

Introduction

The natural disadvantage of democracy is that it binds the hands of those who take it seriously while allowing those who don't take it seriously to do almost anything they want."

Václav Havel, *The Conspirators*, 1971

Dear Friends,

A quarter century ago, the Cold War system was collapsing and new democratic regimes were springing up across Central and Eastern Europe. Similarly, the fall of dictatorships and authoritarian regimes made way for democracies in Latin America and East Asia in the 1980s and early 1990s. The end of apartheid in South Africa in 1994 was another exciting milestone. The air was full of high hopes and expectations.

But what kind of democracy did we dream of then? What did we expect when the Iron Curtain crumbled? When the Chileans voted in their 1988 referendum? When the People Power Revolution in the Philippines toppled Ferdinand Marcos in 1986? What type of democracy do we have today? Perhaps most importantly, what do we aspire to? These are the central questions that this year's Forum 2000 conference seeks to answer.

After several decades of international efforts to move toward liberal democratic systems, we appear to be at a crossroads. Traditional institutions seem weakened and key democratic values are being questioned. With the failed hopes of the Arab Spring, the Russian aggression in Ukraine and the international community's lackluster

response to it, the rising global influence of the communist regime in Beijing, or the populist tendencies in Latin America, suddenly the democratic world is on the defensive.

We feel this is a timely and crucial discussion. It also directly connects with the worries of Václav Havel, who grew increasingly concerned about the quality of the democracy evolving in our societies and about its future.

We would like to thank the Forum 2000 team, members of the Board of Directors, the Program Council, and a number of other collaborators from around the world, who have over the past year voluntarily dedicated their time and commitment to preparing the upcoming meeting. They have helped with fundraising and have provided all kinds of other invaluable support to the foundation's activities and projects. The community around Forum 2000 is a wonderful global family and we are immensely proud to be among its members.

We hope that you will enjoy the conference, learn something new, and get inspired to continue making a difference.



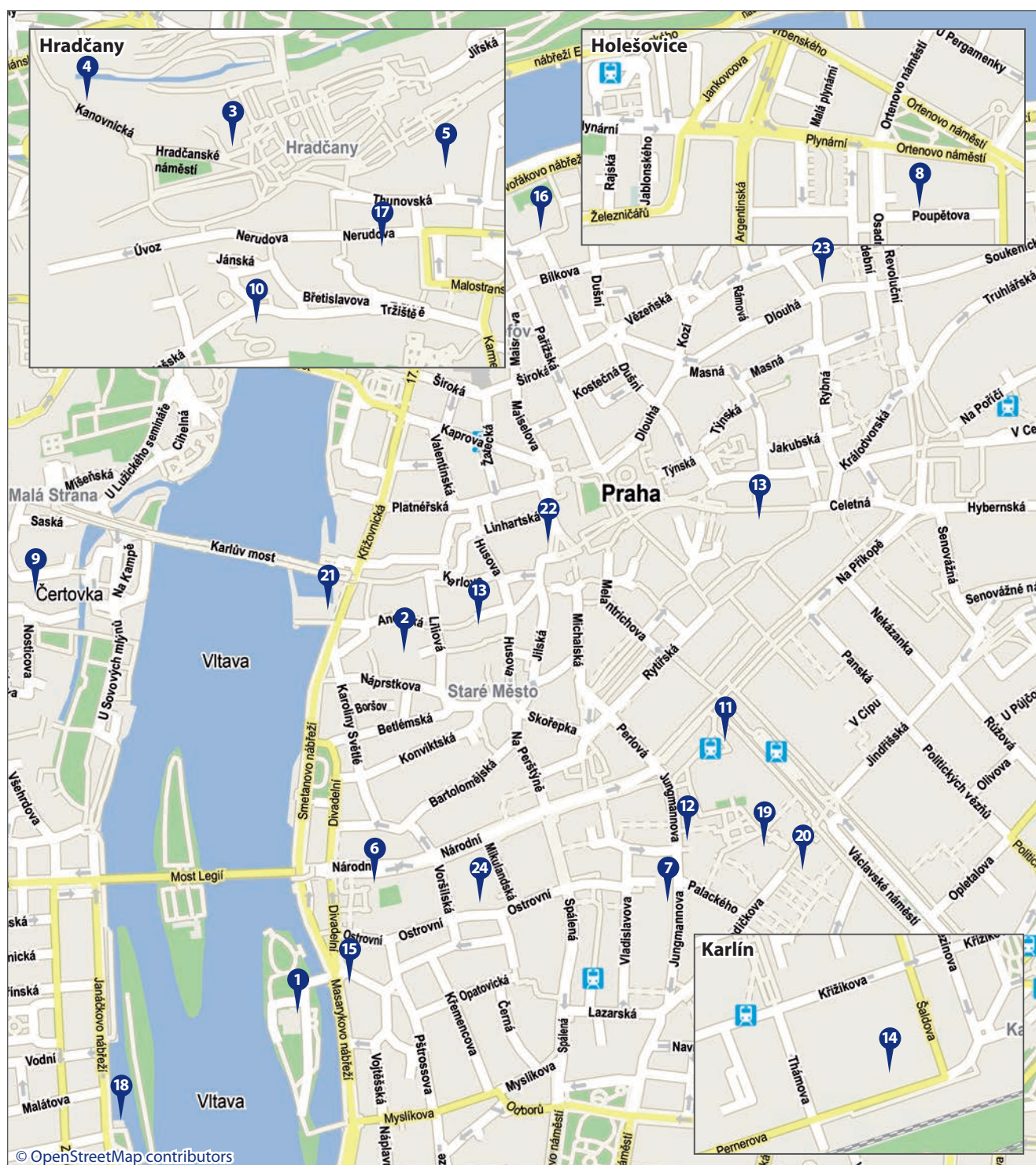
Tomáš Vrba
*Chairman of the Board
of Directors*



Jakub Klepal
Executive Director

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1. **Žofín Palace**
Slovanský ostrov, Prague 1
2. **Prague Crossroads** (former St. Anne's church)
Zlatá, entrance from Liliová, Prague 1
3. **Archbishop's Palace**
Hradčanské náměstí 16, Prague 1
4. **Austrian Residence**
Kanovnická 4, Prague 1
5. **British Embassy**
Thunovská 14, Prague 1
6. **Café NONA**
Národní 4, Prague 1
7. **CEVRO Institute**
Jungmannova 17, Prague 1
8. **DOX Centre for Contemporary Art**
Poupětova 1, Prague 7
9. **Embassy of France**
Velkopřevorské náměstí 2, Prague 1
10. **Embassy of Germany**
Vlašská 19, Prague 1
11. **Era World**
Jungmannovo náměstí 767, Prague 1
12. **European House**
Jungmannova 24, Prague 1
13. **Faculty of Arts, Charles University**
Celetná 20, Prague 1
14. **Forum Karlín**
Pernerova 53, Prague 8
15. **Goethe-Institut**
Masarykovo nábreží 32, Prague 1
16. **Hotel InterContinental**
Pařížská 30, Prague 1
17. **Institute of International Relations**
Nerudova 3, Prague 1
18. **Jazz Dock**
Janáčkovo nábreží 2, Prague 5
19. **Langhans, People in Need Center**
Vodičkova 37, Prague 1
20. **Lucerna Palace**
Vodičkova 36, Prague 1
21. **Mlýnec**
Novotného lávka 9, Prague 1
22. **NYU Prague**
Malé náměstí 2, Prague 1
23. **Roxy Club**
Dlouhá 33, Prague 1
24. **Václav Havel Library**
Ostrovní 13, Prague 1

Speaker Profiles



Milos Alcalay

Former Ambassador to the UN, Venezuela

International Commissioner of the Metropolitan Mayor of Caracas, Mr. Alcalay was the Venezuelan Ambassador to the United Nations (2001–2004) and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela (1996–1998). He served as Ambassador to Brazil, Israel, and Romania. He was also the Secretary General of the Andean Parliament (1985–1989). Mr. Alcalay publishes weekly on international affairs, lectures as Professor of International Law, and participates in activities of many NGOs concerning Human Rights and Democracy.



Paige Alexander

Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Europe and Eurasia, USAID, USA

Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia in the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with extensive experience working in the region. Previously Ms. Alexander was Senior Vice President at IREX, which supports international educators, journalists and community leaders. She has also been Associate Director of Project Liberty at John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and a Consultant to several foundations and institutions. Ms. Alexander has served on the boards of the Basic Education Coalition and the Project on Middle East Democracy.



Kenan Aliyev

Director, Azerbaijani Service, RFE/RL, Czech Republic/Azerbaijan

Executive Editor of RFE/RL's newly launched Russian TV Project called "Current Time" and Director of the Azerbaijani Service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Radio Azadliq. Prior to joining RFE/RL in 2004, Mr. Aliyev worked in Washington, DC for Voice of America (VOA) as a TV and radio broadcaster, covering U.S., regional and international politics and energy policy. He won VOA's Gold Medal Award for professional achievement in 2003. Mr. Aliyev also worked as an interpreter for the U.S. State Department, and lectured on history, religion and politics in the Caucasus region at the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service Institute. Mr. Aliyev studied Journalism in Baku and Washington, DC.



Youssef Amrani

Diplomat, Politician, Morocco

Minister Delegate to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco, Mr. Amrani previously served at the Foreign Affairs Ministry as Secretary General (2008–2011) and as Director General of Bilateral Affairs (2003–2008). Between 1996 and 2003, he acted as Morocco's Ambassador to numerous Central and South American countries, including Mexico, Chile, and Colombia. He was Consul General to Barcelona, a Member of the Cabinet of the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (1981–1984, 1979–1981), and Secretary of Foreign Affairs (1978–1979). He earned his bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Mohammed V Rabat, and a degree from the Management Institute of Boston, USA.



Michael Anti

Blogger, China

Journalist and Political Blogger for various Chinese and English-language media outlets. Michael Anti is an Associate Fellow with the Asia Society. As a public advocate for Internet freedom and online public diplomacy, he is one of the most influential microbloggers in China. He worked as a reporter in Baghdad and also at the Beijing Bureau of The New York Times. Mr. Anti has received the Wolfson Press Fellowship at Cambridge University (2007), Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University (2008), and was a visiting scholar at the University of Tokyo (2010). He was awarded the M100 Sanssouci Media Award in 2011 and has a degree in International Reporting from the Journalism School of Shantou University.



Shlomo Avineri

Professor of Political Science, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Professor of Political Science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and of the Forum 2000 Foundation Program Council, Mr. Avineri previously served as Director-General of Israel's Foreign Ministry (1975–1977). He is also a distinguished author, whose widely translated books include *The Social and Political Thought of Karl Marx* (1968), *Israel and the Palestinians* (1971), and *The Hegel's Theory of the Modern State* (1974). Mr. Avineri is a recipient of the Israel Prize, the country's highest civilian decoration. He

graduated from the Hebrew University and the London School of Economics.



José María Aznar
Former Prime Minister, Spain

Former Prime Minister of Spain, Mr. Aznar currently acts as Executive President of the Foundation for Social Studies and Analysis, Distinguished Fellow of the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, and Chairman of the Friends of Israel Initiative. In recent years, Mr. Aznar has focused primarily on the issue of combating terrorism, supporting the Atlantic relationship and promoting the European Union's commitment to freedom and economic reform. Mr. Aznar has been awarded honorary doctorates by Florida International University and Bar-Ilan University in Israel.



Daniel B. Baer
Representative to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), USA

U.S. Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Mr. Baer previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (2009–2013). Prior to joining the Department of State, he was an Assistant Professor of Strategy, Economics, Ethics, and Public Policy at Georgetown University. From 2007 to 2008, he was also a Faculty Fellow at the Edmond J. Safra Foundation Center for Ethics at Harvard University. Mr. Baer earned his Ph.D. from the University of Oxford.



Falah Mustafa Bakir
Minister, Head of Department of Foreign Relations, Kurdistan Regional Government, Iraq

Head of the Department of Foreign Relations of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in Erbil, Iraq, Mr. Bakir is responsible for the KRG's foreign policy and the region's relations with the international community. He also served as the KRG's liaison officer to the Coalition Provisional Authority and the Multi-National Forces' Korean contingent. Mr. Mustafa was a Senior Adviser to the KRG Prime Minister (2002–2004). He served as the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Public Relations Officer (1996–1999) and joined the KDP's International Relations/Public Relations office in 1991. Mr. Mustafa received his M.A. in Development Studies from the University of Bath, and earned a senior manager's executive program certificate from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.



Magdalena M. Baran
Historian of Ideas, Columnist, Journalist, Poland

Historian, columnist, journalist, Ms. Baran also specializes in political philosophy and practical ethics. She is a Member of the Editorial Board of *Liberté!* quarterly, and is Co-Founder of *Kultura Liberalna* weekly. She works with *Res Publica Nowa* and *Visegrad Insight* and is also a scholar of the Political Academy of the Austrian People's Party, the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), and the University of Vienna. Ms. Baran graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Krakow, and received her Ph.D. in Philosophy from the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw.



Vladimír Bartovic
Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Czech Republic/Slovakia

Director of the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Mr. Bartovic is also an external advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, a Member of the Program Council of the Czech-Polish Forum, and a Member of the Board of Directors of the DEMAS – Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights, which he chaired (2010–2011). He served as Director of Strategic Planning and Analysis at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia (2011–2012). He worked as an Editor at *Integrace* magazine and lectures on EU-related issues at the Institute of Public Administration and the Czech National Bank. Mr. Bartovic has a degree in International Trade and Politics from the University of Economics in Prague.



Klára Bednářová
People in Need, Czech Republic

Project Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa, Center for Democracy and Human Rights, People in Need, Czech Republic. Klára Bednářová has been directing projects in Egypt and Libya since 2011 aimed at supporting the role of civil society in democratic transitions. She is currently engaged in several non-governmental organizations and think-tanks. Ms. Bednářová holds an M.A. in Security Studies from Charles University in Prague.



Ales Bialiatski

*President, Viasna Human Rights Centre,
Belarus*

A prominent human rights activist in Belarus, Mr. Bialiatski is the Founder and Chair of the Viasna Human Rights Centre. He also serves as Vice President of the human rights organization FIDH. He was unexpectedly released in June 2014 after being unjustly imprisoned for nearly three years. Mr. Bialiatski was a Nobel Peace Prize nominee in 2012. He holds a number of international recognitions, among them the Lech Wałęsa Award (2012) and the Homo Homini Prize from the Czech NGO People in Need (2005), which was presented to him by Václav Havel. He holds a Ph.D. from the Belarusian Academy of Sciences.



Tomáš Bílý

Director, NaZemi, Czech Republic

Director of NaZemi, a Czech NGO which promotes awareness of international Fairtrade practices, Mr. Bílý also chairs Fairtrade Czech Republic and Slovakia and is a member of the Executive Board of the Czech Forum for Development Cooperation. He has a law degree from Charles University.



Igor Blažević

*Head Teacher, Burma Educational Initiatives,
Czech Republic/Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Founder of One World Film Festival, the biggest human rights film festival in Europe, Mr. Blažević is also Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council and a steering committee member of the World Movement for Democracy. He served as Director of the Human Rights and Democracy Department of People in Need (1994–2010). Mr. Blažević studied Philosophy and Comparative Literature at Zagreb University.



Richard Brabec

Minister of Environment, Czech Republic

Minister of Environment of the Czech Republic, Mr. Brabec has worked on issues related to domestic and European environmental legislation since 2007. He acted as General Manager and Vice Chairman of the Board of Lovochemie (2005–2010) and was Finance Director and Member of the Board of Spolana Neratovice (2003–2005). He worked for the financial section of Unipetrol (1997–2003) and served as Director of the Czech-Moravian Commodity Stock Exchange Kladno (1992–1997). He graduated from the Faculty of Natural Science at Charles University.



Martin Bútora

Sociologist, Institute for Public Affairs, Slovakia

Honorary President of the Institute for Public Affairs (IVO), an independent public policy think-tank established in Bratislava in 1997, Advisor to the President of Slovakia and Member of the Forum 2000 Foundation Program Council. A sociologist by training, Mr. Bútora was one of the founders of the Public Against Violence movement in Slovakia in November 1989 and served as a Human Rights Advisor to Czechoslovak President Václav Havel (1990–1992). He served as Slovak Ambassador to the U.S. (1999–2003) and has written and edited a number of books and studies on social transformation, foreign policy, and civil society, including IVO's annual series, Global Report on the State of Society.



Leslie Campbell

*Director, Middle East and North Africa,
National Democratic Institute, USA*

Director of the National Democratic Institute's programs in the Middle East and North Africa, Mr. Campbell has written and commented extensively on Middle East democracy as well as on Canadian political party reform. He has served on Middle Eastern democracy task forces and study groups at organizations like the Brookings Institution and the Council on Foreign Relations. He is a member of the Agenda Working Group for the Halifax International Security Forum and previously served as chief of staff to the leader of the New Democratic Party in the Canadian House of Commons. He has lectured at Georgetown University, as well as at Harvard University and Princeton University. He earned an M.A. in Public Administration from Harvard University.



Natalia Churikova

*Journalist, Ukrainian Service, RFE/RL, Czech
Republic/Ukraine*

Journalist and senior Broadcaster with the Ukrainian Service of the RFE/RL since 1995. Ms. Churikova started as an economic correspondent with an interest in foreign policy, especially European and Euro-Atlantic integration. In 2005 she started the program European Liberty, which later transformed into the Europe Connect interactive project. The topics on which it is based upon are selected by an on-line audience and questions answered by people who have first-hand experience with living in European countries. In 2007 Natalia lead a training team as a peer-trainer on a one-year detachment from the Ukrainian Service. Early in her career, she was the winner of Sander Thoenis Prize of The Financial Times, reporting for the FT in London, Brussels and Frankfurt.



Ramiro Cibrián

Former EU Ambassador, Political Scientist, Spain

Former Ambassador of the European Commission to the Czech Republic, currently Head of the Unit of the Directorate-General for External Relations of the European Commission, Mr. Cibrián also served as Ambassador to the State of Israel (2004–2009). As a Nuclear Security Specialist, he has held various positions in the European Commission. As European Commission Ambassador to the Czech Republic (1998–2003), he played an important role in the country's joining of the European Union. He was awarded the Medal of Merit of the Czech Republic by former President Václav Havel. Mr. Cibrián received his Ph.D. in Philosophy and Political Science from Yale University.



William Cook

Professor of History and Religion, State University of New York, USA

Distinguished Teaching Professor at State University of New York in Geneseo, Mr. Cook has won numerous awards for teaching excellence, and has lectured throughout the world, including in Italy, Slovakia, China, the Philippines and Kenya. He is an avid student of democracy, especially of the works of Alexis de Tocqueville. Mr. Cook is the author of six books, mostly about the Franciscan movement, and has made nine audio/video courses on religious topics with the Great Courses. He was a candidate for U.S. Congress in 1998. Mr. Cook received his Ph.D. in Medieval History from Cornell University.



Tomáš Ctibor

Acting Director, Prague Institute of Planning and Development, Czech Republic

Director of the Prague Institute of Planning

and Development and member of the expert advisory body to Prague City Hall, as well as various independent international professional institutions like the Counselors of Real Estate and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. In February 2013, Mr. Ctibor became the Head of the Department of Strategic Conception at the City Development Authority Prague and later he became Acting Director and led its transformation into the Prague Institute of Planning and Development. He lectures at the Faculty of Architecture of the Czech Technical University in Prague. After the Velvet Revolution he was a Member of the Federal Assembly and Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic.



Manuel Silvestre Cuesta Morúa

Activist, Founder, Progressive Arch, Cuba

Historian and political activist, Mr. Cuesta Morúa is the Founder and current Spokesperson for the Cuban Social Democratic Party Progressive Arch. He coordinates the Nuevo País Platform and the Constitutional Consensus project in Cuba. He has been active in the Cuban democratic movement since 1991, working with human rights organizations, political projects and think tanks. Mr. Cuesta Morúa graduated from Havana University with a degree in History.



Nedim Dervišbegović

Multimedia Producer, Balkan Service, RFE/RL, Czech Republic/Bosnia and Herzegovina

Multimedia Producer at RFE/RL, Mr. Dervišbegović is in charge of online operations in the Balkan Service of RFE/RL. In 2007, he helped to launch the independent news website RadioSarajevo.ba and served as its Editor in Chief. From 1997 to 2007, he covered Bosnia's post-war recovery and European integration as a Senior Correspondent for Reuters. In 1996–1997, he wrote on ex-Yugoslavia for the Italian daily La Voce Repubblicana. Mr. Dervišbegović studied Media and Politics at the American University of Rome and received his B.Sc. in Politics and International Relations from the University of London.



