

5th Winston Churchill Annual Memorial Lecture and Dinner

Opening Remarks by João Carlos Espada

Palácio da Cidadela, Cascais, 17 de Outubro de 2019

Senhoras e Senhores, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Queria começar por agradecer as tão amáveis palavras do Senhor Vice-Reitor Miguel Athayde Marques e dar as boas vindas a todos, nesta nossa 5ª Palestra-Jantar Winston Churchill/Abertura Solene do Ano Lectivo, do Instituto de Estudos Políticos da Universidade Católica Portuguesa.

Permitam-me agora que me exprima em inglês, de forma a poder ser entendido por todos os nossos convidados.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you all very much for coming to our 5th Winston Churchill Annual Lecture and Dinner, which is also the Formal Opening of our Academic Year at the Institute of Political Studies of the Catholic University of Portugal. A special word of thanks goes to our Vice-Rector, Professor Miguel Athayde Marques, for kindly co-chairing our event today and for his extremely kind words. I also would like to express our gratitude to the British Ambassador, HE Christopher Sainty and his wife, Mrs Sarah Helen Sainty, for kindly co-chairing our Churchill Lecture and Dinner. We are also extremely grateful to the President of the Republic, Professor Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, for having again given his High Patronage to our event and for having allowed us to return to this charming Palácio da Cidadela in Cascais. Another special word of thanks is due for the renewed support of the Mayor of Cascais, Mr. Carlos Carreiras, who is here represented by Mr. Marco Espinheira, Director for Strategy, Innovation and Qualification. We are also delighted that our Churchill Lecture and Dinner has received the support of the British Historical Society of Portugal, the Churchill Society of Portugal, the Oxford Society of Portugal and the Royal British Club.

Please allow me to recall that a happy coincidence also marks the date of our 5th Annual Winston Churchill Memorial Lecture and Dinner this year. [Incidentally, I am not referring to this morning news that a new Brexit deal has just been reached between the British Government and the European Commission). This indeed seems to be a happy coincidence, but I am referring to another, broader coincidence. In 2019 we are

celebrating the 75th anniversary of D-Day; the 70th anniversary of the founding of NATO; the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall; and, sadly, the 30th anniversary of Tiananmen, which is being recalled to us all by the courageous demonstrators in Hong Kong, many of whom have been proudly waving the British flag — the flag of liberty under law, I am delighted to recall.

This makes our gathering today even more clearly a great occasion to celebrate the Western Tradition of Liberty Under Law — which was Winston Churchill's main cause throughout his life. And we have the great pleasure and privilege of having as our guest-speaker today Professor Andrew Roberts — the author of the very recent and highly acclaimed one-volume biography of Churchill. The original English version was just published last year and the book has already been translated into 10 languages. We are delighted that a Portuguese version is just being launched and is available for sale here. Professor Roberts has kindly accepted to sign copies of the book after dinner, and we are delighted to acknowledge the presence of Mr. José Menezes from LeYa Publishers.

Professor Andrew Roberts, who was born in 1963, took a first class honours degree in Modern History at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, from where he is an honorary senior scholar and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). He is presently a Visiting Professor at the War Studies Department at King's College, London, and the Lehrman Institute Lecturer at the New-York Historical Society, as well as a Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and an Honorary Member of the International Churchill Society — to mention just some of his many distinguished affiliations.

He has written or edited nineteen books, which have been translated into 22 languages: Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Turkish, Hebrew, Hungarian, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Marathi, Slovenian, Spanish, Thai, Malaysian and Vietnamese.

Professor Roberts appears regularly on radio and television around the world. He has delivered distinguished lectures at Oxford, Cambridge, Yale, Princeton and Stanford Universities, and at The British Academy, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Sandhurst, Shrivenham and the US Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The publication of his very impressive *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples Since 1900* [a sequel to Churchill's own 4-volume work *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*] brought him an invitation to the White House in February 2007, where he delivered the prestigious White House Lecture.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Please join me in thanking Professor Andrew Roberts, to whom I now have the privilege and pleasure of giving the floor. Thank you.