



Twenty Years After: the World(s) Beyond the Wall
International Conference
9-10 October 2009, Bosco Marengo-Italy

*Twenty years after the historic Fall of the **Berlin Wall**, some among the major figures representing that delicate political moment, but also experts and historians who studied its causes and effects, will answer his call and gather around the President of the **World Political Forum, Mikhail S. Gorbachev, on 9-10 October 2009, in the seat of the WPF in Bosco Marengo, to study the historical consequences of that event. Ideal follow-up of the meeting held in 2005 "1985-2005: Twenty Years that Changed the World", this conference aims at producing a deep analysis of the current world political situation, in the light of the path that from 1989 led to the present. Over 40 among statesmen, experts, academicians and thinkers, coming from more than 20 countries and representing 5 continents will actually take part to the two days' meeting.***

After the fall of the Berlin Wall and other unprecedented political events in Eastern Europe, the world was rid of the division into opposing blocks, forced on it in the wake of World War Two, and the threat of a third global conflict, which could become its last one. However, the state of the world today falls far short of the expectations many of us had at the end of the Cold War. Twenty years are a good benchmark to evaluate the road we travelled and try to understand the conflicted reality of the future born before our eyes. The dramatic beginning of the 21st Century has presented mankind with new challenges, as it is now clear that the global economic crisis is but one aspect of the global crisis of the current model of the world's development: new "walls" have been raised beyond the Wall. Neither political leaders nor the public, both in the West and in the East, proved capable of facing up to the problems and contrasts of this new World Behind the Wall. Lasting stability of the world situation has not been achieved, historical opportunities that opened up twenty years ago have not been fully realized, and many myths have collapsed.

The principle aim of this conference is to provide representatives of different regions and political cultures with an opportunity to compare, in a free-flowing and open discussion, their visions of the main problems facing mankind in the coming years and decades and its main ambition is to suggest approaches and solutions that could be used, based on a kind of a new Social Contract, to avoid new political upheavals and economic, social and environmental disasters.

The Historian Eric **Hobsbawm**; the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs Franco **Frattini**; former Prime Ministers such as Felipe **González** (Spain); Rudolph **Schuster** (Slovakia); Massimo **D'Alema** (Italy); H. Em. the **Cardinal Angelo Sodano**; but even activists, academicians and experts such as Marek **Halter**, Wolfgang **Sachs**, Martin **Lees**, Ashok **Khosla**, Benjamin **Barber**, Jianmin **Wu**, Aminata **Traoré** and several former Ministers for Foreign Affairs: Hubert **Vedrine** (France), Adam **Rotfeld** (Poland); Hans-Dietrich **Genscher** (Germany), among many others, will join President **Gorbachev** on this important occasion.

An international NGO founded in **Piedmont (Italy)** by the Nobel Peace Laureate **Mikhail Gorbachev** together with a group of prominent political international figures, thanks to the support of the **Region of Piedmont**, the **CRT Foundation** and the foundation of the **Cassa di Risparmio di Alessandria**; **The World Political Forum** acts as meeting point for cultures, seeking to bring together the experience of statesmen, the knowledge and ideas of thinkers and experts, and the aspirations and energy of civil society - an open forum where the analysis of the issue of interdependence stands as a framework for the building of a New World Political Architecture. **Since 2009 the WPF is an organization in Special Status with the UN Economic and Social Council.**

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