Doris Donnelly

Director, Cardinal Suenens Center, John Carroll University, USA

Professor of Theology at John Carroll University in Ohio, where she directs the Cardinal Suenens Center for Theology and Church Life, which exists to serve the vision of the Second Vatican Council. Ms. Donnelly has also served as President of Pax Christi, the international Catholic peace movement, and as President of the North American Academy of Liturgy, an ecumenical association of liturgical scholars. She is the author of several books and many articles. Ms. Donnelly earned her Ph.D. from Claremont University.



Leonidas Donskis

Philosopher, Former Member of the European Parliament, Lithuania

A prolific writer and former Member of the European Parliament in the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (2009–2014), Mr. Donskis co-authored the Moral Blindness: The Loss of Sensitivity in Liquid Modernity

(2013), and authored many books including *Fifty Letters from the Troubled Modern World: A Philosophical-Political Diary*, 2009–2012 (2013), *Modernity in Crisis: A Dialogue on the Culture of Belonging* (2011), *Troubled Identity and the Modern World* (2009), *Power and Imagination: Studies in Politics and Literature* (2008). He holds the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters from the University of Bradford, United Kingdom.



Jakub Doubrava
Actor, Czech Republic

Actor, director, and Co-Founder of the alternative theater TEATR RAJDO, Mr. Doubrava has cooperated with various theaters such as Continuo, Blast Theory, and Mamapapa. He has created original interpretations of the stories of Hansel and Gretel, Little Red Riding Hood, and Foxy Fox. He founded and currently works at Kabaret Kajbar theater. Mr. Doubrava also works for a hospital clown NGO and frequently helps to judge recitals and acting performances. He studied acting at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague at the Department of Alternative and Puppet Theatre.



Jeremy Druker
Executive Director, Transitions, Czech Republic/USA

Executive director of Transitions (TOL), a media development organization that he co-founded in 1999. In addition to being an Ashoka Fellow, Mr. Druker is a Member of the Board of Novinářská Cena, the Czech journalism prize, and former Chairman of the Board of the Fulbright Commission in the Czech Republic. Mr. Druker teaches a course on social media's impact on society at New York University's Prague campus. He holds a bachelor's degree from Harvard College and a master's in international affairs from Columbia University.



Petr Drulák
First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic

First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs since 2014. He previously worked as Professor at the Institute of Political Studies and at the Institute of International Studies at Charles University (2005–2012), as Director of the Institute of International Relations Prague (2004–2013), and as Chairman of the Editorial Council of the journal *Mezinárodní vztahy* (International Relations; 2004–2007). Mr. Drulák earned his Ph.D. from the University of Economics, Prague.



Dominik Duka
Cardinal, Archbishop of Prague, Czech Republic

Cardinal and 36th Archbishop of Prague, member of the Ethical Forum of the Czech Republic and member of the Scientific Board of the Catholic Theological Faculty at Charles University. Cardinal Duka joined the Dominican order and was ordained as a priest in 1970. His religious activities led to his arrest and imprisonment under the Communist regime in the 1980s; after his release, however, he continued to publish his writings in secrecy. Cardinal Duka is a prolific author to this day, having penned dozens of articles and several books, and contributed significantly to the translation of the Jerusalem Bible into Czech.



Miroslav Dušek
Director, Head of Middle East and North Africa, World Economic Forum

Director, Head of Middle East and North Africa, World Economic Forum, Mr. Dušek is also the head of the region for Global Leadership Fellows Programme, responsible for the Forum's MENA summits and the Arab Business Council. He was Director at the American Information Center of the US Embassy in Prague, and was a Public Diplomacy Specialist at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. Mr. Dušek holds a B.A. in Political Science from Charles University in Prague, and an Arabic language certificate from the Kuwait University. He also holds an M.A. in International Studies from the University of Reading in the United Kingdom.



Oleksandra Dvoretzskaya
Chair, Crimean Human Rights Centre, Ukraine

Crimean activist and human rights defender, Chair of the Crimean Human Rights Center "Action," Ms. Dvoretzskaya is the coordinator of the legal branch of the public initiative East-SOS. She is also the coordinator of a Crimean web of legal aid clinics. She was a member of the court sessions observation mission after the Zhanaozen tragedy and a member of the international human rights observation mission in Belarus. She is the Co-Founder of the independent students' union Students' Actions and organizer of the social and classic film club within the philosophy department of the Taurida National University, Crimea.



Jørgen Ejbøl

Chairman, JP/Politikens Newspapers, Denmark

Chairman of JP/Politikens Hus A/S Media Group and Vice Chairman of the Jyllands-Posten Foundation, Mr. Ejbøl was previously Editor in Chief and Managing Director of Morgenavisen Jyllands-Posten. He has also held managerial positions in several media organizations in Denmark and elsewhere, including Serbia and Russia. He was an editor at numerous Danish newspapers including Fyens Amts Avis, Dagbladet, Weekendavisen Berlingske Aften, BT, Billed Bladet, and Berlingske Tidende.



Mátyás Eörsi

Former State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungary

Former State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary and currently Senior Advisor to the Secretary General of the Community of Democracies, since 2014 Mr. Eörsi has worked for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Jordan, and in Libya, for Democracy Reporting International, and for the Parliamentary Forum for Democracy. He was a Member of the Hungarian Parliament (1990–2010) and Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (1994–2010). Mr. Eörsi also served as Vice President of Liberal International.



Salam Fayyad

Economist, Former Prime Minister, Palestine

Former Prime Minister of the Palestinian National Authority (2007–2013), Mr. Fayyad served twice as the Minister of Finance, was elected to the Palestinian Legislative Council, and also served as Chairman of the Finance Committee. In 2013, he founded Future for Palestine a non-profit development foundation and remained active in the International Monetary Fund and the Atlantic Council. Prior to his political career he held several teaching and research positions before joining the International Monetary Fund in 1987. Mr. Fayyad received his MBA from St. Edward's University and Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Texas at Austin.



Pavel Fischer

Former Political Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic

Political Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and formerly Ambassador to France (2003–2010), Mr. Fischer worked in the Office of the President as a Press Expert, Vice

Spokesman and as Director of the Political Department. He served as a Chairman of the Administrative Board of Forum 2000 Foundation (1999–2003) and in 2010 he was awarded the prestigious French Order of the Legion of Honor for his achievements in the field of Czech–French bilateral relations.



Petr Fleischmann

Chairman of the Board, The New Presence Revue, Czech Republic

Journalist and university professor, current Chairman of the Editorial Board of the New Presence (Přítomnost) revue, Mr. Fleischmann has been the Advisor to the Czech Senate's Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Security since 2006 and worked as the Secretary of the committee (1997–2006). In the 1990s, he was Editor of Lidové noviny (1996–1997) and a Member of the Czech Television Council (1992–1994). Mr. Fleischmann graduated in Philosophy from the Sorbonne, holds a post-graduate degree in History from European University Institute in Florence, Italy, and was a Professor at the École Supérieure de Gestion in Paris.



Steven Gan

Editor, Malaysiakini.com, Malaysia

Founder and Editor of Malaysiakini.com, Member of the Forum 2000 Foundation Program Council. Mr. Gan previously worked for the Nation, a newspaper in Bangkok, and as Special Issues Editor and Columnist for the Sun in Malaysia. He was arrested and jailed for five days after reporting on protests during the 1996 Asia Pacific Conference in East Timor, and Amnesty International named Mr. Gan a prisoner of conscience. Malaysiakini.com received the Free Media Pioneer Award from the International Press Institute in 2001, and Mr. Gan received the Committee to Protect Journalists' International Press Freedom Award in 2000.



Carlos García-Pérez

Director, Office of Cuba Broadcasting, USA/Cuba

Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB), Mr. García-Pérez is responsible for the strategic planning and operational direction of Radio, TV Martí, and Martinticias.com. Prior to joining OCB, He was a shareholder in the Litigation and Trial Practice Department of Goldman Antonetti & Cordova, P.S.C. Mr. García received his J.D. at Hofstra University School of Law in New York (1988) and his B.A. in Economics and International Relations at Duquesne University in Pennsylvania (1985).



Konstanty Gebert
Journalist, Poland

International reporter and columnist for the Polish daily *Gazeta Wyborcza*, Mr. Gebert is also an associate fellow of the European Council on Foreign Relations and a media consultant for the Media Development and Investment Fund. As an anticommunist activist and underground journalist, Mr. Gebert founded the Polish Jewish intellectual monthly *Midrasz* and co-founded the underground Jewish Flying University and the Polish Council of Christians and Jews. He is author of eleven books and has been a visiting professor at UC Berkeley, Grinnell College, and Hebrew University.



Adam Gebrian,
Architect, Czech Republic

Architect and curator of expositions on architecture, Mr. Gebrian helped to establish the private school of architecture ARCHIP and was a member of the Ostrava 2015 Project team, which prepared the City of Ostrava's bid to be the European Capital of Culture for 2015. Currently, he has a radio program on Radio Wave and lectures at the Prague Institute at North Carolina State University. His articles appear in the *Respekt* magazine and in a blog on *Echo24.cz*. Mr. Gebrian graduated from the Faculty of Architecture in Liberec, and from the Southern California Institute for Architecture (SCI-Arc) in Los Angeles.



Jared Genser
President, Freedom Now, USA

Founder of Freedom Now, a non-governmental organization that works to free prisoners of conscience, and Managing Director of Perseus Strategies, a law and consulting firm that focuses on human rights, humanitarian, and corporate social responsibility projects. Previously, Mr. Genser was a partner in DLA Piper LLP and a consultant with McKinsey & Company. He teaches at Georgetown University Law Center. His pro bono clients have included former Czech President Václav Havel and Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Aung San Suu Kyi, Liu Xiaobo, Desmond Tutu, and Elie Wiesel. He is Member of the Forum 2000 Foundation Program Council and co-editor of *The UN Security Council in the Age of Human Rights* and *The Responsibility to Protect: The Promise of Stopping Mass Atrocities in Our Times*.



Carl Gershman
President, National Endowment for Democracy, USA

President of the National Endowment for Democracy, Mr. Gershman presides over the Endowment's grants program in the majority of the world's nations. He has also overseen various other projects of the organization, including the quarterly *Journal of Democracy* and the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program. He was one of the initiators of the World Movement for Democracy, a global network of democracy practitioners and scholars founded in 1999 in New Delhi. He now oversees the response of the Endowment to the revolutionary changes in the Middle East and also the support of activists who work for greater freedom in authoritarian countries.



Vugar Gojayev
Fellow, Human Rights Watch, Azerbaijan

Fellow of the Europe and Central Asia Division of Human Rights Watch, Mr. Gojayev also served as the Director of the Azerbaijan Human Rights House. Prior to that, he was a Country Analyst for the International Crisis Group and worked for various international organizations, advocating for human rights. He has published many articles and reports, and co-authored international policy papers on Azerbaijan and the Southern Caucasus. Mr. Gojayev holds an M.A. degree in International Human Rights from the University of Essex, United Kingdom.



René de Jesús Gómez Manzano
Lawyer, Dissident, Cuba

Lawyer and dissident, Mr. Gómez Manzano defends cases of human rights abuses involving political prisoners. He has been an outspoken critic of the Cuban court system and of the Castro regime. He co-founded the professional organization of lawyers, the *Corriente Agramontista*, aiming to reform the Cuban judicial system and to ensure greater adherence to the rule of law. In 1997, the American Bar Association Section of Litigation awarded Mr. Manzano with the International Human Rights Award. He studied International Law at Patrice Lumumba University in Moscow.



Marcel Granier
President, Radio Caracas Televisión (RCTV), Venezuela

President and CEO of Empresas 1BC, General Director of

Radio Caracas Televisión (RCTV) and of International Television, Mr. Granier has also been President of Dividendo Voluntario Para la Comunidad, President of the Business Council of Latin America (CEAL), and Director of Venezuela's Central Bank. He has been a Member of the Presidential Commission for State Reform and of the Advisory Board of IBM. Mr. Granier obtained a Bachelor's degree and a law degree in Caracas and an MBA in London.



Freddy Guevara
Politician, Activist, Venezuela

Political National Co-Coordinator of the political party Voluntad Popular, Mr. Guevara was re-elected as Metropolitan City Councilor for the Metropolitan area of Caracas for the term 2013–2017 and has become the front-runner of the democratic organization after the arrest of its National Coordinator, Leopoldo López, now prisoner of conscience. He presided over the Commission for Public Safety and Human Rights of the Metropolitan City Hall of Caracas (2008–2013). In 2008, Mr. Guevara ran as candidate for the Metropolitan City Councilor of Caracas, winning and turning into the youngest and most voted Council Member in the history of Venezuela. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Communication from the Catholic University Andrés Bello, Caracas.



Tomáš Halík
Sociologist, President, Czech Christian Academy, Czech Republic

Professor of Philosophy at Charles University in Prague, Pastor of the Academic Parish in Prague, President of the Czech Christian Academy and Member of the Forum 2000 Foundation Program Council. Mr. Halík is also a writer and a member of the European Academy of Science and Art. In 1992, Pope John Paul II appointed him Advisor to the Pontifical Council for Dialogue with Non-Believers and in 2008, Pope Benedict XVI granted him the title of Monsignor – Honorary Prelate of His Holiness. In 2009, he received the Truth and Justice prize for his defense of human rights and justice, in 2010, the Romano Guardini Prize, and in 2014, the Templeton Prize.



Robert Hårdh
Executive Director, Civil Rights Defenders, Sweden

Executive Director of Civil Rights Defenders for over 15 years, Mr. Hårdh is a Member of the Advisory Council to the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea and serves on the Steering Committee for the World Movement for Democracy. He is a Board Member of the Expo Foundation, a non-profit organization which maps

anti-democratic, extremist right-wing, and racist societal trends. He was a Member and a Chair of the Amnesty International Lawyers Group (1992–1997). Mr. Hårdh has lectured on human rights law at universities in Sweden and abroad. He holds a Masters of Laws degree from Uppsala University in Sweden.



Ivan M. Havel
Scientist, Czech Republic

Scientist and former Director of the Center for Theoretical Study, an international cross-disciplinary institution affiliated with Charles University and the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. Member of the Forum 2000 Foundation International Advisory Board. Mr. Havel is also an Editor in Chief of the Czechoslovak scientific journal *Vesmír* (The Universe) and a member of *Academia Europea*. His fields of interest are theoretical computer science, artificial intelligence, cognitive sciences, and related philosophical issues. Mr. Havel earned his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.



Bakhtiyar Hajiyev
Youth Activist, Azerbaijan

Co-Founder of the Positive Change Youth Movement and a former candidate for Parliament in the fall of 2010. Mr. Hajiyev previously worked as a Short Term Consultant at the World Bank, as a Regional Coordinator for the Education Development Center's Europe and Eurasia Social Legacy Project, and as the Member Committee President of AIESEC in Azerbaijan. In 2012, he met privately with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during her visit to Baku on youth movements and democracy in Azerbaijan. He received his M.A. in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.



Daniel Herman
Minister of Culture, Czech Republic

Minister of Culture and Member of Parliament for the Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party, Mr. Herman served as the Director of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes, was Spokesman of the Czech Bishops' Conference (1996–2005), Secretary to Miloslav Vlk and Director of the Office of Professor Švejnár. Although he is now laicized, Mr. Herman studied theology in Litoměřice (1984), was ordained and served as a priest since 1989.



Yevhen Hlibovytsky
Founder, Pro.mova, Ukraine

Founder of Pro.mova, an independent think tank dedicated to values research and focused on modernization issues in the former Soviet countries, Mr. Hlibovytsky is also a member of the Nestor Group, which seeks to develop a long-term vision for Ukraine. He also lectures at Kyiv-Mohyla Business School and Lviv Business School at the Catholic University. Previously, Mr. Hlibovytsky was a journalist in Ukraine and in 2002, he co-founded 5 Kanal, a TV station, which played a vital role during the Ukrainian Orange Revolution. Mr. Hlibovytsky graduated from the Faculty of Political Studies at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.



Jürgen E. Hoffmeister
Entrepreneur, Philanthropist, Germany

Before selling his business, Mr. Hoffmeister was the CEO and President of the worldwide operating KAVO Dental Group for 13 years. Prior to being the CEO, he was responsible for several KAVO companies in Italy, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Mr. Hoffmeister was an active member of the Young Presidents Organization (YPO), where he held several national and international posts. After selling his business, Mr. Hoffmeister devoted himself to supporting the Forum 2000 Foundation. Earlier in his career, he also worked as a mechanic apprentice and as a service engineer in Australia. He holds a business degree from the Calw Betriebswirtschaftsschule.



Ondřej Horký-Hlucháň
Head of the Research Department, Institute of International Relations Prague, Czech Republic

Head of the Research Department at the Institute of International Relations in Prague, Mr. Horký-Hlucháň's research is primarily concerned with development cooperation in the Czech Republic and other Central and Eastern European countries. He is the author of the book *Czech Development Cooperation: Discourses, Practices, Cleavages* and co-editor of the book *Development Policies of Central and Eastern European States: From Aid Recipients to Aid Donors*. He has studied foreign relations with sub-Saharan Africa and post-colonialism, both from a Central European perspective. Mr. Horký-Hlucháň has taught at Charles University and at the University of Economics, Prague, where he earned his Ph.D.



Lucie Hrušová
Activist, Czech Republic

Co-founder of the initiative Urban Gardening Liberec, Ms. Hrušová has been working on a project that aims to revive the urban center of Liberec through the creation of public green spaces. She serves as Director of Marketing and Communications for the Czech Republic and Slovakia at Nielsen, a leading global provider of consumer information and insight. She holds an M.A. from the Technical University of Liberec.



Martin Hůla
Activist, Czech Republic

Musician and graphic designer, Mr. Hůla alias Martin Tvrdý played in the music group Ememvoodooopöká and since 2009 he performs under the stage name Bonus. His album "Náměstí míru" gained the music critics' prize Apollo. Mr. Hůla is also film music composer and prepares an exhibition concerning Czech post-war typography as a curator. Since 2013, he has been working in the community center Plecháňa, in the project "Music incubator," developing musical skills of Roma children.



Ellen Hume
Journalist, Fellow, Central European University, Hungary/USA

Annenberg Fellow in Civic Media at Central European University's Center for Media and Communication Studies, Ms. Hume was formerly a Research Director at the MIT Media Lab, Executive Director of Harvard University's Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy, White House correspondent for the Wall Street Journal, and reporter and television commentator for other U.S. media. She resided in Prague from 1998–2000 and has lived in Budapest since 2009. She is a graduate of Harvard University, with an honorary doctorate from Kenyon College, Ohio.



Michal Hvorecký
Author, Slovakia

Author of seven books of fiction translated into six languages, Mr. Hvorecký currently works at the Goethe-Institut. He is also a civil rights activist and contributor on culture and politics to various daily papers and magazines in Slovakia and abroad. Mr. Hvorecký studied art history in Nitra and was a resident at the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa in 2004.



Khadija Ismayilova
Journalist, Activist, Azerbaijan

Journalist, radio host and an investigative reporter with the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project. Ms. Ismayilova is a host of the daily current affairs show on Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Azerbaijan. Her investigations on the President Aliyev's family businesses received international awards and resulted in government attacks against her. She was named one of the Brave Thinkers of the world by Atlantic magazine – one of 21 people risking their reputations, fortunes, and lives in pursuit of big ideas. Since 1997 Ms. Ismayilova has reported for Azerbaijani, Russian and English newspapers of the region and has held management positions at Azerbaijani newspapers and RFE/RL. In 2012 she was awarded the Gerd Bucerius Free Press of Eastern Europe Award and the Courage of Journalism Award by U.S.-based International Women's Media Foundation.



Ramin Jahanbegloo
Philosopher, Canada/Iran

A Iranian-Canadian philosopher, Mr. Jahanbegloo is also a Noor-York Chair in Islamic Studies at York University, an Advisory Board Member of PEN Canada, a researcher at the French Institute for Iranian Studies, and a Fellow at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University. He previously served as the head of the Department of Contemporary Studies of the Cultural Research Centre in Tehran and, he was the Rajni Kothari Professor in Democracy at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in New Delhi, India (2006–2007). Mr. Jahanbegloo received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from the Sorbonne University.



Karel Janeček
Businessman, Philanthropist, Anti-Corruption Activist, Czech Republic

Czech Philanthropist, Anti-Corruption Activist and Chairman of RSJ Algorithmic Trading. Mr. Janeček has established three renowned foundations: the Karel Janeček Foundation Fund, which supports young scientists in the field of mathematics, economics and medicine; the Anti-Corruption Endowment Fund; and the Foundation Fund of Help, which assists individuals undergoing difficulties caused by their actions to bring about a positive social impact. Mr. Janeček is a co-owner of the DOX Centre for Contemporary Art and supports a number of other projects, such as the Strings of Autumn music festival. He founded the company RSJ Algorithmic Trading and is currently its Chairman. Lately he has been devoting his time

to improving Czech society. He holds a Ph.D. in Financial Mathematics from Carnegie Mellon University.



