

ATHENA

FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH

MSc Course

"The EU and the Post-Soviet Space"

Diletta

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Context

Today I will be interpreting Francis Fukuyama speaking at the annual Hedley Bull prize ceremony taking place in June 2022. Professor Fukuyama was the winner of the annual prize for a book written in 2019 called “Remarks on the end of history and the last men” for the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

A brief analysis of the book the author wrote in 1992 (“The end of history and the last men”).

This book had a big impact on the international relations field. He argued that with the end of the Cold war and with the triumph of liberal democracy, the world would have been divided between those countries that accept the liberal democracy (American model) and those countries that wouldn't. Such countries, in Fukuyama's theory, will be “stuck” in history since they won't be able to evolve and occupy an influential role in the international community. Moreover, according to Fukuyama, with the end of the cold war, there won't be any more wars since liberal democracies don't make wars between each other.

Fukuyama's theories were highly contested both in the aftermath period of the cold war and nowadays.

Speech

Good afternoon my fellow colleagues,

A special thanks goes to:

The international relations committee for permitting me to be here ; All Stanford University for nominating me for this prize; All the research fields for perpetuating my theories and for allowing my studies to have a worldwide presence in the past 40 years.

It's a great honor to be here today in this important diplomatic event. Especially in a moment when, as **we** all know diplomacy is more crucial than ever.

However, today my heart is heavy, and unfortunately, I am here to say that I can't accept this prestigious prize. The recent specter of war evoked in me mixed emotions and today I am here to tell you... that I was wrong. Many mistakes were made in the aftermath period of the cold war, but now I have learned from this. I'm doing this for myself, for my family, and for Isai, an awesome professor but most importantly, an amazing friend that one week ago disappeared in Kharkiv.

Democracy hasn't won, and history didn't end in 1991.

Media from all over the world claim Russia's return to the international scene as the bad enemy that came back. **But the reality is, it never went away.** Democracy and western liberal democracy haven't won with the fall of the Iron curtain.

This is what the West wanted us to think, and this is what they made me perpetuate for years.

But now, how could I continue saying that democracy won when there is a colossal monster at the doors of Europe that not only odds against the liberal vision but in 1999 invaded for the second time Chechnya and committed brutal attacks on civilians, in 2008 invaded Georgia, in 2014 Crimea, in

2015 during the Syrian war many war crimes were committed against the civilians and now... the invasion of Ukraine. A country that criminalizes the freedom of expression and persecutes human rights defenders, a country that suffocates civil society.

Democracy hasn't won, and history didn't end in 1991.

It didn't end because the heroic resistance of Ukraine and its people in the name of sovereignty, peace, and self-determination are showing that liberal democracy isn't the dead end of history but countries, neighbors, and friends are still fighting for their lives, for the rule of law and for freedom.

It didn't end because countries such as Belarus, and Kyrgyzstan are supporting Russia in the invasion of Ukraine.

It didn't end because Europe despite its efforts it's still not doing enough to help Ukraine and stop Russia.

The war of Russia in Ukraine is caused by the ontological insecurity of Russia towards Ukraine. Russia isn't afraid of its physical integrity, conversely, Russia is afraid of Ukraine's model, always more western, always more democratic, always more freer.

So today I am here to say to all my colleagues, and to the ministers, the presidents, and the diplomats of the world let's make really the end of history.

As I wrote in my book in 1992 "if people who have to work together in an enterprise trust one another it is because they are all operating to a common set of ethical norms... such a society will be better to innovate...since the high degree of trust will permit a wide variety of social relationships to emerge"

So, let's have trust, let's make really the end of history, the United States of America, European Union and your member states, all the rest of the world, please... stand up and let's finally triumph all together.