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Dress Code

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The inherent equality of sovereign states, regardless of their power or domestic system, was instituted. This novel concept was taken so far that the delegations demanding absolute equality, devised a process of entering the sites of negotiation through individual door requiring the construction of many entrances, and advancing to their seats at equal speed so that none would suffer the ignominy of waiting for the other to arrive at his inconvenience.

Henry Kissinger, *World Order*, Penguin Press, 2014

We are said to occupy a Westphalian system which respects the sovereignty of states. Yet there exists the question of a state's ability to form itself and participate. One of the primary sites of participation is less than a mile from this room. Though there is a semblance of equality there, since everyone gets to speak, a hierarchy persists. Some states have incorporated their language into the workings. Some states have veto power. Some states are just 'permanent observers.'