

Alexis de Tocqueville Lecture 2020
Intervention to commence the Delivery of Prizes and Diplomas
João Carlos Espada

Dear (Mr) Vice-Rector, Professor José Manuel Pereira de Almeida
Mr. Christopher Walker,
Mr. Chaplain of Universidade Católica, Father Miguel de Vasconcelos
Ambassadors,
Distinguished civil, political and military authorities,
Distinguished Guests, Dear Students, Dear Colleagues and Friends,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We shall now begin the second part of our programme for today, the diploma and awards ceremony for the students of the Institute for Political Studies of Universidade Católica Portuguesa. As is our tradition, I would like to present you a brief overview of the main activities that make IEP-UCP a special school.

Before proceeding, please allow me to address a few words of recognized gratitude to our Alexis de Tocqueville Distinguished Guest-Speaker of this year, Dr. Christopher Walker, who has just given a masterful lesson on “Defending Democracy in an Era of Digital Disruption”.

This is a very current topic, which we are also beginning to study among ourselves. Our colleague William Hasselberger recently started a research project with the University of Virginia on political and moral dimensions of Artificial Intelligence; with our colleague Catherine Marshall, from the University of Cergy-Paris, we are initiating a collaboration with her Masters in Political Ideas in a Digital Age; this theme will certainly be present in the upcoming 28th edition of the Estoril Political Forum, on “New authoritarian challenges to liberal democracy”, which will take place from the 22nd to the 24th of June and in which we will once more have the presence of today’s Tocqueville speaker, Christopher Walker- to whom we want to once more express our gratitude.

Turning now to a brief look at the other activities of the IEP, I would like to start by recalling that from the very beginning of our work - in September 1996, with the Masters in Theory and Political Science, and in September 1997, as IEP - we said that, to make a program of excellence, it was not enough to have the best program in Portugal. It was also necessary to give an international dimension to our programs.

It was thus for this reason that we sought to integrate an international ambience into IEP programs from their very beginning. Throughout these 24 years, IEP has received around 250 foreign guest professors who have taught intensive seminars or delivered conferences. The presence of such professors in the main international media is now reported weekly, on Fridays, at 15h, in our “IEP Weekly Media Report”.

Five years ago, we created the Annual Winston Churchill Memorial Lecture/ Solemn Opening of the Academic Year which has occurred in October/November, at the Cidadela Palace, in Cascais, with the High Patronage of His Excellency the President of the Republic – first of President Aníbal Cavaco Silva, then of President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa. Professors Archie Brown, from Oxford, David Reynolds, from Cambridge, Antoine Capet, from the University of Rouen in Normandy, John Owen IV, from the University of Virginia and Andrew Roberts, from the Hoover Institution at the University of Stanford have been the speakers of the Churchill Lectures in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively. Author of Winston Churchill's most recent biography, *Walking with Destiny*, Andrew Roberts was with us on last October 17th, when the Portuguese edition of his Churchill biography was also released amongst us.

I would also like to recall that, ever since 1998, we have been sending our own students abroad as visiting students and scholars at institutions such as the University of Oxford, at Lincoln College and St. Antony's College, and in the United States, to Georgetown and Boston College, among others. In total, we have sent out 64 visiting students internationally, with 46 attending Oxford and 18 in different universities in the United States.

The culmination of IEP's process of internationalisation came in 2007 with the Institute's acceptance as an associate member of EUROPAEUM – a consortium bringing together seventeen of the oldest European universities, including Bologna, the Sorbonne, Oxford, Leiden, Munich, Karlowa, in Prague, and Jagiellonian in Krakow. Last year, in 2019, the entire Universidade Católica Portuguesa joined Europaeum as a “full member”. And this past February, we held an international seminar with Europaeum in Mafra, on China and Europe, starting a happy collaboration with the Mafra City Council and its President, Helder Sousa Silva.

In the 2012/13 academic year, IEP launched a new Master's Degree Program, totally taught in English and thereby reaching out to both national and international students, entitled “Governance, Leadership and Democracy Studies”, currently coordinated by Professors William Hasselberger and José Tomaz Castelo Branco. This program is already endowed with a highly distinguished International Advisory Board, chaired by our good friend Prof. Marc Plattner, co-director and co-founder of the distinct *Journal of Democracy*, based in Washington D.C.

