Berkeley Professor Charges End To The Nation-States Is Inevitable

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That the nation-state will be succeeded by a larger unit of political organization, the region-state, was the thesis of Dr. Leslie Lipson's lecture given in the Fondren Library on Tuesday.

Dr. Lipson, professor of political science at the University of California at Berkeley, stated that every four or five centuries there has been a fundamental change in political institutions. We have gone from

the city-state to the empire state to the nation-state.

Now the nation-state cannot serve the three functions of political institutions, those of military defense, the maintenance of prosperity and trade with other political units, and the maintenance and furthering of the values and ideals of the culture.

The size of the state will fundamentally change, a change far more profound than the relative power change that we have observed. The region state that Dr. Lipson described will be based on large geographical units. He sees these forming through such developments as the NATO alliance, and the common market.

The nation state arose out of a reaction to the medieval theory of a universal church and empire and the reality of medieval localism. The nation state was formed with sea power on the Atlantic coast and spread throughout most of the world.

As a result of modern technology we have no defensible boundaries. The era of man's conquest of the air has led to the region-state. A second cause of the growth of the region state is the economic needs of the nation states, now too small to fend for themselves.

DeGaulle has asked the question of whether the Western powers will develop as one region-state or more. The same question is being asked in relation to the Soviet Union and China. Dr. Lipson thinks that a powerful world government can not be formed successfully in the forseeable future.