chemoinmunotherapy for Patients With High-risk Neuroblastoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neuroblastoma Ganglioneuroblastoma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug: monoclonal antibodies GD2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Institute of Pediatric Hematology, Oncology and Immunology Moscow, Russian Federation
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recruiting NEW	Radiotherapy Exposed Lung Injury: Effect on Functioning - Cohort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breast Neoplasms Radiation Pneumonia Radiation Pneumonitis Radiation Induced Fibrosis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radiation: Radiation therapy protocol for Breast cancer Diagnostic Test: Spirography and assessment of pulmonary diffusion capacity Diagnostic Test: Cardiopulmonary stress test (and 4 more...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meshalkin Scientific Research Center of the Ministry of Health of Russia Novosibirsk, Novosibirsk Oblast, Russian Federation
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recruiting NEW	Factors Affecting the Results of Treatment of Patients With Colorectal Cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colorectal Cancer Colon Cancer Rectal Cancer (and 3 more...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedure: Right hemicolectomy Procedure: Left hemicolectomy Procedure: Sigmoid colon resection (and 4 more...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baltic Federal University Kaliningrad, Kaliningrad Region, Russian Federation
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Completed NEW	Comparative Study of Rinsulin R (GEROPHARM) and Humulin Regular (Eli Lilly) Euglycemic Hyperinsulinemic Clamp Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bioequivalence Therapeutic Equivalency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug: Humulin® Regular Drug: Rinsulin® R 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "National Medical Research Center of Endocrinology" of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation Moscow, Russian Federation
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not yet recruiting NEW	Could Preoperative Assessment of Physical and Psychological Status Help Predict Pain After Anorectal Surgery?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hemorrhoids Anal Fistula Anal Fissure (and 3 more...) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the surgical department of the Medical Research and Educational Center of Lomonosov Moscow State University (MREC MSU) Moscow, Russian Federation
6	<input type="checkbox"/>	Active, not recruiting NEW	Survival Monitoring in Russian Cancer Registries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melanoma Breast Cancer Oncology (and 5 more...) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N. N. Petrov Research Institute of oncology Saint-Petersburg, Russian Federation
7	<input type="checkbox"/>	Active, not recruiting NEW	Clinimetric Application of FOUR Scale as in Treatment and Rehabilitation of Patients With Acute Cerebral Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stroke Acute Traumatic Brain Injury Subarachnoid Hemorrhage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diagnostic Test: The predictive value russian rendition the FOUR score. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surgut Clinical Trauma Hospital Surgut, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug - Yugra, Russian Federation
8	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recruiting	Using of Collagen Matrix for Maxillary Tuberosity Donor Area Preservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soft Tissue Atrophy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedure: Closure of the donor area after CTG harvesting without the use of collagen matrix Procedure: Closure of the donor area after CTG harvesting with collagen matrix 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University (Sechenov University) Moscow, Russian Federation
9	<input type="checkbox"/>	Completed	A Study to Assess Efficacy of Supporting Properties and Safety of ARTNEO in Patients With Knee Osteoarthritis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Osteoarthritis Osteo Arthritis Knee Osteoarthritis, Knee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dietary Supplement: ARTNEO Drug: Artra 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution of Higher Education "North-Western State Medical University named after I.I. Mechnikov" of the Ministry of Health of Russia Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation

Bioethics after the War in Ukraine



RUSSIAN NEWS AGENCY

1 APR 2022, 08:54

Russian researchers may lose access to 97% of scientific information — RAS

On March 31, the world's largest publishers of science magazines came out with a statement saying that all of their sales and services to Russian research organizations would be paused

MOSCOW, April 1. /TASS/. The decision made by the world's largest publishers of science magazines to suspend access for Russian organizations will make 97% of scientific information unavailable to Russian researchers, president of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Alexey Khokhlov, said in a Telegram channel on Friday.



- Will Russian science be isolated?
- At the moment there is an element of Russian self-isolation.
- What are the implications for drug and device industry standards?