This program has already attracted six study grants for Brazilian students awarded by the Ling Foundation, in Rio Grande do Sul, and a grant for Portuguese students donated by the Fundação Oriente. We would also like to express our gratitude for the scholarships granted by Fundação Amélia de Mello here represented by Mr. Jorge Quintas, the Fundação Engenheiro António de Almeida Scholarship, the ASBAL- Associação São Bartolomeu dos Alemães em Lisboa Scholarship, as well as the Award ‘Democracy and Freedom’ granted by the Instituto Democracia e Liberdade/Adelino Amaro da Costa, here represented by Mr. Diogo Belford Henriques, in representation of Professor Diogo Feio – President of the IDL. We also thank the scholarships granted annually by Jerónimo Martins/Biedronka to students coming from Poland to participate in the Estoril Political Forum, as well as the sponsorship of Jerónimo Martins to the journal *Nova Cidadania* – whose 70th edition is on sale at this Tocqueville Lecture.

Finally, in 2014, we celebrated the agreement for two “Double-Degrees” between our MA in Governance, Leadership and Democracy Studies, the University of Jagiellonian in Krakow, established in 1364, and the Catholic University Pazmany Peter in Budapest, established in 1635. More than 39 foreign students have visited the IEP under these international programs during the past year, including Erasmus and Erasmus Mundus.

Still within the scope of this internationalization strategy, allow me to refer our annual seminar at the European Parliament, in Brussels, which this year will take place on May 4-6th, promoted in association with the MEP Paulo Rangel and coordinated by our former student Henrique Burnay- President of the IEP Alumni Clun.

Another highlight of the Institute's activities is our already traditional Open Day with the Simulation of the Democracies Summit, in collaboration with secondary schools throughout the country - which will once more take place on April 23rd, directed by Professor Mónica Dias and Professor Orlando Samões. Our Open Day this year will count with the journalist José Miguel Tavares as guest speaker, which is for us a great honour.

Last, but certainly not least, I am pleased to recall that the IEP created in 2015 a new Centre for European Studies, which is directed by Mr. José Manuel Durão Barroso, former Prime-Minister of Portugal and former President of the European Commission and who is now teaching at the Universidade Católica, at IEP and the Faculty of Law. The collaboration of Mr. Durão Barroso is of great honour to us, and also a tribute to our dear friend and teacher, Prof. Ernâni Lopes, founder of the Institute of European Studies, which was integrated into the IEP after his death in December 2010.

Mr. Durão Barroso rendered his Inaugural Lecture in February 2015, and within the Centre for European Studies’ framework he has already brought to us numerous personalities from the European political and diplomatic scenes. On the 17th of this month, at 2pm, José Manuel Durão Barroso will host another edition of his *Conversations on Europe*, this time with the Prime Minister of Portugal, Mr. António Costa, on the next Portuguese presidency of the European Union in the first half of 2021. The following day, March 18th, within the framework of his European Studies Seminar, José Manuel Durão Barroso will be visited by the President of the European Affairs Committee of the German Federal Parliament, Mr Gunther Krichbaum. Mr. Durão Barroso was also the guest-speaker at the Seminar that we held between February 12th – 14th at the Mafra National Palace, in association with the Mafra City Council.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to remind you that last week, the IEP was privileged to receive His Excellency, the President of the Republic, who chaired the closing session of a conference on the 70th Anniversary of NATO, in association with the Portuguese Atlantic Commission, chaired by Mr. Júlio Miranda Calha. Besides numerous senior military officials from NATO and Portugal, we also had the privilege of receiving three former Foreign Ministers - Rui Machete, Luís Amado and Paulo Portas - as well as the current holder of the post, Augusto Santos Silva.

**Dear (Mr) Vice-Rector,
Dr. Christopher Walker,
Distinguished Members of the Panel,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Nothing that we have achieved over the course of these last twenty-four years would have been possible without the exceptional quality and dedication of our students who have sought out and still seek our programs – some of whom now work for the top class IEP faculty and executive team. It is to you all that our largest debt of thanks and gratitude is owed.

IEP has now around 400 students: 287 in the BA programme (coordinated by Professor Orlando Samões); 81 in the MA programmes (coordinated by William Hasselberger and José Tomaz Castello Branco, Ivone Moreira and Carlos Marques de Almeida); and 35 in the PhD programme (coordinated by Professor Mónica Dias).

Since the integration of the BA programme in IEP, in 2008, 372 students obtained the Bachelor's degree. Since the launching of the MA programme, in 1996, 217 students obtained the Master's degree. Since the creation of the PhD programme, in 1999, 54 students obtained the doctoral degree. Around 2900 students have already passed through IEP, including around 436 auditors in the numerous short-duration Advanced Programs. Since 1993, more than 7.550 participants and speakers passed through the International Meetings in Political Studies, now designated Estoril Political Forum, directed by Rita Seabra Brito.

