**REPORT**

**of the President of the International Foundation for the Unity
of Orthodox Christian Nations (IFUOCN)**

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“Values and Interests in the changing world: Christian approach”**

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*Your Eminencies!*

*Your Excellencies, the Right Honorable Fathers, Ladies and gentlemen!*

*Dear participants and guests of the Conference!*

*Dear friends, colleagues!*

We have come together here, in the heart of Europe, **at the critical moment to the fate of nations** of the continent and the entire world in order to discuss the pressing issues for contemporary civilization directly touched on essential characteristics of **global and systemic crisis** the mankind is passing through. The peoples of the Earth being led on their historical **route by their own ruling elites**, now found themselves **at the crossroads** of trends of their further existence, facing with a choice of **priorities for development**, the sophisticated **dilemma how to come up with values and interests**, to consolidate them **in positive vector**.

The paradigm of the development, per se, always **in a dialectic process , conjugates in itself the antagonists**, which are often values and **meanings** formed upon, and the opposing **interests**, often having their roots in the nature of commercialism, selfishness and personal gain. In this context **these interests**, as a rule, are **utilitarian and materialistic**, prone to critical point in time, also sometimes **cynically prudent**.

In the same way, the values, as a rule, serve as the **foundation for spiritual and ethical reference** ontologically based on the postulates of conscience and dignity primordially inherent in every human being as a creature with the moral rules embedded in him by the Creator. **Christianity postulates** dignity of the person as one of **the supreme sacred values** granted for human being by the Almighty God, *apriori*, while losing which he **loses himself**.

Nowadays in mass social consciousness global and local media, being controlled for the most part by the **liberal** mainstream, build their **speculative disposition**, so to say, the one who advocates the **traditional values and meanings**, then, advocates conservatism, thus, pushing back in the past, **in the archaic era**, **that is to say he is a standpatter, the enemy of progress** and all possible development.

In contrast, media and web resources preach up as progressive and advanced those forces which stand for **continuing globalization** on all fronts, total **imposition** **on different peoples of the world, as part of this doctrine, the ideas and practices of** **unrestricted human rights and freedoms**, in their western view, and abet those, which stand for secularism, vanguard culture, **post- and neo-modernism**, legalization of gay marriage, ultra-radical innovations unburdened **by the ethical concerns of the orthodox meanings**, **rejection of Christian values** and truly respected **human dignity** all of which they see as slowing down human progress.

This liberal philosophical outlook that has been fully dominated throughout the world during the latest 30-40 years, **caused collapse of the long-standing views of the world, society and human being**, brought with the world and moved forward the doctrine of **cult of consumption** and unlimited hedonism in context of all the same unfettered rights and freedoms of the individual, incorporated into actual practice the **concept of multiculturalism** that had not proved itself, promoted everywhere its version of democracy along western lines, thus **triggering mass uncontrolled migration**, which, after all, planted firmly on the counter **destruction** of the global order which has created itself, namely, **terrorism based on nationalistic and fundamentalist fanaticism**, social vengeance and revenge on the part of the outsiders of the third-world countries, which is now in danger to grow into **multi-permanent conflict state of society** with a threat of endless attacks on unarmed civilians in various points of our planet.

And, as direct consequence of this process, the new world trend has emerged — **demand for traditionalism** with its point of support on **values and meanings** based on **Christian mentality** and culture. This demand generated, in turn, **human want for charismatic leaders** which started to crowd **bankrupt liberal elite**. In this connection there is an objective need to find an **objective answer** to what extent into this trend does fit, say, so called **Islamic renaissance in the person of Muslim fundamentalism** of all hues and shapes which had caused severe **confrontation** with the gradual move of this **liberal project** in this cultural and spiritual areal.

History provides numerous examples of attempts to return to the past by calling it **“regression” or “reaction”**. The new turn of the contemporary world to traditional values doubtlessly **holds danger of “eternal return”**, not moving forward for mankind, thus posing challenges and obstacles for **inevitable coming New times**. In parallel, in the presentiments of the New times **there is some spicy aroma of Ecclesiast’s sobering maxim: *That which has been is that which shall be* because there is nothing out that this world has never seen before**. It is fairly clear that we are talking not about technical innovations, but about the universe as such and the eternal **drama of human existentialism** from the point of view of evangelical understanding: ***Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever*** (Hebrews. 13:8).

