

Schiller Institute Conference Invitation

Fulfilling the Dream of Mankind

25-26 November 2017
near Frankfurt, Germany

Amidst the rapid-fire succession of current events, shocking election results, shifts in alliances until recently considered indissoluble and strategic reorientations, it is often not easy to recognize a red thread running throughout history. It is only by attempting to encompass the longer arcs of history that one can discern the distinct principles underlying successive epochs. Only then does one begin to comprehend that right now, we are in the middle of an epochal change, and that the axioms of the coming era are fundamentally different from those of the current one.

For European civilization, at least, all forms of government were more or less oligarchical in nature until the 15th Century. It was only with the emergence of the sovereign nation state, which Nicholas of Cusa greatly contributed to conceptualize in his *Concordantia Catholica*, and with the first nation state under Louis XI in France, that the idea took hold that the State and government are obligated to serve the common good. In achieving that general welfare, scientific and technological progress has played an ever greater role, as have increased urbanization and education.

However, the subsisting imperial structures, from Venice to the Spanish, Dutch, British and other empires, saw in the sovereign nation state a danger which potentially threatened the privileges of the ruling powers. Geopolitics was then dominant, with its assumption that an empire, a nation or a group of nations had the right to impose its own interests over the interests of others -- including with military means in extreme circumstances. Such geopolitics was the cause of two world wars in the 20th Century.

With the announcement of the New Silk Road in September 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping put a new model of relations among States on the agenda, which offers the possibility to overcome geopolitics once and for all. The "Belt and Road Initiative" is based on the idea of "win-win" cooperation among all sovereign nations of the world in a "community of shared future for mankind," as formulated by Xi Jinping. It implies that the Chinese economic miracle of the last 30 years can, in principle, be replicated in every country. Over the past four years, this infrastructure program -- the greatest in history -- has taken on an unprecedented dynamic, which has awakened justified optimism, in particular in developing countries,

that poverty and underdevelopment can be defeated in the near future. At the same time, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the New Development Bank, the New Silk Road Fund and the Contingency Reserve Arrangement have generated a new financial system which is exclusively designed to fund investments in the real economy.

With the perspective of the New Silk Road, the era of the last 600 years -- in which empires and sovereign nation states have more or less co-existed, and which led time and again to geopolitical confrontation -- can be supplanted by a new era of mankind, defined by mankind's common aims and future. It should be self-evident that in the age of thermonuclear weapons, war is no longer a means of conflict resolution, if we are to avoid the risk of total extermination.

Moreover, mankind is the only creative species known to us so far, which is able to continually redefine and improve the basis of its existence through a deeper understanding of the laws of the universe. The crucial question is thus: How can we shape relations among different nations and cultures of the Earth in such a way as to truly correspond to the nature of man? Are we able to establish this higher level of reason as we live together, and to secure a hopeful future?

This inspiring cultural optimism has already won over more than 70 nations to cooperate on the New Silk Road. But in many European countries, the seminal potential of this program is either unknown or viewed from the standpoint of the old geopolitics, as if China were only seeking to replace the moves for a unipolar world by its own global claims to power. But that is not the case.

The international movement launched by Lyndon LaRouche has been fighting for over 40 years for a new, just world economic order, and has worked out very concrete development programs during that time, which are laid out in the 2014 special report *The New Silk Road Becomes the World Land-bridge*. It has been published in English, Chinese, Arabic and German. For a long time, these projects were only a vision, but thanks to China's policy, they will become reality.

One of these projects, which will contribute substantially to freeing the African continent from poverty, and thereby eliminating the causes of the current refugee crisis, is the *Transaqua Project*. It would create an inland water trans-

portation system for 12 African countries from Congo to Chad, while providing 15 to 25 billion kWh of electricity from hydropower, allow irrigation of 50,000 to 70,000 km² of agricultural land, and refill Lake Chad which is now down to only 10% of its previous volume of water.

In that way, the living conditions of some 40 million people in the Sahel zone alone will improve significantly. The Italian and Chinese governments have now signed an agreement on a feasibility study of this project, which was facilitated by the Schiller Institute, as China's *People's Daily* recently acknowledged.

Other projects which we have promoted in some cases for decades -- the Kra Canal through the Kra Isthmus in Thailand, which would relieve the over-congested Strait of Malacca; construction of many sections of a bioceanic rail-

way in Latin America; reconstruction of Southwest Asia, once terrorism has been defeated; the infrastructural integration of East and Central Europe, the Balkans and Southern Europe -- are now seriously being planned.

The potential to open a totally new chapter in human history is unquestionably at hand. This dream of mankind-- to create a world order which enables everyone on the planet to live in human dignity and develop their innate creative capacities--can only be fulfilled if the European nations consciously and openly join the New Silk Road.

China has made a wonderful vision a reality, and has brought with it the richness of her 5,000 year-old civilization. Europe, for her part, must revive the apogees of her own culture. **We need a dialogue of classical cultures which will give birth to a renaissance of mankind!**

Main themes of the conference

- The New Silk Road, a new model for international relations; The transformation of the world in the last four years and for hundreds of years to come.
- The need for Europe to cooperate with China in the industrialization of Africa; Transaqua as the Rosetta stone of the continent's transformation; Africa's new self-assurance.
- Transportation technologies of the future, ensuring future energy and resource security with thermonuclear fusion; International cooperation in space research; The system we live in is not earthbound.
- Europe as the continent of poets, thinkers and inventors or sidelined at the rear of strategic developments?; An optimistic vision for the future of Europe.
- Dialogue of classical cultures; The immensely rich universal history of mankind; The coming cultural Renaissance.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

I wish to register for the conference:

Name, First name

Address

City, Postal Code, Country

Tel./Email

I wish to participate on :

Sat., 25.11.17 Sun., 26.1.171

Please fax or email this form to:

Fax: 0611 - 33483117

E-mail: Konferenz2017@schiller-institut.de

Contact: Ulrike Wolff, (49) 611 - 205 2065

Conference fee: €30 on 25.11, €20 on 26.11
(Students half price)

Payment of the conference fee by:

Bank transfer to the Schiller-Institut:

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