

Alexis de Tocqueville Distinguished Annual Lecture, 2019

Opening Remarks

Joao Carlos Espada

21 February 2017

Senhora Reitora da Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Professora Isabel Capelo Gil,

Senhor Professor Charles Powell, Distinto Conferencista Alexis de Tocqueville 2019

Senhor Dr. Jorge Quintas, membro do Conselho de Administração da Fundação Amélia de Mello, patrocinador exclusivo desta Palestra Tocqueville,

Senhor Capelão da Universidade Católica, Padre Miguel de Vasconcelos,

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 19th edition of our Alexis de Tocqueville Distinguished Annual Lecture. All the previous 18 editions of the Alexis de Tocqueville Lectures were made possible by the generous support of BPI — Banco Português de Investimento — and I would like to express our deep gratitude to our previous sponsor and in particular to our good friend José Pena do Amaral, member of the Board, who kindly attended most of the previous 18 Tocqueville Lectures. This is the first Tocqueville Lecture to be sponsored by Fundação Amélia de Mello, which is represented here by Mr. Jorge Quintas, member of the Board. Fundação Amélia de Mello has been for many years a great friend and supporter of the Catholic University and it is for us a great pleasure and privilege to have Fundação Amélia de Mello as our new sponsor of The Alexis de Tocqueville Distinguished Annual Lecture.

Senhor Dr. Jorge Quintas, Muito Obrigado pelo vosso apoio tão amável.

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 and Aníbal Cavaco Silva.

We are delighted to let you know that we are today launching a book with the lectures of our distinguished previous speakers — a book that is for sale at the Reception, and that I am sure will become a symbol of our Institute for Political Studies at the Catholic University of Portugal.

Today, we have the privilege and pleasure of having with us another very distinguished guest-speaker, Professor Charles Powell, Director of the Real Instituto Elcano, in Madrid, as well as professor of Contemporary History at Universidad San Pablo CEU, also in Madrid.

Charles Powell was born in Madrid in 1960, the second son of a British father, Arthur F. Powell and a Spanish mother, Julia Solares Navarro. Charles was educated at Runnymede College, the school founded by his parents in Madrid in 1967, which is widely recognised as one of the best British schools outside the United Kingdom.

Charles Powell read History and Modern Languages at Oxford University, where he later wrote a D. Phil. thesis on Spain’s transition to democracy, under the supervision of Sir Raymond Carr. He was subsequently a Lecturer in History at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, the J. A. Pye Research Fellow at University College, Oxford, and a Junior Research Fellow at St. Antony’s College, Oxford, where he is currently a Member of the Senior Common Room.

From 1997 to 2000 he was deputy director of the European Studies programme of the Ortega y Gasset University Institute in Madrid, and was later appointed deputy director of the Ortega y Gasset Foundation’s Spanish Centre for International Relations (CERI). In 2001 he joined the Elcano Royal Institute as Senior Analyst for Europe, and in 2004 he was appointed Deputy Director for Research and Analysis. In 2012 he became the director of Real Instituto Elcano.

The Elcano Royal Institute is Spain’s leading international relations think tank, which the University of Pennsylvania has recently ranked as the 15th most important think tank in the world in the field of international relations and foreign policy, and the 9th in Western Europe. Its overall concern is to be a meeting point for the exchange of ideas and the search for consensus in a spirit dominated by the defence of democracy, multilateralism, the social market economy, freedom and human rights. Its highest governing body is its Board of Trustees, under the honorary presidency of H.M. the King.

In 2015, Charles Powell took part in the creation of the Red para el Estudio de las Monarquías Contemporáneas (REMCO), an international academic network which aims to improve our knowledge and understanding of the monarchy in the contemporary world. He is also a member of the council of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), and a board member of the Fundación Consejo España-Estados Unidos.

In 2015, the President of Italy made him an ‘ufficiale’ of the Ordine della Stella d’Italia for his contribution to Italian – Spanish relations.

In June 2017, Charles was appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George in recognition of his services to British – Spanish relations. His father had received the Order of the British Empire from HM the Queen in 1994 for services to British education in Spain.

Among his many distinguished publications, the most recent include *El amigo americano. España y EEUU de la dictadura a la democracia* (Galaxia Gutenberg, 2011), ‘España en Europa, Europa en España’ (en Emilio Lamo de Espinosa (coord.), *Europa después de Europa*, Academia Europea de Ciencias y Artes, 2010) and *Las democracias occidentales frente al terrorismo global* (coeditado con Fernando Reinares, Editorial Ariel, 2008). In 2001 he published *Espana en Democracia, 1975-2000* (Plaza & Janes, 2001), a general history of Spain since Franco’s death which is widely regarded as the standard text on the period, for which he was awarded the Asi Fue Prize. Before that, in 1991, he had published *El Piloto del cambio. El Rey, la monarquia y la transicion a la democracya*, which was awarded the Espejo de Espana Prize. He also wrote a much acclaimed biography *Juan Carlos of Spain. Self-made monarch* in 1996 (Palgrave).

Last but certainly not least, I am delighted to recall that, in 1988, Charles married Sylvia Fernández-Shaw at the church of Santa María del Coro, in San Sebastián, which they both believe to be the most enchanting city in Spain. Sylvia studied Medicine at Madrid’s Universidad Autónoma and was later awarded a DPhil in 1993 by the University of Oxford. Sylvia and Charles have three sons. And we are delighted that Sylvia has managed to be also with us today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

Thank you.