**What comes first: interests or values**, tangible or intangible in today’s harsh political reality? At first glance, an answer is obvious: a lot of people say “**interests**”, of course. **But is it really obvious this fast answer**? Let’s look closely at what is happening in the world.

**The victory of Donald Trump in the United States of America:** is it the victory of **the party of interests** or the victory of the advocates of protection **the values**? Ironic as it may seem, it is worth noting that Donald Trump and his team which consists of **highly respected representatives** of American and world **establishment** is fighting against **liberal elite** of the US and the entire world postmodernism, **first of all, just for values and meanings**, in defending **tradition of the conservative mentality** within which they open their call for advancement and **interests**.

For **interests** as such, no matter to what extent of downright rationality, rigid **pragmatism** and prudence they would be concentrated, nevertheless are based and formed on the ground of **certain priorities and goals** which are disposed so closely to **the values and meanings**.

The accuracy of **information** broadcasted by global media, **objective truth when it comes to the news** and the essence of things and processes — that is what is **vitally important for the society** in order **not to lose right way**. In this connection **true and objective information** become definite **value** which was so lately point of pride of the western community. But now President Donald Trump not without foundations **denies** **objectivity** and impartiality of the leading western media blaming them for **total falseness and ideological commitment**. Which means, according Mr. Trump, CNN, The New York Times, NBC, CBS, BBC **provide false information**, thus destroying **traditional values**.

**To make America strong again**  — that means to return to American society attractive goals and **to give its life** powerful meaning. What predominates in this program of Mr. Trump: the interests or the values? You might say **there is a space for action for interests filled with the meanings of value landmarks**. Or vice versa: the values and meanings of **Great American Dream must set in motion these interests**. And then American interests **with renewed vigor** **will make the world** again to collate **their values**. And right here **the traditional values** are a priority for Mr. Trump. In his inauguration speech Donald Trump said, **”How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!**" The newly elected American President underlines paramount importance of **Christian values** for the United States on which this country was formed and which will **collapse by giving them up**.

What are the forces that move hard and stubborn line of **Angela Merkel in Germany** and in Europe as a whole: **the interests or the values?** Angela Merkel and her supporters, as we know, **are obsessed with liberal transformation of the society**. **Liberalism of the European elite,** of course, represents **a set of certain values** which form and postulate their doctrinal guidelines — **the meanings**. And these very meanings **lay in the basis of their real policy**.

 Say, the most topical subject of the **European liberals** is how to resolve enormous **problem** of adoption and resettlement of **huge numbers of refugees**  — immigrants within the European Unity where policy of Germany led by Angela Merkel is a **generating factor**. **Doctrinally, what constitutes this policy: advancement of the values or the interests**? Surely, herein **liberals** defend **value markers**, but in the back of this indeed very difficult phenomenon there are **quite serious interests**.

First, the interests of the **German liberal elite** which considers the **most terrible danger** in **revival of revenge and Nazi in the German society**, and paradoxically, now this danger is **becoming real** not without their efforts. For, opposition to mass migration from the Middle East, Asia and Africa **provokes active protest** of more and more German citizens who consolidate on the basis of fully realized but **not wide articulated** **slogan “Germany for Germans**”. So it is this anticipated phenomenon, namely **fear of Nazi revival** that gets liberal democrats into trouble. For reference note, January 17th this year the Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe **again rejected** the statement of Bundesrat **on the prohibition of neo-Nazi** National Democratic Party.

**Brexit in the Great Britain**, did it happen under the dominance of the interests or the values in the British society? The British, as can be seen, would like to stay the British do not want **to lose themselves in the multicultural and multinational space** on their native land which is now intensively flooded by wave of alien elements of **other identities**. Herewith the latent springs of the powerful British lobby effectively operated — **spokesmen of the conservative interests** not willing, together with European liberals, to share, in their view, **near miserable fate** **of the Old Continent** being torn apart by **completely different mentalities** of the nations, all gathered in the European Union.

The outstanding German and French political leaders, **Konrad Adenauer and Robert Shuman**, the creators of **the European Union** as originally postwar **European Coal and Steel Community Union**, and of **the Common Market,** what were they drawing upon: **the interests or by the values**? When the interests were replaced by the values, and how superior **the liberal values** are **to the interests**?