Russia bars academics from international conferences

Researcher shrugs off ban, saying Russians are 'used to avoiding such useless regulations'

March 22, 2022

[Pola Lem](#)

Twitter: [@PolaLem](#)

Russia's government has barred its researchers from participating in international conferences and will stop indexing Russian scientists' publications in international databases, according to its Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

The move, which comes nearly a month after Russia invaded Ukraine, comes as a fresh blow to Russian scholars, who in recent weeks have become increasingly cut off from their colleagues around the world.



Source: IStock

Global Pharma in a Diminished or Divided World Order

- New great power alignments may up end 75 years of assumptions about the ethics of drug R&D.
- Standards of evidence, publication, intellectual property and the purchasing power of nation states could shift.
- In particular, either the core value of universal human equality as expressed in global standards of prior review and informed consent may be revised, or those standards will remain as a remnant of the old order.

Guinea-Bissau stops vaccine study funded by Trump



Reuters

<https://www.reuters.com> › healthcare-pharmaceuticals

Beyond the Noise

RFK Jr.'s Tuskegee Experiment

RFK Jr. recently directed the CDC to fund a study in West Africa that lays bare his cruelty and dishonesty.



PAUL OFFIT
JAN 06, 2026

Kennedy recently funded a \$1.6 million, 14,000-person [study](#) in Guinea-Bissau set to [begin](#) in early 2026. Investigators will divide 14,000 newborns into two groups. One group will receive the hepatitis B vaccine at birth, as recommended by the WHO. The other group won't receive the vaccine until 6 weeks of age, a continuation of the woefully substandard care that has put so many children in Guinea-Bissau at risk. Because it is unethical and cruel, this study could never be performed in the United States.



Sections 普通话 粤语 藏语 한국어 ལྷོ་ཡུལ་ རྒྱ་སྐད་ العربية Tiếng Việt English

American drug firms accused of clinical trials in Uyghur region

US lawmakers say biopharmaceutical companies are conducting medical testing in China's Xinjiang.

By Alex Willemyns and RFA Uyghur
2024.08.21
Washington



American pharmaceutical companies are carrying out drug trials in China's far-western Xinjiang region, where the United States says a genocide of the Uyghur population is taking place, U.S. lawmakers say.

In a letter to the Federal Drug Administration, the two top lawmakers on the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party requested an explanation of the practice, which they said is recorded in "hundreds" of entries on the FDA website " [clinicaltrials.gov](https://www.fda.gov/clinicaltrials)."

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Sofia Formigli
February 13, 2026

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There is a story told by Václav Havel, the Czech dissident writer who later became president after the fall of communism. In his essay *The Power of the Powerless*, Havel describes a shopkeeper who, every morning, places a sign in his window reading: "Workers of the world, unite!" He does not believe in it. Nor do the people around him. Yet the sign remains.

The Sign That Stays

On every street, other shopkeepers do the same. They display the slogan not out of conviction but to avoid trouble, signal compliance, and make everyday life a little easier. The system endures not because people believe in its message, but because they continue to act as if they do.

Squeezed by U.S. and China, the World's Middle Powers Are Teaming Up

Nations are increasingly seeking to bypass the bigger players on trade, supply chains and security

By [David Luhnow](#) [Follow](#), [Kim Mackrael](#) [Follow](#) and [Bertrand Benoit](#) [Follow](#)

Updated Feb. 7, 2026 4:37 am ET

Middle powers are increasingly trying to protect themselves in two ways: hedging against their dependence on the superpowers by boosting self-reliance, and seeking alliances with other middle powers on specific issues, like supply chains, trade routes or security cooperation, said Stormy-Annika Mildner, executive director of the Aspen Institute Germany.

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ANALYSIS

6 Swing States Will Decide the Future of Geopolitics

These middle powers of the global south should be the focus of U.S. policy.

By [Cliff Kupchan](#), the chairman of Eurasia Group.

