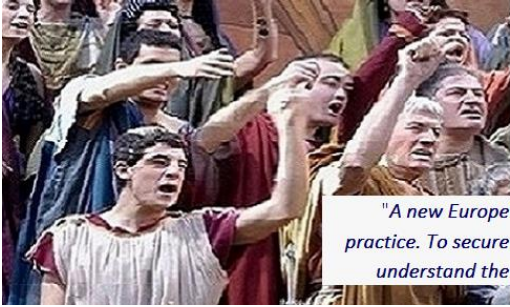
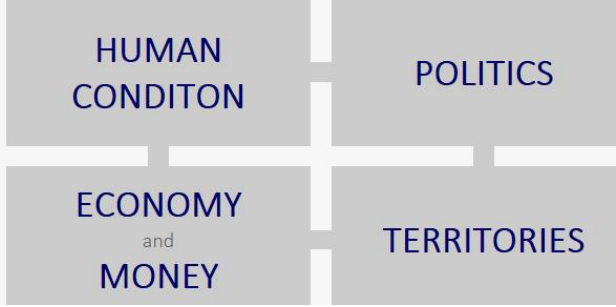


January 2020



"A new Europe has formed in practice. To secure its future we must understand the nature of it."



The 2019 elections of the European Parliament showed a renewed interest in Europe. The populist, euro-sceptic parties did not advance as feared (or hoped), the economy has continued to improve with employment reaching new highs, and the number of refugees arriving has fallen significantly. The new leadership of the European Union will thus be able to leave the crisis mode of the past decade and provide a fresh start for the integration process.

Political guidelines for the next European Commission 2019-2024:

- A European Green Deal
- an economy that works for people
- A Europe fit for the digital age
- Protecting our European way of life
- A stronger Europe in the world
- A new push for European democracy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day Croatia EU Presidency	2	3	4
5	6 Epiphany	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2020

Leiden University was a gift to the city of Leiden from William of Orange more than four hundred years ago. The city earned this privilege on account of its citizens' courageous resistance against the Spanish.



Although the **University of Bologna**, founded 1088, is the oldest university in the Western world, the **University of Leiden** celebrated **8 February 2019** its **444th anniversary**.

Two honorary doctorates were awarded during the ceremony, among others to **Prof.dr. Robbert Dijkgraaf**.

As a guideline for good governance and self-understanding of universities in the future, 388 rectors and heads of universities from all over Europe and beyond signed on 18 September 1988, the 900th anniversary of the University of Bologna, 'The Magna **Charta Universitatum**' document. It contains principles of academic freedom and institutional autonomy.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's day	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

March 2020



The CEPS Ideas Lab is an annual forum that brings together Europe's top decision makers and thinkers to discuss the major issues confronting the EU and to explore innovative solutions.

“Europe’s Choice”

How should we judge the performance of the European Commission? What should be the new Commission's priorities? What should the programme be for the next Commission? What can it realistically achieve? How can it ensure that the EU relevant for citizens?

Rising populism threatens a Europe of shared values, based on institutions that allow member states to enhance their own sovereignty by sharing it. Many politicians seek to achieve short-term political gains, putting at risk what has been painstakingly constructed over generations. This choice will play out both in the elections to the European Parliament and in the Leaders' Agenda for the [EU Summit in Sibiu](#), 30 March 2019.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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29	30	31				

April 2020

Palm oil is an edible vegetable oil and many processed **foods** either contain palm oil or various ingredients made from it. Palm oil is also used to produce **biodiesel**. Indonesia is the world's largest producer of palm oil. The high oil yield of the trees has encouraged wider cultivation, leading to the clearing of forests in parts of Indonesia to make space for oil-palm monoculture.

For years the palm oil industry has been under fire; deforestation, habitat degradation, climate change, animal cruelty and human rights are issues. The EU plans to ban the use of palm oil for biofuels starting in 2030. In Indonesia the industry is an important employer and source of income. Through ongoing dialogue and engagement, we must build the bridge as we walk on.

In the Dutch Senate, representatives of business, research, WWF and the **Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries** discussed bottlenecks and possible solutions during the RT meeting:



“A broader perspective on Palm Oil”.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Good Friday	11
12 1st Easter day	13 2nd Easter day	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Day of the Earth	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2020

The 17th annual international CIFA forum, the convention of independent financial advisors, kicked off at the United Nations headquarters in New York. This year's CIFA theme of "**How to mobilize private finance towards funding the UN-Sustainable Development Goals**" brought diplomats, UN officials and independent international financial advisors & thought leaders together for a frank and open discussion on how CIFA can assist the UN on reaching its ambitious **Sustainable Development Goals** of 2030.

"Adam Smith argued that a moral framework and cooperation are essential for a successful society. 250 Years later, we landed in financial crisis and in air pollution. But we can also build cities like Rome and New York or put a man on the moon and create microchips. In the current era, we are living in a world of modern humanism, a world turning more Hobbesian and a world of ethnic distancing and religious separatism.



To achieve the SDGs, modern humanism along with a free market economy and a liberal economic model is the most eligible to meet the broadest needs of the people. But this is still not enough. What lacks we discussed last 2 days. "*Capital will flow where it is wanted and stay where it is well treated*", Walter Wriston wrote. Investors want to invest where there is trust, future expectations and sufficient return on investment (RoI) as well as return on environment (RoE)."

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Europe Day
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Ascension Day	22	23
24 Eid al-Fitr	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 1st day of Pentecost						

June 2020

Dictatorship, human rights abuses, damage to the environment, the suffering of refugees – in his work, **Ai Weiwei** uncompromisingly addresses the most urgent issues facing the world today. His political activism and creative brilliance made him one of the world’s most appreciated and relevant artists, at great personal risk: he was arrested, had his passport confiscated and his studio destroyed by the authorities.

