

Joseph de Rivera

Forming a Global Community

SERIES IN PHILOSOPHY

Summary

To address global problems such as pandemics, warming, economic inequality, mass migration, and widespread terrorism, Joseph de Rivera argues that we must form a global community. A community of eight billion humans is difficult to conceive. However, it can be imagined and created if we transform our understanding of who humans are and what 'community' entails. We can understand who persons are, how they are motivated, and how a community can be conceived in a way that offers an alternative to individualism and collectivism. The "mutualism" that is proposed provides a moral compass for navigating the challenges that confront us and encourages specific governing structures, political economies, and rituals that will further the formation of a global community.

Based on the philosophical analysis of John Macmurray, the author's argument relies on an extensive review of the current literature on self, personhood, emotional motivation, social identity, forms of community, and religious and secular rituals. Interdisciplinary in nature, it aims to direct philosophy and the social sciences to the challenges of globalism and the creation of a global community.

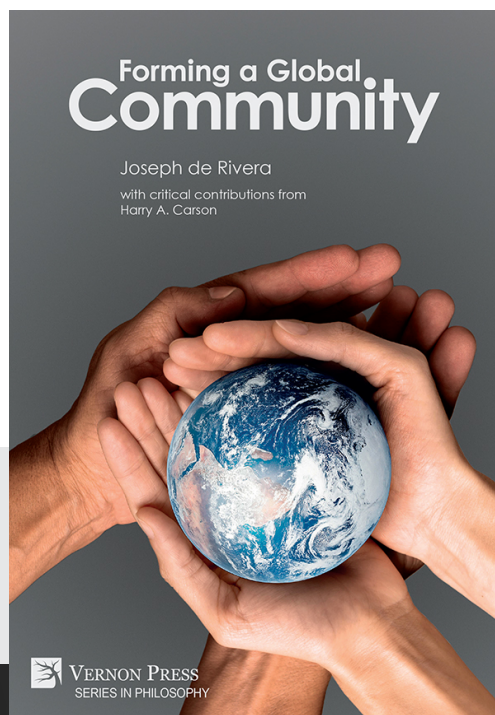
About the author

Joseph de Rivera (PhD. Stanford, 1961) is Professor Emeritus at Clark University. A founding member of the International Society for Research on Emotions and a fellow in three different divisions of the American Psychological Association, he taught at Dartmouth and NYU before coming to Clark and founding their Program in Peace and Conflict. The author or editor of six previous books, he is currently engaged in research on celebrations that promote global community.

Harry A. Carson is a retired Professor of Philosophy and Dean of Humanities and Contemporary Culture Studies at Sacred Heart College (Detroit, MI). A founding member of the International John Macmurray Society, he authored the Introduction to the 2004 edition of John Macmurray's 'Freedom in the Modern World'.

De Rivera, with the help of Carson, has given a great deal of thought to the question of how we might extricate ourselves from the shackles of a global constellation of states that are in competition for power. They argue that a global community based on cooperation would be far better suited to address problems that bear on human survival and well-being. Their analysis has multidisciplinary moorings, drawing on theory and research in economics, political science, cultural anthropology, political economy, sociology, history, religion, and psychology. The emotional quality of human nature is foregrounded in many analyses, noting, for example, how the presence of justice depends on the dominance of love over fear, how fear and anger adversely affect rational decision making, how liberty engenders freedom from the fear that basic needs will not be met, and how problems arise when fear for oneself weighs more heavily in decisions than love of others. While the creation of a global community may sound like a utopian ideal, the authors offer a realistic proposal that calls for the transformation of our usual patterns of thoughts and feelings about ourselves and others so that love dominates fear and relationships are suffused with dignity and worth.

Daniel J. Christie, Professor Emeritus
Ohio State University



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