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# CALENDAR MARCHES ON

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## Chapter XIV

# WORLD CALENDAR REFORM

The times are big with tidings.

--- Robert Southey

**It is** increasingly apparent when dealing with so universal a subject as the calendar that personal, political, national and religious bias have no part. Calendar revision affects all the peoples of the world, whether of the Far and Near East, West, North or South. Like the sun, which shines upon the inhabitants of Earth, so the calendar influences all mankind. The point of view must be global and must consider the common good of all, not for the few or for any particular major or minor group. The revision must be approached with the perspective that the subject requires. By adhering to this simple principle, confusion and difficulties will be avoided.

My interest in calendar reform began in the summer of 1929 while staying at the Lake Placid Club, where I heard Dr. Melvil Dewey, founder and president, give a lecture "How To Simplify Life." He closed his talk with a strong plea to improve the calendar which, in its many irregularities, was far from satisfactory. He then advocated a 13-month calendar that disturbed me. How could a non-divisible number like 13 simplify?

A fortnight later, on Sunday September 8th, the *New York Times* published a letter by the engineer Lewis E. Ashbaugh of Denver, Colorado, in which he opposed the perpetual 13-month plan and advocated the more easily divisible perpetual 12-month calendar favored in Europe. He wrote: "While we are planning an improved calendar, let us also insist on the very best, with all conditions considered, and let us adopt the revised twelve month year of equal quarters and equal working-day months, easily adapted from the calendar we now use." It instantly attracted my attention and as I was reading, I heard a clear voice saying: "*You must work for this plan.*" It was so real, I had to accede. I could not do otherwise for here was a call that had to be followed. It has ever been a shining light urging me on, convincing me that this plan comes from a higher power than that of man.

The proposed new plan—THE WORLD CALENDAR—is solar. It is based on a purely scientific and mathematical principle and its purpose is to meet the civil, social, economic, scientific, cultural and international requirements of the day. Religious feast days and national holidays have their regular places, but these are separate and distinct and do not affect its ordered arrangement.

The revised 12-month calendar accepts the perpetual feature of the Roman Catholic priest Marco Mastrofino who considered the year as of 364 days, wherein the 52 weeks (each of seven days) fit within the year.

The 365th day or the 1/7 of a week is placed at the end of December, an “extra” day between the two weeks, that does not interfere with the week itself. This annual extra day has its name Worldsdays and its specific date December W or December 31st. By this method every outgoing year is securely sealed with the new Worldsdays, a new world holiday, and becomes a finished time period.

The annual “year-book,” fully completed in its cycle and observed with proper celebration on the year-end Worldsdays, is then placed on the archive shelves of Time, where it can be taken down for reference whenever desired. By this method every year is a complete unit of Time, no longer tied to a day of the first week of an incoming year. A new year-book is now ready to be opened on New Year’s Day Sunday, January 1st.

The 366th day in leap years is likewise placed between two weeks in the mid-year after Saturday, June 30th, and before Sunday, July 1st. Its name is Leapyear Day and date June W or June 31st. In this manner the new Worldsdays (the 365th day) every year and the new Leapyear Day (366th day) every four years keep the calendar equalized, balanced and perpetual. These new stabilizing days are unique in the calendar in being universally observed as *world holidays*.

The method of the extra day can be compared to an interesting Chinese fable.

A farmer, at his death, left 11 sheep to his three sons, with instructions that the eldest should have one-half the number of sheep, the second son one-quarter and the third son two-thirds of the remainder. This strange division greatly perplexed the family until a wise mathematician showed them a way of solving their problem. He told them to go to a neighbor and borrow a sheep. With this borrowed sheep, the sons now had 12 animals which they could distribute in accordance with the wish of their venerable father. The eldest son received one-half the number, or six sheep; the second son received one-quarter, or three sheep; the youngest received two-thirds of the remainder, or two sheep. When the borrowed animal had thus served its purpose, the sons returned it to its owner.

In reverse, calendar reformers have solved their problem by *withholding* the 365th day, whereby the year has 364 days, a number easily divisible into equal quarter-years of 91 days each and equal half-years of 182 days each. With this satisfactory solution, the 365th day is returned to the calendar and placed at the end of the fourth or last quarter of the year as the new Worldsdays.