Pavel Janšta
Deputy Mayor, Vodňany, Czech Republic

Deputy Mayor of Vodňany and co-founder of Vodňany Žijou – an NGO dedicated to the cultural, educational and civic development of the South Bohemian city of Vodňany. Mr. Janšta is also a writer, translator and movie producer. He holds an M.A. from the Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University, Prague.



Zora Jaurová
Producer, President, Creative Industry Forum, Slovakia

Producer, theater script editor, critic, interpreter, and current President of the Creative Industry Forum, Ms. Jaurová previously worked as the Director of the national office of Kultura, a European grant program (2004–2008). She also represented Slovakia on the Council of the EU Committee for Cultural Affairs (2004–2006) and is the Vice President of the European organization Culture Action Europe. Since 2008, she has been the Artistic Director of the project Košice Interface 2013, which won the Slovak city the title of European Cultural Capital of 2013. Ms. Jaurová graduated in Dramaturgy from the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava.



Marian Jurečka
Minister of Agriculture, Czech Republic

Minister of Agriculture of the Czech Republic, Mr. Jurečka is also Member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic and First Deputy Chair of the Christian and Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party. In 2012 he was elected Member of the Regional Council in the Olomouc region. He served as Head of the Agricultural Chemistry Division in Agro 2000 (2010–2013). Since 2002 he has been farming at his family estate at Rokytice. Mr. Jurečka earned his engineering degree from the Mendel University Brno.



Irena Kalhousová
Chief Analyst, Forum 2000 Foundation, Czech Republic

Chief Analyst at the Prague Security Studies Institute. Ms. Kalhousová often gives live commentaries and analysis of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for the Czech national

Speaker Profiles

television and radio and publishes articles in major Czech newspapers and journals. She is also lecturing at the Anglo-American University, teaching courses on European integration and the modern Middle East. Ms. Kalhousová has a B.A. in political science from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and did her master studies at the University of Cambridge, studying Contemporary European Studies.



Jana Kendiková
Activist, Czech Republic

Activist and Chairwoman of the Horse Riding Club Liberec, Ms. Kendiková has helped to renovate the dilapidated race course in Liberec and, to turn it into a modern and multifunctional complex open to the general public. Together with her sister, she launched a reconstruction of the Palác Dunaj (Danube Palace). Her most recent accomplishment is the creation of the first community garden in Liberec.



Gilles Kepel
Political Scientist, Sciences Po, France

Professor and Chair of Middle East and Mediterranean Studies at Sciences Po, Mr. Kepel is also the Founder and Chairman of the Eurogolfe Network, and was a Visiting Professor at New York University and Columbia University (1995–1996). He has published several books on the Middle East and Islamic Terrorism and contributes to the Financial Times, Le Monde, La Repubblica, El Pais, and a number of Arabic language and international newspapers. Mr. Kepel earned his Ph.D. from Sciences Po.



Mikhail Khodorkovsky
Businessman, Former Prisoner of Conscience, Russia

Activist and former Chairman and CEO of Yukos, Mr. Khodorkovsky was Russia's leading businessman and later, one of its longest serving political prisoners. Prior to his arrest in 2003, he sponsored programs supporting civil society through the Open Russia Foundation, funded opposition parties and publicly challenged the Kremlin on the issue of corruption. After two internationally-criticized trials, he was sentenced to 14 years in prison. In 2011, Amnesty International declared him a prisoner of conscience.



Fredo Arias-King
President, CASLA Institute, Founder, Demokratizatsiya Academic Journal, Mexico

President of the Prague-based CASLA Institute, which seeks to promote understanding between Latin America and Central Europe, Mr. Arias-King is a longtime student of democratic transitions. He was Senior Adviser to the Mexican democratic opposition in their successful 2000 presidential campaign, and has advised numerous other democratic movements and parties in Latin America and East-Central Europe. He holds an M.A. in Russian and Eurasian Area Studies, as well as an M.B.A., both from Harvard University.



Křištof Kintera
Artist, Czech Republic

One of the most significant artists of his generation known for his distinctive approach to sculpture. Mr. Kintera is known for his acoustic-kinetic sculptures and for his art in public space. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague and at the Royal Academy of Visual Arts in Amsterdam.



Andrej Kiska
President, Slovakia

President of the Slovak Republic, businessman, and philanthropist, Mr. Kiska was elected Slovak President in June 2014. In 2006, he founded a non-profit charitable organization, Dobrý Anjel (Good Angel), in which donors help families in financial difficulty as a result of a family member contracting a serious disease (such as cancer). Previously, he held various management positions and founded several companies mostly in the sphere of financial services. He graduated in Electrical Engineering from the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava.



Hynek Kmoníček
Director, Foreign Affairs Department, Office of the President, Czech Republic

Diplomat and Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs at the Office of the President of the Czech Republic, Mr. Kmoníček previously served as Ambassador to Australia. He was a longtime employee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he served as Deputy Minister and as Director of several departments. His ambassadorial posts included India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Maldives, and Sri Lanka. Between 2001 and 2006, Mr. Kmoníček was the

Czech Ambassador to the United Nations in New York. He graduated from the Faculty of Education at the University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice.



Milan Kňažko

Actor, Politician, Slovakia

Actor and politician, former Minister of Foreign Affairs (1990–1993), former Deputy Prime Minister (1992–1993), and former Minister of Culture (1998–2002), Mr. Kňažko served as Director of the Slovak private TV station JOJ (2003–2007). He took part in the 1994–1998 opposition against the semi-autocratic government of Prime Minister Vladimír Mečiar. He also served as Advisor to President Václav Havel (1989–1990). Mr. Kňažko was a key figure of the Velvet Revolution in 1989 and signed the petition A Few Sentences.



Igor Kochetkov

Chairman of the Russian LGBT Network, Russia

Chairman of the Russian LGBT Network since 2008. The Russian LGBT Network is an inter-regional non-governmental human rights organization that promotes equal rights and human dignity regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity by bringing together and developing regional initiatives, engaging in advocacy work (both nationally and internationally) and providing social and legal services. Mr. Kochetkov holds a Ph.D. in History.



Petr Kolář

Former Ambassador to Russia, Czech Republic

Senior Advisor at Squire Patton Boggs law firm specializing in commercial diplomacy and global government relations, Mr. Kolář previously worked as Director of the Foreign Affairs department at PPF investment group (2013), where he focused on relations with Asian countries. Prior to joining the private sector, he served as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for bilateral relations, Advisor to President Václav Havel for European integration and the Balkans, and as Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Russia (2010–2012), the United States (2005–2010), Ireland (1999–2003), and Sweden (1996–1998). He earned his Ph.D. from Charles University, Prague.



Miroslav Kollár

Executive Director, Institute for Public Affairs, Slovakia

Executive Director of the Institute for Public Affairs (IVO), Mr. Kollár served as the Chairman of the Council of Slovak Television, and later on the Council of Radio and Television of Slovakia (2002–2012). He was CEO and Chairman of the Board of SITA news agency (2008–2009). He has collaborated with IVO, as an Analyst and Project Manager of the Global Report on Slovakia and IVO Barometer projects. Mr. Kollár has also co-authored and edited over 40 books.



David Koller

Musician, Czech Republic

Czech musician and frontman of the rock band Lucie (1987–2005). Mr. Koller has performed with other rock groups as a musician (Kollerband, Pusa, Žentour, Jasná Páka, Blue Effect) and producer (Koistinen, Alice, Plexis, Oskar Petr, Walk Choc Ice, Lucie Bilá). He has also composed film music and co-founded the cultural centre MeetFactory (together with artist David Černý and filmmaker Alice Nellis).



Petr Kratochvíl

Director, Institute of International Relations, Czech Republic

Director of the Institute of International Relations and a lecturer at several Czech universities, Mr. Kratochvíl is the Chairman of the Academic Council of the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic as well as a member of a range of academic and scientific councils. He has published extensively on European integration, EU-Russian relations, the role of religion in international affairs, and international relations theory. Mr. Kratochvíl is Associate Professor at the University of Economics, Prague and Metropolitan University Prague.



Tomáš Kraus

Executive Director, Federation of Jewish Communities, Czech Republic

Executive Director of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic, Mr. Kraus was Elected Vice President of the World Jewish Congress in 2009 and Vice President of the European Jewish Congress. His main tasks there are the negotiations for return of Jewish property and for the compensation for Holocaust survivors. Mr. Kraus also worked in the Czech music industry for the Czech national record company Supraphon, and later for

Speaker Profiles

Art Centrum. He teaches at New York University in Prague and received his law degree from the Faculty of Law at Charles University in Prague.



Péter Krekó

Director, Political Capital Institute, Hungary

Director of the Budapest think tank, Political Capital Institute, Dr. Krekó is an Assistant Professor of Social and Political Psychology at ELTE University and a Co-Chair of the EU Radicalisation Awareness Network Prevention working group. He regularly serves as commentator on leading international media. He has many publications including, *A Russian Spy in Brussels*, *The Role of Stereotypes and Prejudices in Political Public Thinking*, and *Study on the Situation of Prejudice and Intolerance in Hungary*.



Vytautas Landsbergis

Former Head of State, Lithuania

Former President of the Seimas (1990–1992, 1996–2000) and Head of State of Lithuania in his first term, Mr. Landsbergis was also a Member of the European Parliament (2004–2014) and represented Lithuania in the USSR People's Deputies Congress from March 1989 until independence. He was among the initiators of the Lithuanian Reform Movement Sajudis. Musicologist by education, Mr. Landsbergis holds an Honorary Doctorate from Loyola University, Weber State University, Helsinki University, and Sorbonne University.



Hana Lešenarová

Associate Director, Control Risks Deutschland, Germany/Czech Republic

Practice Leader for the region of Central and Eastern Europe in the London office of Control Risks, an international risk consultancy. Prior to joining Control Risks Ms. Lešenarová worked as news editor for the English-language newspaper *Prognosis*, published in Prague (1991–1995), the business investigative weekly, *Prague Business Journal* (1996–2002) and as business editor of Czech daily *Mladá fronta Dnes* (2002–2004). She also contributed to *Business Week*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Emerging Markets* and to the *Economist Intelligence Unit's* publications. In 2004, she spent one year in Brussels and throughout the European Union as the EU correspondent for the daily.



Paul Linden-Retek

Political Theorist, Yale University, USA

Currently a doctoral candidate in Yale University's Department of Political Science, Mr. Linden-Retek focuses on contemporary political theory, cosmopolitanism, and law and the humanities. In 2014, he worked to establish the Special Academic Program in Human Rights at Yale College, where he has taught on the politics and theory of human rights, law and globalization, and the moral foundations of politics. Mr. Linden-Retek has served as Robina Foundation Human Rights Fellow and as legal adviser to the International Civilian Office/EU Special Representative for Kosovo. He holds a J.D. from Yale Law School and an A.B. from Harvard University.



Tomáš Lindner

Journalist, Respekt Magazine, Czech Republic

Journalist and Editor of *Respekt* magazine since 2008, Mr. Lindner focuses on world affairs primarily in Germany and sub-Saharan Africa, and on relations between wealthy and poor countries. He is the author of the book of reports from the south of Africa, *Čekání na období dešťů, Zambijská mozaika* (Waiting for the Rain Season, A Mozaic from Zambia, 2008). In 2009, he won the European Young Journalist Award for his report *Svítání nad městem hříchu* (The Dawn over Sin City) concerning the practices of the Bulgarian mafia. In 2010, he was awarded a journalism prize for his article *Jak se staví tygr* (How to Build a Tiger). Mr. Lindner graduated in Political Science from the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University in Prague.



Ondřej Liška

Politician, Activist, Czech Republic

Former Chairman of the Green Party (2009–2014), Mr. Liška also served as Minister of Education, Youth and Sport (2007–2009) and as a Member of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. He previously worked with the Forum 2000 Foundation and as Chairman of the Czech-Austrian Discussion Forum (2003–2004). Mr. Liška was a member of the local municipal assembly in Brno for the Green Party and worked as an advisor on the Cohesion Policy and Structural Funds to the Green Group in the European Parliament. He studied Religion and Politics at Masaryk University in Brno.



Dimitri Litvinov

*Activist, Greenpeace International, USA/
Sweden/Russia*

Senior Campaigner at Greenpeace, in 2013 Mr. Litvinov was imprisoned for two months by Russian authorities following a peaceful protest against Arctic oil drilling in international waters. He previously worked as a Member of the Board of Greenpeace Russia (1996–2013), Chair of the Board of Greenpeace Russia (2011–2013), Campaigns Director at Greenpeace Nordic (1999–2008), and was founder and Director of the Greenpeace campaign office in Moscow (1991–1994). Mr. Litvinov spent his childhood in Siberia, where his father was exiled after protesting Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. He holds an M.A. degree in Political Anthropology from Wesleyan University, USA.



Liu Xia

Poet, Photographer, China

Liu Xia was invited to the Forum 2000 Conference, but is unable to attend as she is held under house arrest for political reasons.

Poet, photographer, Ms. Liu is the wife of Liu Xiaobo, one of China's leading human rights and democracy advocates. During her husband's frequent arrests by the Chinese government, she speaks out on his behalf and maintains his connection to the outside world. She stands by her husband despite the constant political pressure from officials and deprivation of her personal freedom by house arrests. She published *The Silent Strength of Liu Xia*, a collection of 25 black-and-white photographs she produced between 1996 and 1999 while her husband served his second sentence in a labor re-education camp.



Liu Xiaobo

Literary Critic, Writer, Professor, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, China

Liu Xiaobo was invited to the Forum 2000 Conference, but is unable to attend as he is imprisoned for political reasons.

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, he was awarded the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize for his struggle for fundamental human rights in China, while serving his fourth prison term. He is the first person since Von Ossietzky to be denied the right to have a representative to collect the Nobel Prize for him. Mr. Xiaobo was detained in December 2008 because of his leading role with the Charter '08 manifesto. Prior to that he was President and Editor in Chief of *Minzhu Zhongguo* (Democratic China) Electronic Journal, which promotes liberty, democracy, human rights, rule of law

and constitutionalism. He served as President of the Independent Chinese PEN Centre (2003–2007) and has been a visiting scholar at Columbia University, the University of Oslo, and the University of Hawaii.



Ondřej Lochman

Executive Director, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation, Czech Republic

Executive Director of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation in the Czech Republic, which supports youth in developing skills for life and work. Prior to this, Mr. Lochman was a consultant to the Czech Ministry of Education, European Commission, and the UNESCO Center Poland, in the field of non-formal education. He wrote several publications focused on volunteering and European citizenship. He holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Educational Science.



Olga Lomová

Sinologist, Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Czech Republic

Professor of Chinese literature at Charles University in Prague and Director of the International Sinological Center, Ms. Lomová also publishes articles in the media on Chinese politics and ideology, including human rights issues. She is author and co-author of several research monographs and translations from Chinese. Ms. Lomová has done research on medieval Chinese poetry and the history of Chinese literature, and the intellectual transformation of China under Western influence in the early 20th century. She was Secretary General to the European Association for Chinese Studies.



Leopoldo López

Opposition Politician, Venezuela

Leopoldo López was invited to the Forum 2000 Conference, but is unable to attend as he is imprisoned for political reasons.

Venezuelan politician and economist, currently the National Coordinator of Voluntad Popular, the democratic opposition party. Mr. López led the 2014 protests in Caracas, was arrested under charges considered politically motivated and remains in detention. He was Mayor of the Municipality of Chacao in Caracas – valued as the most transparent Municipality in the country – for two consecutive terms (2000–2008). Mr. López studied Economics before earning an M.A. in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and holds an honorary Doctor of Law degree from Kenyon College, USA.



Artem Loskutov
Blogger, Russia

Artist and activist from Novosibirsk, Mr. Loskutov is one of the organizers of the annual satirical May Day marches, called Monstrations in Novosibirsk. He is also the author of the *Oil for Nothing* documentary (2011) and other projects related to the forming of Siberian identity. His focus is on where modern art meets civic activism.



Jan Macháček
Chairman, Board of Directors, Václav Havel Library, Czech Republic

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Václav Havel Library, journalist, musician, and economic commentator, Mr. Macháček served as Deputy Editor in Chief of *Respekt* magazine and was awarded the Ferdinand Peroutka Award in 2009. He was a Fellow of the National Forum Foundation in Washington and of the William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan. He lectured on the Politics and Economics of Transformation at the Anglo-American College in Prague and at New York University in Prague. Mr. Macháček was a member of the underground music band the Plastic People of the Universe and is now guitarist in the band Garage.



Ahmed Maher
Blogger, Activist, Egypt

Ahmed Maher was invited to the Forum 2000 Conference, but is unable to attend as he is imprisoned for political reasons.

Egyptian blogger, activist, and Nobel Peace Prize Nominee, Mr. Maher is the Founder and Chief Coordinator of the April 6 Youth Movement (A6YM), a pro-democracy youth movement in Egypt. A6YM was one of the most important organizers of the 18-day peaceful uprising that culminated in President Hosni Mubarak's departure in 2011. In December 2013 he was sentenced to three years in prison for protests against the Egyptian military government.



Sabina Malcová
Executive Director, DEMAS – Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights, Czech Republic

Executive Director of DEMAS – Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights. A platform for thirteen leading NGOs in the Czech Republic, DEMAS works in the

field of transition policy and democracy promotion. Ms. Malcová's main focus is on the MENA region, management of the third sector, and advocacy. She holds a Ph.D. in Islamic Studies from Charles University in Prague.



Václav Malý
Titular Bishop of Marcelliana and Auxiliary Bishop of Prague, Czech Republic

Titular Bishop of Marcelliana and Auxiliary Bishop of Prague (since 1997). From 1990, Mr. Malý administered several parishes in Prague. He was spokesman of Charter 77 (1981–1982) and of the Civic Forum (1989). Mr. Malý was also member of the Committee for the Defense of the Unjustly Prosecuted. He was ordained in 1976 and served briefly in Vlašim and Plzeň. Due to his activities prior to 1989, he was prohibited from serving as a priest by the communist regime and worked as a geodetic helper and boiler man. He studied at the Ss Cyril and Methodius' Faculty in Litoměřice.



Mark Martin
Director, Amnesty International, Czech Republic

Manager and Director at Amnesty International Czech Republic since 2011, Mr. Martin has more than 10 years of managerial experience in international companies. Previously, he worked for Ataxo Group (2008–2011), Diet Plus (2008), Heli Food Fresh (2006–2007), Spojené těstárny (2001–2006), and KNO Worldwide (1993–2001). He has been living in the Czech Republic since 1990. Mr. Martin graduated in History and Spanish from Middlebury College, USA.



Markus Meckel
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Germany

First democratically elected Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic, Mr. Meckel is currently President of the German War Graves Commission, which enshrines the remembrance of war dead by conserving cemeteries and organizing international work camps for young people. He was involved in the opposition in the German Democratic Republic since the 1970s, and he co-founded the Social Democratic Party in the GDR in 1989. As a Member of the German Bundestag (1990–2009) he focused on European politics, security issues, and Eastern Partnership. He also served as Vice Spokesman for foreign policy of the Social Democrats.



Thomas O. Melia

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Department of State, USA

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor responsible for the Bureau's work in Europe, including Russia, and the countries of the Middle East and North Africa. Mr. Melia was Deputy Executive Director of Freedom House and worked in the National Democratic Institute and the Free Trade Union Institute. He has taught at Georgetown University and the Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. He was Director of Research at Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, has published on democracy and human rights issues, and is co-editor of *Today's America: How Free?*



Grigorij Mesežnikov

President, Institute for Public Affairs, Slovakia

President of the Institute for Public Affairs, Mr. Mesežnikov is an external correspondent for Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty. He has co-edited and co-authored a number of books, including the Global Reports on Slovakia (1995–2011), the annual analysis of the country's development. He is a key author of the report on Slovakia in Nations in Transit published by Freedom House (1998–2014). Mr. Mesežnikov was the Secretary of the Slovak Political Science Association (1994–1998) and he lectured at Trnava University's Department of Political Science (1996–1997). He studied at the Faculty of Arts at Moscow State University.



Jan Michal

Head, European Commission Representation, Czech Republic

Head of the European Commission Representation in the Czech Republic, Mr. Michal also served as Advisor to the European Commission Secretariat's Director for relations with the Council of the European Union, where he took part in preparation of EU Council meetings and the G8/G20 events agenda. He was Director of the UN department at the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2002–2003, 2007–2009) and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to NATO and WEU (2003–2007). Mr. Michal served as a diplomat in the Netherlands and at the UN in New York. He studied International Relations and Economics in Prague.



