



SEMI-ANNUAL MUNK DEBATE ANNOUNCED

IS CHINA A THREAT TO THE LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL ORDER?

February 25, 2019 – Toronto, Canada

The Munk Debates announced today the resolution and speakers for its Spring 2019 debate, to be held at Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto on Thursday, May 9th.

The motion for the Spring 2019 Munk Debate: ***is China a threat to the liberal international order?*** Arguing **for the resolution** is **H. R McMaster**, who served as the 26th Assistant to the President for National Security before retiring from the U.S. military as Lieutenant General in 2018. He is a *New York Times* bestselling author, and a West Point graduate with a PhD in military history. He will be joined by **Michael Pillsbury**, one of Donald Trump's top advisors on China. Pillsbury is the author of *The Hundred-Year Marathon: China's Secret Strategy to Replace America as the Global Superpower*, and the director for Chinese strategy at the D.C.-based Hudson Institute.

Arguing **against the resolution** will be **Kishore Mahbubani**, former President of the United Nation Security Council and past dean of the National University of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. Mahbubani is the author of numerous bestselling books, including 2018's *Has the West Lost It? A Provocation*. Joining him will be **Huiyao Wang**. Dr. Wang is the Founder and President of the Center for China and Globalization (CCG) in Beijing. He was a Senior Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School, a Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution, and a Senior Fellow at the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.

Increasingly in the West, China is being characterized as a threat to the liberal international order, one that must be overcome through economic, political, technological and even military means. For those who believe that the policies of the Chinese Communist Party pose a threat to free and open societies, the U.S. and like-minded nations must band together to push back against China to preserve a rules based international order. For others this approach spells disaster. It ignores the history and dynamics propelling China's

rise to superpower status. Rather than threatening the post-war order, China is its best, and maybe only, guarantor in an era of declining U.S. leadership, increased regional instability and slowing global growth.

“This is the geopolitical debate of the moment and Canada is in the thick of it. Do we align ourselves with the current U.S. administration’s view of China as a threat to freedom, peace, and prosperity, or is it preferable to accommodate rather than confront the rise of China? Our May 9th debate will provide important insights into this critical international challenge,” comments **Rudyard Griffiths**, Chair of the Munk Debates.

Now in its eleventh 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, Stephen Fry, Glenn Greenwald, Newt Gingrich and David Frum.

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 China will take place in Toronto at Roy Thomson Hall on **Thursday, May 9th, 2019** 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 China, visit www.munkdebates.com.

Our archive of 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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