



## The birth of the ‘democracy’ and ‘rule of law’ swindle

Special to the AAS

Since every politician, regardless of party affiliation, and every mainstream media outlet mouths the same nonsense that current world history is a struggle of “democracy” and the “rule of law” against “authoritarianism”, it is a good idea to understand where this swindle was born and who were its the authors.

Right now the Anglo-American-led Five Eyes (UK, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand) and NATO are plunging towards world war against the alleged two great authoritarian monster states, Russia and China. The shooting war against Russia has already started, through Ukrainian surrogates armed to the teeth by NATO countries. US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin spilled the beans during a trip to Kiev and Warsaw months ago, when he proclaimed the goal of the war was to strip Russia of any future ability to fight against a major adversary.

The full story is that the West has bought into the inevitability of war against China, probably before the end of this decade. One of the objectives of the provoked surrogate war against Russia is to knock Moscow out of the equation when fighting with China begins.

To sell this mad war plan to a gullible American public, the Anglo-American Establishment has conjured up the idea that the fate of humanity is defined by the struggle to preserve democracy and the rule of law against the threat of authoritarianism.

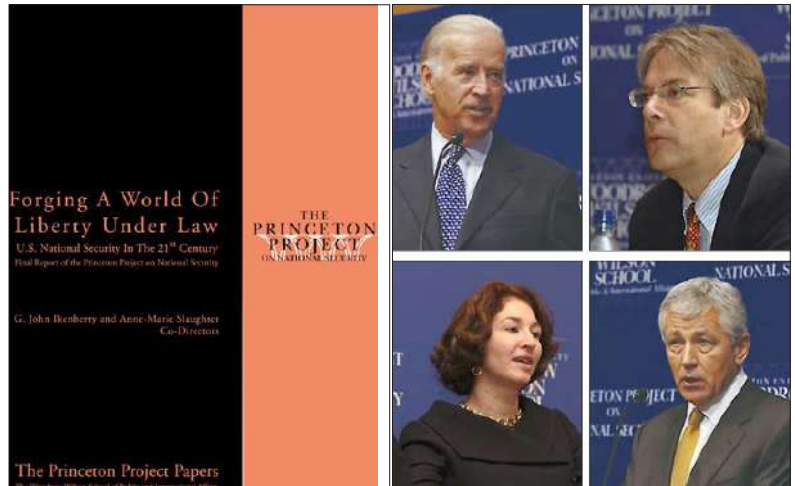
### The Princeton Project

The notion of “democracy” and the “rule of law” as the main criterion for Anglo-American foreign policy is half a century old. In the USA, the Administration of President Jimmy Carter, in which geopolitics practitioner Zbigniew Brzezinski was the leading foreign policy voice,<sup>1</sup> cemented “democracy” as the replacement for the idea of worldwide economic “development”, to which earlier Democratic Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy had adhered. In the UK, Baroness Caroline Cox, a close ally of Tory PM Margaret Thatcher and proponent of British neo-colonialism in new forms, used to sing paeans to “democracy and the rule of law” from her position as deputy speaker of the House of Lords (1985-2005), when she aimed barbs against developing-sector leaders who did not go along with London’s policies.

An important element in the process of cementing the hold of the “democracy and the rule of law” mantra on the American body politic was an obscure project called the Princeton Project on National Security. It began in May 2004 and ran for three years.

The Project was financed through the Ford Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, and a “generous grant” from David Rubenstein, the co-founder of the Carlyle Group private equity fund.

The honorary co-chairs of the Project were former Secretary of State (in the Reagan Administration) George Shultz



The Princeton Project’s 2006 paper; speakers at the paper’s launch: then Sen. Joseph Biden, Prof. G. John Ikenberry, Sen. Chuck Hagel and Anne-Marie Slaughter. Photos: Screenshot/princeton.edu

and former National Security Advisor Anthony Lake (in the Clinton Administration). The staff directors were John Ikenberry and Anne-Marie Slaughter. The latter went on to head the State Department Policy Planning Staff under President Barack Obama, when Hillary Clinton was secretary of state.

From May 2004 to the publication of the final report on 27 September 2006, the Project consulted with 400 government, university, and think tank national security specialists; ran seven working groups, which each produced working papers; and consulted extensively with Madeleine Albright, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and Henry Kissinger—all former secretaries of state and/or national security advisors who did a lot to institutionalise traditional British imperial principles in place of traditional American foreign policy.

The final report was a 96-page booklet, *Forging a World of Liberty Under Law: US National Security in the 21st Century*. It began by acknowledging that, with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War more than a decade earlier, the USA was “lacking a single organising principle for foreign policy like anti-fascism or anti-communism”. The Project’s goal was to build a consensus for a new global crusade against all opponents of the “liberal world order” and form a new “Concert of Democracies”.