Ivan Mikloš

Economist, Former Minister of Finance, Slovakia

Currently a Member of Slovak Parliament and of the Budgetary, Financial, and Monetary Committee, Mr. Mikloš significantly contributed to the entry of Slovakia into the OECD and began an extensive and effective tax reform. He has served as the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (2002–2006, 2010–2012), Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs (1998–2002), and Minister for Privatization (1991–1992). In 2004 he was named the Best Minister of Finance of the Year by Euromoney and the top business reformer by the World Bank's Doing Business Report. He is also the author of the *Book of Reforms* (2005) and *Rewriting the Rules* (2001).



Zuzana Mistríková

Film Producer and Media Expert, Slovakia

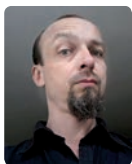
Film producer, media expert and former Deputy of the Slovak National Council (1990–1992), Ms. Mistríková is the President of the Association of Independent Producers, President of the Advertising Council in Slovakia, and Executive Director of PubRe, a film production, distribution and creative industries consultancy company. She is also the Executive Director of the non-governmental organization Media Institute. She was a student leader in Slovakia in 1989 and studied Theater at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava.



Bedřich Moldan

Founder and Director, Environment Center, Charles University, Czech Republic

Founder and Director of the Charles University Environment Center, Member of the Forum 2000 Foundation Program Council. Mr. Moldan has played a major role in the introduction of environmental legislation in the Czech Republic after 1989. He served as the first Czech Minister of Environment (1990–1991) and has since served in many national and international public policy positions, such as Member of the Parliament of the Czech Republic (2004–2010). He has also authored hundreds of publications and articles, including *Geology and Environment* (1974), *Ecology, Democracy, Market* (1992), *(Un)Sustainable Development – Ecology, Threat and Hope* (2001) and *Subdued Planet* (2009).



Petr Motyčka

Visual Artist and Curator, Czech Republic

Visual artist and curator, Mr. Motyčka is founder of the Pode Bal collective credited with having repoliticised the art scene in the Czech Republic since the late 1990s. Its projects, often in public spaces, engage in social and political themes, and have been exhibited in many European countries and in the US. His family emigrated to Los Angeles, where he spent his childhood. Upon returning to Prague, he studied at the Academy of Art, Design and Architecture, where he was an assistant professor during his post-graduate studies. He has also lectured at the Faculty of Social Studies of the Masaryk University in Brno. He is currently working on solo projects and is one of the curators of the public space gallery Artwall in Prague.



Amre Moussa

Politician, Former Secretary General, League of Arab States, Egypt

Former Secretary General of the League of Arab States (2001–2011), Mr. Moussa also served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, as Advisor to the Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs and as Director of the Department of International Organizations. He has been appointed as Permanent Representative to the United Nations for Egypt, and served as the Ambassador to India and Switzerland. Mr. Moussa received his law degree from Cairo University.



Alina Mungiu-Pippidi

Professor of Democracy Studies, Hertie School of Governance, Germany/Romania

Professor of Democratization and Policy Analysis at the Hertie School of Governance. Ms. Mungiu-Pippidi also chairs the European Research Centre for Anti-Corruption and State Building Research and co-directs the EU research project ANTICORRP. A civil society supporter and political journalist, she established the think tank Romanian Academic Society. She advises various international organizations including the European Commission, UNDP, Freedom House, NORAD, and World Bank on good governance and anticorruption. She studied at Harvard University and holds a Ph.D. from the University of Iasi in Romania.



Salim Murad

*Lecturer at University of South Bohemia
Department of Social Sciences, Czech Republic*

Lecturer at University of South Bohemia Department of Social Sciences, Mr. Murad also lectures at New York University in Prague. He is a course coordinator and lecturer of the University of South Bohemia's teaching module in European Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations. Mr. Murad's main research interests are ethnic stereotypes, Czech advertising, media and migration. In the past, he was a lecturer in Political Science at the Faculty of Education of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice. Mr. Murad received a Ph.D. in Theory of Politics from Comenius University in Bratislava (Slovak Republic), and an M.A. in Political Science from the Masaryk University in Brno.



Dmitry Muratov

Editor in Chief, Novaya Gazeta, Russia

Editor in Chief of Novaya Gazeta, Mr. Muratov established this newspaper together with several former colleagues from Komsomolskaya Pravda which he left in 1993 after being the Department Editor and Member of the Editorial Board. Prior to this he worked for Volzhskiy Komsomolets. His efforts to defend freedom of press have earned him several international awards. Mr. Muratov graduated from Samara State University.



Murong Xuecun

Writer, Activist, China

An independent writer in China, an author of six novels and a prominent social critic who is also known for his defense of freedom of expression. Mr. Murong became a contributing opinion writer for the International New York Times in the fall of 2013. His debut novel, *Leave Me Alone: A Novel of Chengdu*, published online in 2002, became a cult hit among young Chinese readers looking for writing that pushed the boundaries of what was acceptable literature. Mr. Murong is a recipient of the People's Literature Prize.



Naing Ngan Lin

Member of Parliament, Burma

Member of Parliament for NLD Party – National League for Democracy and Member of Parliamentary Committee for Vetting Modernization and Development, Mr. Naing

was the Chairperson of the United Fronts of Burmese Activists for Democracy (2010–2011) and founded the Togetherness Free Education Network for Youth. He previously worked as an English teacher and as Township Youth Leader for the National League for Democracy. Mr. Naing holds a Diploma in Politics and Government from the Open University, London.



Nay Phone Latt
Blogger, Activist, Burma

Writer, blogger and activist, Mr. Nay is Executive Director of the Myanmar ICT for Development Organization and Secretary of PEN Myanmar. He is one of the initiators of Panzagar (Flower Speech), an anti-hate speech campaign in Burma, and Co-Founder of the Myanmar Blogger Society. Mr. Nay was a prisoner of conscience in Burma between 2008 and 2012. He received the PEN/Barbara Goldsmith Freedom to Write Award in 2010 and the Cyber-Dissident Award by Reporters Without Borders in 2008. He was selected for the TIME 100 list in 2010 in the Heroes category. He has published four books in Burmese.



Paulo Neves
President, Institute for the Promotion and Development of Latin America, Portugal

President and Founder of the Institute for the Promotion and Development of Latin America, Portugal since 2006, Mr. Neves is Lecturer in the fields of Communications and International Politics and a former Rádio Renascença journalist specializing in economic affairs. He was a Professor at the Portuguese Institute of Marketing Management and is currently a Member of the Portuguese Political Science Association and of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies. Mr. Neves received his M.A. in Organizational Behavior from the Institute of Applied Psychology.



Michael Novak
Theologian, Political Scientist, USA

Distinguished Visiting Professor at Ave Maria University in Naples, Florida, Mr. Novak is a former Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. He is an M.A. graduate in the History and Philosophy of Religion from Harvard University and the author of numerous books on the philosophy and theology of culture with a focus on the essential elements of a free society. He has received many international awards, including the million-dollar Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion.



Adrián Esteban Oliva Alcázar
Member of Parliament, Bolivia

Founder and President of the American Parliamentary Democratic Alliance (APDA), an International platform that stands for democracy, human rights and freedom in America, Mr. Alcázar also serves as Congressman for the Department of Tarija in the Plurinational Legislative Assembly of Bolivia. He previously served as the leader of the parliamentary opposition, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Government of Bolivia and main advisor to the Government of Tarija. In recent years, he promoted several causes and complaints of violations of human rights in Bolivia and the region.



Petr Oslzlý
Director, Center for Experimental Theater, Czech Republic

Director of the Center for Experimental Theater in Brno, Mr. Oslzlý is a central figure of the Brno-based theater Goose on a String. Since 1997 he has served as Vice Dean at the Faculty of Theater at the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts. He is the author and co-author of a number of scripts, and has written extensively on theater. In 1990–1992 he served as President Václav Havel's Advisor on Cultural Affairs. He was one of the founding members of the Civic Forum in 1989. Mr. Oslzlý holds the rank of Professor at the Janáček Academy.



Tarek Osman
Author, Analyst, Egypt

Political economist focused on the Arab World, the Political Counsellor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) for the Arab World, Mr. Osman is also the author of the international bestseller *Egypt on the Brink* (published before Egypt's 2011 uprising and selected by Foreign Policy among its top-ten 2011 books); a regular contributor to Foreign Affairs, the Financial Times, Project-Syndicate, and the Cairo Review; and the writer and presenter of the BBC's major production *The Making of the Modern Arab World*. He has 16-years of experience in strategy consulting, direct investment, and political-economy advisory.

**Nathaniel Page**

*Founder, Director, ADEPT Foundation,
Romania/United Kingdom*

Director of Fundatia ADEPT Transylvania, dedicated to protecting Romania's farmed landscapes and the small-scale farming communities. Mr. Page is interested in the environmental and socio-economic sustainability, and the food security, offered by traditional farmed landscapes. He is involved in grassroots projects centered on farm advisory services, and in policy development and advocacy at national and EU levels. He obtained degrees in Zoology, Chinese and Japanese, and worked as a diplomat in Thailand and Romania, before studying agriculture and returning to farming and nature conservation.

**Emilio Palacio**

Journalist, USA/Ecuador

Journalist and writer, Mr. Palacio now lives as a political refugee in Miami. He left his country, Ecuador, in 2011 to avoid three years in prison and a \$40 million fine that he was sentenced to in a trial initiated by the President of Ecuador as reaction to articles by Mr. Palacio's newspaper. For 11 years he was the editor of the opinion section of the El Universo journal. He was a correspondent in various countries of the Americas and Europe.

**Šimon Pánek**

*Co-Founder and Director, People in Need,
Czech Republic*

Co-Founder and Director of People in Need, one of the biggest NGOs in Central Europe, and Member of the Forum 2000 Foundation International Advisory Board, Mr. Pánek has previously worked in various positions related to development aid. He chaired the Czech Forum for Development Cooperation and served as a specialist on foreign policy in the Balkan region and on human rights issues in the presidential administration of Václav Havel. Mr. Pánek was one of the student leaders during the Velvet Revolution.

**Mats Persson**

*Director, Open Europe, Sweden/United
Kingdom*

Director of the independent think tank Open Europe since 2010 and a Member of the Advisory Board of Open Europe Berlin, which he helped co-found in 2012. Mr. Persson is a frequent contributor to broadcast and print media, writing on European politics and economics. Before

Open Europe, he worked for a political consulting firm in Washington D.C.. Mr. Persson graduated from Liberty University in Virginia, USA and received an M.A. from the London School of Economics.

**Iva Petříčková**

*Executive Director, Business Leaders Forum,
Czech Republic*

An expert in the field of corporate social responsibility (CSR), Ms. Petříčková serves as the Executive Director of the Business Leaders Forum (BLF), an organization which aims to cultivate the Czech business environment through cooperation of domestic and foreign CSR leaders. Previously, she worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, was on the human resources team of GDF Suez, and served on the European Parliament Committee on Employment and Social Affairs. She conducted research on business ethics at the Charles University in Prague and the London School of Economics.

**Vladimír Pirošík**

Lawyer, Activist, Slovakia

Attorney specializing in the protection of human rights, transparency, access to information, and the participation of the public in decision-making processes, Mr. Pirošík has been working with Transparency International Slovakia since 1999. He is a member of Alliance for Transparency and Fight Against Corruption. Since 2006, he has been a deputy in the city council of Banská Bystrica.

**Petr Pithart**

Former Prime Minister, Czech Republic

Dissident during the communist era, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic (1990–1992), former Member of the Czech National Council, and Senator and Chairman of the Senate of the Czech Republic. Currently Mr. Pithart is Member of the Forum 2000 Foundation Program Council and teaches at the Faculty of Law at Charles University. Mr. Pithart was imprisoned for his dissident activities and was one of the first signatories of the Charter 77 agreement. In 1989, he was one of the leaders of the Civic Forum, which helped negotiate the end of communist rule. Mr. Pithart studied at the Faculty of Law at Charles University and at St. Anthony's College in Oxford.



Petr Placák

Historian, Author, Former Dissident, Czech Republic

A writer, musician, and publicist, Mr. Placák is currently Editor in Chief of Euroskop.cz, an information server about the EU funded by the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. During the 1980s, Mr. Placák was a key figure in Czech underground literature, publishing illegally and organizing anti-communist demonstrations. After the events of November 1989, he worked as a journalist for Respekt, Český deník, and Lidové noviny, among others. Mr. Placák graduated in History from the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University in Prague.



Marc Plattner

Vice President for Research and Studies, National Endowment for Democracy, USA

Vice President for Research and Studies at the National Endowment for Democracy and Co-Editor of the Journal of Democracy, Mr. Plattner is also the Co-Chair of the Research Council of the International Forum for Democratic Studies and chairs the International Advisory Board for the M.A. in Governance, Leadership and Democracy Studies at the Portuguese Catholic University. Mr. Plattner is the author of Democracy Without Borders? Global Challenges to Liberal Democracy (2008) and Rousseau's State of Nature (1979). He is the co-editor of over twenty books on contemporary issues relating to democracy. Mr. Plattner graduated from Yale University and received his Ph.D. in Government from Cornell University.



Tomáš Pojar

Former First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic

Former First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Security Affairs, EU Affairs and Bilateral Relations with European States and Former Czech Ambassador to Israel. Before he started his service in Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2005 he worked for 10 years at the People in Need Foundation where he served as the Director (1997–2005). He received the bachelor degree at the Faculty of Social Science, Charles University Prague, in 1998 and also studied in Tel Aviv and Washington.



Jerzy Pomianowski

Executive Director, European Endowment for Democracy, Belgium/Poland

Executive Director at the European Endowment for Democracy, Mr. Pomianowski was Under Secretary of State

at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2011–2013) and Director of the Partnership for Democratic Governance at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2008–2011). He was also Director of the Department of Development Cooperation and Coordinator of the Polish Development Aid Program (2006–2008). He served as Director General of the Polish Foreign Service (2005–2006) and as Polish Ambassador to Japan (1997–2002). He holds an M.A. in Sociology from the University of Warsaw.



Mauricio Pozo

Former Minister of Finance, Ecuador

Former Minister of Economy and Finance of Ecuador (2003–2004) and CEO of Multienlace, Mr. Pozo has also been the CEO of Hospital Metropolitano in Quito (2006–2010), President of the Board of Keyword, a political information company in Ecuador, and President of the Board of Coris del Ecuador (2010–2014). He is Director of the MBA Program and of the Master Program of Healthcare Management at the Universidad de las Américas, and has taught at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador and the Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey.



Kateřina Procházková,

Journalist, Czech Republic

Journalist, former Asia correspondent for Czech Radio and frequent contributor to domestic and foreign newspapers and magazines, Ms. Procházková spent the last ten years living and working in Hong Kong, Beijing, Singapore, and Tokyo. Ms. Procházková studied Journalism at Ostrava University and Glasgow University, as well as Political Science at National Taiwan University, Beijing Foreign Studies University, and Sophia University in Tokyo.



Tomáš Prouza

State Secretary for European Affairs, Czech Republic

State Secretary for European Affairs at the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. Mr. Prouza was Deputy Minister of Finance, responsible for financial markets, fiscal policy, Euro adoption and international relations. He worked in the financial sector and as a senior expert at the World Bank. Mr. Prouza studied international relations and diplomacy at the University of Economics in Prague and the MBA programme at the Open University.



Wojciech Przybylski

Editor in Chief, Res Publica Nowa, Poland

Polish Journalist, Editor and Sociologist. Mr. Przybylski is the Editor in Chief of Res Publica Nowa, a Polish intellectual quarterly, and of Visegrad Insight, a journal on Central European affairs. He works as a Research Assistant at the University of Warsaw, Erasmus Chair. Mr. Przybylski is also a social entrepreneur and initiates programs and projects in Central and Eastern Europe. He recently edited a book on modern republican ideas called *Idee republikańskie*. He has a master's degree in Sociology.



Jakub Ptačin

Designer, Activist, Slovakia

Designer and activist, Mr. Ptačin has worked as a designer for companies such as Etarget, Sygic, and Adobe. In the project *To sa nedá* (This Is Impossible), he and his friends redesigned the web portals of the Slovak government free of charge. Last year, he cooperated with SME, a Slovak web portal, and O2 telecommunications company to find fair Slovak businessmen in a 10-episode show. Mr. Ptačin co-founded the civic association Backspace.



Martin Půta

Governor, Liberec Region, Czech Republic

Longtime Hrádek nad Nisou Mayor, Mr. Půta was elected as Governor of the Liberec Region in 2012. In March 2014, he became leader of the Mayors and Independents Czech political party. Mr. Půta is also Chairman of Euroregion Nisa and Vice Chairman of the Association of Regions in the Czech Republic. From 2009 to 2014 he was leader of the Mayors for the Liberec Region political movement.



Iveta Radičová

Sociologist, Former Prime Minister, Slovakia

Professor of Sociology at Comenius University in Bratislava, Member of the Forum 2000 Foundation Program Council, Ms. Radičová previously served as Slovakia's Prime Minister (2010–2012) and Minister of Defense (2012). Prior to this, she was a Deputy in the Slovak National Parliament (2006–2009) and served as Minister of Labor, Social Affairs, and Family (2005–2006). In 1992, she founded the non-profit Social Policy Analysis Centre, which she headed until being appointed Director of the Slovak Academy of Science's Institute of Sociology in

2005. Ms. Radičová received her Ph.D. in Sociology from Comenius University in Bratislava.



Jacques Regniez

Economist, France

Lecturer in Comparative Economic Systems at the University of New York in Prague, Professor of International Economics at Sorbonne Université in Paris and Honorary director of France's National Institute for Economic Research. He is also the author and co-author of seven books published in Montreal, Brussels and Paris. Mr. Regniez served as a senior civil servant for the French Government, notably under Jacques Delors, as well as in the Investment industry in New York for more than ten years. He graduated as an Engineer in Economics and Statistics from Paris TECH (the National School of Economic Administration), and also has a degree from Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne University.



Daniela Retková

Special Programs Coordinator, DOX Centre for Contemporary Art, Czech Republic

Coordinator of Special Programs at the DOX Centre for Contemporary Art. Ms. Retková directs and produces the regular programs *Under (Press)ure*; roundtable discussions with journalists and commentators on current political, economic and social issues; and *What is our vision of Prague?* She served as Advisor to the Director of the Czech Environmental Inspectorate (2009–2010) and as the Director of the Institute for International Sport (2006–2008), where she organized the World Scholar-Athlete/Scholar-Artist Games. In 1990–1991, she served as the Head of the Press Department and of the Advance Team for President Václav Havel. For a number of years, she has been engaged with Sister Cities International. Dr. Retkova received her doctoral degree in psychology from Charles University.



Mykola Riabchuk

Political and Cultural Analyst, Ukraine

Senior Research Fellow at the Ukrainian Center for Cultural Studies in Kyiv, Mr. Riabchuk is also President of the Ukrainian PEN and Member of the Editorial Boards of *Krytyka*, *Nowa Europa Wschodnia*, and the *Journal of South Eastern Europe*. He has published a number of books and many articles on civil society, state and nation building, nationalism, national identity, and post-communist transition in the post-Soviet countries, primarily in Ukraine. He graduated from the Lviv Polytechnic Institute and the Gorky Literary Institute in Moscow.



Jan Richter

Journalist, Radio Prague, Czech Republic

Reporter of the English-language section of Radio Prague, the international service of the Czech Republic's public broadcaster Czech Radio. Mr. Richter is Prague-based correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and a collaborator of the New York Times. Before joining Czech Radio, he worked as historian at the Regional Museum in Mikulov, and between 1999 and 2001 as a lecturer at Universidad de Ibagué, Colombia. He holds a master's degree in history and English and American studies from Masaryk University in Brno.



Edgars Rinkēvičs

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Latvia

Minister of Foreign Affairs since 2011, Mr. Rinkēvičs previously served as Head of the Chancery of the President of Latvia (2008–2011), State Secretary in the Ministry of Defense of Latvia (1997–2008), and head of the office responsible for organizing the NATO Summit of Heads of State and Government in Riga, 2006. Mr. Rinkēvičs graduated from the University of Latvia and received his M.A. in Political Science in 1997. He also studied at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C., where he graduated with a degree in National Resource Strategy.



Antonio Rodiles

Activist, Director, State of SATS, Cuba

Director of State de SATS, a forum created in 2010 by a group of young artists, intellectuals, and professionals to encourage debate about social, cultural, and political issues in Cuba, Mr. Rodiles is also the main coordinator of the Citizen Demand for Another Cuba. This initiative calls for Cuba to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. Mr. Rodiles holds a master's degree in Mathematics from Florida State University and was a Ph.D. candidate in Physics at the National Autonomous University of Mexico.



