



The Board of the **Austro-British Society** (ABS) together with the Board of the **Foreign Policy and United Nations Association** (UNA-AUSTRIA) has the great pleasure in inviting all **Members and Friends** of the Society to a fascinating **lecture** about

The Decline of the West?

by

The Rt. Hon. Sir Malcolm Rifkind, KCMG, QC



Sir Malcolm Rifkind

The lecture will examine the belief, in Beijing and Moscow that the West is in decline for the first time since the 17th century. It will seek to explain why this has become a major issue. It will offer a view on the strengths and weaknesses of this proposition. It will acknowledge that the political supremacy of the United States and Europe is bound to be in *relative* decline as Asia, Latin America and Africa become modern, prosperous societies. Sir Malcolm will strongly dispute that what are often called “Western values” are only appropriate for Europe and North America as is implied by Chinese and Russian leaders. Values such as Democracy and the Rule of Law are universal values that have been adopted by many countries in every continent and will become universal. He will conclude that there is a new equilibrium slowly developing between “the West” and the rest of the world but that has often happened before in ancient and modern history.

at
**the Clubrooms of the
Foreign Policy and
United Nations
Association of Austria
(UNA-AUSTRIA)**

**Hofburg/Stallburg
Reitschulgasse 2/2
1010 Wien**

on
**Friday, 22 November 2019 at
17:00 h**

The Rt. Hon. Sir Malcolm Rifkind KCMG QC (born in Edinburgh in 1946)

Key Posts

Visiting Professor, King's College, London University (Dept of War Studies) 2015-
Distinguished Fellow, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) 2015-
Chair of Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament, 2010-15
Member, OSCE Eminent Persons Panel 2015-16
Member, Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group 2010-2011
Visiting Professor, Department of Politics, Edinburgh University, 1997-1998
Foreign & Commonwealth Secretary, 1995-97
Secretary of State for Defence, 1992-95
Secretary of State for Transport, 1990-92
Secretary of State for Scotland, 1986-90
Minister of State, Foreign Office, 1983-86

Sir Malcolm was one of only five ministers to serve for 18 years, throughout the whole Prime Ministerships of both Margaret Thatcher and John Major. This was the longest, uninterrupted, ministerial service in the United Kingdom since Lord Palmerston in the early 19th century.

In 1997 he was knighted in recognition of his public service.

The President of the Austro-British Society **Prof Dr Kurt Tiroch** will welcome our Speaker and introduce the Lecture. **Colin Munro CMG**, Ambassador Ret. and Member of the Board of the ABS and Chairman of the United Kingdom Citizens in Austria (UKCA) will undertake the Moderation of the Q. and A. Session and will also conclude the formal proceedings.

Please note: Because of the great interest a seat is only guaranteed, if you arrive not later than 16:30 h!

Afterwards a Finger Buffet and Drinks will be served.

It is as always First Come, First Served so please register by latest 15 November 2019 via the Registration Link on the accompanying email!

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