The current year, you know, marks the sixtieth anniversary of the signing of the **Treaty of Rome** which became a basis doctrine for creation of **the European Unity**. On the basis of its provisions the principles of **modern European policy** were formed, but not all of them appeared to be vital and adequate to the better **future of Europe**. The Government of Angela Merkel insists that in **the Rome Statement** which is being proposed for signing by the European leaders at the future jubilee summit, ought to be mentioned as common for all members of the Union perspectives “**on the basis of common values and changing global challenges**”.

The policy of the Russian leadership **led by Vladimir Putin, in Russia and abroad**, **what is it dictated by: the interests or the values?** Or **China** today? This country continues to pursue pragmatic lessons of **Deng Xiaoping** **“I don’t care if the cat is white or black as long as it catches mice”,** or, as before, the values of the Celestial Empire **stated by Confucius** dominate in defining **political course of China**?

Justifying his political program **“Chinese Dream for the great revival of the Chinese nation”**, Chinese leader **Xi Jinping** constantly appeals to **Confucius** — the creator of the Code of **the Chinese values**. In his articles and performances he most often cites the great **traditionalist Confucius** particularly, translating his ideas on which **the whole Chinese civilization** rests thousands of years.

In France, **Marie Le Pen** protects the rights of her compatriots to defend **the sovereignty** of their state, which are considered to be **the national values**, or **she is fighting for the interests** of the party **seeking for power**?

In Poland, what are the true intentions of **Jaroslaw Kaczynski**: return to the **Christian-Catholic** roots of the Polish nation as **values landmarks** in the development of the state, or the **state interests** **as seeing by Polish gentry since the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (Rzecz Pospolita)**, prevail in his policy? Newly elected President of Moldova **Igor Dodon** received support from hundreds of people **by proclaiming three priorities** of his activity in office: the growth of economy, the country’s reunification and **defense of Orthodoxy**. Where there are the interests, and **where are the values**, and **what stands ahead all the rest in this set of priorities**?

**The XXI century was announced the Century without ideologues**, but they might have the wrong prognosis! **The time for revolutions and manifests is starting to happen.** Good and evil confront each other forever **posing themselves as the interests** or **the values**. And in this context the current century is seemingly able to get a perfect score to all distant past, since **struggle for the values** is becoming **an axis of the world policies**. And where **confrontation of values** begins, there wars occur and **civilizations crumble**.

At the same time we should not lose sight of the fact and **must comprehend another thing**, namely that **the values** have been mobilizing in its entirety of their **cultural and spiritual potential** for **concentration of the national resources** at a critical point of protection of their **interests**, and in a broad **historical sense** operating quite often in the guise of **authoritarian dominating idea** that does not tolerate **pluralism**. The values in their core are **always absolute**, they reject **palliatives**, they don’t tolerate place somewhere in between, for **plurality of values**, as well as plurality of truths, **could never have enough**. Otherwise, it is called differently — **relativism, positivism** and so on, but these philosophical definitionsdo not apply **to values**.

In this connection nowadays, when **pretentions of the values and interests** **were exposed most deeply**, there is an increasing awareness of the cause of collapse of such **deceitful idea** and Gorbachev’s policy of **“the universal values”** built upon it. For **the values do not tolerate compromises and chimeras**. The different **values** and **ideals and meanings** derivative from them do not tolerate their own presence in the same **political agenda**, they do not tolerate **summarizing under a single common denominator**. The values in general more frequent appear to be **religious and philosophical unique maxims**, ontologically defining specific **fundamental mentalities**, but not universal **bases**.

But **the interests**, so varied, pretty easy **come together**, if they do not pursue different **value landmarks**. In this case it is not difficult to harmonize **the interests**, take into consideration various factors, **connect them** in the general stream of efforts and achieve set goals **by different players** as a result of **their common activities**.

Precisely this approach **offers the wide scope** for cooperation, conjunction of many **interests**, without confrontation of **the values**. It requires skills, **political foresight and policy wisdom**. **Confrontation of values** **means the war**, which **can be avoided** by the right done **multi-pronged approach** of **taking into account** different **interests**.

Recently intellectuals from various countries observed with keen interest in mass media **the discussion** between **Harvard professor Steven Pinker and his college scientist Nassim Taleb** around the **question of temporal trends in violent catastrophes**, how much has it decreased (according to S. Pinker) or increased (N. Taleb) **over the past years**. Many thought the conclusions of S. Pinker **unreasonable optimistic** which obviously ignore the need **to consider the differences** of **values** propagated by the leading global players.

