



SEVENTH SEMI-ANNUAL MUNK DEBATE ANNOUNCED

“DOES THE 21ST CENTURY BELONG TO CHINA?”

— Former U.S. Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, joins high powered group to debate key geopolitical issue of the coming century —

Thursday, May 5, 2011 – Toronto, Canada

The Aurea Foundation announced today the resolution and presenters for the seventh semi-annual Munk Debate, to be held in Toronto on Friday June 17th.

To encourage public debate of the geopolitical issue of our time, the seventh semi-annual Munk Debate will table the motion: ***be it resolved, the 21st century will belong to China.***

Is China’s rise unstoppable? Powered by the human capital of 1.3 billion citizens, the latest technological advances, and a comparatively efficient system of state-directed capitalism, China seems poised to become *the* global super power in the coming century. But the Middle Kingdom also faces a series of challenges. From energy scarcity to environmental degradation to political unrest to growing global security burdens, a host of factors could derail China’s global ascent.

Arguing ***for the resolution*** will be **Niall Ferguson**, one of the world’s leading historians, internationally-acclaimed author, and a prolific commentator on contemporary economics and politics. He will be joined by **David Daokui Li** of the Tsinghua University School of Economics and Management in Beijing. Dr. Li is an academic member of the monetary policy committee of the central bank of China.

Speaking ***against the resolution***, is **Henry Kissinger**, the 56th Secretary of State of the United States from 1973 to 1977 and one of the world’s most influential commentators on geopolitics. Dr. Kissinger will be joined by **Fareed Zakaria**, host of CNN’s flagship international affairs program – Fareed Zakaria GPS, and the Editor-at-Large of *TIME* magazine.

Rudyard Griffiths, director and moderator of the Munk Debates, comments: “The stature of the participants taking part in our 7th semi-annual debate speaks to the importance of China’s growing role in world affairs. We are particularly honoured that Dr. Kissinger agreed to take part in the debate; the first such formal public debate he has participated in on China’s future.”

The Munk Debates provide a lively and substantive 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 fall. The previous Munk Debate participants include former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Christopher Hitchens, Governor Howard Dean, Amb. Richard Holbrooke, UN Special Envoy for HIV AIDS Stephen Lewis, Amb. John Bolton, and activist Mia Farrow.

The Munk Debates is a signature initiative of the Aurea Foundation, a charitable organization established in 2006 by Peter and Melanie Munk to support Canadian institutions and individuals 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,” Mr. Munk added.

The Munk Debates are open to the public. The debate on China will take place in Toronto at Roy Thomson Hall on **Friday, June 17th** at 7:00 pm EDT. **Tickets go on sale to Munk Debate Premium Members at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, May 10th. Remaining tickets will go on sale to the public at 12:00 NOON on Thursday, May 12th.** For information on purchasing tickets, or premium membership, please visit www.munkdebates.com. Seating is limited.

The debate will also be broadcast live over the Internet for global viewing audiences. For more information on the live stream of the Munk Debate on China visit www.munkdebates.com.

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