Libor Rouček

Former Member, European Parliament, Czech Republic

Czech politician, Mr. Rouček has served as a Member of the European Parliament (2004–2014) and as Vice Chairman of the Socialists & Democrats group. In 2002, he was

elected to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, where he was Vice Chairman of the European Integration Committee, the Foreign Affairs Committee, and the ČSSD Party Deputies Club. Mr. Rouček worked as the Government Spokesman from 1998 to 2002. Prior to the Velvet Revolution he lived in exile. He studied Political Science and Sociology at the University of Vienna and has a Ph.D. in Foreign Relations.



Jacques Rupnik

Political Scientist, France

Director of Research at the Centre for International Studies and at Sciences Po, Paris, Professor at the College of Europe in Bruges and Member of the Forum 2000 Foundation Program Council, Mr. Rupnik has been Visiting Professor at several European universities and at Harvard, and was Executive Director of the International Commission on the Balkans. He was a consultant to the European Commission (2007–2010), and has focused on democratization and European integration of East and Central European countries, nationalism, and post-conflict reconciliation in the Balkans. He has published several books on these topics. Mr. Rupnik earned his Ph.D. at Université de Paris – Sorbonne.



Sai Ye Kyaw Swar Myint

Executive Director, People's Alliance for Credible Elections, Burma

Executive Director of the People's Alliance for Credible Elections and Board Member of Tagaung Institute of Political Studies, Mr. Sai Ye was Political Engagement Director at the Yangon School of Political Science (2011–2013). In 2010, he worked as a Political Parties and Campaign Analyst for the Election Observation Project. He was also involved in the Civic Education Program as a Curriculum Development Consultant and Trainer, and worked as a geotechnical engineer in Singapore. In 1998, Mr. Sai Ye established the Cosmopolitan Library in Bago. He holds a post-graduate diploma in Engineering Geology from Yangon University.



Gabriel Salvia

Director, Center for the Opening and Development of Latin America, Argentina

Chairman and General Director of the Center for the Opening and Development of Latin America (CADAL), Mr. Salvia is also the owner of the Media Agency GACSA and the author of more than two hundred publications, including research, interviews, analyses, op-eds, and context articles. He compiled the books *La experiencia chilena: consensos para el desarrollo* (2005), *Diplomacy and*

Speaker Profiles

Human Rights in Cuba (2011) and *Un balance político a 30 años del retorno a la democracia en la Argentina* (2013). As a journalist, Mr. Salvia has worked in print, radio and TV. Since 1992, he has also been involved in the management of civil society groups.



Lobsang Sangay
*Sikyong, Central Tibetan Administration,
India/Tibet*

Democratically elected Tibetan political leader based in Dharamsala, India. Mr. Sangay previously worked as a senior fellow at Harvard University and organized conferences between the Dalai Lama and Chinese scholars. He has lectured at various universities and think-tanks throughout Europe, Asia and North America as an expert on Tibet, international human rights law, democratic constitutionalism and conflict resolution. In 2007, he was selected as the one of the 24 Young Leaders of Asia by the Asia Society. Mr. Sangay was the first Tibetan to graduate from Harvard Law School in 2004.



Yoani Sánchez
Blogger, Activist, Cuba

A Blogger and Activist. Her blog is available worldwide in more than 20 languages. Ms. Sánchez has received much international recognition for her work, including: the Ortega y Gasset Prize, Spain's highest award for digital journalism; the Maria Moors Cabot Prize from Columbia University; the World Press Freedom Hero Award from the International Press Institute; and the Prince Claus Award from the Netherlands. In 2008, Time magazine listed her as one of the world's 100 most influential people and Foreign Policy magazine named her one of the 10 Most Influential Latin American Intellectuals in 2008, and one of the World's Top Dissidents in 2010. She has recently published a book in English titled *Havana Real*.



Andrew Schapiro
Ambassador to the Czech Republic, USA

U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Mr. Schapiro has also worked as a lawyer and was a major fundraiser for President Obama's campaign. As a lawyer, he specialized in appeal work for Quinn Emanuel Urquhart and Sullivan (2011). Mr. Schapiro was a partner of the private law firm Mayer Brown (2001), and worked in the Federal Defenders Office for the Southern District of New York (1993). He clerked for Judge Richard Posner (1991–1992) and Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun (1992–1993). Mr. Schapiro received a B.A. from Yale University, an M.A. from Oxford University, and a law degree from Harvard University.



Jan Schneider
Security Analyst, Czech Republic

Security analyst and columnist, Mr. Schneider is former Director of the Office of the Government Council for Intelligence. After 1990 he worked in the intelligence services, for the government and police. Mr. Schneider was the Musical adviser of the Festival of Czech-German-Jewish Culture 9 Gates, member of The Plastic People of the Universe, a signatory of Charter 77. He holds a Certificate in Religious Studies from the University of Cambridge.



Jiří Schneider
*Director of Special Projects, Prague Security
Studies Institute, Czech Republic*

Senior Fellow and Director of Special Projects at the Prague Security Studies Institute, Mr. Schneider previously served as First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. He also worked as Program Director at the Prague Security Studies Institute (2005–2010), Partner at Keynote Inc. (2007–2010), and Director of the Multilateral Security Section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2004–2005). He served as Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Israel (1995–1998) and as Member of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly (1990–1992). Mr. Schneider earned his diploma in Religious Studies from the University of Cambridge.



Karel Schwarzenberg
*Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Czech
Republic*

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs (2007–2009, 2010–2013) Former Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the TOP 09 party. He was a member of the Senate of the Czech Parliament (2004–2010). During the first half of 2009, he also served as the President of the Council of the European Union. He was President of the International Helsinki Committee for Human Rights (1984–1991) and former Chancellor to President Václav Havel. In 1991, he was awarded, together with Lech Walesa, the Council of Europe's Human Rights Award.



Lukáš Sedláček
*Executive Director, European Leadership &
Academic Institute, Czech Republic*

CEO and Main Analyst of European Leadership & Academic Institute (ELAI), Mr. Sedláček also lectures at New York University in Prague and Anglo-American University. Previously, he worked in the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, in the Ministry of Defense of the Czech

Republic, and in the private sector. He also served as the President of the Oxford & Cambridge Alumni Society of the Czech Republic. Mr. Sedláček studied International Relations at the University of Cambridge and European Studies at the Charles University in Prague.



Tomáš Sedláček

Chief Macroeconomic Strategist, ČSOB Bank, Czech Republic

Chief Macroeconomic Strategist at ČSOB Bank, Mr. Sedláček is also a member of the group Narrative of Europe, commissioned by Manuel Barroso to gather thinkers, artists and scientists. He is a Council Member of the World Economic Forum focused on New Economic Thinking, working on the global program. Mr. Sedláček previously worked as an economic advisor to President Václav Havel. He was also a member of the National Economic Council, an advisory body to the prime minister and the government, from its establishment in 2009, until 2013. Mr. Sedláček is also a lecturer and the author of *Economics of Good and Evil: The Quest for Economic Meaning from Gilgamesh to Wall Street*.



John Shattuck

President and Rector, Central European University, Hungary/USA

President and Rector of Central European University, Mr. Shattuck was CEO of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation in Boston and Senior Fellow at Tufts University, where he lectured in Human Rights and International Relations. He also served as Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor under President Clinton and as U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic. Prior to his government service, Mr. Shattuck was a Vice President at Harvard University, and taught at the Harvard Law School. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



Hussein Shobokshi

Businessman, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic, Saudi Arabia

Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Saudi Arabia and businessman, Mr. Shobokshi is a columnist and contributes to TIME magazine, the Wall Street Journal, the Financial Times and the Washington Post blog site. He is a commentator for various news networks including CNN, CBS, and Al Jazeera, and has hosted his own television program on economics. Mr. Shobokshi lectures at various institutions including the Council on Foreign Relations, the Middle East Institute, Georgetown University, and the Middle East Policy Council. He studied Political Science and Management at the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA.



Brian Siegal

Director, American Jewish Committee Miami, USA

Director of the American Jewish Committee in Miami and Broward Regional Office, Mr. Siegal previously worked as Global Jewish Advocacy's National Assistant Director of Intergroup Affairs (2005–2006), as the Coordinator of AJC's Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund (2006–2007) and as a Pegasus Trust Fellow in the American Inns of Court Foundation (2001). Mr. Siegal holds a dual master's degree from New York University in Jewish Studies and Non-Profit Management and a J.D. from the University of Texas at Austin.



Jiří Siostrzonek

Sociologist, Czech Republic

University professor specializing in visual sociology and culture and the Deputy Head of the Institute of Creative Photography at the Faculty of Philosophy and Science of Silesian University in Opava, Czech Republic, Mr. Siostrzonek lectures at numerous Czech universities as well as at Polish universities in Poznań, Katowice, Krakow, and Wrocław. He is a member of many cultural foundations and civic associations. Since 1990, he has organized One World, an international documentary film festival focused on human rights, in Opava. Mr. Siostrzonek gained a post-graduate degree in sociology-andragogy at the Philosophical Faculty of Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic.



Etienne Smith

Political Scientist, African Studies, Sciences Po, France

Political scientist specializing in Sub-Saharan Africa, Mr. Smith has lectured at Sciences Po and Columbia University at the Institute of African Studies and School of International and Public Affairs. His research interests include democratization, religion and politics, comparative nation-building in Africa, the history of education and political leadership in West Africa. He holds a Ph.D. from Sciences Po and was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University.



Marta Smolíková

*Executive Director, Václav Havel Library,
Czech Republic*

Executive Director of Václav Havel Library, Ms. Smolíková is an expert within the art, arts management and cultural policy field. She previously held a variety of positions with the Soros Foundation (1993–2003) and founded ProCulture, a research, information and education center for arts and culture within the Open Society organization, which later developed into an independent civil society group. She is a board member of International Theatre Institute and other cultural centers in the Czech Republic and teaches Art Management at the Academy of Art and Design in Prague and Cultural Policy at The Academy of Performing Arts in Prague.



Ladislav Snopko

Former Minister of Culture, Slovakia

Archaeologist, publicist, former Minister of Culture (1990–1992), and current Program Director of Lucerna Palace in Prague, Mr. Snopko holds the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres of the French Republic. He organized the alternative art scene in Czechoslovakia prior to the Velvet Revolution. In October 1989, he was a member of the preparatory committee and a spokesman for Slovakia during the creation of the International European Cultural Club. In November 1989, Mr. Snopko was a Founding Member of the movement Public Against Violence. He graduated with a degree in Archaeology from the Department of General History and Archaeology at Charles University in Bratislava.



Andrey Soldatov

Editor, Agentura.ru, Russia

Investigative journalist and Editor of Agentura.ru, a security services watchdog, Mr. Soldatov testified on Russian surveillance before the European Parliament in January 2014. In October 2013, the Guardian reported Soldatov's research with Irina Borogan of surveillance measures at the 2014 Sochi Olympics. Since 2012, he has been head of Russia's Surveillance State, a joint project of Agentura.ru, Privacy International, and Citizen Lab. Mr. Soldatov is also a co-author of the *The New Nobility: The Restoration of Russia's Security State and the Enduring Legacy of the KGB* (2010).



Denis de Jesús Darce Solís

*Director of Projects, Permanent Human Rights
Commission, Nicaragua*

Director of Projects at the Permanent Human Rights Commission and Director of the Permanent Commission on Human Rights (PCHR) in Nicaragua, Mr. Darce Solís organized the technical processes of the PCHR's work, especially concerning the participation of civil society. He worked in various other organizations, always remaining in the field of human rights and the promotion of civil society. As a lawyer, he has also concerned himself with the criminal code and code of judicial conduct.



Radek Špicar

*Executive Director, Aspen Institute Prague,
Czech Republic*

Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Prague, Mr. Špicar also serves as Vice President of the Confederation of Industry in the Czech Republic. He previously served as Director of External Affairs at Škoda Auto, responsible for relations with public institutions at the national and the European level, structural funds and the Corporate Social Responsibility concept. He was Deputy to the Vice Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of the Czech Republic. He lectured at the Institute of Economic Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague, and at the Diplomatic Academy Prague. He studied at Charles University, the University of Cambridge, and Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.



Tamara Sujú

Human Rights Lawyer, Venezuela

Lawyer and President of the New National Awareness Foundation, which promotes human rights and democratic principles and provides legal support to political prisoners, Ms. Sujú is also International Director of Foro Penal Venezolano, Director of the Human Rights Department of the CASLA Institute and Founder of Fundapres O.S., a foundation that provides aid to prisons throughout Venezuela. She is also Director of the Ladies in White – a group of wives, mothers, and daughters of political prisoners. Ms. Sujú has a law degree from Catholic University Andrés Bello in Caracas.



Jan Švejnar

Project Director, IDEA / CERGE-EI, USA/Czech Republic

Founder and Project Director of the Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education – Economic Institute (CERGE-EI) in Prague and Director of the Center on Global Economic Governance at Columbia University, Mr. Švejnar previously served as Director of the William Davidson Institute (1996–2004) and the International Policy Center (2004–2012) at the University of Michigan, where he was also Professor of Business, Economics, and Public Policy. He is a Member of the Forum 2000 Foundation Program Council and served as Economic Advisor to President Václav Havel (1994–2002). Mr. Švejnar earned his Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University.



Pavel Svoboda

Chair, Legal Affairs Committee, European Parliament, Czech Republic

Member of the European Parliament for the Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU-ČSL), lawyer and university professor, Mr. Svoboda served as a Minister Without Portfolio and as Chair of the Government Legislative Council of the Czech Republic. He has also worked as the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (2004–2006) and as a Member of the Commission for Re-Codification of the Copyright Law of the Ministry of Interior (1996–1999). Since 1993, Mr. Svoboda has been a Professor at the Department of European Law at the Faculty of Law of Charles University in Prague. He holds a post-graduate degree from the Université Sciences Sociales in Toulouse, France.



Enrique ter Horst

Politician, Former UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Venezuela

Former United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and Member of the Forum 2000 Foundation Program Council, Mr. ter Horst is a lawyer and political analyst. Previously, he was the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Haiti (1996–1997). Mr. ter Horst has also worked as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for El Salvador and Chief of the UN Observer Mission in El Salvador. Mr. ter Horst has been an Ambassador in the foreign service of Venezuela since 1986, serving as a Deputy Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the UN and as a Representative to the Commission on Human Rights.



Lilian Tintori

Human Rights Activist, Wife of Leopoldo López, Venezuela

Spokeswoman for the Freedom for Leopoldo campaign (named for her husband, Leopoldo López), which promotes awareness about prisoners of conscience in Venezuela, Ms. Tintori is also Founder and President of the Pure Energy initiative and of the Popular Will Foundation, which focuses on female caregivers. She has sponsored several organizations, including the BFC Foundation's campaign against gender violence and the Youth for Human Rights Foundation, which she also founded. She holds a bachelor's degree from U.E.C. Academia Merici, Caracas, as well as an Early Childhood Education Degree and a Political Communication Certificate from the Andrés Bello Catholic University, Caracas.



Ferdinand Trauttmansdorff

Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Austria

Austrian Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Mr. Trauttmansdorff has served as Chairman of the Task Force for International Co-operation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research. He was the Director General and Chief Legal Advisor for the Austrian Foreign Ministry (2005–2009). Mr. Trauttmansdorff has been an Austrian Ambassador in Lisbon, Cairo, Khartoum, Budapest, and a variety of other places. He was Assistant Professor at the University of Graz and studied Law at the University of Graz (1971–1976).



Danilo Türk

Former President, Slovenia

Former President of Slovenia (2007–2012), Mr. Türk is currently Professor of International Law at the University of Ljubljana. He previously worked as Vice Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Ljubljana (2006–2007), and served as the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs in New York (2000–2005), as Ambassador of Slovenia to the UN in New York (1992–2000), and on the UN Security Council (1999–2000). Mr. Türk has also worked as a human rights expert and activist. He holds a degree in Political Science from the University of Ljubljana.



Dagoberto Valdés Hernández

Editor, Convivencia Magazine of Cuba, Cuba

Editor of Convivencia Magazine of Cuba and Founder and Director of the Civic and Religious Education Center, Mr. Valdés Hernández served as President of Institute of Cuban Studies (IEC) (2007–2013), and as Director of Vitral magazine (1993–2007). He was a member of the Presidency of the Cuban Ecclesial National Gathering (1996) and Founder and President of the Catholic Commission for Culture in the Pinar del Rio diocese (1987–2006). Mr. Valdés Hernández was appointed a full Member of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace of the Vatican by Pope John Paul II (1999–2005). He is the holder of several awards and prizes. He has a degree in Agronomic Engineering from the University of Pinar del Rio.



Rostislav Valvoda

Head, Eastern European Program, People in Need, Czech Republic

Head of the Eastern European Program at People in Need, the largest Czech non-profit organization, Mr. Valvoda is also a translator and interpreter specializing in Russian and English. He was one of initiators of the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum established in 2011 in Prague, a loose network of over 100 NGOs from across Russia and the EU, and is currently serving as a Steering Committee Member. Over the years Mr. Valvoda has been involved in a variety of charitable and non-profit projects at home and abroad. He is a graduate of Charles University in Prague.



Viphandh Roengpithya

Founder and Chairman, Viptel Company, Thailand

Founder and Chairman of Viptel Company, Mr. Viphandh is also the Founder and former President of the Asian University of Thailand. He previously worked as Vice Chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries (1998–2002), after serving as an Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Finance. Prior to that, he was an Outside Director of the Stock Exchange of Thailand and an Advisor of the Ministry of Science and Technology (1984–1985). Mr. Viphandh earned his Ph.D. from Imperial College London.



Michal Vít

Research Fellow, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Czech Republic

Research Fellow at the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Mr. Vít is working towards a doctorate degree

jointly at Masaryk University in Brno and at the University of Leipzig. He is associated with the Institute for European Policy (IEP) in Berlin. His research focuses on the national identity formation of political parties in Central Europe. He graduated from Masaryk University with a degree in European Studies.



Alexandr Vondra

Politician, Diplomat, Czech Republic

Former Minister of Defense and of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Member of the Forum 2000 Foundation Board of Directors and the Program Council, Mr. Vondra currently works as Director of the Prague Center for Transatlantic Relations at CEVRO Institute. He previously served as Czech Senator of the Civic Democratic Party (2006–2012). Mr. Vondra has received a number of commendations for his work in promoting human rights, democracy, and international understanding, including the National Endowment for Democracy Medal and state decorations from Poland and Latvia. He earned his Ph.D. from Charles University, Prague.



Petr Vondřích

Blogger, Czech Republic

Author of the Jizerské Ticho blog, in which he writes about interesting and inspiring people from the Liberec Region, Mr. Vondřích is also responsible for foreign relations and the protocol agenda of the office of the Governor of the Liberec Region. He worked at the consular department of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Belgrade and is the former Executive Editor of ELLE and XMAG magazines. He graduated from the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, Prague.



Vlad'ka Votavová

Director, Association for International Affairs, Czech Republic

Director of the Association for International Affairs, Deputy Chair of the Board of Directors of DEMAS – Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights, Ms. Votavová graduated in International Area Studies and Political Science from the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague. She is an alumnus of the Promoting Tolerance program of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom and the American Jewish Committee, and a member of the Prague Hub in the framework of the Global Shapers Community, an initiative of the World Economic Forum.



Wai Wai Nu

Former Political Prisoner, Founder, Women's Peace Network, Burma

A former political prisoner and a representative of the persecuted community of Rohingya, Ms. Wai founded the Women's Peace Network Arakan, and Justice for Women in 2012. With these two organizations she has done advocacy work, including work on women's rights and impunity, women's empowerment trainings, women's rights trainings, basic legal awareness raising and peace-building activities. She attends many women's forums and meetings, both locally and internationally. Ms. Wai was awarded the N-Peace Award (Youth Generation) in July 2014. She recently earned her law degree.



Christopher Walker

Executive Director, International Forum for Democratic Studies, National Endowment for Democracy, USA

Executive Director of the National Endowment for Democracy's International Forum for Democratic Studies, Member of the Forum 2000 Foundation Program Council, Mr. Walker previously served in Freedom House's New York office as Vice President for Strategy and Analysis, overseeing a team of analysts and senior scholars in devising overall strategy for the organization's analytical projects. His articles on media freedom and democracy have appeared in a wide range of publications, including the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and Foreign Policy. He has served as Adjunct Professor of Global Affairs at New York University. Mr. Walker graduated from Columbia University.