The report stated: “While pushing for reform of the United Nations and other major global institutions, the United States should work with its friends and allies to develop a global ‘Concert of Democracies’—a new institution designed to strengthen security cooperation among the world’s liberal democracies. This Concert would institutionalise and ratify the ‘democratic peace’. If the United Nations cannot be reformed, the Concert would provide an alternative forum for liberal democracies to authorise collective action, including the use of force, by a supermajority vote. Its membership would be selective, but self-selected. Members would have to pledge not to use or plan to use force against one another; commit to holding multiparty, free-and-fair elections at regular intervals; guarantee civil and political rights for their citizens enforceable by an independent judiciary; and accept the responsibility to protect.”

That last term, “responsibility to protect”, is also known

1. “The Arc of Crisis”, Part 2 of the AAS Special Report *Xinjiang: China’s Western Frontier in the heart of Eurasia* (2021), reports a deadly consequence of Brzezinski’s machinations—the creation of modern radical Islamic terrorism.

as R2P. It means the right to intervene to change regimes by force, if they are judged to be in violation of the rules set forth by the Concert of Democracies.

The Project report was candid about the need to use military force through an expanded NATO: “The United States must also: revive the NATO alliance by updating its grand bargains and expanding its international partnerships; build a ‘networked order’ of informal institutions, such as private networks and bilateral ties; and reduce the sharply escalating and politically destabilising inequalities among and within states that result from the generally beneficial process of globalisation. ...

“At their core, both liberty and law must be backed up by force. Instead of insisting on a doctrine of primacy, the United States should aim to sustain the military predominance of liberal democracies and encourage the development of military capabilities by like-minded democracies in a way that is consistent with their security interests. The predominance of liberal democracies is necessary to prevent a return to destabilising and dangerous great power security competition; it would also augment our capacity to meet the various threats and challenges that confront us. ...

“Forging a world of liberty under law means understanding the role of force in upholding the law and enforcing the order necessary for liberty to flourish. System-wide, the need actually to use force will be reduced if liberal democracies maintain a predominance of military power. We must find ways

to update deterrence. And in specific cases, the pre-emptive, and even preventive, use of force may be necessary to avoid the murder of millions by a single group of individuals determined to die, or by a deranged leader heedless of the fate of his or her own people.”

### Selling the Concert

The greatest challenge identified by the Project was the rise of China and the need to maintain US military primacy in the “trans-Pacific”. The authors emphasised that “the US-Japan alliance is the bedrock of American strategy in East Asia” and was the key to “managing China’s rise”. Among their recommendations was the revision of Article 9 of the post-war Japanese constitution, which prevented Japan from conducting offensive military actions. Japan’s militarisation would occur “within a new multilateral framework”. The year the Project report was released, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called for the creation of a “democratic diamond alliance”, today called the Quad, made up of the USA, Japan, Australia, and India.

When the Princeton Project final report was finished, the principal authors immediately launched a nine-month tour of the United States, Europe, and Asia to present the findings. The tour was kicked off on 27 September 2006 with an all-day event at the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The keynote speaker was then-Senator Joe Biden, ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

### Massive secret network revealed to be pushing western narrative

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showed. The petitions were shared on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Agents’ petitions were sometimes shared on a well-known US human rights activism platform called Avaaz, and promoted by Radio Liberty, a partner of Radio Free Asia: these are groups which present themselves as journalists, while actually being arms of the US government.

In reality, China has good relationships with Kyrgyzstan and have been having lengthy talks towards building a “New Eurasian Land Bridge”, which will be a convenient transport path from East and Southeast Asia to Central and Western Asia, Northern Africa and Europe. The plan is to create prosperity through improved infrastructure that creates opportunities for trade.

### Projection technique

For decades, a key technique of western intelligence forces has been to announce exactly what they are doing in the media—but ascribe it to “the enemy”. So there have been numerous false allegations of Chinese interference with politics in the USA, while the truth was that the USA had massive operations interfering in politics in Chinese communities, particularly in Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Taiwan.

The existence of an artificial Western narrative is rarely acknowledged—and even more rarely confronted. China-friendly voices are seen being removed from Twitter frequently. But the other way round?

Renée DiResta, research manager at the Stanford Internet Observatory, told the *New York Times*: “It’s the first time we’ve seen a pro-US foreign influence operation taken down by Twitter and Meta.”

### Multi-lingual

Another remarkable aspect of the study was its revelation of how culturally wide the false narrative dissemination operation was. Just a few days ago, the *New York Times* printed a long feature bemoaning the ability of the west to



A fake petition.

control the discourse outside the Anglosphere.

Yet the new study reveals that the western narrative operation functioned in at least seven non-English languages on global social media such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and Instagram, and also on allegedly “secure” operations such as Telegram, and even on popular non-Western networks VK and Odnoklassniki, run from Russia.

### Little impact

The report, dramatic as it was, received relatively little coverage internationally. There were pieces in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* reporting the publication of the study, but without follow-up. Some media mentioned the report but played it down. *Cyberwire* headlined their report: “Not all coordinated inauthenticity is Russian”.

But even if there is no change in the narrative carried by the mainstream media, critics still welcomed the study. A Twitter user who has been banned three times for questioning the western narrative said: “This is just one more nail in the coffin of the narrative’s credibility, and that’s a good thing.”

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