The perpetual World Calendar retains the twelve months and divides these into equal quarter and half-years. Each quarter-year is given 3 months with the lengths more evenly apportioned. The first month has 31 days and begins with a Sunday, the following two months have 30 days each and begin respectively with a Wednesday and a Friday. Every month has 26 weekdays plus Sundays. Each quarter-year begins with Sunday and ends with Saturday, has 91 days, 13 weeks or 3 months approximating a season. Corresponding days and dates always agree and perfect coordination is had among the different time units, resulting in accurate comparability from year to year. Every year begins with Sunday, January 1st, and ends with the non-working new world holiday—Worldsdays. Holidays can be stabilized according to the customs of the various nations. Likewise, religious feast and fast days are anchored to their regular days and dates and celebrated in keeping with the various religious faiths.

It is noteworthy that the *first* day of every year, every week and every quarter-year begins on a Sunday and that the *seventh* day of every year, every week and every quarter-year ends on a Saturday. For the first time in calendar history, the week will actually have its regular place in the calendar and will no longer impose the objectionable shifting of weekdays and dates as heretofore.

Only six months, between the 28th of February and the 1st of September, are changed by one or two days. From the 1st of September through the 28th of February, the calendar remains the same as the Gregorian.

The dates which call for change are three — March 31st, May 31st and August 31st—replaced by three new ones — February 29th and 30th and April 31st. This will call for a minor adjustment of days which were observed on the vanishing dates. Birthdays will now be observed on the day before, on the 30th of the months, the method used by leap-year children ever since 1236 C.E.—718 years ago (*From 1954. - Ed.*) when King Henry III of England decreed that the leap day should be “reckoned in the same month wherein it groweth and that day, and the day next going before, shall be accounted for one day.” For the first time in calendar history the *day* of birth will be honored with the *date*.

The World Calendar is a mathematical masterpiece. It deals as successfully with the arbitrary numbers 7 and 13 as with the easy numbers

2, 3, 4, 6, and 12. And with the aid of the one or two stabilizing days the calendar at long last has become a steady and reliable time-system.

This outstanding achievement cannot be credited to any one particular nation or person. It is the slow process of development in which many minds have contributed, many valuable historical facts have been explored, and increasing knowledge and understanding have been acquired. The calendar has at long last become a world measurement of Time—a universal world-chart for all humanity to use and enjoy.

What are some of the advantages?

In a large corporation, for instance, the tabulating and analyzing of the various statistical reports, essential in the evaluation of the business, are easily had because of the perfect co-ordination of the different time units. One department deals with the day, another with weekly or bi-monthly payments, then there are the monthly salaries and the seasonal and quarterly reports to be considered, all of which synchronize in every quarter, half-year and the year itself.

In every business and industry and in all the professions, a perpetual ordered calendar will facilitate methods of calculating Time as well as simplify bookkeeping.

It will do away with the guesswork of finding out on what date the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November will fall because it will always be November 7th.

Opening and closing schools and arranging vacation periods will be made easy because every year will have the same corresponding days and dates.

Holidays will be fixed in this new standardized calendar. This will benefit the employer in production and management since wandering holidays will no longer interfere with their activities; nor will the worker and employer lose out by closing plants and other places of business because of marooned working days.

A fixed Labor day in America on its regular day and date, Monday September 4th, is of great advantage to educational institutions and will eliminate costly expenses of preparing and printing new catalogues every year.

Interest payments, insurance premiums and rentals will be based on regular schedules, an advantage to both sides to the transactions. These and many other advantages, far too numerous to mention, will bring to the peoples many benefits with no favors given or discrimination shown against any one particular group.

Above all, the perpetual World Calendar is a true time-conserver and time-preserver. We are thus protecting our most valuable commodity—

Time. It was Benjamin Franklin who admonished Americans “Do not squander time, for that’s the stuff life is made of.”

To achieve these desirable objectives certain outmoded customs and traditions should be abandoned. There must be a willingness to cease thinking of today in terms of yesterday and make the today stand for a better tomorrow. Sectarian, self-centered, narrow thinking must give way to wider universal fields of thinking. Horizons must expand beyond the confines of group interest, national bias, personal prejudice and religious bigotry.

In these days unity is particularly vital and it is incumbent upon nations to encourage systems wherein an interrelationship of greater understanding, harmony and good will be inculcated. The World Calendar is an outstanding example of this ideal. Certainly it bears tidings of great moment—One World Calendar for One World.

The World Calendar			
January	31 days	July	31 days
February	30 days	August	30 days
March	30 days	September	30 days
April	31 days	October	31 days
May	30 days	November	30 days
June	30 days	December	30 days
Quadrennial Leapyear Day June W or 31		Annual Worldsdays December W or 31	

[www.TheWorldCalendar.net](http://www.TheWorldCalendar.net)

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