Wei-jen Hu

Senior Advisor to the President, Taiwan

Former Secretary General of the National Security Council (2010–2012), Dr. Hu is currently the Senior Advisor to the President of R.O.C. (Taiwan) and the Adjunct Chair Professor at Chung Yuan Christian University. Prior to this Dr. Hu served in numerous government posts including as Representative, Taipei Representative Office in Singapore (2005–2007) and in Germany (2001–2005), Deputy Secretary General of the National Security Council, Taipei (1999–2001) and Director-General, Coordination Council for North American Affairs, Office in Chicago, USA (1989–1991). He holds a Ph.D. in International Politics, School of Strategic Studies from University of Pretoria, South Africa.



Gert Weisskirchen

Professor, Former Member of the Bundestag, Germany

Professor at the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy at Erfurt University, Germany, Mr. Weisskirchen was the Social Democratic Party's foreign affairs spokesperson (1999–2009) and a Member of the German Bundestag (1976–2009). He is a recipient of the Solidarnosc Medal and of the Gratias Agit Award, and is a Knight of Lithuania.



Karla Wursterová

Executive Director, International Visegrad Fund, Slovakia

Executive Director of the International Visegrad Fund. The mission of the International Visegrad Fund is to promote development of closer cooperation among the Visegrad Group countries – the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. Ms. Wursterová has been the head of the fund since August 2012. She served as Second Secretary at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Prague (2005–2009) and before that held a position at the Slovakian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ms. Wursterová graduated in Business Management at the University of Economics in Bratislava and Ecole Nationale d'Administration Publique in Paris.



Yogendra Yadav

Political Scientist, Chief Spokesperson, Aam Aadami Party, India

Politician and academic, Mr. Yadav is the Chief Spokesperson and member of the apex decision making body of the Aam Aadami Party, which emerged from an anti-corruption movement in 2012. As a political scientist, he has written extensively on democracy, elections and the Indian socialist movement. Besides regular political commentary in the media, he has also written school textbooks. He was awarded the Malcolm Adishesiah Award (2008) and the Global South Solidarity Award (2009) by the International Political Science Association. He participated in parliamentary elections in India in 2014.



Yang Jianli

Dissident, President, Initiatives for China, USA/China

Chinese dissident, co-author of a Democratic Constitution for China, President of Initiatives for China and Member of the Forum 2000 Foundation Program Council, Mr. Yang witnessed the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre, and subsequently escaped to the United States. In 2002,

he returned to China to help the labor movement with non-violent struggle strategies and was arrested and sentenced to five years imprisonment for “spying.” He was released in 2007. Mr. Yang is a signatory of the Charter 08, a manifesto from Chinese intellectuals calling for political reform in China. He holds a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of California, Berkeley and a Ph.D. in Political Economy from Harvard University.



Vitaly Yaroshevsky

Deputy Editor, Novaya Gazeta, Russia

Deputy Editor of the Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta since 2003, Mr. Yaroshevsky has devoted himself to journalism. He worked at the Obshaya Gazeta weekly newspaper, Izvestia, and Moskovskie Novosti, and he was the TASS Russian News Agency correspondent in Prague (1981–1993). Mr. Yaroshevsky graduated from Charles University, Prague.



Grigory Yavlinsky

Economist, Politician, Russia

Professor of Economics at the State University – Higher School of Economics in Moscow, and Chairman of the Board of the Centre for Economic and Political Research, Mr. Yavlinsky was Co-Founder and former Chairman of the Russian Democratic Party Yabloko (1993–2008). In 1996 and 2000 Mr. Yavlinsky ran as Yabloko’s official candidate for the Russian presidency. He also served as a Member of the Russian State Duma (1993–2003). Since the mid-1990s, he has focused his efforts on tax and budget reforms. He studied at the Plekhanov Institute of National Economy, Moscow.



Michael Žantovský

*President, Aspen Institute Prague,
Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Czech
Republic*

President of the Aspen Institute Prague, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United Kingdom and Member of the Forum 2000 Foundation Program Council, Mr. Žantovský previously served as Ambassador to Israel (2003–2009), Chairman of the Civic Democratic Alliance (1997–2005), and Senator of the Civic Democratic Alliance in the Parliament of the Czech Republic (1996–2002). He was also Ambassador to the United States (1993–1997), and Spokesman and Political Director at the Office of the President of the Czech Republic (1990–1993). Mr. Žantovský is a graduate of Charles University in Prague and of McGill University in Canada.



Andrey Zubov

Historian, Russia

Historian and political scientist, Mr. Zubov was a Professor at the Moscow State Institute of International Affairs and previously taught at the Institute of Oriental Studies. He is editor and co-author of a two-volume history of Russia in the 20th century. Known for his criticism of the Soviet regime and contemporary Russian politics, Mr. Zubov often faces controversies and has recently received much press attention for his dismissal from professorship for his article condemning Putin’s actions in Crimea. He graduated from the Moscow State Institute in 1973.

THEMES AND PANELS

Conference Themes:

- Democracy and Its Discontents
- What Next for Democracy
- Changing International Environment
- Transferability of Democracy?
- Religion and Democracy
- Art, Society, Nature and Politics

- Forum 2000 Conference events outside Prague

Democracy and Its Discontents

DEMOCRACY AND ITS DISCONTENTS

Panel

After several decades of international efforts to move toward liberal democratic systems, we appear to be at a crossroads. Traditional institutions seem weakened, and key democratic values are being questioned. We are witnessing growth in extremism and fundamentalism around the world, and declining trust in democratic processes.

- What kind of democracy did we expect when the Iron Curtain crumbled, when the Chileans voted in their 1988 referendum or when the People Power Revolution in the Philippines toppled Ferdinand Marcos in 1986?
- What type of democracy do we have today?
- What are the key problems and challenges of current democracy?

DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC INEQUALITY: A TICKING TIME-BOMB?

Panel – In cooperation with the University of New York in Prague

Recently, a worldwide discussion about growing economic inequality has been triggered by Thomas Piketty's *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*. The trend of widening income gap has, however, been pondered upon even before. The Occupy Wall Street movement, for example, has been one of the symptoms of the rising concern that concentration of wealth in the hands of an increasingly narrow group represents a danger to liberal democracy as we know it.

- Is the economic inequality indeed growing?
- If yes, what impact does it have on democratic governance?
- Are we entering an era of oligarchy? Or are we facing a danger of a global social unrest?

THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Panel – In cooperation with the National Endowment for Democracy and the International Visegrad Fund

Central Europe, in particular the Visegrad countries and Slovenia, are generally considered success stories of democratic transition. In the context of the dismal performance of some of the post-Soviet republics or the total failure of transitions in Iraq or Afghanistan, their performance seems almost stellar. However, there are major differences among the individual countries and they seem to widen.

- What are the major weaknesses of democracy in Central Europe?
- What is the state of play in individual countries?
- Can we identify the major challenges ahead?

POPULISM IN LATIN AMERICA

Panel

Latin American began gradual democratization during the 1980s. Since then, the region occasionally experienced threats and temporary interruptions to democratization in individual nations. Nevertheless, the recent diminishment of political pluralism simultaneously within multiple countries is without precedent. For the first time in decades, democracy in Latin America is facing a continuous threat that includes the emergence of populist strategies in various countries.

- Is the authoritarian trend a long-lasting one?
- What other important challenges is Latin America facing?
- What can be done to preserve and promote democratic rule?

EXTREMISM AND POPULISM: A CHALLENGE TO DEMOCRACY

Panel – In cooperation with Friedrich Naumann Foundation

Democracy today, in particular in the Western World, seems to be under increasing pressure from radicalization, extremism, and populism. Extreme left- and right-wing parties, such as the Golden Dawn in Greece, National Front in France, UKIP in the United Kingdom, True Fins in Finland, Jobbik in Hungary, LSNS in Slovakia, the Communist Party or Úsvit in the Czech Republic, Geert Wilders' Party for Freedom in the Netherlands, or even the Tea Party in the US, are on the rise. Anti-immigration rhetoric (Switzerland) or anti-Semitism (Hungary) are rewarded with votes. Among other things, populism and extremism seem to be fuelled by the uncertain economic conditions.

- Is the struggling economy the main reason for the rise of political extremism?

- How is the erosion of traditional parties contributing to this trend?
- Is it temporary? How can it be overcome?

CHALLENGES FOR DEMOCRACY IN LATIN AMERICA

Panel

After a period of progressive democratization in Latin America in the 1980s and 1990s, the continent has recently experienced serious setbacks. In countries such as Venezuela and Ecuador, freedom of media has been gradually limited. Also, harassment of independent civil society has stepped up, and political opposition has continued to face a narrowing space for operation. This is connected to radical populist rhetoric and, in some cases, increasing levels of political violence. Despite these worrying developments, there seems to be no adequate response from the international community and, even more worryingly, from the regional democratic governments.

- What are the main challenges for democracy in Latin America?
- Is the region just copying a wider, global trend of weakening democratic values and standards? If so, what are the reasons?
- What causes the perceived lack of solidarity among democrats, in government or in opposition, across Latin American countries?

NATIONAL IDENTITY IN ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

Panel – In cooperation with EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

Nationalism, issues of national identity, and historical reminiscences play an important role in Central and Eastern Europe, where these “hidden powers” within society could easily threaten democratic systems. Democratic systems must therefore pay attention to these powers and be aware of their influence on the political scene and its components, such as political parties.

- How and why are topics relating with national identity used in election campaigns?
- What kind of tools are used for mobilisation of voters?
- How the topics relating to national identity vary among V4 countries?

CAN A CHANGE IN ELECTORAL SYSTEM OFFER A CURE FOR AN AILING DEMOCRACY?

Roundtable – In cooperation with Karel Janeček

Virtually every democratic country has a – at least slightly – different electoral system. And in virtually every country, complaints about its functioning surface from time to time and changes are attempted. As critics state, the proportional system produces unstable coalitions, first past the pole is often seen as pushing aside the minority views...

- What do we expect from an electoral system?

- How can it affect the quality of democratic governance?
- What are the options for improvement?

DEMOCRACY IN RUSSIA TODAY

Panel – In cooperation with Václav Havel Library

An interview with Mikhail Khodorkovsky

After a promising period in the 1990s, when Russia seemed to work towards a liberal political system, there was a major turn. The process of political regression finds its expression in the person of Mikhail Khodorkovsky. Does Russia stand any chance of becoming a democratic country?

LATIN AMERICA: OPPOSITION WORK IN AN INCREASINGLY AUTHORITARIAN ENVIRONMENT

Working breakfast

By special invitation only.

Despite some initial expectations, after the replacement of late President of Venezuela Hugo Chavez with his handpicked successor, Nicolás Maduro, the political environment in the country has not opened. In fact, rather the opposite occurred. Opposition leader Leopoldo López is in jail on fabricated charges and other opposition representatives, such as María Corina Machado, are facing government harassment. The situation in other countries, such as Nicaragua or Ecuador, seems to be developing in a similar manner.

- What are the conditions for opposition work in today's Latin America?
- Is the opposition itself working in an effective and democratic manner?
- What cooperation is there between opposition forces across Latin American countries? Is there an ideological divide?

DEMOCRATIC LEGITIMACY OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROJECT

Working breakfast - In cooperation with the British Embassy Prague

By special invitation only.

The EU is often criticized for a lack of democratic legitimacy in its governing structures and decision making. The Brussels institutions seem to many across the Continent to be too distant from their day to day lives, and yet to have considerable power and competences to intervene in those lives. Attempts have been made to bring Brussels closer to the voter, for example, through strengthening the role of the directly elected European Parliament. Yet European elections turnout has consistently fallen since 1979 and at this year's election turnout fell below 43 percent. Czechs and Slovaks, more than any other country in Europe, chose not to vote. Eurosceptic protest parties achieved what Francois Hollande called “an earthquake”. And the European Parliament effectively set a precedent

by nominating its candidate for the President of the Commission.

- How could Europe move closer to its electorate?
- Is the balance of power right between national parliaments and Brussels' institutions?
- Given the transnational nature of the EU institutions, is the presumed democratic deficit a fact of EU life that people and politicians will have to learn to accept?

THE DETERIORATING HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN LATIN AMERICA

Panel

The situation of human rights in some Latin American countries keeps worsening. Corruption, police abuse, poor prison conditions, torture, and failure to protect indigenous rights are more frequent than ever. However, the most serious black eye these countries share is the lack of accountability for human rights violations.

- What have been the most visible violations of human rights during this year in countries like Venezuela, Cuba and Ecuador?
- What is the reason for and solution to this deteriorating situation?

THE INTERNAL BALANCE OF POWER IN CURRENT RUSSIA AND THE OPPOSITION'S CHANCES TO REACH OUT TO THE SOCIETY

Lecture and Discussion – In cooperation with the Institute of International Relations

Lecture by Andrey Zubov

Russia under Putin is in a state of nationalist euphoria and on course for a collision with the West. Russia presents itself as an aspiring and alternative hub of power and civilization. But how well consolidated is Putin's political system at home? How are the centres of power and influence (the Kremlin, regional actors, the military, business circles, the orthodox church, etc.) balanced? And how long can Russian society be forced into line and the opposition repressed?

SECURITY AND DEMOCRACY

Panel – In cooperation with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Prague

The globally deteriorating security situation has heightened pressure on some traditional freedoms and democratic prerogatives. Geopolitical tensions in the post-Soviet space, Middle East or Asia, rise of global terrorist threats, risks connected to migration – have eroded the emphasis of democratic societies on the right to privacy and the freedoms of movement and expression.

- Will the need for security measures erode democracy?
- Where are the borders between legitimate security concerns and government meddling into basic freedoms?

- What are the perspectives for democracy in the current insecure world?

BEFORE THE LAW: IMAGINATION, HISTORY, AND REASON IN DEMOCRACY'S LEGAL CULTURE

Panel – In cooperation with DOX Centre for Contemporary Art

The fate of a democracy is inseparable from the fate of its laws, and the laws inseparable from its legal culture. But this legal culture does not just belong to a democracy's lawyers. More than logic and rationality, law resonates as myth, fiction, imagination, history, ethics, creativity, construction, judgment, and thought. Law operates on all of these registers and it is through them that citizens can re-establish their relationship to the law. Can law, liberal democracy, and constitutionalism regain the emancipatory spirit that was so enthusiastically greeted and anticipated in 1989?

- If democratic legitimacy of government today is intertwined with respect for the rule of law, how can we regain the promise law once held for us as democratic citizens?
- When most citizens are not themselves lawyers, how can they overcome the sense of alienation from the law?

UNDER (PRESS)URE

Panel – In cooperation with DOX Centre for Contemporary Art

Journalists and social commentators are integral parts of a free press; they are civic actors through whom and with whom citizens think publicly about their communal lives. "Under (Press)ure" is a regular series of round table discussions with journalists and commentators representing various media sources on current political, economic, and social problems. The discussions convene on the last Wednesday of each month at the DOX Centre for Contemporary Art in Prague. At its special meeting on the occasion of Forum 2000, "Under (Press)ure" will host a distinguished panel of foreign journalists and correspondents to discuss currently pressing issues.

IMPERFECT DEMOCRACY: VÁCLAV HAVEL'S CONCERNS ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY

Roundtable – In cooperation with Václav Havel Library

Václav Havel grew increasingly concerned about the quality of democracy evolving in our societies:

The relativization of all moral norms, the crisis of authority, reduction of life to the pursuit of immediate material gain without regard for its general consequences the very things Western democracy is most criticized for does not originate in democracy but in that which modern man has lost: his transcendental anchor, and along with it the only genuine source of his responsibility and self-respect. It is because of this loss that democracy is losing much of its credibility.

Václav Havel, Stanford university, USA,
September 29, 1994

- What were Havel's main concerns about our current democracy?
- How has he seen its future?

THE 2014 VENEZUELAN PROTESTS

Discussion – In cooperation with the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University

By special invitation only.

The demonstrations that erupted in various parts of Venezuela in February criticized the presidency of Nicolás Maduro for its unsuccessful attempts to improve problems such as inflation, corruption, crime rate, and severe goods shortages. These protests caused dozens of casualties, and thousands of demonstrators were imprisoned.

- What has been the main motive behind the long string of protests?
- Are other Latin American countries prone to such massive, widespread protests?
- What are the aims of these protests?

MASARYK'S DEBATES

In cooperation with DOX Centre for Contemporary Art

Discussion with students addressing the main ideas of this year's Forum 2000.

What Next for Democracy

TECHNOLOGY AND DEMOCRACY: ARE HORIZONTAL NETWORKS FOSTERING OR UNDERMINING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE?

Panel – In cooperation with Vodafone Foundation

New media and social networks have changed the way people receive information and express themselves on public policy issues. As we have witnessed during the Arab Spring and in other revolutionary movements, as it is easy to mobilize for a change to democracy, it is equally easy to lose the public's interest in democracy building. As has been argued by Evgeny Morozov, social media create lazy activists for whom clicking on a petition is enough to make a political statement.

- How do modern technologies and horizontal networks affect democratic governance?
- Do people in real life follow-up on their social networks' opinions on public policy?
- Will the current technological trends eventually destroy democracy as we know it?

NEW NARRATIVE FOR EUROPE

Panel – In cooperation with European Commission Representation in the Czech Republic

United Europe, a concept that has led to historically unprecedented peace, cooperation and prosperity across the European continent, is increasingly being questioned.

Despite the clear achievements, the sense of a common European identity seems to be fading. This happens in an increasingly complicated, competitive, and perhaps even dangerous world. Europeans need to regain confidence in Europe. The values of human dignity and democracy, that lie at the core of the common European project, need to be reaffirmed.

- Why is the united Europe ever more important?
- What are the future challenges that Europe will have to face?
- How best can we face these challenges?

YOUNG PEOPLE IN POLITICS: THE PROMISE AND THE REALITY

Panel – In cooperation with the Oxford and Cambridge Alumni Society Czech Republic

Today, many young people eager to improve the world are wondering whether politics is the right way to do so. Engaging several young politicians across the political spectrum, this panel aims to explore their motivations and expectations when joining political parties, the goals they want to achieve and to what degree they have been successful so far.

- What drives young people into politics today?
- Is it dissatisfaction with the state of democracy or issues of policy, or completely different reasons?
- Does their attitude differ from that of the older generation of politicians?

THE DECLINE OF MEDIA FREEDOM IN THE ERA OF SOCIAL NETWORKS?

Roundtable – In cooperation with Transitions

After the opening of the media space in the 1980s to early 2000s, connected with the "third wave of democratization" from Latin America through Central Europe and the former Soviet Union to East Asia, we now observe an authoritarian backlash. The traditional media are losing audience and are being brought under direct or indirect state control in Russia, Egypt, Venezuela, and elsewhere. The horizontal networks and social media, which presented a hope for new kind of citizen involvement and new quality of access to information, have serious weaknesses and shortcomings. They were instrumental in the Arab Spring or Euromaidan, but are also increasingly being used by the regimes to misinform, manipulate, and gather information on independent civil society.

- Are we facing a new period of state media control?
- Are the new media becoming a useful tool for authoritarians?
- What is the current role of traditional media?

PRIORITIES AND ASPIRATIONS FOR DEMOCRACY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Closing Panel

After several decades of international efforts to move

toward liberal democratic systems, we appear to be at a crossroads. Traditional institutions seem weakened, and key democratic values are being questioned. But democracy is still the only political system that guarantees protection of human rights, civil liberties, and freedom “to pursue happiness”.

- How shall we approach the current challenges?
- What type of democracy do we aspire to?
- In what ways should we make democracy better?

ALL THE COLORS OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN EASTERN EUROPE

Panel – In cooperation with People in Need

People in the West often believe that those persecuted in authoritarian regimes are political opponents or dissidents. However, the victims of repression often do not fit the classic models of political opposition and defenders of human rights. People passionate about a specific topic, be it the protection of environment or heritage or support for LGBT people – in other words, issues that would normally be seen as non-political – are often in danger of persecution as well.

- How do young leaders see their efforts and what challenges do they face in recent turbulent developments in Ukraine and Russia, which have repercussions across the entire region?

DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY – WHAT NEXT?

Internal workshop – In cooperation with Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress

By special invitation only.

Democratic Solidarity is a joint project of the Forum 2000 Foundation and the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress. The project was founded in September 2013 based on an agreement signed in Prague during the 17th annual Forum 2000 Conference “Societies in Transition” by Venezuelan and Cuban democrats striving for freedom, democracy and human rights.

A workshop will be held, for invited participants only, to discuss the current situation in Democratic Solidarity countries and the most pressing challenges and plans. In the final phase, the workshop should also discuss further steps of the Democratic Solidarity project, with an emphasis on the end of 2014 and the year 2015.

THE FUTURE OF KURDISTAN

Panel – In cooperation with the Prague Centre for Transatlantic Relations of the CEVRO Institute

The Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq is one of the most stable, free, democratic, and prosperous parts of the whole region in turmoil. Kurdish forces in Iraq and Syria are, however, fighting the Islamic State, and Kurds of the whole region are themselves deeply divided. The future is very uncertain.

