



SEMI-ANNUAL MUNK DEBATE ANNOUNCED

BE IT RESOLVED, THE FUTURE OF WESTERN POLITICS IS POPULIST NOT LIBERAL

Stephen K. Bannon and David Frum convene in Toronto to debate the future of populist politics

September 5, 2018 – Toronto, Canada

The Munk Debates announced today the resolution for the 23rd semi-annual event, to be held in Toronto on Friday, November 2nd, 2018. The Autumn 2018 Munk Debate will move the motion: ***Be it resolved, the future of western politics is populist not liberal.***

Throughout the Western world, politics is undergoing a sea-change. Long-held notions of the role of government, trade and economic policy, foreign policy and immigration are being successfully challenged by populist-oriented thinkers and movements.

Does this surging populist agenda in Western nations signal a permanent shift in our politics? Or, is it passing phenomenon that will remain at the fringes of society and political power? In short, will our politics be shaped by the liberal consensus on trade, national identity and global affairs or by insurgent populist politics, parties and leaders?

Arguing **for the resolution** will be **Stephen K. Bannon**, former chief strategist for Donald J. Trump and one of the world's most well-known populist thinkers and campaigners. Bannon emerged on the public scene in 2016 as the Executive Chairman of the conservative website Breitbart, helping shape many of the populist policies that delivered Trump to the U.S. Presidency, and went on to hold various senior roles in the White House. He is a former Naval officer, Goldman Sachs M&A banker, and graduate of Harvard Business School.

Speaking **against the resolution** will be **David Frum**, senior editor at *The Atlantic* and former speechwriter for George W. Bush. From 2014-2017 he chaired the board of trustees of Policy Exchange, the United Kingdom's leading center-right think tank. His most recent book, *Trumpocracy: The Corruption of the American Republic*, was a *New York Times* bestseller. He has been a vocal opponent of President Trump and the rise of right-wing populist parties in Europe.

Rudyard Griffiths, director and moderator of the Munk Debates, says: “Just four days before the 2018 U.S. midterm elections we will be convening the debate on future of populism with two outstanding protagonists. Presented as a one-on-one contest, Bannon versus Frum promises to be one of most intense debates in the history of the series.”

Now in their tenth year, the Munk Debates are Canada’s preeminent forum for leading thinkers to discuss the pressing issues of our time. Two debates are held each year in Toronto, one in the spring and one in the autumn. Previous Munk Debate participants include former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Henry Kissinger, Christopher Hitchens, Samantha Power, Paul Krugman, Fareed Zakaria, Dambisa Moyo, Mia Farrow, Malcolm Gladwell, Simon Schama, Louise Arbour, Stephen Fry, and Glenn Greenwald.

The Munk Debates are a signature initiative of the Aurea Foundation, founded in 2006 by Peter and Melanie Munk to support Canadian institutions involved in the study and development of public policy.

The Munk Debate on Populism will take place in Toronto at Roy Thomson Hall on **Friday, November 2, 2018** at 6:45 p.m. EDT. For information on purchasing tickets, premium membership, or subscriptions, please visit www.munkdebates.com.

The debate will also be broadcast live online for global viewing audiences. For more information on the livestream of the Munk Debate on Populism, visit www.munkdebates.com.

Our archive of commercial-free, HD videos of past Munk Debates is free for unlimited viewing to all Munk Debate members. For a free membership, and to view past debates, visit www.munkdebates.com.

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