JUNE 6, 2023, 4:56 AM

Last month, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky made a rare foray out of Ukraine, spending almost one week in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and Hiroshima, Japan. His goal: to win the support of Brazil, India, Indonesia, and Saudi Arabia—four major fence-sitters on Russia's war in Ukraine. These and other leading countries of the global south have more power today than ever before. The reasons for their newfound geopolitical heft: They have more agency, they benefit from regionalization, and they can leverage U.S.-China tensions.

DATA INSIGHTS · 16 APRIL 2025

These are the 10 best countries for biological sciences research

European countries are making big moves in the rankings.

Alexia Austin

Leading countries in biological sciences

Countries are ranked by article Share in the latest 12-month window of data, 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024. Also listed are each institution's article Count across the same period.

Rank	Country	Count	Share
1	United States of America	11,238	8,082.22
2	China	5,036	3,878.99
3	Germany	3,061	1,394.16
4	United Kingdom	3,112	1,294.17
5	France	1,666	687.59
6	Japan	1,218	672.57
7	Canada	1,382	569.64
8	Switzerland	1,209	496.98
9	Australia	1,109	438.59
10	Netherlands	998	328.95

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PRESS RELEASES

President Mahama announces a high-level panel of the Accra Reset.

06 April 2026

President John Dramani Mahama has announced a high-level panel of the Accra Reset Initiative tasked with reforming the global health architecture and governance system.

The eighteen-member panel will be co-chaired by four distinguished global health leaders: Peter Piot, former Director-General of UNAIDS and Professor at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine; El Hadj As Sy, Chair of the Kofi Annan Foundation and former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations; Nisia Trindade, Minister for Health of Brazil and President Emerita of Fiocruz; and Budi Gunadi Sadikin, Minister for Health of the Republic of Indonesia.

The panel has been mandated to produce concrete, actionable proposals to restructure the global health order, which has historically treated governments of the Global South as passive recipients rather than sovereign actors with the right to shape the rules under which their people live.

“This initiative represents a fundamental reimagining of how global health governance should function in the 21st century,” said Felix Kwakye Ofose, Spokesperson to the President and Minister for Government Communications.

I'm still trying to figure out what this all means for bioethics (part 1).

- Are the standard methodologies for analyzing bioethical issues adequate for an increased emphasis on public health? (E.g., “common morality”, state enforcement powers; perhaps a principle of reciprocity.)
- What new elements of familiar bioethics themes must be addressed (E.g., allocation of medical assets, benefit sharing.)
- Has the bioethics community paid close enough attention to biosafety/biosecurity? (E.g., dual use.)

I'm still trying to figure out what this means for bioethics (part 2).

- Has the pandemic created a precedent for “bioethics nationalism”? (E.g., selection of vaccine study subjects, data safety and monitoring standards, site selection).
- Will global pharma regulation preserve bioethics standards and practices?
- Can emerging technologies be globally regulated?

For bioethics, something to think about.

“Human rights and bioethics are two distinct disciplines with different methods and scope. Nevertheless these two fields have grown closer over the last couple decades for at least two new developments. This transformation has been driven partly by the increasing institutionalization of bioethics: with the establishment of bioethics committees and the legal formulation of procedures, codes, decorations, and even conventions. On the other hand, bioethics not only applies human rights terms and norms, but also provides useful tools for the analysis of human rights questions.”

--Judit Sandor, “Bioethics as a Tool for Extending the Human Rights Discourse”. In: Tibor Várady and Miodrag Jovanovic (Eds.) Human Rights in the 21st Century (Eleven International Publishers, 2020).

And then there's the war.

Well, I think however this ends, it is a critical juncture. It is the end of American global leadership. It is the end, or the diminishment, of our partnerships and alliances that have been so critical in the postwar era in preserving stability and security and prosperity in many places.

Susan Maloney, Brookings Institution
April 3, 2026
The New York Times

**THE CRISIS CONSISTS
PRECISELY IN THE FACT THAT
THE OLD IS DYING AND THE
NEW CANNOT BE BORN; IN THIS
INTERREGNUM A GREAT
VARIETY OF MORBID
SYMPTOMS APPEAR.**

- ANTONIO GRAMSCI -



Thank you!

