

The Middle East In Europe And Europe In The Middle East

I Have a Dream... answers the question of what society will look like in 15 years from different perspectives. At *The Middle East in Europe and Europe in the Middle East* seminar (Felix Meritis, Amsterdam, 2008), Nilüfer Göle, Tariq Ramadam and Paul Scheffer specifically debated what could be the added value of the Islam for Europe.

Even though they agree on the analysis and possible resolutions of the problem, the accents and approaches vary.

Paul Scheffer points out the importance of guaranteeing true and complete freedom of religion.

Nilifur Göle discusses the public arena which practically forces Muslims to play a constructive role.

Tariq Ramadan talks about the hidden arena, in which Muslims subject themselves to critical self-analysis, leading to an emancipatory revolution.

All three conclude that while the national state is a spoil-sport, there are reasons to be optimistic about Europe's role.

Halleh Ghorashi ~ De toekomst van de Westerse democratie en de

Civil Society

I Have a Dream... De toekomst van de Westerse democratie en de Civil Society – Lezing Halleh Ghorashi (Bijzonder hoogleraar Management van Diversiteit, VU), Felix Meritis, Amsterdam, 2008.

Enerzijds wordt de Westerse democratie als belangrijk exportproduct gezien door regeringsleiders, anderzijds klinkt zowel internationaal als van binnenuit een steeds luidere kritiek op de Westerse democratie.

De afgelopen jaren wordt het belang van de civil society in onze samenleving als wezenlijk geacht. Democratie is veel meer dan de vrijheid om je stem te mogen uitbrengen. In tegenstelling tot wat vaak wordt beweerd, gaat het bij democratie niet alleen om de meerderheid, maar vooral om de ruimte voor de minderheid. En deze is juist wat democratie kwetsbaar maakt, hoe maak je ruimte voor de ander, wanneer je die ander als bedreiging van democratie beschouwt?

Kishore Mahbubani ~ The Century Of Asia: The Inevitable Global Power Shift

Kishore Mahbubani: 'You in the West have no idea how the rest of the world looks at you. They see an emperor without clothes. The world has changed tremendously, but you do not understand what that means. Globalisation Lecture 23: *The Century of Asia: The inevitable global power shift*, Felix Meritis, Amsterdam, 13-11- 2008.

For centuries Asians (Chinese, Indians, Muslims and others) were on the sidelines of world history. But the East is rapidly modernizing and is ready to claim their share of world power. They are among the fastest growing economies and have some of the largest financial reserves. On a social and cultural level the East is

changing fast. How do Europe and the US respond to the rapid rise of the East? According to Singaporean intellectual Kishore Mahbubani, the Western business world appears to be the only one anticipating changes in the East. Western governments seem to be looking the other way and fail to accept that a shift in economic power will also mean a shift in political and cultural power.

The Real Adam Smith: Ideas That Changed The World

The Real Adam Smith: A Personal Exploration by Johan Norberg, takes an intriguing, two-part look at Smith and the evolution and relevance of his ideas today, both economic and ethical. It's difficult to imagine that a man who lived with horse drawn carriages and sailing ships would foresee our massive 21st century global market exchange, much less the relationship between markets and morality. But Adam Smith was no ordinary 18th century figure. Considered the "father of modern economics," Smith was first and foremost a moral philosopher. The revolutionary ideas he penned in *The Wealth of Nations* and *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, changed the world. Norberg explores Smith's insights regarding free trade and the nature of wealth to the present, where they are thriving and driving the world's economy.

In the second hour, *Ideas That Changed The World*, Norberg traces Smith's insights regarding the benefits of free trade and the nature of wealth to the present, where they are currently in operation. He talks with some of the most distinguished Adam Smith scholars, as well as leaders of some of the world's most admired companies to discover how Smith's ideas continue to be relevant and drive the global economy today.

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<http://freetochoosemedia.org/index.php>

How Public Housing Transformed New York City 1935-67 ~ Part One.

Historian Joel Schwartz takes us on a guided tour of New York City before the NYC Housing Authority razed large swaths of run-down neighborhoods to build public housing projects. These arresting photographs of a long-vanished New York City owe their astonishing detail to the 4×5 inch negatives captured by the NYCHA photographers. Photos are from the NYC Housing Authority collection housed at the La Guardia and Wagner Archives.

Part Two: <https://youtu.be/kJ62bxhj3iA>

Charlie Chaplin ~ The Great Dictator