



Democracy's International Challenges

An international seminar organised by CEPS, FRIDE, the Open Society Institute, and Warwick University

At CEPS, 1 Place du Congres, Brussels

AGENDA

09.30 – 10.00 Registration

10.00 – 10.10 **Introduction**

- **Michael Emerson**, Associate Senior Research Fellow, CEPS, Belgium
- **Richard Youngs**, Director Democratisation Programme, FRIDE, Spain
- **Peter Burnell**, Professor, Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Warwick, United Kingdom

An outline of the book project. Many lament that democracy seems to be in crisis; but it is necessary to dig deeper to understand whether this is really the case, and if so why?

10.10 – 11.45 **Doubting democracy promotion**

Chair:

- **Michael Emerson**, CEPS, Belgium

Speakers:

- *The backlash continues: causes and consequences:* **Tom Carothers**, Vice President for Studies, International Politics and Governance, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, United States
- *Democracy promotion and the search for security:* **Nancy Bermeo**, Nuffield Professor of Comparative Politics, Oxford University, United Kingdom

Discussant:

- **Steven Everts**, Advisor to the High Representative, Council of the European Union, Belgium

The West's commitment to democracy promotion itself seems to be in crisis, and to many a delegitimised policy goal after the experiences of Iraq and Afghanistan. Democracy promoters seem increasingly unsure

of which strategies to adopt and how even to demonstrate that their work has positive impact. Are these trends reversible?

11.45 – 12.00 Coffee break

12.00 – 14.00 **Resistance to Western Democracy Promotion**

Chair:

- **Peter Burnell**, Warwick University, United Kingdom

Speakers:

- *Russia's promotion of sovereign democracy: **Michael McFaul***, Professor of Political Science, Stanford University, United States
- *Resistance to democracy promotion from the Middle East: **Bassma Kodmani***, Executive Director, Arab Reform Initiative, France
- *The Chinese alternative: **Shaun Breslin***, Professor of Politics and International Studies, Warwick University, United Kingdom

Discussants:

- **Elena Klitsounova**, Program Director, Center for Integration Research and Projects (CIRP), Russia
- **Michael Ying-mao Kau**, Representative to the EU of Taipei, Belgium

Observers stress how non-democratic states are learning to resist and repel Western democracy promotion efforts. How are they doing this and how should the West react?

14.00 – 15.00 Lunch

15.00 – 16.45 **Democracy's Normative Appeal**

Chair:

- **Richard Youngs**, FRIDE, Spain

Speakers:

- *New ideological competitors to democracy: **Marina Ottaway***, Director Middle East Programme, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, United States
- *The record of new democracies: **Renske Doorenspleet***, Associate Professor in Comparative Politics, Co-director Centre for Studies in Democratization, Warwick University, United Kingdom

Discussant:

- **Roel von Meijenfeldt**, The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy and Founding Board Member of the European Foundation for Democracy through Partnership, the Netherlands/Belgium

Many see the likes of Russia and China as now providing 'successful' alternatives to liberal democracy, while many new democracies have

disappointed their citizens. How serious a threat is this to democracy's normative appeal?

16.45 – 17.00 Tea break

17.00 – 18.00 **An Unkind International Context?**

Chair:

- **Peter Burnell**, Warwick University, United Kingdom

Speakers:

- *Issues of sovereignty and democracy's loss of counter-hegemonic appeal:* **Laurence Whitehead**, Official Fellow in Politics, Nuffield and Director of the Mexican Studies Centre, Oxford University, United Kingdom
- *Democratic norms and the restructuring of the international system:* **Mark Leonard**, Executive Director, European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), United Kingdom

Discussant:

- **Robert Cooper**, Director General for External and Politico-Military Affairs, General Secretariat, Council of the EU, Belgium

With many predicting a multipolar world; counter-terrorist cooperation at a premium; energy prices at record highs; and with the transatlantic alliance fractured, does the international system today permit an effective focus on democracy?

20.00 – **Dinner**