*Dropping a
Han Dynasty
Urn*



Who better to ask about the responsibilities of an artist than **Ai Weiwei**? What can art achieve in a time when dissidents are locked up and journalists murdered without so much as a second thought? How far can the artist go? How far should he go? Ai Weiwei lectured on invitation of the **Nexus Institute** : **The Responsibilities of an Artist**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 2st day of Pentecost	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2020



Main ambition of this programme: providing an inside-out analysis and strategic assessment of the links between the European Union (EU) and Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries and building connections across Eastern and Western Europe. This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.

Leiden University hosted the Final Conference in the Hague. The research in the project was framed by two main questions: **First**, why has the EU fallen short of creating peace, prosperity and stability in its Eastern neighbourhood? And **second**, what can be done to strengthen the EU’s transformative power in supporting political and economic change in the six EaP countries?

The key findings are listed in [this newsletter](#).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Germany EU Presidency	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2020

The blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They address the global challenges we face. The Goals interconnect and in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve each Goal and target by 2030.



The SDGs are targets for global development adopted in September 2015. All countries of the world have agreed to work towards achieving these goals.

SDG Tracker presents data across all available indicators from the [Our World in Data](#) database, using official statistics from the UN and other international organizations.

Adam Smith argued that a moral framework and cooperation are essential for a successful society. 250 Years later, we landed in financial crisis and in air pollution. But we can also build cities like Rome and New York or put a man on the moon and create microchips. Modern humanism along with a free market economy and a liberal economic model is the most eligible to meet the broadest needs of the people. But this is still not enough. Capital will flow where it is wanted and stay where it is well treated", Walter Wriston wrote. Investors want to invest where there is trust, future expectations and sufficient return on investment linked to return on environment.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2020



2019 Bruegel Annual Meetings brought together nearly 1,000 participants for two days of policy debate and discussion.

This year were discussed:

- economic priorities for Europe
- geopolitics
- globalisation
- decarbonisation and its social impact
- the future of Europe's financial system
- and many other vital issues

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 International Day of Democracy	16	17	18	19
20	21 International Day of Peace	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2020

As if Settembrini and Naphta were alive 21 september:

Bernard-Henri Lévy,

French philosopher, author and filmmaker, and one of Europe’s most important public intellectuals who still carries the torch of European humanism.



Aleksandr Dugin,

political philosopher and founder of the **Eurasian Movement** in Russia. He is a staunch critic of liberalism. His most prominent book is **The Fourth Political Theory**.

They faced off on stage as defenders of the Enlightenment and anti-Enlightenment.

“For us, too, the question remains: what should be our view of humanity and the world? Which teacher should we follow? Should it be Lodovico Settembrini? This Italian freemason and humanist detests religion and metaphysics, but fully trusts in the goodness of human nature, the power of reason, and the power of literature, because, he believes, beautiful words lead to beautiful deeds or Naphta, a devoted communist Jesuit, who wishes to convert us to a completely different view of humanity and the world. For him liberalism, humanism, capitalism are nothing but empty intellectual notions that can do nothing to nourish the spiritual yearnings of human beings.”

‘To create intellectual clarity about life itself’ – that was **Thomas Mann’s** ambition with his masterpiece **The Magic Mountain**. In the spirit of its founding novel, the **Nexus Institute** has been bringing together the foremost thinkers and artists from all over the world for the past 25 years. To celebrate its 25th anniversary, **the Nexus Symposium 2019, ‘The Magic Mountain Revisited’**, revolved around the themes and music from The Magic Mountain.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 World Animal Day	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 United Nations Day
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween

November 2020

Technology changes the world at a fast pace. Societies and individuals can benefit in all manner of ways through access to knowledge, people and organizations on a local and global level. More than that, digital has become a must-have, for people, society and the economy.



Indeed, digital technology fosters innovation. Unfortunately, the Internet is not immune to evil. Breaches of norms and values are also occurring in the online and cyber worlds, ranging from fraud, identity theft, bullying and other forms of personal harassment or exploitation through to malign social engineering, phishing and hacking attacks which can threaten key networks and even entire nations. Fairness, transparency and accountability dictate that any victim, – whether individual, organization, society, nation or even democracy itself – which suffers from these issues should be able to address those responsible and to secure meaningful, effective redress ([The Institute for Accountability in the Digital Age / I4ADA](#)).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 International Day for Tolerance	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2020

The Ring

or What Will Rule the World?

During the **Nexus** Conference 2019, international representatives of the worlds of power and the arts – connoisseurs and devotees of Wagner’s work – offered their critical view of the world of today and their vision for the world of tomorrow.



What will guide us when the old gods, values and traditions have been destroyed? What will a new world order look like? Can we ever free ourselves from the insatiable thirst for power and wealth, or is it an inescapable part of human nature? How do we fight old demons like xenophobia, antisemitism and fascism? How do we avoid ending up in a society where profit and efficiency are all that matters, a machine civilization where humans are powerless and redundant? And finally, what role can art and love play in addressing these problems? [See the brochure.](#)

[@ceesvlotringen](#) tweeted: “Great, moving opening speech by [@M_Ignatieff](#): ‘Fighting climate change is about policy, policy, policy. Don’t give up on liberal democracy. We need actually more democracy instead of less, we have to enable all citizens to act’!”

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 day of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Start Chanoeka	23	24	25 1st Christmas	26 2nd Christmas
27	28	29	30	31 New Year’s Eve		