



TWENTIETH SEMI-ANNUAL MUNK DEBATE ANNOUNCED

IS THE LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL ORDER OVER?

Fareed Zakaria and Niall Ferguson to debate the geopolitical question of our time

March 2, 2017 – Toronto, Canada. Today the Munk Debates announced the speakers and resolution for the twentieth semi-annual event, to be held in Toronto on Friday, April 28th. To mark this milestone, the Munk Debates is inviting back to the stage of Roy Thomson Hall two presenters who have thrilled its audience with their debating skills: **Niall Ferguson** and **Fareed Zakaria**. In keeping with the Debates' tradition of engaging with the big issues of our time, these two intellectual heavyweights will go head-to-head over the motion: ***be it resolved the liberal international order is over.***

Since the end of World War II, global affairs have been shaped by the increasing free movement of people and goods, international rules setting, and a broad appreciation of the mutual benefits of a more interdependent world. Together these factors defined the liberal international order and sustained an era of rising global prosperity and declining international conflict. But now, for the first time in a generation, the pillars of the liberal internationalism are being shaken to their core by the reassertion of national borders, national interests, and nationalist politics across the globe. Can liberal internationalism survive these challenges and remain the defining rules-based system of the future? Or, are we witnessing the beginning of the end of the liberal international order?

Arguing for the resolution is historian **Niall Ferguson**, Laurence A. Tisch Professor of History at Harvard University and a Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford. Ferguson is the author of numerous bestsellers including *Civilization: The West and the Rest*. A prolific commentator on contemporary politics and economics, Ferguson has been called "the most talented British historian of his generation." He explores ambitious themes in his work, such as the cost and benefits of globalization, the interface between finance and politics and the strengths and limitation of American global power.

Speaking against the resolution is **Fareed Zakaria**, host of CNN's flagship international affairs program **Fareed Zakaria GPS** and Editor-at-Large of *TIME* and a contributing editor for *The Atlantic*. *Esquire* magazine has described Zakaria as "the most influential foreign policy adviser of his generation," and *Foreign Policy* named him one of the top 100 global thinkers. Zakaria is a *Washington Post* columnist, a *New York Times* bestselling author and former editor of *Newsweek International*.

Rudyard Griffiths, director and moderator of the Munk Debates, comments: “This is the second time only in the history of the Debates that we have hosted a one-on-one contest. It is going to be a thrill to mark our twentieth debate with a no-holds-barred debate between two big intellects on what is the geopolitical question of our time.”

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, Robert Reich, Samantha Power, Paul Krugman, Dambisa Moyo, Mia Farrow, Malcolm Gladwell, Simon Schama, Louse Arbour, Newt Gingrich 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.

“Our philanthropy is aimed primarily at improving the quality and vitality of public debate in Canada,” said **Peter Munk**, speaking about the rationale for the Munk Debates. “Whether it is the support we provide to the Munk School at the University of Toronto or the creation of the Munk Debates through our Aurea Foundation, Melanie and I are committed to broadening public knowledge, education, and informed discourse.”

The Munk Debates are open to the public. The Debate on the Future of Geopolitics will take place in Toronto at Roy Thomson Hall on **Friday, April 28th, 2017** at 6:45 p.m. EDT. **Tickets go on sale to Munk Debate Premium Members at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 7th, 2017. Any remaining tickets will go on sale to the public at 12:00 noon on Thursday, March 9th, 2017.** For information on purchasing tickets, or premium membership, please visit www.munkdebates.com. Seating is limited.

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

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

Media inquiries should be directed to:
Sherry Naylor
sherry@munkdebates.com
416-368-8253