

Soul of Nations (SON) Foundation  
80 Broad Street, Floor Six, New York City, 10004

United we stand, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for the championing of cultural resilience and wellness sustainability through humanities, health, and heritage programming that empowers underrepresented communities.



*Monday, February 17, 2025*

## **To Seek a New Direction in the Era of the Twenty-twenties**

Dear Esteemed Supporters, Benefactors, Beneficiaries, Colleagues, and my Friends:

Our nation, just one year away from the semiquincentennial anniversary of its revolution for freedom and human equality, is required to fulfill for our generation and in our time the promise it made to the world almost three centuries ago. Having fought on foreign shores several wars to defend, preserve and protect its beliefs, our nation is now required to wage a harder struggle within its borders to make those beliefs a reality for all of its citizens.

What we do as a nation in the next four years will be watched around the world by friend and foe alike to see whether this Republic is willing and able to honor in practice what it proclaims in principle. At no other time in American history has the danger to American society been so great.

Today, the real danger to the American ideal does not lie among the people on foreign shores; it lies within our own midst and is represented by those who seek to preserve a system that is oppressive, by those who attempt to defend a society that is fragmented and by those who try to preserve an ideology that denies human liberty.

In the initial years of this new era, the critical struggle of the nation will be at home and not abroad; and the effectiveness of our foreign policy will be determined by the character and substance of our domestic practices. How a nation allocates its resources and to what issues it chooses to direct the people's will, reveal what a nation values most, what it cherishes, and what it hopes to be.

At the time when the American idea was being created, the founding fathers cast their lot on the side of justice, freedom and equality. In words that still echo around the globe, they pledged a new nation to the fulfillment of man's ancient quest for human liberty. And by acts of courage and fortitude they made plain that the rights of men do not derive from the generosity of the state but from the benevolence of God.

The revolutionary idea of a society where man would be free, where the opportunities would be open, and where the benefits would be equitable remains today — as an idea which generates in the hearts of men — acts of courage and valor. The validity of that idea will be tested in our time in a manner it has never been tested before.

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In recent days, our attention has been directed to a special problem that faces planet Earth. Our national leadership has pledged the nation's resources and galvanized the nation's will to confront and resolve the pollution of our physical environment. We have been roused to the dangers which our technology has created, and we are preparing to fashion a technology to remove them.

Without question the issue of our physical environment is an issue of overriding concern and demands the attention it is now receiving. But the pollution of our air, of our waters, of our soil, and the traffic jams of our highways are not the issues that will decide the fate of the nation.

The crises of our time and the real dangers to our national health are to be found in our social environment: in the sickness of our cities, in the failures of our schools, in the alienation of the young, in the crises between black and white and in the denial of equal access to the opportunities, rewards, benefits of our society to one-tenth or more of our native born citizens.

The noble vision which inspired the American effort has become blurred and the gallant will to make a dream come true has become paralyzed. We can cleanse our air and purify our lakes and rivers, beautify our landscape and solve the problems of transportation and still remain a society in fragments, a people without values and a collection of states not united in will or purpose.

While we must manage knowledge to save the environment, it is also required that we create new knowledge to save the Republic. Without a doubt the twenty-twenties era will force our nation to come to terms — perhaps once and for all — with the issue of race and racism. At various stages in our national history this issue has suffered from neglect, both benign and malignant. In successive turns it has been treated indifferently, hypocritically, and cosmetically. Always manipulated by the requirement of political expediency, seldom if ever the object of political duty, the question of race now stands before us as that one question that may decide the fate of the nation and possibly the fate of the world.

Our generation will not be privileged to defer to the next generation the solution to this problem that divides the nation and that now threatens to tear apart the American fabric. The gravity of this threat cannot be exaggerated and the urgency of the task we face cannot be overstated.

In our effort to help our nation renew itself we must stand before our countrymen and before the world as a bold and vivid contradiction to the belief that black men and the institutions which serve them are inherently, intrinsically and generically inferior.

By the labor of the SON Foundation in the twenty-twenties era we shall try to exalt the quality of human quality. Without apology for our origin, without shame for our character, and without equivocation about our purpose we shall try to help our nation take an honorable change of direction.



We can bring to the era decade before us a profound new sense of man's worth and ultimate nobility, and building upon that create for ourselves and future generations a new humanism which may help to prevent the destruction of man and of mankind by the creations of his own and by the instrument of his own hands.

The hazards of the course we have set are well known to us; the dangers in this task are both vivid and real. But each generation of men must confront the task it has been assigned. Ours is no easy assignment, but it must be done. How well it is discharged will depend in large measure upon the willingness of all of us to take up each other's burdens in order that the oppressed may go free.

With the hand of God to guide our footsteps and the torch of right and rustic to light our way, we pledge our best efforts and our best energies to the service of our people on behalf of our nation's future.

Very truly yours, ever-most faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E. Hill', enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish that extends to the right.

Ernest Hill  
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