

Jean Monnet Lecture Series on EU-Asia Connectivity

Grand Strategy, European Security and Asia's Role

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The Russian invasion – challenging Europe's architecture?

- "What will the European architecture look like after the war in Ukraine? [...] Exactly the same as today."



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- "We will have the "Western part" of the architecture, the EU and NATO which will still be the EU and NATO, but probably a bit more consolidate than before the war. [...] Then you have the pan-European, the Europe wide part of the architecture not to be the oversea organization for the scrutiny corporation Europe. Well, that was paralyzed before the war and will remain obviously paralyzed after the war."

Is the multipolar world order in danger?

- "Now at the global level, [...] the post Ukraine War world order will look very much like the pre-Ukraine world order, by which I mean that its primary characteristic is that it remains a *multi power world*."



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- "Why is this important that the world remains a multi power? Because the alternative is a return to a bipolar world. Basically, to a new Cold War, two hostile blocks, the Europeans, and the Americans against Russians and Chinese. Two blocks that would decouple and limit their economic, political, cultural, and academic exchanges."

China's position towards Russia

- "China is definitely not prettying back its relations with Russia, but also not doing something more really to support Russia. So, China stays more or less in the middle and that is very much in the EU's interest to keep it there, to avoid the slide towards bipolarity."



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- "I don't think we can expect more, because China and Russia have a strong mutual interest. They perceive a world that is dominated by the United States, and they will always support each other against United States."

- "At the same time, their interest to some extent diverges as well. I mean China is pursuing a strategy that is mostly political economic and does require a degree of stability. Russia however for the last 10 years or so has opted for a strategy that is much more political military and that concisely creates instability."

Dividing the world – "democracy vs. autocracy?"

- "I think the Europeans and Americans are always tempted by many faces and not to divide the world into good and evil and specifically to picture world politics as a confrontation between the democrats and the autocrats. And we certainly have all seen this narrative of somehow Ukraine being the battlefield of democracy against dictatorship."

- "In my view, world politics is not driven by a clash between dictators and democrats, its not driven by values, world politics is driven by interests. And states pursue their interests and corporate with any other state with whom those interests coincide quiet regardless usually of the domestic political system of that other state."



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The EU's bilateral and multilateral engagement

- " So, my point here is that we need to complement our negative narrative, we need of course to clarify what we are against, but we also very much need to say to other countries what we are for. What are we in favour of? What are we offering to the world? What is our positive contribution that you can expect from us and therefore which you have to support us? And this operates on two level: bilateral and multilateral. The bilateral level, the EU has recently announced in last year's State of Union, the *Global Gateway*. Basically, the EUs answer to the Belt and Road initiative."
- "The other level it the multilateral level. [...] the role of the EU, the positive project of the EU, is keep the world together to make sure that we maintain one world order one course of rules to which all states of all powers subscribe. Why would they do that? Because it brings the political, certainly the financial and economic stability that they need to pursue their interests."
- "So, I think for the EU this is its role as an international player as a great power as I optimistically say, it is to position itself as the great power that is willing to cooperate, that is willing to work with any other power that gives it something to work with. [...] The only thing that the EU should know is, that this too, this constructive role demands power."