

## 2019 MEDays Forum Speaking Notes

### *China, Europe, Gulf, Turkey, Russia and USA: Towards a New Global Disorder?*

- **Breakdown of Social Contract**

- *Rising inequalities* – World's top 26 multi-billionaires amass 50% of global wealth - Sense of injustice
- *Distrust in government* – elitist collusion
- *Identity politics* – cross-border migration and erosion (Europe, US, HK)
- *Digital empowerment* - power of individuals, social media

- **Capitalism**

*Capital in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Thomas Piketty) – historic high-water marks of earnings/return from Capital v Labor (French Revolution and the Gilded Age (Gatsby era)*

- **Globalization**

*Outsourcing and international trade blamed on wage stagnation and benefits accrued to the elite*

- **Populism**

*Polarization; torn societies; Brexit; rise of far-right politics (Europe, US)*

*Alternative truths, fake news*

- **Regional security dilemma**

*ME Sunni-Shiite rivalry; Russia's near-abroad, Eastern Europe's fear of a "Crimea" repeat, Turkey's Kurdish anxiety, China's South China Sea, US Pacific fear v. rising China*

- **Western democratic model challenged**

*Rise of Asia, Africa and emerging markets with or without different shades of democracy*

- *Thucydides Trap and Clash of Civilizations* (v *End of History* – Francis Fukugama, Michael Pillsbury's *Hundred Year Marathon* – "Non-Caucasian challenger" - Kiron Skinner, US director of policy planning)

## ***Commercials Wars & Energy Wars: A Zero-Sum Wars ?***

- **Battle of the Titans**

*When the elephants fight ....*

*University of Chicago's John Mearsheimer – Tragedy of Great Power Politics – Graham Allison – Thucydides Trap (12 out of 16) – Michael Pillsbury's Hundred Year Marathon)*

- **Dollar Supremacy – Exorbitant Privilege**

*Tariffs and sanctions*

- **Supply chain dependency**

*TPP (before US withdrawal; 5G barriers against Huawei)*

*China-centric supply and value chain to be strengthened through Belt and Road and regional free-trade agreements e.g. RCEP.*

*McKinsey & Nataxis - China becoming less dependent on the world as the world becomes more dependent on China (Asia, EU, US) – intermediate products*

- **Technology**

*Made in China 2025; 5G, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, space*

- **New energy sources –**

*Combustible methane hydrates – recent successful industrial extraction in South China Sea (SCS) - global reserve 2X all other known fossil fuels combined, = 1,000 years of human consumption. China's reserve estimated at 100 billion tons of oil-equivalents. 80% lies in the SCS.*

- **High-tech Arms Race**

*National Day Parade - DF-17 Hypersonic Missiles; DF-41 ICBM with multiple separately-guided nuclear warheads; Stealth-combat drone GJ-11; supersonic aerial drone DR-8 and HSU-001 Underwater drone*

- **Color revolutions – National Endowment for Democracy; Oslo Freedom Forum; CANVAS (Center for Applied Non-Violence Action and Strategies (Serbia)**

- **Culture and Ideology – Hollywood, human rights**

- **Decoupling, Confrontation, Zero-sum, or Community of Common Destiny – Manage conflicts and differences; leverage for common interests and a more stable and prosperous world – Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Korean Peninsula, the Gulf, South China Sea, Migration, Disease, and under-development**

