

# A New World Emerging?



Restoring Responsibility and Solidarity

## 5 BIG IDEAS

24th Forum 2000 Conference, October 12-14, 2020



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# WE NEED TO RESTORE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND RESPONSIBILITY



**“THE PANDEMIC HAS SHOWN US A NEW FORM OF SOLIDARITY. WE HAVE SEEN AN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER OF CITIZENS TAKING ACTION AND DOING THE JOB OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS.”**

Farida Nabourema

In the time of multiple global challenges, there is an urgent need for international cooperation. According to **Timothy Garton Ash**, “even if the democratic world faces a fierce ideological competition from communist China, Vladimir Putin’s regime in Russia, and other anti-liberal regimes, we still have to work together in a kind of competitive coexistence for the future of our planet.” “We are once again in dark, difficult, daunting times, but if we have these four: truth, solidarity, strategy and responsibility, there will be brighter times ahead,” Garton Ash concluded.

The global struggle against the COVID-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented experience, which has the potential of being uniting and mobilizing. **Anthony Giddens** pointed out that the pandemic is embedded in a period of multiple changes such as a digital revolution, climate change, and a geopolitical transformation,

including offers for potential cooperation on the global level. According to **Farida Nabourema**, “the pandemic has shown us a new form of solidarity and we have seen an unprecedented number of citizens taking action and doing the job of their governments. Pandemic, however, might also undermine democracy, as authoritarian regimes have used it as an excuse not to be held accountable for some of their actions”, Nabourema cautioned.

**Iveta Radičová** warned that “the inability of political leaders to find binding collective solutions of global problems reinforces the shift towards state centralist policies with the tendency to take over control.” In this context, **Miloš Vystrčil** described the moral risk of a current global wave of political populism which tends to destroy truth, responsibility and solidarity which consequently leads to decline of freedom and democracy.



# COVID-19 MUST NOT OVERSHADOW THE MOUNTING TECHNOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES



"One of the most critical issues we must resolve in these times is how to safeguard our democratic system and way of life", declared **Tsai Ing-wen**. She explained that "taking advantage of our preoccupation with the pandemic, certain regimes used technology to monitor the movements of their people". **Larry Diamond** described China as an "epitome of neo-totalitarian control which is suppressing freedom and human autonomy with modern digital surveillance technology to a degree that even George Orwell could not imagine". **Xiao Qiang**

illustrated how information technology has helped the Chinese communist party to strengthen not only domestically, but also to become much more aggressive on the global stage. Beijing is exporting this model all over the world and 83 countries have already adopted Chinese digital authoritarianism, warned **Nury Turkel**. **Farida Nabourema** testified how artificial intelligence has been used to track the movement of citizens in several African countries and she is worried that the pandemic might take us to "the darkest days of authoritarianism".

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Tsai Ing-wen



**"WE HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING WE ARE ABLE TO PROVE THAT LIBERAL DEMOCRACIES HAVE BETTER ANSWERS TO THE GLOBAL CHALLENGES WE ARE FACING."**

Ralf Fücks

Fighting COVID-19 has provided many governments with the excuse to postpone the fight against other challenges, such as climate change. **Luisa Neubauer** believes that we must be and are capable of tackling both crises at the same time. In the context of environmental challenges, **Arunabha Ghosh** suggested that we have to reassess how we value growth. Doing so will, in turn, allow us to redefine the relationship between sustainability, growth and jobs, which are currently seen as an "impossible trinity". He also thinks that the climate change action calls for global solidarity and "it is not sufficient for individual countries to take individual actions." According to **Ralf Fücks**, simultaneously fighting COVID-19 and climate change is part of the new systemic competition between liberal democracies and authoritative regimes. "We have to do everything we are able to prove that liberal democracies have better answers to the global challenges we are facing."

# DEMOCRATIC FORCES NEED TO FIRMLY SUPPORT EACH OTHER



**“THE VALUES THAT BRING  
US TOGETHER, NOT THE  
POLITICS THAT DIVIDE US.”**

Carl Gershman

In the time of rising authoritarianism, we have been witnessing an unprecedented wave of pro-democracy protests around the world. In this context, **Carl Gershman** urged for mutual support among the democratic forces around the world. He stressed the importance of the value of solidarity, frequently raised by Václav Havel, and praised Miloš Vystrčil as well as the Czech parliamentary delegation to Taiwan, which openly supported Taiwanese democracy against Chinese pressure. According to **Tsai Ing-wen**, Taiwan now stands at the forefront of safeguarding democracy and needs collaboration along with support from democracies around the world.

A tragedy is taking place in front of our eyes in Hong Kong. Described by **Jamil Anderlini** as the meeting-place of two ideologies: state-led authoritarianism and liberal democracy, Hong Kong represents the frontline of a new Cold War, with an impact on the entire world. “Yesterday

was Xinjiang, today is Hong Kong and tomorrow will be Taiwan,” warned **Joshua Wong**, affirming that he and others will protest against Beijing’s suppression of democracy because it is the right thing to do. He asked the international community for support.

