

Alexis de Tocqueville Distinguished Annual Lecture, 2020

Opening Remarks

Joao Carlos Espada

5 March 2020

Senhor Vice-Reitor da Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Professor José Manuel Pereira de Almeida,

Senhor Dr. Christopher Walker, Distinto Conferencista Alexis de Tocqueville 2020,

Senhor Capelão da Universidade Católica, Padre Miguel de Vasconcelos,

Senhora Dra. Michelle Lobo, Chefe de Gabinete da Direcção do IEP,

**Distintos Convidados, Ilustres Autoridades Académicas, Civis e Militares,
Senhores Professores,**

**Senhores Auditores, Alunos de Licenciatura, Mestrandos e Doutorandos,
Minhas Senhoras e Meus Senhores,**

Em nome do Instituto de Estudos Políticos da Universidade Católica Portuguesa, gostaria de vos dar as boas vindas e agradecer a vossa presença, que muito nos honra.

Como é tradição, usaremos a língua inglesa na primeira parte da nossa Conferência Tocqueville e voltaremos ao português na segunda parte.

On behalf of the Institute for Political Studies of the Catholic University of Portugal, I would like to thank you all very much for coming to this 20th edition of our Alexis de Tocqueville Distinguished Annual Lecture.

Since 1998, we have had the privilege of having with us, at the Tocqueville Annual Lecture, Professors Hugh Trevor-Roper, Alfred Stepan, James Q. Wilson, Michael Novak, George Weigel, Christopher de Muth, Martin Gilbert, Timothy Garton Ash, Robert P. George, Anthony Kenny, Raymond Plant, José Manuel Durão Barroso, Manuel Braga da Cruz, Marc Plattner, Margaret MacMillan, Noel Malcom, Anthony O’Hear, Aníbal Cavaco Silva and Charles Powell.

Today, we have the privilege and pleasure of having with us another very distinguished guest-speaker, Christopher Walker, Vice President for Studies and Analysis at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), in Washington, DC.

The National Endowment for Democracy is a private, nonprofit foundation dedicated to the growth and strengthening of democratic institutions around the world. Our

Institute and NED have had a long-time cooperation and friendship that goes back at least to 1996, twenty-four years ago, when NED's President, Carl Gershman, and Vice-President Marc Plattner came to Lisbon to attend a lecture given by the late Harvard Professor Samuel P. Huntington on Portugal's role in launching the Third Wave of World Democratisation. Since then, Carl Gershman, Marc Plattner and Larry Diamond have been with us several times, especially at the Estoril Political Forum. Marc Plattner is the Chairman of our Institute's International Advisory Board. The younger Christopher Walker has also been with us several times at the Estoril Political Forum. We are extremely grateful that he has accepted our short-notice invitation to our Tocqueville Lecture this year, when our mutual friend Larry Diamond had to cancel his visit for personal reasons.

In his capacity as NED's Vice President for Studies and Analysis, Christopher Walker oversees the department responsible for NED's multifaceted analytical work and is part of NED's executive leadership team.

His department includes: the *Journal of Democracy*, the world's leading publication on the theory and practice of democracy; the Reagan-Fascell Fellowship Program, an international exchange program that offers practitioners, scholars, and journalists from around the world the opportunity to spend five months in residence at the NED, in Washington, D.C., in order to undertake independent research on democracy in a particular country or region; and, finally, a vibrant research and conferences unit that supports NED by boosting the organization's ability to analyze and respond to emerging challenges to democracy and to deepen its support for NED's grantmaking work. This is achieved by bridging disciplines and engaging the analytical, academic, and policy communities in order to elevate the voices of the activists and grantees that NED supports through its regional programs. This work also promotes opportunities for crosscutting collaboration and democratic learning within the Endowment and with its partners.

Prior to joining NED, Chris Walker was Vice President for Strategy and Analysis at Freedom House. He has also served as an Adjunct Assistant Professor of International Affairs at New York University's Center for Global Affairs. He holds a B.A. from Binghamton University (New York) and an M.A. from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

Chris Walker has testified before Congressional Committees in Washington DC, and before other legislative bodies; he appears regularly in the media, and frequently conducts briefings on critical issues relating to democratic development. He is an expert on authoritarian regimes and the media sector, and has been at the forefront of the discussion on authoritarian influence on open systems, including through what he has termed "sharp power."

His articles have appeared in numerous publications, including the Financial Times, Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington Post, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, and the Journal of Democracy. He is co-editor (with Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner) of the edited volume *Authoritarianism Goes Global: The Challenge to Democracy* (published by The Johns Hopkins University Press in 2016), and co-editor (with Jessica Ludwig) of the report *Sharp Power: Rising Authoritarian Influence* (published by NED's International Forum for Democratic Studies in 2017).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please join me in welcoming Christopher Walker to the Alexis de Tocqueville Distinguished Annual Lecture of our Institute for Political Studies at the Catholic University of Portugal.

Thank you.