- What will be the impact of Islamic State attacks and of

the brutality of its fighters on the region and its borders?

- How to preserve semi-independent Iraqi Kurdistan?
- What are the challenges for relations with neighboring Turkey and Iran?
- How much does the United States help the situation once they vehemently insist on the centrality of the role which the government in Baghdad should play?
- Last but not least: will there be a time for declaring Kurdish independence? How large might the potential for a Kurdish state be?

Changing International Environment

DEMOCRACY IN ASIA: INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBORS

Working breakfast

By special invitation only.

India, the world’s most populous democracy, carries increasing influence in its neighborhood and in the world. The new ambitious government of Narendra Modi has only underscored this impression.

- What role does India aim to play in its neighborhood?
- Does democracy play a role in India’s foreign policy? What is its position towards democracy promotion?
- What relationship will it have with China? What role can it play vis-à-vis Burma?

THE RUSSIAN CONNECTION: THE SPREAD OF PRO-RUSSIAN POLICIES ON THE EUROPEAN FAR-RIGHT

Internal working breakfast – In cooperation with Heinrich Böll Foundation and Political Capital Institute

By special invitation only.

AND

PUTIN’S TROJAN HORSES? RUSSIAN INFLUENCE ON THE EUROPEAN RADICAL RIGHT AND RADICAL LEFT

Roundtable – In cooperation with Heinrich Böll Foundation and Political Capital Institute

On May 25, anti-European forces made a historical gain in the European Parliament elections. This heterogeneous block of political forces, whose hostility to the idea of the European Union has made them natural allies of the Kremlin, won nearly 25 percent of the seats. Most of these radical, EU-hostile forces have an openly friendly attitude towards Russia, and sometimes also gain valuable professional, organizational and media assistance.

- What are the possible European reactions in the light of the recent conflict in Ukraine?
- What are the informal channels of Russian influence in Europe?
- What are the main challenges for current European Parliament and EU institutions?
- Can the sanctions help?

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF VÁCLAV HAVEL'S VALUE BASED FOREIGN POLICY

Panel

Foreign policy is about protecting interests. But it is also about protecting principles and values. It needs a clear moral background and to be mindful of its long-term consequences. Václav Havel was aware of that and the foreign policy he tried to shape was largely guided by these principles.

- Was Havel's foreign policy really so unique? Was it consistent?
- Havel's foreign policy was largely based on Czech historical experience with communist and Nazi regimes and two relatively recent military invasions. Are there principles in that policy that are universally applicable?
- Are Havel's policy principles still valid in the current era of seemingly crumbling international order?

RESURGENT AUTHORITARIANS: THE WORLD MOVEMENT AGAINST DEMOCRACY

Panel – In cooperation with Journal of Democracy and International Forum for Democratic Studies, National Endowment for Democracy

The growing power of key authoritarian states is presenting new challenges to the democratic West. The influence of these repressive regimes has grown at a time when the United States and the EU have scaled back their own ambitions for supporting democracy. While the United States and the wider community of democracies have operated in the world of the 1990s – when supporting democracy met little resistance – a new battle of standards and values has emerged over the course of the past decade. Regimes in Moscow, Beijing, and Tehran have crafted strategies and policies that are designed to counter and contain democracy's advance.

IS DEMOCRACY IN DECLINE? REFLECTIONS FROM THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL TO THE EUROMAIDAN

Panel – In cooperation with Journal of Democracy and International Forum for Democratic Studies, National Endowment for Democracy

In recent years a number of challenges to democratic development have emerged, following the post-Cold War period in which the world saw significant democratic expansion. Internal economic problems in the U.S. and EU, as well as the fraying of the transatlantic partnership have contributed to a crisis of morale and confidence in democracy. Moreover, China, Russia, and other authoritarian states have reorganized themselves in a manner that more directly challenges democratic values and norms.

- Is democracy really in decline?
- Has a true challenger emerged to the idea of democracy as a system of governance?

RUSSIA: A NON-DEMOCRATIC POWER ON THE WORLD STAGE?

Panel

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia retreated into its own sphere of political and economic problems, and lost its ability to engage actively on the international stage. Since President Vladimir Putin assumed power the Russian Federation has started to interfere in the affairs of its neighbors, as well as to engage more actively on the global stage. The Russian foreign policy dynamics changed even further after – and as a reaction to – the pro-democracy movement in Russia in 2011. Arguably, the survival of the current regime is based on a permanent search for internal and external enemies. Moreover, together with other countries, such as China or Iran, Russia is contributing actively to limiting the space for global democracy, or, using a phrase of Christopher Walker, it has engaged in “democracy containment.”

- What are Vladimir Putin's foreign policy objectives?
- How should the international democratic community approach today's Russia?
- What should Europe do?

A NEW MIDDLE EAST? ISIS AND OTHER THREATS

Panel

Even despite a lengthy and brutal conflict in Syria and a highly volatile situation in Iraq, the sudden rise and military success of the Islamic State (ISIS) sent shockwaves through the region and the world. The progress of ISIS as well as other developments indicate a realignment of the regional forces, creation of new (or renewed) fault lines and even a possible redrawing of the borders.

- What developments can we expect in the region?
- What are the possible outcomes?
- What should be the role of the international community?

POWER OF THE POWERFUL: PROPAGANDA

Panel – In cooperation with Radio Prague

The Russian-Ukrainian crisis this year has again demonstrated that the power of mass media is comparable to heavy weapons. Journalism gave way to propaganda – Russian media have successfully convinced their citizens of the threat of fascism from the neighboring country, and have prepared the ground psychologically for war.

- How can state propagandist media retain such power in an era when the internet makes a vast range of information accessible?
- How should we confront propaganda?

THE GLOBAL ROLE OF EUROPE?

Night owl session

By special invitation only.

Europe is a global power. Or is it?

- What are the democracy promotion achievements of the EU?
- How relevant is Europe on the world stage?
- How can it influence (positively) the countries in its neighborhood, particularly in the Middle East and the former Soviet Union?

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM WITH THE EU'S COMMON FOREIGN POLICY?

Internal working breakfast – In cooperation with the Embassy of Austria

By special invitation only.

The European Union is a global economic superpower with an enormous amount of soft power. However, as a single political player on the international stage, it is notoriously weak, divided, and inefficient. The recent difficulties in finding a joint position on Russia's aggression in Ukraine or the selection of Federica Mogherini as the Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs have, in the eyes of some, only reinforced the notion that a strong and united role on the global stage is not the EU's priority.

- What are the main shortcomings in making of the EU's foreign policy?
- How could the EU make its common foreign policy more effective?
- Is it even desirable?

EUROPE AND THE DEMOCRATISATION OF ITS NEIGHBORHOODS

Panel – In cooperation with the Embassy of France and National Endowment for Democracy

During the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, it has become evident that Europe as a model of Western civilization, freedom and prosperity still inspires people to the East of its Schengen borders. It can inspire; but can it deliver? Also, the situation on its southern borders seems even more complicated.

- Is the EU's neighborhood becoming more or less democratic?
- And what is – and should be – Europe's role in this development?

Transferability Of Democracy?

IS DEMOCRACY POSSIBLE IN THE POST-SOVIET SPACE?

Working breakfast

By special invitation only.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, hopes emerged about the democratic future of its successor countries. Such hopes were particularly high in the western parts of the former empire, such as Belarus or Ukraine. Briefly, even Russia under Boris Yeltsin seemed to be moving towards an open liberal democracy. Today, however, with the bright exception of the Baltic countries and recently perhaps Ukraine, the democratic achievements in the former Soviet republics are very modest.

- What are the reasons for the democratic gloom?
- What are the key obstacles to change towards democracy?
- Is democracy even possible and desirable in the post-Soviet space?

UKRAINE: PERSPECTIVES FOR A DEMOCRATIC FUTURE IN EUROPE?

Panel

The failure by President Yanukovich to sign the EU Association Agreement last November served as the trigger that eventually brought down his government. The European desires of large parts of the Ukrainian population have, perhaps surprisingly, proven to be very strong. However, the opposition of its Russian neighbor against the European future of Ukraine has also proven to be quite determined and dangerous.

- What are the perspectives of the current Ukrainian conflict? Will the pro-European forces prevail?
- Even if they do, is Ukraine prepared – politically, economically, and structurally – for a potential EU membership?
- And is the EU ready and willing to accept Ukraine as a full member?

DEMOCRACY IN CHINA: CHIMERA OR A REAL PROSPECT?

Panel – In cooperation with Amnesty International

The debate on the democratization of China is part of a tradition older than the protests in Tiananmen Square. Differing opinions and contradicting predictions clash intensely when it comes to the core questions of the debate. The ways people perceive the protests of 25 years ago also differ significantly. The regime led by the Communist Party of China seems to have overcome all serious threats; China's authoritarian model can thus seem a challenge to democracy in the Western sense, while still failing to propose an alternative that would ensure protection and respect for human rights.

- What was the protest in 1989 about and how do the Chinese see it today?
- Can requirements related to human rights play a role in China, similar to the one they played in Europe?
- Can Taiwan be an example for mainland China with regard to democratization in a Confucian society? What are the characteristics of Taiwanese democracy?
- How do the Chinese imagine the long-term political future of their country?

PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES OF THE BURMESE TRANSITION: THE PERSPECTIVE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Panel – In cooperation with People in Need

The Burmese regime has slowed down the transformation efforts and continues to violate human rights. Expectations have been replaced by concerns. The authorities are increasing pressure on activists and journalists, who are pointing out their involvement in human rights violations.

- What is the current state of Burma's transition to democracy?
- What role does the civil society play in the transition?
- How is civil society treated by the regime?

EXPANSION OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC INFLUENCE OF CHINA

Roundtable

Apart from a rapidly growing economy, China has recently started to flex its political and diplomatic muscles as well. It has successfully started combining the power of its business and industry, with development aid and political overtures to developing countries' governments in a way that some see as an attempt at new colonialism. This has been especially evident in some countries of Africa, such as Angola, or Latin America, such as Peru, Venezuela or Nicaragua. The Chinese economic influence is, however, increasingly visible in Europe and North America as well.

- Are there common patterns in the Chinese economic approach to Africa, Latin America or Europe?
- What are the main objectives of the Chinese economic interest?
- Is the Chinese economic influence a threat to democracy worldwide?

SYSTEMIC CHANGE, ECONOMIC REFORMS AND DEMOCRACY: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED? WHAT LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE?

Panel in cooperation with the Centre on Global Economic Governance, Columbia University

As democratization has been advancing for the past three decades across the globe, so has the idea of liberal capitalism. Political changes in Central and Eastern Europe have been tightly connected with the introduction of "Washington consensus" policies and – despite significant setbacks – have brought unparalleled levels of growth and prosperity to the region. Similarly, political and economic opening went hand in hand in some of the

Asian countries, with major exceptions such as China or Vietnam. Still different were developments in Latin America and Africa or the Middle East.

- What have been the major mistakes in the systemic reforms over the past three decades?
- What have we learned?

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE: RESISTANCE AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, ACROSS CONTEXTS AND GENERATIONS

Panel – In cooperation with Amnesty International and Civic Belarus

The experience of resistance against human rights abuses is present across many contexts and generations. Almost everywhere, resistance is intimately connected with sparks of democratic spirit in the way it contests existing hierarchies of power, as it claims its own legitimacy and provides a solid ground for claims of freedom and equality. This year's conference inspires an exchange of experiences of resistance across contexts and generations. The fact that even as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Velvet Revolution, several invitees to the Forum 2000 Conference are unable to attend due to imprisonment or travel bans emphasizes this theme.

- What drives an individual's decision to resist?
- In what ways does resistance transform individual and collective destinies?
- How do human rights and democratic claims intersect in acts of resistance?
- Is there a common core to the experience of resistance across time and space?

THE FUTURE OF EGYPT: DICTATORSHIP OR DEMOCRACY?

Night owl session

By special invitation only.

Three years ago, Egyptians began their fight for freedom and democracy. Since January Revolution, eight governments and two presidents struggled to meet citizen's hopes and needs. Yet, even with the new governments, the challenges are remaining the same and are immense. Egyptian leaders must address major problems related to weak institutions, nepotism, corruption, low economic growth, financial deficit, social injustice and terrorism. Sisi's government is also expected to boost the status of Egypt as a regional power, which matters. Last but not least, the Egyptian population is divided, its patience exhausted and many lost hopes that their life may improve.

- Can Egypt under Sisi successfully start rebuilding the Egyptian society and state?

EGYPT AND UKRAINE: THE LIMITS OF ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY IN TRANSITIONS AND THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

In cooperation with the Embassy of Germany in Prague

By special invitation only.

In Egypt and Ukraine, under different circumstances, democratically-elected presidents were overthrown – here by a popularly-supported military putsch, there by a series of demonstrations. The Western response was complicated: in Ukraine, the change was supported, including visits to Maidan by top EU and US officials. In Egypt, both the US and the EU eventually accepted the army coup, mainly because the Muslim Brotherhood was seen as a problematic partner from the very beginning. In both cases, the Western response, though politically logical, opened itself to the accusation that the US and the EU support democracy only if it gives it the kind of result they like.

- Is it legitimate to overthrow a democratically elected leader who moves towards authoritarianism?
- How should the international community approach such developments?
- The above cases show that democratic transitions need to go beyond elections. What other building blocks of democracy should the international community emphasise?

THE FUTURE OF AFRICA

In cooperation with the Embassy of France

By special invitation only.

Africa is widely known to be the poorest inhabited continent. It is also perhaps the richest one in natural resources and certainly one with immense potential. However, and with some exceptions, it has a very poor record in democratic governance; it suffers from weak institutions, violence, corruption, authoritarian rule, interference from external powers. The Rwanda genocide has also shown the terrible potential of ethnic tensions across the continent. The panel should discuss principally issues concerning Sub-Saharan Africa.

- What is the future of democratic governance in Africa?
- What major challenges does it face?
- What can be the ways forward?

3 YEARS AFTER ARAB SPRING: MIDDLE EAST AT A CROSSROADS

Panel

The Arab Spring has been successful in bringing down the authoritarian regimes, but has since faced problems in establishing a sustainable democracy. The Egyptian revolution of January 25, 2011 brought an end to more than thirty years of Mubarak's autocratic rule. Three years later, however, Egypt is yet again ruled by the military which does not stop short of incarcerating activists, dissolving NGOs and denying its people the right to protest. Syria

is going through a third year of terrible civil war, and the situation in Libya and some other countries in the region is chaotic to say the least. ISIS has become a global threat. The region is at a critical crossroads.

- How do we assess the results of the Arab Spring?
- Can democracy be established across the region?
- What future is facing the Arab World?

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CZECH TRANSITION AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

In cooperation with DEMAS - Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights, and FoRS - Czech Forum for Development Cooperation

In the context of Czech foreign policy after 1989, the human rights agenda is often linked with the support of political and citizen rights in the frame of transformation cooperation. It is also engaged in the defence of social, economic, and environmental rights through development cooperation focused on the alleviation of the poverty in the world.

- What is the impact of Czech foreign policy's reorientation towards economic, social, and environmental rights?
- Why has this reorientation occurred?
- What is the view of the NGOs as significant stakeholders in the Czech foreign policy?

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AND THEIR ROLE IN SHAPING THE DEMOCRATIC DECISION-MAKING

Panel

In the revolutionary changes of 1989, environmental concerns played a major role and often served as a catalyst for broader political protest. After 1989 it looked like democratic rule and the liberal model of market economy could dominate without an alternative. There was a sense of a much better world in the making. Since then, however, environment has again become a rallying point for civic activism in unfree societies, such as Russia, Burma and elsewhere.

- How do environmental concerns affect civil participation?
- Can they, even today, serve as a basis for larger civil movements?
- Has the emphasis on environment diminished in today's crisis ridden world?

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE: DISSIDENTS OF THE PAST AND PRESENT

Panel – In cooperation with People in Need

Dictatorships used to be ideological and poor. But over the past 25 years many repressive regimes have evolved into pragmatically managed systems. They no longer want to be in full control of people's lives, but rather to open the economy to generate wealth for the elite and

to silence critics through harsh targeted repression. To bolster their reputation, such regimes also tend to hire western PR agencies or, in some cases, former prime ministers as advisors.

- How has this trend changed the nature of the challenges facing human rights defenders, activists, and dissidents in authoritarian regimes?

THE ROLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CZECH FOREIGN POLICY

Panel – In cooperation with DEMAS - Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights

Defense of human rights has been an important part of Czech foreign policy since 1993. 25 years after the Velvet Revolution, the Czech Republic still “exports” its experience to countries where human rights are violated or where a transition from an authoritarian regime is under way. But does the Czech Republic still have insights to share in this turbulent political period? Discussions on the tension between human rights promotion and Czech economic interests in non-democratic countries challenge the current foreign policy of the Czech Republic.

- How should democracy promotion and human rights support be reflected in the Czech foreign policy?
- Where and how can we find a balance between economic diplomacy and democracy and human rights?
- Does support for human rights have a place in the Czech foreign policy after almost 25 years?

VISEGRAD PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE ON DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Closed Workshop, 2 parts – In cooperation with the International Visegrad Fund and National Endowment for Democracy

By special invitation only.

The Current and Future Capacity Of The V4 Countries' Support For Democracy In Third Countries: Democratic Values Vs. Economic Interests

Although the countries of the Visegrad Group maintain different democracy assistance infrastructures, a common transitional experience is an asset that all V4 countries aim to build upon when promoting democratic values abroad. But given the increasing focus of the respective V4 governments on economic development, it is important to search for balance between the defence of legitimate economic interests and our long term commitment and shared moral responsibility to defend freedom and provide effective democracy support.

- Can V4 democracy support still function effectively if value-based goals give way to material-based interests?

Ukrainian Case Study: The V4's Past and Future Involvement in a Transitioning Country

Given Ukraine's proximity to the Visegrad Group's borders, a stable democratic government in Kiev is a natural interest for all V4 states. Prior to the ongoing unrest in Ukraine, the V4 countries have been providing democracy support to the country's civil society and students, most notably through the International Visegrad Fund. However, the current complex political situation in Ukraine calls for an increased engagement of the V4 countries in the area of democracy support and more nuanced but active approach in supporting democratic initiatives in the country.

Religion and Democracy

RELIGION AGAINST TOTALITARIANISM

Panel

Religions often become key actors in democratization processes. Especially in countries with authoritarian regimes, many groups and individuals fighting for human rights and democracy come from a religious background. They can play a new role later on as the authoritarian rule is exchanged for a democratic one. In such situations, in addition to the establishment of democratic institutions, it is necessary to create a functioning civil society and transform patterns of totalitarian thinking into a free and responsible civic consciousness.

- Why did religions play the role of a catalyst of democratization processes in some societies, but served as tools of totalitarian power in others?
- What is the role of churches and religious communities in transforming countries after the fall of the totalitarian rule?
- Are they successful in supporting democratization, or are they in need of transformation themselves?
- How can religious organizations contribute to the growth of civil society and moral consciousness as a precondition for the functioning of the rule of law?

THE PARTNERSHIP OF CHURCHES AND COMPANIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIETY

In cooperation with Business Leaders Forum

By special invitation only.

25 years after the Velvet Revolution, we could be closing the chapter of church restitutions. The churches have strengthened their capacities to be active in the social and cultural development of society. Their instruments and procedures to fulfil its social and cultural mission are comparable to those used by companies to implement the CSR agenda.

- Where are the synergies of churches and business in the area of social work, cities and civil society development after clerical restitutions?

- How can the church use the know-how of the private sector to fulfil its social mission?

ROLE OF RELIGION IN CONSTRUCTING LIBERAL DEMOCRACIES

Panel

On the one hand, religious values contributed to the creation of liberal democracy and religious communities often play a significant role in the fight against dictatorships and totalitarianism. On the other hand, religious fanaticism seems to be on the rise and religious ideas are being misused by political movements committing murders and enslavements. In some Muslim countries, in Russia, and even in a number of Western states, including the USA and Israel, there are religious communities siding with strong opponents of liberal values.

- What is the true relationship of main religions toward the liberal concept of democracy today?
- Why do religious ideas often become an instrument of anti-liberal forces in today's world?
- How can religions prevent tendencies to fanaticism and fundamentalism in their own groups?
- What role should religions play in transforming countries where social conditions for a functioning democracy are still being created?

Art, Society, Nature and Politics

ART UNDER TOTALITARIAN REGIMES: A LITHUANIAN JAZZ STORY

Panel – In cooperation with the Embassy of Lithuania in Prague and Jazz Dock

During the Communist era, Lithuania was considered to be the “jazziest republic in the USSR.” In the 1970s, the local jazz clubs were the only islands of freedom. When the regime collapsed in the “Singing Revolution,” it seemed that nothing was in the way of free artistic production. However, the current competitive environment of commercialization harms independent production more than the previous communist pressure.

