

Dahrendorf Lecture Intro

Thank you, Catherine. I'm delighted to see you again, even if only virtually.

It is a great pleasure for me to chair the annual Ralf Dahrendorf Memorial Lecture and to have a new opportunity today to introduce Ivan Krastev. I first encountered Ivan in 1998 at a conference in Warsaw that included among its speakers Bronislaw Geremek, Samuel Huntington, Leszek Balcerowicz, Robert Cooper, and Zbigniew Brzezinski. I remember that a young and then unknown participant sitting in the back of the auditorium asked some extraordinarily penetrating questions—it turned out that his name was Ivan Krastev.

Over the subsequent years Ivan and I became good friends. Beginning in 2002, he wrote more than a dozen articles for the *Journal of Democracy*, and in 2005 I invited him to join the Journal's Editorial Board. He wrote about an impressive range of subjects, ranging from Russia, to the EU, to anti-Americanism, to the disenchantment with liberal democracy in Central and Eastern Europe, to the new authoritarianism. To all of these subjects he brought an originality and a freshness of perspective unmatched by other analysts.

Gradually others came to recognize Ivan's talents. He was invited to write for many leading publications, including the *NY Times*, for which he is now a regular columnist. And he has received a host of prestigious awards and positions. He remains chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies in Sofia and a permanent fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna. Recently, he held the Kissinger Chair in Foreign Policy and International Relations at the Kluge Center of the U.S. Library of Congress. He is a member of the board of Trustees of both the European Council on Foreign Relations and the International Crisis Group.

Ivan is the author of a number of important books, including *After Europe* and *The Light that Failed: Why the West is Losing the Fight for Democracy* (coauthored with Stephen Holmes), which was awarded the 30th annual Lionel Gelber Prize for the year's best book in foreign affairs. He also received the Jean Amery Prize for European Essay Writing.

I understand that Ivan's latest book, entitled *Is It Tomorrow Yet? Paradoxes of the Pandemic*, will be published later this month. I assume we will get a preview of this book in Ivan's lecture today, which bears the same initial title as the book but is subtitled *Reflections on the Role of the Pandemic in Europe*, recalling one of Lord Dahrendorf's most prominent works, *Reflections on the Revolution in*

Europe. Is Ivan suggesting that the historical significance of the pandemic will rival that of 1989? We shall find out. I hope we will also learn the meaning of the phrase “Is it Tomorrow Yet?” which I fear may turn out to be a cultural reference immediately apparent to the younger members of our audience

Ivan will speak for approximately 20 minutes, and then we shall hear from two impressive discussants, both of whom are no strangers to the Estoril Political Forum. Amichai Magen is a Senior Lecturer and Head of the MA Program in Diplomacy and Conflict Studies at the Lauder School at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel. Amichai’s writing and research address such issues as sovereignty, democracy, governance, political violence, and the foreign policies of Israel and the EU.

Ghia Nodia is professor of politics and director of the International School of Caucasus Studies at the Ilia State University in Tbilisi, Georgia, where he also heads the Caucasus Institute for Democracy, Development, and Peace, an independent think tank. Ghia also served for a brief period in the Georgian government as minister for education and science. He has written extensively on nationalism and postcommunism and is a longtime member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Democracy*.

Ivan, who is Bulgarian, is fond of introducing himself, especially to American audiences, as someone who comes from a small far away country. It may be worth noting that both our discussants also come from small countries that are further from the center of Europe than is Bulgaria. But despite their geography, these two lands on the periphery of Europe consider themselves as firmly belonging to Western culture and civilization.

Amichai and Ghia will each speak for no more than 15 minutes, which should leave us with another 15 minutes for questions and discussion.