**The world breaks away from the shackles of globalization** imposed by liberal America on us. The base of this gaining momentum movement is formed by **the search of the lost sovereignties** of the nations and states. The global world begins **to assume new structure and priorities**, more and more players take care **of their sovereignty**. It is impossible to provide **the sovereignty of nations** without defense and advocacy of their **national values**. The Great Britain, Hungary, Poland start to move in this direction. The national interests **imperatively forms on** the base of **the national values**. The European Union hasn’t managed to propose its member states of the EU **attractive pan-European values**. Parade of the **sovereignties** of the European nations is fast approaching. **The Soviet Union** has been dissolved just as a result of this process, when nationwide soviet **values became exhausted**.

The principal threat of the present model of the European integration in the format of the EU stems from the pursuit of **the political elites** of a number of member states of the European Union **to regain national sovereignty**. **The National front** in France, **the Party of Freedom** in the Netherlands, Austrian **Freedom party**, **Northern League** in Italy, several political parties in Germany and in other countries announced that **“they don’t want to promote incomprehensive for them” policy of the EU**.

**The narrative of violence** and wars inevitably comes from the awareness, first **by the elites**, then by the nations **the difference between their values**, conflicts and clashes emerge first **as a result of confrontation of the values**, but not on the base of **conflict of interests**. Say, the political **interests** of **Austria and Turkey** might **coincide**, but not **the values**. That is why leader of Austrian Party of Freedom Norbert Hofer says that accession of Turkey to the EU certainly will pose to Austria **the question of withdrawal from it**.

What was the subject of dispute at the Munich Security Conference on February this year, capturing attention of the global media? The very agenda: **“Post-Truth, Post-West, Post-Order?"** initially built conflict-and-discussion space. **The post-Truth by itself is antipode of the Truth**, so that it can’t be **an objective criteria**. **The Truth** can’t be **what has passed**, **the Truth** is **the timeless**. To say about **post-Truth** knowingly means to deal with **unTruth**.

This means that **global elites** recognize that they live **in the curve mirrors of the distorted reality**, believe in **false values** and **pursue false interests**. This alone is the **challenge to the whole world**.

And this confirms another part of agenda of the Munich forum talking about **the existence of the post-order** where **is no place for meaning and justice**. **The order** which does not stand **on truth**, common sense and elementary **justice**, **can not remain for any length of time**.

Well, one more part of the Munich’s agenda, **“Post-West”**, in general calls into question contemporary and future existence of the EU, setting it back in a state of **“post-“, that is, in yesterday**, in the past, what seems to be caused, in the main, by **complete loss of trust** to the previous **values**, and therefore by complete **transformation of the paradigm of the global order**.

The gathering of the global liberal elite at the **Davos forum** on January this year recognized **China** as the leader in **global economy** and trade. China still in the lead upsetting the applecart — **promotes globalization in the trade**, while **zealously defending his sovereignty**. It happens when **the one immediately rebuts the other one** wreaking **havoc** in the **outlook** of elites.

The leading German newspaper **Welt** states that the global economic elite **has been ridden by doubts** in connection of the **vitality of existing capitalist system**. “Even if **capitalists** themselves don’t believe anymore in capitalism, then soon all over the world **stop believing in it**’, **the Welt** notes with anxiety.

The current year embraced **multiple events and historic data**, very significant and continuing **to affect** upon the environmental world just **by reason of those values** that had been promoting as a result of these **epoch-making events**.

**The Reformation of Martin Luther**, 500th anniversary of which the world commemorates this year, not only caused the ongoing lengthy **crisis of Catholicism**, but also brought to the world **stage Protestantism**, which became **value and doctrinal base of bourgeois-and-capitalist** model that had lost to a certain extent its former power.

In this connection **profound** is the celebration of the centennial of the **Great Russian revolution** which **launched a challenge against capitalism** and in many ways changed it.

The 60th anniversary of the **Treaty of Rome** which laid the **foundation of the European Union**, now demands separate consideration in the light of **dramatic prospects** not only of the **European integration**, but the current and the future of the whole **hierarchy of values and interests in the changing world**.

In short, all these **significant events**, scattered in time, nevertheless have single **common dimension** — all of them **brought in the world** **their own values and systems of interests built upon them**. These **values** and **interests** had been changing the world beyond recognition, often leading the world up **to a fatal line**. **The challenge** of our time is **not to push the values and interests** into irreconcilable **conflict** fraught with **universal catastrophe**.

Thank you for your attention.