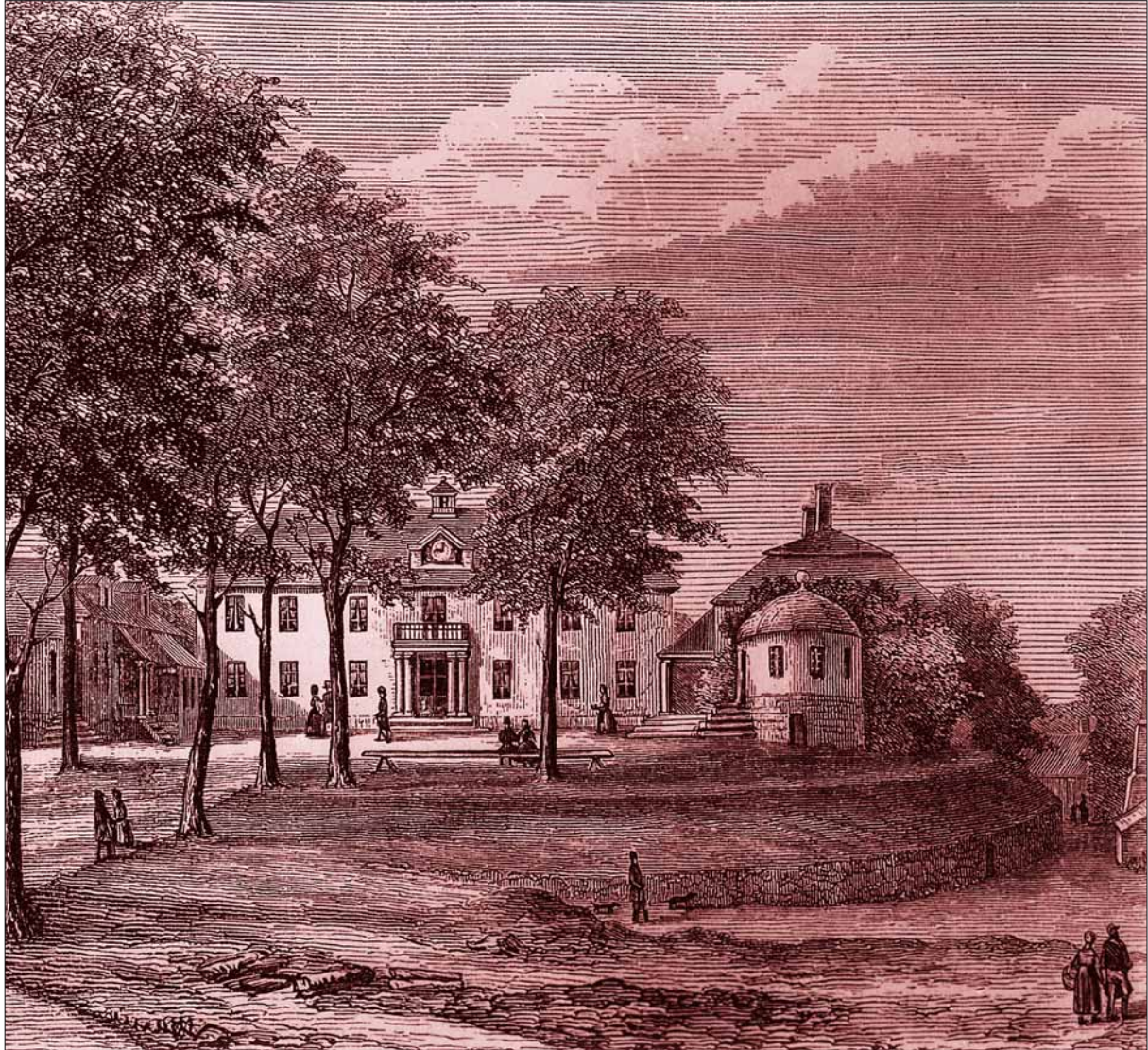




The Engelsberg Seminar 2007



What is the West?

June 14th to 16th 2007
at Avesta Manor, Sweden

A SEMINAR ARRANGED BY
AXEL AND MARGARET AX:SON JOHNSON FOUNDATION

The Engelsberg Seminar 2007

What is the West?

After a life lived in India, Rudyard Kipling famously remarked that East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet. But now they do: through immigration, through travel, through globalisation. But are the terms West and East merely a mental map that creates boundaries where none should exist? Can the distinction be meaningful when it is used to explain everything from the division of the Roman Empire to the Cold War and now the fight against Jihadism? Japan, Brazil, Israel and Australia all defy geography to claim to be “West”. Despite Russia’s European Christian roots it still counts as “East”.

Substantive or not, the terms determine our cultural self-awareness and the way we make sense of the world. Since Oswald Spengler’s *Der Untergang des Abendlandes*, Westerners (and others) have been discussing its future. More recently, Samuel Huntington has cautioned of a clash of civilisations in which the West will lose its pre-eminent place.

Is the defining feature of the West hostility to the East? Edward Saïd’s critique of

Orientalism, once fashionable, is now discredited. The new theory is that Westerners have been bewitched by riches and civilisations of the East: close observation and awe have been the hallmarks of that, not ignorant belittlement. Maybe the real prejudice today is not the view of the “noble savage” but outsiders’ “Occidentalist” stereotypes about “depraved westerners” and their dehumanised culture and society.

So how and where did ideas about the Western world arise? And how far are they accurate? How far is technological innovation and industrialisation a “western” phenomenon? What are the spiritual characteristics and features that define the West today? Answers to these raise new questions. How do non-Westerners in modernised settings perceive the West? Are old national identities giving way to a new common Western identity at least, or at first, in Europe? Can the Euro-Atlantic West survive the decline of Atlanticism?

