

Jean Monnet Lecture Series on EU-Asia Connectivity

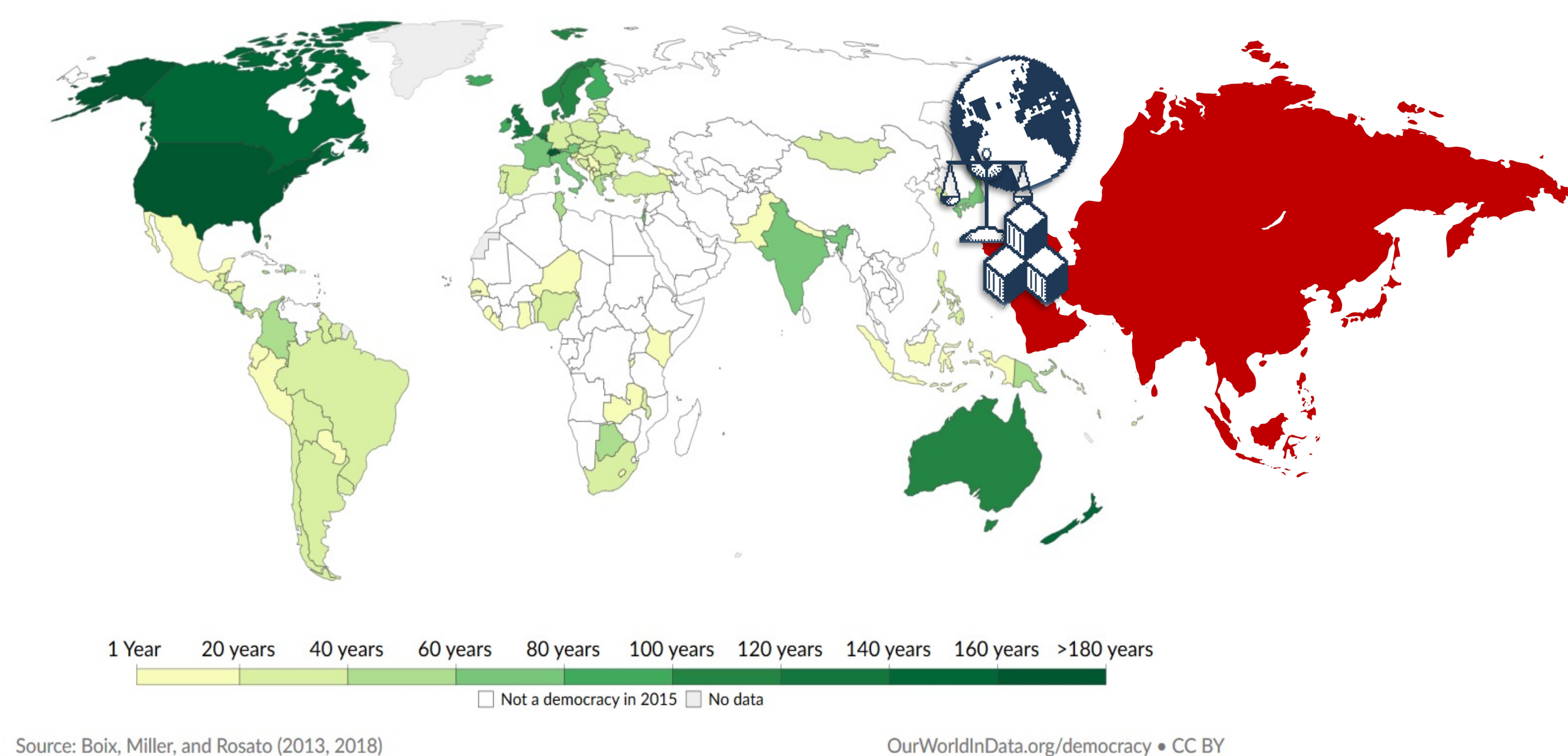
The European Union and Asia in a Changing Global Environment

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Bates Gill, Macquarie University, Sydney

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Sebastian Bersick, Jean Monnet Chair, RUB

