

12 - TURN OF THE CENTURY – TOWARDS A MULTIPOLAR WORLD?

In 1992 Francis Fukuyama wrote about the end of history. Sixteen years later his theories have been shown to have been premature. Not only has history not ended, it has taken a somewhat unexpected turn. As the world moves towards multi-polarization, new conflicts are flaring up, some old ones are rekindling and new players are entering the arena. The aim of this workshop is to examine the key processes in this transition period and the factors that shape it. We will analyze emerging powers and the geopolitical shifts their rise will trigger worldwide.

Seminars/Case studies:

1. **Russia Resurgent** – the Caucasus, the question of the missile shield in Europe, NATO encirclement, „tsar“ Putin, Europe's oil and gas dependency. With Russia on the rise again, are we facing a new Cold War?
2. **China** – After centuries of foreign domination, a strong and independent People's Republic of China has rebuilt itself into one of the foremost powers on the international scene. From Tiananmen Square to the 2008 Olympic Games, how did China reassert itself and what are the perspectives?
3. **United States of America** – Is the world's only superpower waning? If so, when did this process start? How did the past five decades shape the United States' global role and how was it affected by events like 1989 and 9/11? What are the US interests behind NATO enlargement?
4. **Kosovo, South Ossetia, Abkhazia...** – precedents or „special cases“? What happened to the inviolability of international borders and the principle of conserving territorial integrity? Can the world expect more „unilaterally“ declared breakaway states? To what extent are these decisions the product of great powers' geopolitical interests?
5. **United Nations** – in the more than 50 years of its existence, the UN has proved to be a slow, cumbersome and inefficient organization. Has it become merely an instrument for perpetuating Western influence in the rest of the world? What kind of reform is needed? Which new permanent members should be admitted to the Security Council?
6. **European Union** – has Europe permanently lost its grip in world politics or is her renewed role just starting? After the admission of the current candidates, will it continue to expand and where? What will happen with Turkey and the Mediterranean Union? When will the EU be ready for a more independent global role?

7. **Africa** – can colonialism still be blamed for Africa's failure? Why is all the humanitarian aid not producing any effect? Are the African states only objects in a neo-colonial scheme? What role will China and India play in the future? Is there a risk of seeing more „failed states“ on the continent?

8. **Latin America** – is the whole of Latin America turning to the left and why? Is the United States losing influence in its own backyard? Are the narco-cartels threatening to spread their destabilizing influence northwards?