- What is the role of art in modern society?
- How important is art and culture for politics and political life?

TALES OF TIBET: THROUGH THE EYES OF CZECH ILLUSTRATORS LENKA JASANSKÁ, HANA VYORALOVÁ AND JAKUB HRDLIČKA

Exhibition – In cooperation with Lungta

The Tales of Tibet exhibition shows Tibetan culture through the eyes of Czech illustrators. The world of folk stories is captured in Himalayan Folk Tales by Lenka Jasanská. Hana Vyoralová used pen and ink in *We Tibetans* while Akhu Tompa's amusing erotic tales were illustrated by Jakub Hrdlička. The exhibition is organised by Lungta, whose aim is to inform about Tibet and help preserve its culture.

CREATING A SAND MANDALA

Mandala – In cooperation with M.O.S.T. Civic Association

The Forum 2000 Conference will include the creation of a mandala dedicated to peace and to the element of fire, which represents the energy necessary to establish peace. You are welcome to witness the whole ritual of creation, consecration, and destruction of the mandala. Staff will be present to provide further explanations. Each part of the mandala refers to our own existence, our ties to various objects, and our emotions. Traditionally, Tibetan monks spend days creating sand mandalas, and then destroy them in order to fulfil the noble wishes of sentient beings as well as to remind us of the impermanence of all things.

MURONG XUECUN: AUTHOR READING AND DISCUSSION

In cooperation with the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University

Meeting with the world-known Chinese author and discussion over his latest literary works.

“WE TIBETANS” BOOK LAUNCH

Book Launch – In cooperation with Lungta

Book written by Rinchen Lhamo, the first Tibetan woman to come to the West at the beginning of the 20th century as wife of a British diplomat. She describes how Tibet looked in times of her youth - local life, culture, customs and traditions and compares everything with life in the West. Some comparisons are very surprising with their timelessness even after nearly 90 years. The author also describes how hard it was to get used to the western way of life. The end contains six Tibetan folk tales.

CARING FOR OUR HERITAGE: RECONNECTING SOCIETY WITH NATURE

Panel – In cooperation with the Wild Europe Initiative

Video message by H.R.H. Charles, the Prince of Wales

Headed by a video message from H.R.H. Charles, the Prince of Wales, this session considers initiatives that encourage sustainable nature-based rural living, alongside wilderness landscapes untrammelled by man but priceless to contemporary society.

VIVA CUBA LIBRE: RAP IS WAR

60 min, Directed by: Jesse Acevedo

Film screening – In cooperation with One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival

Director Jesse Acevedo reveals the dark side of life on the “Island of Freedom,” which is not found in the catalogues of travel agencies. Under the threat of prison, he follows the rap group Los Aldeanos, who lend their voice to all Cubans who have been unjustly persecuted, tyrannized and abused by the state. The government forbids their music; concerts are held in secret in remote parts of the country. From time to time, the rappers themselves end up in jail. But the idea of freedom spread by the musicians cannot be repressed.

The screening will be followed by a discussion (Monday: Langhans – People in Need Center: René de Jesús Gómez Manzano, Antonio Rodiles; Wednesday: Pilsen, Nebe Coffee & Bar: Jakub Doubrava, Martin Hůla).

PUTIN'S GAMES

*90 min, Directed by: Alexander Gentelev
Film screening – In cooperation with One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival*

By special invitation only.

The medals have been handed out, records broken and victories achieved. But who are the real winners and losers of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi? The Games will always be remembered as the controversial project of Russian President Vladimir Putin, which never would have taken place were it not for his personal obsession. The dream of hosting this celebration of global sport may have turned into reality, but at what cost? Endemic corruption, expropriation of private property, forced relocation of residents and irreversible damage to the environment. This investigative documentary explores the biggest problems in contemporary Russia. These Olympic Games will not be a happy memory for the people whose testimony contributed to the creation of this film.

The screening will be followed by a discussion with Vitaly Yaroshevsky, Deputy Editor of Novaya Gazeta.

REACHING ACROSS FRONTIERS: THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF WILD NATURE

Panel – In cooperation with Wild Europe Initiative

Václav Havel well understood the power of wild nature when he launched the European wilderness strategy at a 2009 EC Presidency Conference in Prague. His Velvet Revolution epitomized the bridging of gaps between minds and ideologies; conservation plays a role in applying this principle internationally.

CHANGING PERCEPTION OF PUBLIC SPACE: BETWEEN OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

Panel – In cooperation with Aspen Institute Prague

The perception of public space has been undergoing dramatic change with the system transformation in Central and Eastern Europe since the fall of Communism. The arrival of democracy and capitalism posed new questions regarding the responsibility and ownership of public space, and brought the challenge of how to accommodate it to the needs of divergent users groups.

- Who bears the responsibility for the quality of public space?
- What are the visual and aesthetic aspects to take into concern?
- What are the most prospective models and forms of the ownership of public space?
- How to shelter a dialogue to engage the various stakeholders?

BLACK ICE

*53 min, Directed by: Maarten van Rouveroy
Film screening – In cooperation with Greenpeace*

Black Ice is a documentary about 30 people who sailed to the Barents Sea in September 2013 to protest dangerous oil drilling there by Gazprom. Russian special forces forcibly halted their peaceful action, and a campaign lasting several months to free the so called "Arctic 30" brought international attention not only to the exploitation of the Arctic, but also to the limits of public engagement in Russia today.

The screening will be followed by a discussion with Mr. Dima Litvinov, one of the "Arctic 30" and Andrey Soldatov.

#chicagoGirl: THE SOCIAL NETWORK TAKES ON A DICTATOR

*74 min, Directed by: Joe Piscatella
Film Screening – In cooperation with One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival*

Nineteen-year-old Ala'a Basatneh ought to have the same preoccupations as her American peers: school, relationships, clothes, music. But this Chicago student doesn't have time for any of that – she's too busy organizing a revolution in Syria. From her laptop she helps coordinate protests, shares photos and videos, and informs demonstrators about current events. Meanwhile, her friends are in the thick of the action in a country where civil war has been raging for three years.

The screening will be followed by a discussion with young activist coming from the region described in the movie.

TIBETAN SINGER TECHUNG AND HIS BAND

Concert – In cooperation with Potala

For ticket holders only.

The main goal of Techung and his band is to keep Tibetan music and the freedom struggle alive. The Tibetan community in exile and inside Tibet has worked hard to preserve their unique cultural heritage for the past fifty years. The Tibetan freedom struggle is also unique because of the belief that it must be solved through nonviolence and human understanding. If the struggle succeeds, it will serve as an inspirational model to other conflicts around the world. Techung and his band are committed to using music to reach out to the public and remind the world community that Tibet is facing a challenging time.

Forum 2000 Events in Other Cities:

STATES OF MIND – BEYOND THE IMAGE

Guided exhibition tour – In cooperation with GASK

Wednesday, October 15, 18.00–18.45, GASK Kutná Hora

ON THE INFLUENCE OF CULTURE ON POLITICS

Roundtable – In cooperation with GASK

Wednesday, October 15, 19.00–20.00, GASK Kutná Hora

THE PLASTIC PEOPLE OF THE UNIVERSE

Concert – In cooperation with GASK

Wednesday, October 15, 20.00–21.30, GASK Kutná Hora

VIVA CUBA LIBRE: RAP IS WAR

60 min, Directed by: Jesse Acevedo

Film screening and discussion – In cooperation with Pilsen 2015 and One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival

Wednesday, October 15, 18.00–19.00, Nebe Coffee & Bar, Pilsen

THE CULTURE OF THE STREETS: RAP AS A VOICE OF PROTEST

Discussion – In cooperation with Pilsen 2015

Wednesday, October 15, 19.00–20.00, Nebe Coffee & Bar, Pilsen

DEMOCRACY WITHOUT POLITICAL PARTIES?

Panel – In cooperation with Regional Authority of Liberec Region and Faculty of Science, Humanities and Education, Technical University of Liberec

Wednesday, October 15, 15.00–17.00, Regional Research Library, Liberec

THE LITTLE STORIES OF A BIG CHANGE

*Panel – In cooperation with Liberec Civic Society and jizer-ské *ticho*

Wednesday, October 15, 18.00–19.30, Regional Research Library, Liberec

CONTENT? DISCONTENT?

Panel – In cooperation with Goose on a String Theatre

Wednesday, October 15, 17.00–18.30, Goose on a String Theatre, Brno

BLACK ICE

53 min, Directed by: Maarten van Rouveroy

Film screening and discussion – In cooperation with Greenpeace

Wednesday, October 15, 19.00–21.00, Open Garden, Brno

CATCHING-UP REVOLUTIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE. FROM “VELVET” TO “ORANGE” TO “EURO”: WHAT’S NEXT?

Discussion – In cooperation with University of South Bohemia

Wednesday, October 15, 14.00–16.00, University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice

THE CZECH WAY OF DEMOCRACY: DID WE WANT IT THIS WAY?

Panel – In cooperation with Antiquarian Bookshop Fiducia

Wednesday, October 15, 18.00–20.00, Antiquarian Bookshop Fiducia, Ostrava

DEMOCRACY AND ITS DISCONTENTS

Film screening and discussion – In cooperation with Silesian University in Opava,

Wednesday, October 15, 16.00–17.30, Municipal House, Opava

CZECH CIVIL SOCIETY 25 YEARS AFTER THE FALL OF THE IRON CURTAIN

Panel – In cooperation with Generace 89

Wednesday, October 15, 18.00–19.30, Castle Brewery, Litomyšl

DEMOCRACY AND ITS DISCONTENTS: A SHORT MEMORY, OR A REAL REFLECTION OF REALITY?

Panel – In cooperation with the International Visegrad Fund, Institute for Public Affairs and Slovak Atlantic Commission

Wednesday, October 15, 16.00–17.30, KC Dunaj, Bratislava

DEMOCRACY AND ITS DISCONTENTS: IS EXTREMISM THE ANSWER?

Panel – In cooperation with the International Visegrad Fund and Institute for Public Affairs

Wednesday, October 15, 17.00–18.30, Old Town Hall, Banská Bystrica

THE RUSSIAN CONNECTION: THE SPREADING INFLUENCE OF PRO-RUSSIAN POLICIES ON THE EUROPEAN FAR RIGHT

Panel – In cooperation with Czech Centre Budapest and Political Capital Institute

Wednesday, October 15, 18.00–19.30, Mozsár Café & Bar, Budapest

POWER OF THE POWERLESS REVISITED

Conference – In cooperation with Villa Decius Association

Thursday, October 16, 10.00–15.00, Villa Decius, Krakow



Conference Outcomes

Should you wish to review the conference speeches and discussions, visit our website at www.forum2000.cz. All the outcomes are available in the section Forum 2000 Conferences under the respective year.

Social Media

You can track Forum 2000's activities by engaging with us on social media:

Twitter: @Forum_2000 or via #Forum2000

Facebook: www.facebook.com/forum.2000

Online Live Video Broadcast

Panels in the Forum Hall of the Žofín Palace will be broadcast live on our website in the section Video. This section will later contain video recordings from these sessions and from other selected events.

5 Big Ideas

The ideas represent some of the key focal points around which discussion took place at the conference this year. These ideas came up frequently across various fora, due to their timeliness or in some cases timelessness. In this regard, they shed light on the topics and range of thought that emerged among the conference delegates.

Panel Summaries

All conference panels are briefly summarized and available on the Forum 2000 website during the course of the conference. They provide a general overview of the speeches and remarks made by the delegates.

Press Releases

Press Releases highlight the most interesting and most important moments of the individual conference days offering statements, quotations and ideas and summarizing the course of the conference for media.

Photo Gallery

We do our best to capture the significant moments of the conference. A selection of photographs taken during the conference will be available in the Photo Gallery section of the conference 2014 website.

Video Gallery

Many panels and discussions will be recorded and posted on our website. Click on the link Video Recordings and choose the video you want to watch.

Forum 2000 Materials

Forum 2000 Conference Reports, together with other publications and materials of the Forum 2000 Foundation, may be purchased from the information stand of the foundation located in the Žofín Palace.

Conference Bookstore

The Conference Bookstore makes a return this year, promising to be bigger than ever before. Apart from the works of our delegates, thematically related titles from the Academia Publishing House will be available for purchase.



Practical Information

Please, kindly note the following information related to the organization of the conference.

Language

English is the working language of the conference. Some events will be translated or held in other languages. Please, see the program for details.

Dress Code

The recommended dress code for the conference is business or business casual.

Accessibility of Venues and Events

Panels and discussions held at Žofín Palace are accessible to the public only with pre-registration. Discussions and events at other venues are open to the public without pre-registration, except those marked in the program as "by special invitation only." Due to the large number of participants and limited capacity, early arrival is highly recommended.

The distribution of name badges and conference materials at Žofín Palace starts at 7.30 on both Monday, October 13 and Tuesday, October 14. Participants are requested to wear their non-transferable name badges visibly at all times during the conference. Please kindly note that the Delegates and Guests Lounge (in the Žofín Palace Garden) is only accessible to participants wearing a Forum 2000 Foundation, Delegate or Guest badge.

Security

Only participants visibly carrying their conference name

badge will be allowed to enter the Žofín Palace. Visitors may be subjected to a security check. For security reasons, large backpacks and packages are not allowed at the conference. Visitors may leave small bags and accessories in the cloakroom.

Food and Beverages

Small meals and snacks will be sold at the Žofín Palace restaurant and cafe throughout the conference. Coffee, tea and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for no charge during all breaks.

Refreshments will also be available at NONA Cafe (Národní 4) with a 15% discount to all Forum 2000 Conference badge holders.

Smokers

Žofín Palace is a no-smoking zone. Smoking is only permitted outside conference venues.

Photo/Video

Professional photographers and TV press must be accredited to take photographs and video recordings. Non-professional photography is only permitted without the use of an external flash.

Internet

An open wireless internet connection will be available at the Žofín Palace. For wireless internet at other venues consult Forum 2000 staff members.



Get Involved

The Forum 2000 Foundation is committed to supporting the values of democracy and respect for human rights. All of our activities would not be possible without the help of a thriving community of supporters and the generosity of our donors.

Join the Forum 2000 Community

Join us on Facebook and Twitter, be informed of the latest news, discuss and share your opinions. Use your voice to help us to take the mission of Forum 2000 further. Volunteers are the cornerstone of Forum 2000, and we are grateful to those who have devoted their time to support us. Increase your impact on our mission by volunteering, becoming a fundraiser, or just spreading the word.

Support Our Mission by Making a Donation

Become a Friend of Forum 2000

By donating regularly, you can help us plan our long-term strategy more effectively. If you wish to provide regular support, look for the Friends of Forum 2000 sign at the conference venues and ask our staff for assistance or you can mail us on friends@forum2000.cz. More information is also available on our website.

Corporate Support

At Forum 2000, we understand the importance of a mutually beneficial partnership. You can choose to support the entire mission, a specific project, or events organized by the Forum 2000 Foundation – and get a special recognition within these respective activities.

In-Kind Support

One of the ways you can contribute to our mission is to provide in-kind support: equipment, products or services that are necessary for us to function. Such a donation is just as important as any other help to us.

Private Donor

Become a donor and supporter of the Forum 2000 and join a group of private donors and philanthropists supporting democracy and human rights and connect with global leaders from business, politics, civil society and philanthropy.

By making a much-needed donation today, you will help the Forum 2000 Foundation support the values of democracy and respect for human rights.

Find out more detailed information on our website or contact us at secretariat@forum2000.cz or call us +420 224 310 991.

Thank you!



Forum 2000 Foundation

Mission

The Forum 2000 Foundation pursues the legacy of Vaclav Havel by supporting the values of democracy and respect for human rights, assisting the development of civil society, and encouraging religious, cultural and ethnic tolerance. It provides a platform for global leaders, as well as thinkers and courageous individuals from every field of endeavour, to openly debate and share these critical issues.

Origins

Forum 2000 was founded in 1996 by Czech President Vaclav Havel, Japanese philanthropist Yohei Sasakawa and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel.

Core Activities

Forum 2000 Conference

The annual Forum 2000 Conference in Prague and recently in twelve other cities in Central Europe assembles global thought leaders and offers a voice to dissidents from non-democratic countries, facilitating the development of a worldwide network of those who support the core principles of Havel's legacy. Among the speakers at our annual conference are world-renowned personalities such as His Holiness the Dalai Lama, President Clinton, Madeleine Albright, Prince El Hassan bin Talal and Nobel Laureates including Elie Wiesel, Shirin Ebadi and Joseph Stiglitz.

The conference is unique in being open to the public and attracts over 3,000 attendees and more than 3,000 online followers each year, mostly from the Czech Republic and Central Europe, but with an increasingly international audience. These include representatives from politics, civil society, media, diplomacy, academia and business.

Interfaith Dialogue

The Interfaith Dialogue is an integral element of the annual conference and facilitates a unique dialogue between secular humanism and the world's spiritual traditions. Participants seek better understanding and deepening cooperation between world religions and political, scientific and economic leaders.

Regular Contributors

- **His Holiness the Dalai Lama**, *Spiritual Leader, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Tibet*
- **Shirin Ebadi**, *Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Iran*
- **Vartan Gregorian**, *President, Carnegie Corporation of New York, USA*
- **Tomaš Halík**, *Sociologist, President, Czech Christian Academy, Czech Republic*
- **Gilles Kepel**, *Political Scientist, France*
- **Ashis Nandy**, *Political Psychologist, Sociologist of Science, India*
- **Rabbi David Rosen**, *International Director of Interreligious Affairs, American Jewish Committee, Israel*

Shared Concern Initiative

The Shared Concern Initiative unites political and spiritual leaders and offers them a common voice in support of political dissidents living in non-democratic regimes and in

condemnation of human rights violations. It also sponsors research into democratic developments in non-democratic or newly democratic regimes. The joint statements of the Initiative are regularly published by significant media outlets around the world.

SCI Membership

- **Prince El Hassan bin Talal**, Chairman, West Asia-North Africa Forum, Jordan
- **His Holiness the Dalai Lama**, Spiritual Leader, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Tibet
- **Frederik Willem de Klerk**, Former President, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, South Africa
- **Andre Glucksmann**, Philosopher, France
- **Vartan Gregorian**, President, Carnegie Corporation of New York, USA
- **Hans Kung**, President, Foundation for Global Ethics, Germany
- **Michael Novak**, Theologian, Political Scientist, USA
- **Shimon Peres**, President, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Israel
- **Yohei Sasakawa**, Chairman, The Nippon Foundation, Co-Founder, Forum 2000 Foundation, Japan
- **Karel Schwarzenberg**, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic
- **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, South Africa
- **Richard von Weizsacker**, Former President, Germany
- **Grigory Yavlinsky**, Economist, Politician, Russia

NGO Market

Our annual NGO Market has become the largest exhibition of its kind in Central and Eastern Europe. The market offers non-profit organizations the opportunity to showcase their activities to potential corporate partners and the general public. During the event, NGOs share their best practices and are able to draw on international experience.

Forum 2000 Supporters

Together with our many supporters, we are determined to take forward Vaclav Havel's legacy and to firmly establish Forum 2000 as the primary global platform for dialogue about democracy, human rights and freedom.

"When I was under house arrest for many years in Burma, I knew that somewhere in the world there was a man [Václav Havel] who was speaking out for me and because of whom my freedom remained intact, in spite of physical detention."

Aung Sang Suu Kyi, Political Leader, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Burma

"Havel will continue to inspire all of those who believe in the rights of every citizen to dignity, self-esteem and the fundamental freedoms upon which principled societies and governments are based."

Yang Jianli, Dissident, President and Founder, Initiatives for China, USA/China

"The void left by the death of Václav Havel is enormous, but his legacy lives on, and will continue to inspire us to aim for the high peaks of freedom, equality, justice, human rights and human dignity."

Shimon Peres, President, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Israel

"Václav Havel was the moral voice of his country and his era. His humanity, humility and decency were an example for us all. In the face of the great challenges today that shall test a newer generation, let his profile in courage be our inspiration."

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General, United Nations, USA/South Korea

"I know Forum 2000 will keep up the spirit of Havel's tireless work with renewed vigor and determination. I look forward to working in close cooperation with your foundation towards building a more peaceful, open and just world."

His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Spiritual Leader, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, India/Tibet

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Forum 2000 would like to cordially thank all of the volunteers, delegates' assistants and reporters who helped with preparing the conference and to the following friends, colleagues and family members for their support.

Jan Chabr
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Jürgen and Helena Hoffmeister | Marek Lehečka

We would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to the many people who so generously donated to the cause.

The conference is held under the auspices of Tomáš Hudeček, Mayor of Prague.