If Western values are at least potentially universal is it practical or desirable to spread them across the world?

The Engelsberg Seminar 2007

Thursday 14th of June

1.30 p.m. *REGISTRATION*

2.30 p.m. **Opening** **Viveca Ax:son Johnson**, *Chairman*
Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation
Kurt Almqvist, *President*
Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation

Historical Perspectives

2.40 p.m. **Introduction** **Edward Lucas**, *moderator*

2.45 p.m. **Roger Scruton** *The West and the Rest from a Historical Perspective*

3.10 p.m. **Philippe Nemo** *The Invention of Western Values*

3.35 p.m. **Georgios Varouxakis** *The Origins of the Idea of “the West”*

4.00 p.m. **Panel Discussion**

4.25 p.m. *COFFEE BREAK*

4.45 p.m. **David Landes** *Cornerstones in Western Development*

5.10 p.m. **Robert Irwin** *The Orientalists and Their Enemies*

5.35 p.m. **Panel Discussion**

6.00 p.m. **Concluding Remarks** **Edward Lucas**

6.05 p.m. *DRINKS and MUSIC*

7.00 p.m. *DINNER*

The Engelsberg Seminar 2007

Friday 15th of June

Western Liberalism

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 9.00 a.m. | Introduction | Edward Lucas , <i>moderator</i> |
| 9.10 a.m. | Larry Siedentop | <i>Democracy in Europe</i> |
| 9.35 a.m. | Tøger Seidenfaden | <i>Western Values, National Identities</i> |
| 10.00 a.m. | Robert Shapiro | <i>Democracy in America</i> |
| 10.25 a.m. | Panel Discussion | |
| 10.50 a.m. | <i>COFFEE BREAK</i> | |

The View from Elsewhere

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 11.10 a.m. | Sahin Alpay | <i>Turkey and Westernization</i> |
| 11.35 a.m. | Nadezhda Mihaylova | <i>The West Viewed from the Balkans</i> |
| 12.00 p.m. | Marina Warner | <i>The Compass of Story: Eastern bearings in Western literature</i> |
| 12.25 p.m. | Panel Discussion | |
| 12.50 p.m. | <i>LUNCH</i> | |

Western Identity in Flux?

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 2.45 p.m. | Avishai Margalit | <i>The West by the Rest</i> |
| 3.10 p.m. | Pankaj Mishra | <i>The Legacy of Muslim Immigration</i> |
| 3.35 p.m. | <i>COFFEE BREAK</i> | |
| 3.55 p.m. | Ibn Warraq | <i>Self-Criticism: The redemptive grace of Western Civilisation</i> |
| 4.20 p.m. | Panel Discussion | |
| 5.00 p.m. | Hans Kollhoff | <i>Go West: Welcome in Europe</i> |
| 5.25 p.m. | Concluding Remarks | Edward Lucas |
| 5.30 p.m. | <i>DRINKS</i> | |
| 6.30 p.m. | <i>DINNER AND MUSIC</i> | |

The Engelsberg Seminar 2007

Saturday 16th of June

The Future of the West

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|-------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 9.30 a.m. | Introduction | Edward Lucas |
| 9.35 a.m. | Philip Bobbitt | <i>The Wars on Terror</i> |
| 10.00 a.m. | David Frum | <i>The Universality of Western Values</i> |
| 10.25 a.m. | Göran Rosenberg | <i>The Future of the European Gemeinschaft</i> |
| 10.50 a.m. | <i>COFFEE BREAK</i> | |
| 11.10 a.m. | Rolf Ekéus | <i>Threats to European Integration</i> |
| 11.35 a.m. | Bo Huld | <i>The Future of Transatlantic Relations</i> |
| 12.00 p.m. | Panel Discussion | |
| 12.25 p.m. | Concluding Remarks | Edward Lucas |
| 12.30 p.m. | <i>LUNCH</i> | |
| | <i>DEPARTURES</i> | |

The Engelsberg Seminar 2007

Lecturers

Professor Sahin Alpay
Bahcesehir University

Professor Philip Bobbitt
University of Texas

Ambassador Rolf Ekéus
OSCE High Commissioner on
National Minorities

Mr. David Frum
American Enterprise Institute

Professor Bo Huldt
Swedish Defence College

Mr. Robert Irwin
Writer

Professor Hans Kollhoff
Architect

Professor David Landes
Harvard University

Professor Avishai Margalit
Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Mrs. Nadezhda Mihaylova
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bulgaria.
Institute for Democracy and Stability in
South-East Europe.

Mr. Pankaj Mishra
Writer

Professor Philippe Nemo
Centre for Research in Economic Philosophy

Mr. Göran Rosenberg
Journalist

Dr. Roger Scruton
Writer and Philosopher

Mr. Tøger Seidenfaden
Editor-in-Chief, Politiken

Dr. Robert Shapiro
Sonecon

Dr. Larry Siedentop
University of Oxford

Mrs Marina Warner
Writer

Dr. Georgios Varouxakis
Queen Mary University of London

Mr. Ibn Warraq
Writer

Moderator: Mr. Edward Lucas
The Economist

Organization

President: **Kurt Almqvist**
Project Leader: **Hedvig Anderson**
Programme Director: **Isabella Thomas**
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Emelie Molinder, Lotten Pettersson,
Anna Ridderstad and Daniel Sjöström
Chef: **Johan Jureskog**

Reference Group

Kurt Almqvist, Ax:son Johnson Foundation
Niklas Ekdal, Dagens Nyheter
Rolf Ekéus, Ax:son Johnson Foundation
Thomas Gür
Göran Rosenberg
Edward Lucas, The Economist
Dinner Music: **Dan Laurin and Anna Paradiso**

