



FRIEDRICH NAUMANN
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IAF

Liberalism & Geopolitics

How to Deal with a Changing World Order

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Gummersbach, Germany

Abstract

After a period of relative global stability, a new term has entered our vocabulary: *The Age of Global Disorder*. Things that liberals took (almost) for granted, such as continuous democratization and global integration of the world, have become under question again. In fact, if recent times have shown us anything, then it is that a lot of the achievements of the so-called “Liberal World Order” can be undone in no time. Globalization, free trade, and (most heartbreakingly) peace have all *literally* become under attack. And the implications of this are all just to be unpacked. That is why this seminar will dive into international power politics from all perspectives and develop answers to these challenges.

In order to get a holistic picture of this *Age of Disorder*, participants will therefore deconstruct the somewhat esoteric term of *geopolitics* and investigate its core pillars: We will look at the confrontation between political systems and the threat that authoritarian players such as China and Russia not only pose on the adoption but also to the cultivation of liberal democracy around the world. We will critically reflect on the (potentially false) promise of a multi-polar world. We will take an uncomfortable look at contemporary military warfare and discuss liberal defense policy. We will go down the rabbit hole of currency wars, financial repression, the role of central banks, and, of course, the fight for natural resources and supply chains in all corners of the world. Lastly, we will look at the most subversive form of 21st-century propaganda: disinformation. And how it is used by nefarious global actors to undermine social trust in institutions...and each other.

By the end of this intense workshop, participants will have a firm grasp of all battlegrounds that shape today's world and will be able to draft their own response paper: The “Global Liberal Order Manifesto”.

Core Themes:

- Global Disorder: The Revival of Geopolitics
- Systems Disorder: The Confrontation of Liberal Democracy & Authoritarianism
- Military Disorder: How War Looks like in 2023
- Economic Disorder: The Fight for Global Supply Chains
- Monetary & Financial Disorder: The Currency Wars
- Information Disorder: Cyber Warfare and the Weaponization of Information

Methodology

Besides input sessions from the facilitators and experts, the seminar will rely on the active exchange between participants to flesh out the nuances of geopolitical questions in different parts of the world. In order to enhance the learning experience and to emphasize the practical dimension of the workshop, the seminar will rely on non-formal education methods, such as simulations, case studies, and role plays.

Target Group

This seminar targets think tanks, public intellectuals, and political strategists that are liberal-minded. Participants should have a good grasp of geopolitics, political economy, and international institutions. Ideally, they have backgrounds in international relations, political science, and/or economics—and are working on topics, such as foreign policy, disinformation, defense policy, promotion of liberal democracy or free trade.

Facilitators



Sven Gerst

Sven Gerst is a PhD Student in Political Philosophy at the Department of Political Economy at King's College London. His research mainly focuses on matters of global justice, democratic responsibility, and individual accountability. At King's College London, Sven also teaches courses on political and economic philosophy, environmental economics, meta-ethics, and contemporary issues in applied ethics. He holds a M.Sc. in Philosophy from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) as well as a M.Sc. in Management from the University of Mannheim. Previously, he also studied at Harvard University, St. Petersburg State University, and National Taiwan University.



Julius von Freytag-Lohringhoven

Julius heads the FNF Jerusalem office since 2020, trying to enhance innovation to foster dialogue and strengthen liberal principles. From 2012 to 2020 he ran the Moscow office of FNF, trying on improving dialogue with Russia, while advocating for individual dignity, freedom and responsibility. He has launched new programmes on bilateral dialogue, market economy, civic and human rights, promoting entrepreneurship and bringing together young change agents. He brought Fuck Up Nights to Russia and is also deputy chairman of the board of trustees of the Boris Nemtsov Foundation for Freedom. From 2010 to 2012 he co-founded and coordinated a liberal dialogue forum in Brussels, while working for six years as political consultant in the surroundings of EU politics in Brussels. Julius is an officer of the reserve of German tank reconnaissance. He studied - in Brussels, Munich and Saint Petersburg - Politics, Philosophy and Economics and holds an MA in Political Strategy and Communications from the University of Kent.

The Foundation

We, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, promote individual liberty, free and open societies and free markets in Germany and throughout the world. To us freedom is the guiding principle in policy making. We believe that free and open societies are the only societies that allow human beings to decide for themselves what is best, to develop their full potential and to pursue their dreams. This is what we mean when we claim to value human dignity. And it is freedom that produces prosperity. Together with our counterparts – who all share a similar set of values – we support initiatives in Germany and abroad that serve to enhance respect for the rule of law, private property and human rights, that foster tolerance and that strengthen economic freedom rights and democracy.

The programmes of the Foundation's International Academy for Leadership (IAF) form an integral part of our international work and offer Liberals from all parts of the world opportunities to engage in dialogue, an exchange of ideas, networking and mutual cooperation. We aim to inspire.

Venue: International Academy for Leadership (IAF)

Theodor-Heuss-Straße 26
51645 Gummersbach
Germany

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