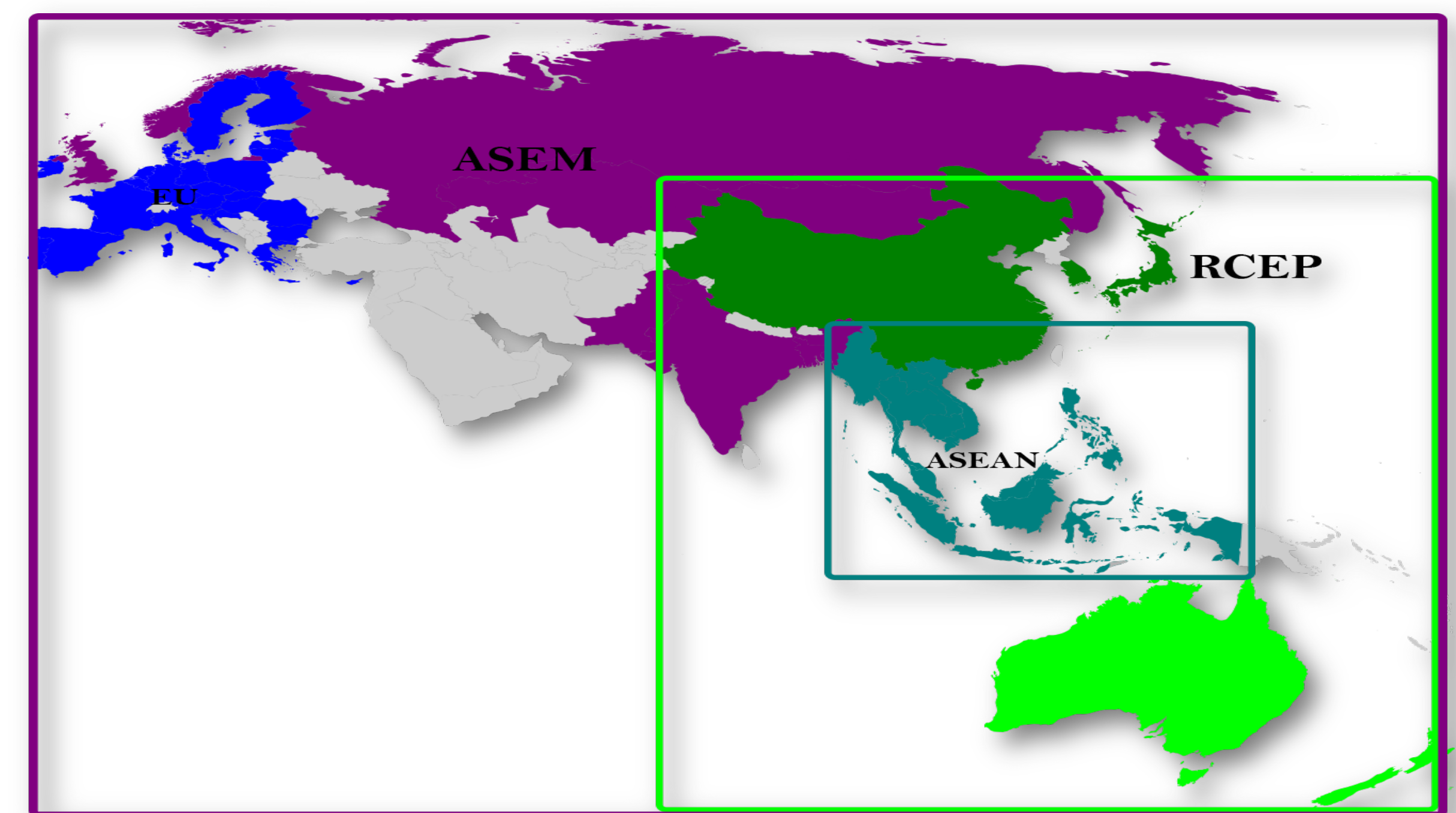
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Globalization, Spread of democracy, and rise of Asia



- “The two longer term trends since 1989 have been, first, globalization and the spread of democratic ideals and second, the rise of Asia, and particularly East Asia and China, to become a global centre of gravity in economic, diplomatic, and security affairs.”

Benefitting together



- “The EU, China and Asia have greatly benefitted together, especially economically, over the course of these past 30 years, having deepened their trade and investment relationships, engaged closely on a range of regional and global issues, and institutionalized partnerships.”

