

BILDERBERG



SAMUN

BILDERBERG



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Letter from Presidents

Dear members of the Bilderberg Group:

We are very pleased to welcome you to SAMUN XI. Our names are Juan Miguel Otero and Eduardo Diazgranados, and we will be presiding over the Bilderberg Committee. This will be the first time that we will be presiding over a committee; nevertheless, we are extremely honored and privileged to be chairing this year's MUN initiative.

We are glad to have all of you on the committee of BILDERBERG and hope we can have stimulating debates on all of our topics. We aspire to have highly formative sessions, where you, the attendants, can participate and learn about these pressing topics that will be discussed and hopefully come to rich, realistic, and focused resolutions to the topics at hand. The Foundation Bilderberg Meetings hopes to have a flawless event and count on the attendance of all the participants to debate and propose alternative approaches to solve problems that humanity is facing.

We look forward to seeing all of you in SAMUN.

Sincerely,

Chairs of Bilderberg.



Introduction to Bilderberg

Since its inauguration in 1954, the annual Bilderberg Meeting has been a forum for an informal discussion to foster dialogue between North America and Europe. Nonetheless, currently, in a globalized world, it is hard to think of any kind of issue that could be tackled unilaterally by either Europe or North America. Every year, approx. 130 of the most influential political leaders and experts from industry, finance, academia, media, and labor are invited to take part in the Meeting. The conference is a forum for informal discussions regarding major issues.

The participants invited to the conference are selected by a steering committee from leaders who distinguish themselves in the areas of business, technology, labor, academia, and government. There is always a comprehensive discussion to ensure diversity in background, views, generations, and gender. It is important to highlight that there is no media coverage to encourage the highest level of openness and dialogue. The only media accepted would be the press delegate selected by the Steering Committee, who is in charge of creating the press release that would be shared with the public.



Topic A: Free World vs Authoritarians.

Key concepts

Free World:

Expression used to describe non-communist countries during the Cold War. The term is related today to democracies and nations embracing free markets as well as freedom of cult and speech.

Authoritarianism:

Form of government in which a sole party is governing without interference and/or opposition, characterized by typically controlling every aspect of human life including media, markets, high functionaries, and greater companies.

Free Market:

An economic system with only a small amount of government control, in which prices and earnings are decided by the level of demand for, and production of goods and services.

Capitalism:

An economic and political system in which property, business, and industry are controlled by private owners rather than by the state, to make a profit.

Private Property:

Property owned by private parties - essentially anyone or anything other than the government.

Socialism:

The set of beliefs that states that all people are equal and should share equally in a country's money, or the political systems based on these beliefs.

**Communism:**

The belief in a society without different social classes in which the methods of production are owned and controlled by all its members and everyone works as much as they can and receives what they need.

Price controllers:

A government regulation establishing a maximum price to be charged for specified goods and services, especially during periods of war or inflation.

Competition:

This is a scenario where different economic firms are in contention to obtain goods that are limited by varying the elements of the marketing mix: price, product, promotion, and place.

Monopoly:

The exclusive possession or control of the supply of or trade in a commodity or service.

Oligopoly:

An oligopoly is a market structure in which a market or industry is dominated by a small number of large sellers or producers.

Oligarchy:

A form of government in which only a few parties rule a system socially, economically, and politically.

Command Economy:

An economic system in which the means of production are publicly owned and economic activity is controlled by a central authority that assigns quantitative production goals and allots raw materials to productive enterprises.



Background

Over the Christmas of 1991, one of the biggest nations on earth collapsed, The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) had fallen having to dissolve into diverse countries that created intern conflicts afterward (e.g Yugoslavian and Ukrainian), giving the final end to the Cold War that started after WWII. Turning the wheel completely to the Capitalist side of society and giving the world new order, the American Order. Today, we've experienced the rise of new global powers: The Chinese rise during the XXI Century and Russian rebirth have been reasons for new polarization worldwide, similar to the one seen before. Despite economically accepting that a capitalist society prospers, China and Russia have not given up on their authoritarian regimes; China with the Communists led by XI Jinping and Russia by its polemical ruler, Vladimir Putin.

As a lethal pandemic, economic and physical insecurity, and violent conflict ravaged the world in 2020, democracy's defenders sustained heavy new losses in their struggle against authoritarian foes, shifting the international balance in favor of tyranny.



The impact of the long-term democratic decline has become increasingly global, broad enough to be felt by those living under the cruelest dictatorships, as well as by citizens of long-standing democracies. Nearly 75 percent of the world's population lived in a country that faced deterioration last year. The ongoing decline has given rise to claims of democracy's inherent inferiority. Proponents of this idea include official Chinese and Russian commentators seeking to strengthen their international influence while escaping accountability for abuses, as well as anti-democratic actors within democratic states who see an opportunity to consolidate power. They are both cheering the breakdown of democracy and exacerbating it, pitting themselves against the brave groups and individuals who have set out to reverse the damage.

