



Rhodes Forum 2014

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PLENARY SESSION 2

WORLD ORDER AND THE POLITICS OF RÉGIME CHANGE

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Moderator:

Hans Köchler (Professor, Chair of Political Philosophy and Philosophical Anthropology, University of Innsbruck, Austria), President of the International Progress Organization

Description

In the unilateral power constellation that emerged after the end of the Cold War, the United Nations’ system of collective security has increasingly become dysfunctional. The effective absence of checks and balances has encouraged the dominant global player to pursue its national interests also by use of armed force. In this context, “régime change” has become an ideological buzzword for a geostrategic approach which resembles the arrogance of former colonial powers and is in outright contradiction to the principle of sovereign equality of states. As events in the Middle East in particular have demonstrated, the politics of régime change risks to create a power vacuum with “failed states” and regional destabilization, if not anarchy, as result. Power politics in humanitarian disguise has indeed become a major threat to a stable global order.

Vectors of discussion

- The ideology of régime change (claim to ideological supremacy concerning the notions of “democracy” and “rule of law”)
- Régime change in the context of humanitarian doctrine (“responsibility to protect,” “humanitarian intervention”)
- Régime change and international law as embodied by the UN Charter (“sovereign equality of states”)
- Interventionism and regional destabilization (intended and unintended consequences of régime change)

Keynote Speakers

- **Richard Falk (USA)**
Emeritus Professor of International Law, Princeton University
Régime Change and Geopolitical Disaster

- **Alexander Meziyaev (Russia)**
Head of the Department of International Law, University of Management TISBI, Kazan; Editor-in-Chief, Kazan Journal of International Law and International Relations
The Change of Régime of International Law as the Legal Feature of the New World Order

- **Lyal S. Sunga (Sweden)**
Visiting Professor, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
Humanitarian Intervention in Law and History: Use or Abuse?

- **John Laughland (France)**
Director of Studies, Institute of Democracy and Cooperation (Paris)
Non-interventionism: The Forgotten Doctrine

- **Türkkaya Ataöv (Turkey)**
Emeritus Professor of International Relations, University of Ankara
'Americanization'- without the 'White Man's Burden': What's to be Done?

- **Jane Elizabeth Kelsey (New Zealand)**
Professor of Law, University of Auckland
Behind the Guns: International Economic Law as a Strategy for Régime Change

- **Christopher Black (Canada)**
International Criminal Lawyer, Defense Lawyer, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
The Criminalization of International Justice

- **David Hoile (Great Britain)**
Director, Africa Research Centre, Research Professor, Sudan International University, Khartoum
The International Criminal Court: Justice or an Adjunct to Régime Change?