The global threat of the Chinese totalitarianism was illustrated by **Lobsang Sangay**, reminding the audience that it was the lack of democratic governance in China which is responsible for the unnecessarily high price the world is paying for the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chinese government is not only violating the human rights of Uyghurs, Tibetans, Mongolians, and Hong Kongers, but is also penetrating international organizations, including the United Nations. “Our discussion is not about saving Tibetan people, Uyghurs and Hong Kong, it’s about saving ourselves,” Sangay concluded.



**“WE WANT NEW, FAIR AND  
TRANSPARENT ELECTIONS.  
AND BEFORE THAT WE DEMAND  
DIALOGUE WITH AUTHORITIES.”**

Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya



**Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya** explained the demands of the pro-democratic protests in Belarus and asked for international support. This support was pledged by **Tomáš Petříček**, who also stressed the long term Czech commitment to stand with the Belarussian civil society. Similarly, participants called for keeping the case of the Russian occupation of Crimea on the international agenda and for holding the Kremlin accountable for the string of poisonings, including that of the opposition leader Alexei Navalny.



# WE MUST BOTH DEFEND AND RENEW DEMOCRACY

According to **David Harris**, the collapse of the political center in many Western societies has fueled and empowered people on extremes. He urged the civil society, religions and media to each play a role in defending the values of liberal democracy and keeping society together. He also emphasized the importance of effectively teaching democratic and civic values in an increasingly pluralistic society. The need for better civic education, if we are to face populism effectively, was highlighted also by **Vesna Pusić** and **Ivan Havel**.

**Eamon Gilmore** sees democracy as still very much in its infancy and thus very vulnerable. "We have to look at new ways of innovating politics so that we can have greater deliberation, greater debate and livelier and healthier democracy," he added. **Erika Guevara Rosas** argued that "if we understand the conditions which today's authoritarian leaders make use of, then we are able to fight the politics of demonization by using the politics of compassion, the politics of solidarity, and

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Eamon Gilmore

the politics of empathy". Equal rights as the essence of democracy were emphasized by **Madeleine Albright**, who also stressed an increasing role of women in politics.





# DEMOCRACIES NEED TO TAKE INITIATIVE TO SUSTAIN A FAIR AND STABLE GLOBAL ORDER



**"THE LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL ORDER HAS BEEN UNDER SERIOUS PRESSURE WITH A PLETHORA OF ISSUES IN DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES FROM POPULISM, POLARIZATION, DISINFORMATION, NATIVISM AND UNILATERALISM."**

Maiko Ichihara

The existing global order is undergoing a severe crisis and there are attempts to build a new one, based on different principles. According to **Alice Ekman**, China represents the main challenger of the existing international order, which is taking advantage of many weaknesses that have occurred in the Western democracies. **Maiko Ichihara** pointed out that "the liberal international order has been under serious pressure with a plethora of issues

in democratic countries from populism, polarization, disinformation, nativism and unilateralism". Among the most serious threats, argued **Charles Kupchan**, are the populist leaders like Donald Trump "who appeal to people's darker instincts." "I'm not sure if the system would continue to function if Donald Trump is re-elected. Four more years of Donald Trump will test the patience of our allies," Kupchan warned.

**“WE WANT DEMOCRATIC RULES  
TO RUN THE DIGITAL WORLD,  
NOT THE DIGITAL RULES TO  
RUN THE DEMOCRATIC WORLD.”**

Eileen Donahoe



There is also a danger that the non-democratic regimes will define the international rules and norms around emerging technologies and AI. **Věra Jourová** expressed the will of the European Union to oppose this alternative. “We want democratic rules to run the digital world, not the digital rules to run the democratic world,” added **Eileen Donahoe** and warned against Chinese attempts to shape the norms of the digital era. According to **Garry Kasparov**, tech is evolving far faster than our political process. He urged democratic countries to get together and start setting up the rules and principles of how to govern society and technological aspects with a democratic approach.

Although democracy is undergoing severe challenges in many countries, across the world there is a growing demand for democracy, providing space for international cooperation. **Jeffrey Smith** testified that for a majority of Africans, democracy remains the best form of government and where multi-party elections remain the ideal way to choose their leaders. **Shirin Ebadi** expressed confidence “that the young generations of Iranian people will soon have the opportunity to build democracy with their own hands.”

**Andey Zubov** explained how a growing number of Russians, especially among young people, prefer a European democratic state model over the Chinese totalitarian one. To this, **Vladimir Kara-Murza** mentioned that for this reason, Putin is terrified by the images of the current democratic protests in Belarus. A similar situation may well occur in Russia soon.



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