Decline of the post-war world order



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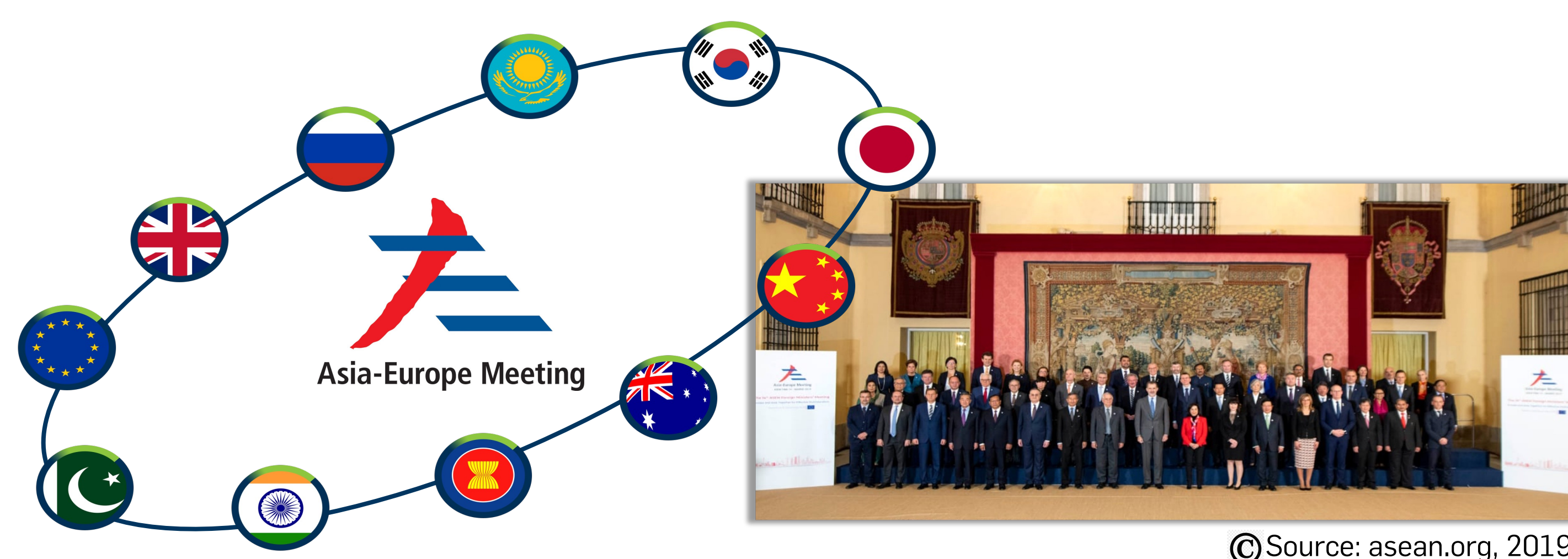
- “Over the past 10 to 15 years, we have seen the emergence of two additional trends. The first is the resilience and resurgence of nationalist and authoritarian governance and the decline of the post-war global order and the decline of support from its strongest advocate, the United States.”
- “We should not simply pin blame on the current resident of the White House, (...) [for] an erosion in American support for its traditional global leadership role.”
- “The “unipolar moment” drove, and still drives, U.S. leaders over the past 30 years and today to overreach strategically overseas, while under-reaching strategically at home. This has led over time to an erosion in American support for its traditional global leadership role while also undermining U.S. homeland resilience and strength.”

New EU-China relationship



- “China has strengthened its authoritarian system, grown in comprehensive national power, and begun to promote its political and economic system as a legitimate alternative to others, including the liberal order.”
- “The nature of EU-China relations will likely change toward one of “bounded engagement”: greater skepticism, greater caution, greater scrutiny, a narrowing of the parameters of the possible in many areas, and greater sense of competition especially in terms of security, economics, and political ideas.”

Exporting the “European way”



- “The EU strategy to deepen its connectivity with Asia certainly makes sense as a step in the right direction, if – if – it is properly resourced and sustained. It provides a platform by which the “European way” of fair, fiscally-sound, and sustainable development can be promoted. It could be an avenue to engage and compete with China on a level playing field.”

Balancing China

- “Increased European engagement in the region, especially in coordination with other like-minded partners, could help sustain momentum in much of the region in favor of free trade, expanded civil liberties, accountable governance, the rule of law, and the liberal rules-based order. And a greater EU presence in Asia will be welcomed by many in the region who are seeking compatible partners as alternatives to an uncertain and unpredictable America.”