Since 2001, IEP also has a Research Centre – CIEP – coordinated since 2013 by Professor André Azevedo Alves. CIEP is structured in two Research Groups. “Political Theory and Comparative Politics”, under the coordination of Professor Manuel Braga da Cruz- who was Rector of Universidade Católica from 2000-2012, and “International Relations, Security and Defense”, under the coordination of Professor Livia Franco, who has just been selected as FLAD Visting Professor at the University of Georgetown, for the fall semester of the next academic year.

Many of our former students hold or have already held Government and Parliamentary positions, as well as in the Civil House of the President of the Portuguese Republic, with several having also joined the diplomatic career. In the 2018 competition for admission to the Diplomatic Career, from the 1820 candidates, 30 were admitted, 7 of which are IEP Alumni. Of the 15 substitutes, 3 are also IEP alumni. In 2019, there were 1594 candidates and 6 IEP Alumni were amongst the 27 admitted candidates. A new Advanced Programme in Diplomacy, aimed at preparing candidates for this year's new competitionis being launched by Professor Livia Franco

Many of our former students have, meanwhile, continued their studies in the most prestigious foreign Universities, there being already doctorates at Harvard, Chicago, LSE and Cambridge, some of which currently teaching at Yale (Nuno Peres Monteiro, PhD at Chicago) and at York (Mónica Brito Vieira, PhD at Cambridge). Our

colleague, André Azevedo Alves, PhD at LSE, is currently Senior Fellow at St. Mary's University of London. In 2018, our student Catarina Leão was admitted to the PhD programme at Oxford, and in 2019 our student Ana Martins was admitted to the MPhil programme at Oxford. To both we wish the greatest success.

I would also like to recall that we constituted, in October 2013, IEP's Strategic Council. The Council is headed by a former student, Pedro Norton, who was Administrator of Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian and CEO of the IMPRESA group, and vice-chaired by two other former students - Martim Avillez Figueiredo and Nuno Sampaio, advisor of the current and former President of the Republic.. This Council also gathers other distinct personalities that I shall list and to whom I would like to thank for the privilege of their friendship and support: Adriano Moreira, Alexandre Relvas, Antonio Araujo, Diogo Lucena, Eduardo Marçal Grilo, Fernando Adão da Fonseca, Guilherme D'Oliveira Martins, Helena Matos, Jaime Gama, João Salgueiro, José Manuel Galvão Teles, Jose Pena do Amaral, Manuel Braga da Cruz, Mário Pinto, Nuno Azevedo, Nuno Vieira Matias, Paulo Rangel, Teresa de Sousa and Teresa Gouveia.

To conclude, we simply have to say, in all honesty, that our greatest reward stems from our students – their quality and dedication, their commitment and enthusiasm. They represent the very *raison d'être* of our programs whose very existence depends on them. Not only because they pay their fees – and that is already quite an achievement --, but because they drive us each and every day to decide in favour of maintaining our demanding standards – without any of the concessions to populism and the dumbing down that sometimes seem dominant in our cultural circles.

In exchange, we take very great pride in the high employment rates of our BA graduates – 94% of our students are employed or pursuing post-graduate studies. We are also proud of the commitment and enthusiasm of our students, particularly as expressed through the Student Academic Association, the AAIEP, who's President, João Bule, will speak shortly at this session.

A final word of thanks is due to the excellent executive team of IEP, lead by Michelle Lobo, in the Direction Office. Without her dedication and enthusiasm, as well as that of the entire team she leads – constituted by Ana Sofia Mendes, Cátia Silva and Raquel Gatta and Daniela Nunes in the Direction Office, as well as Susana Pedro and Miguel Paim and also Inês Gregório, Maria Cortesão Monteiro and Rafael Dias – nothing of what I have here described would have been possible.

Last, but certainly not least, the students that seek us out and work with us know what they are coming for and why. We are here to search for the Good, the Truth and the Beautiful in a common effort, founded upon free and critical dialogue between rival proposals in a constant and ongoing conversation between Faith and Reason.

We are not here to train revolutionary agitators or counter-revolutionary propagandists; we are here to educate those who Raymond Aron called free and responsible citizens – ladies and gentlemen, in the fortunate English expression – who tomorrow shall be able to serve

our country and the European, Atlantic and Western Civilization, to which we are proud to belong, with a due sense of duty, balance and moderation, and, above all, with a sense of elevation.

To all of you, Thank you.