



PRESS RELEASE

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New CER essay

## **DIVIDED WORLD**

### **The struggle for primacy in 2020**

By Mark Leonard

As economic and military power shifts from west to east, a new ideological competition about the shape of world order will emerge. Mark Leonard argues in his new CER essay that there will be four competing models of world order in 2020, rather than a single world order.

The most powerful pole will continue to be the American world, seeking to create a balance of power that favours democracy. An expanded 'Eurosphere' will share the Americans' belief in democracy – but be divided from them by its support for international institutions. To Europe's east, Russia and China will lead an 'axis of sovereignty' that seeks to use law and multilateral institutions to protect states from western interference. To the south, in the Middle East and North Africa, a stateless world of faith will be defined neither by democracy nor the rule of law.

Mark Leonard argues that the tensions in this 'quadripolar world' will split the globe along two axes: between democracies and autocracies; and between countries seeking a balance of power and those that want a world organised around international law and institutions.

The EU's task will be to engage those elements within the other blocs that can help it prevent the emergence of a settled quadripolar world. Such a world would undermine the EU's ability to promote its interests and values.

#### Notes for editors:

1. Until November 2006 Mark Leonard was director of foreign policy at the CER. In 2007 he is establishing a new pan-European initiative of the Soros foundations network, to promote the EU as a model for an open society. He is the author of 'Why Europe will run the 21<sup>st</sup> century' (4<sup>th</sup> Estate, 2005), and of 'What does China think?' (forthcoming May 2007).

2. This essay can be ordered from the CER website ([www.cer.org.uk](http://www.cer.org.uk)) or by contacting Kate Meakins at [kate@cer.org.uk](mailto:kate@cer.org.uk).

3. To discuss this publication you can email Mark Leonard directly on [Mark.Leonard@osife.eu](mailto:Mark.Leonard@osife.eu).

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