The expansion of authoritarian rule, combined with the fading and inconsistent presence of major democracies on the international stage, has had tangible effects on human life and security, including the frequent resort to military force to resolve political disputes. As long-standing conflicts churned in places like Libya and Yemen, the leaders of Ethiopia and Azerbaijan launched wars last year in the regions of Tigray and Nagorno-Karabakh, respectively, drawing on support from authoritarian neighbors Eritrea and Turkey and destabilizing surrounding areas.



Although Freedom in the World's better-performing countries had been in retreat for several years, in 2020 it was struggling democracies and authoritarian states that accounted for more of the global decline. The proportion of Not Free countries is now the highest it has been in the past 15 years. On average, the scores of these countries have declined by about 15 percent during the same period.

Wealthy individuals and Big Corporations are receiving more criticism than ever as their power rises; Startups are providing individuals the opportunity to gain services they were not able to get before in an efficient way (Robinhood; NuBank; Blockchain); Emerging Markets (EMEs) seem to be finding their way into global markets and power and each of them is taking positions towards the actual conflicts. There is no question that we are facing today a new kind of Cold War that will face the Free Nations and those Authoritarian Regimes. The World is undoubtedly reaching a tipping point in which a New World Order will be established.

Guiding Questions

- How can order be maintained without being authoritarian or developing an anarchical state?
- What would a New World Order be like?
- Would it be possible for a balance between these two worlds in the Global Order?
- Socialism vs Capitalism, which economic system is the best?



Convenient Links

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Topic B: Embracement of Cryptocurrencies in the Modern Economy

Key concepts

Cryptocurrency:

a digital currency produced by a public network, rather than any government, that uses cryptography to make sure payments are sent and received safely.

CryptoAssets:

Cryptoassets are digital assets that use cryptographic techniques to generate a medium of exchange for financial transactions.

Blockchain:

a system used to make a digital record of all the occasions a cryptocurrency is bought or sold, and that is constantly growing as more blocks are added.

Decentralized systems:

A decentralized system is an interconnected information system where no single entity is the sole authority.



Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental policymaking body whose purpose is to establish international standards, and to develop and promote policies, both at national and international levels, to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

Markets in Crypto-Assets (MiCA):

Markets in Crypto-Assets (MiCA) is a proposed regulation in EU law. It is intended to help streamline distributed ledger technology (DLT) and virtual asset regulation in the European Union (EU) whilst protecting users and investors.

Centralized finance:

A centralized market is a financial market structure that consists of having all orders routed to one central exchange with no other competing market.

Crypto Mining:

The competitive process that verifies and adds new transactions to the blockchain for a cryptocurrency that uses the proof-of-work (PoW) method.



Background

Cryptocurrencies have newly emerged as important financial software systems.

Bitcoin, like many other cryptocurrencies, has matured from being associated with techies and radicals to nowadays being considered by many important banks as technology to implement and revolutionize digital banking and money. These types of currencies exist only in digital form and can be transferred completely between digital different addresses. Already a very considerable number of such currencies have been deployed so far, nevertheless, most of them are still in the early stages of development. Cryptocurrencies have received a high amount of attention recently. Unsurprisingly, the advances and innovations in digital currencies have not gone unnoticed by regulators and lawmakers. These are considering introducing and indeed have introduced some forms of regulations for cryptocurrencies. Regulatory proposals and responses have, of course, differed greatly across the board. Some administrations, such as the USA and Germany have introduced limited forms of regulations intended to address cryptocurrencies. Other jurisdictions, including Vietnam and Iceland, have instituted some type of ban on the use of these digital currencies.

Cryptocurrency has expanded on the promise of decentralized, transparent, and direct monetary transactions. To achieve authority-free exchanges, cryptocurrencies use DLTs such as blockchain. A blockchain is usually managed by a peer-to-peer network (P2P), which allows direct transmission of information between interconnected users. Therefore, cryptocurrencies can be transferred directly between two parties in a simple manner. These transfers are carried out via public and private keys and allow users to avoid the transaction fees charged by traditional monetary institutions.

The growth of cryptocurrency is also attributed to the confidentiality maintained throughout a transaction. Whereas under a cash system a person's transaction history may be examined by the bank in question, cryptocurrency guarantees that each transaction is a unique exchange between parties, the terms of which can vary in every case. This safeguards the users' privacy and protects them from the threat of identity theft, which can be present in traditional systems.



Today, as conflict arises between Russia and Ukraine, cryptocurrencies have proved efficient and secure towards the allocation of resources, a great example of this is Bitcoin Donations for the Ukrainian Government, which as of March 1st have surpassed the twenty million dollar barrier. However, this also has its counterpart: as Russian Banks and individuals were banned from receiving U.S Dollars, they have seen an opportunity to round this by addressing cryptocurrencies for payments and camouflaging their assets. This provides enough back to the argument that cryptocurrencies will be key in establishing a new way of transferring funds, allocating, saving, and investing them in the future.

Guiding Questions

- Should cryptocurrencies be treated as an asset, a currency or should they have their own category?
- What is the consensus on the existence and severity of risks associated with cryptocurrencies?
- What should be the common standard of use of cryptocurrencies and what is the best way to address the risk?
- Should cryptocurrencies be banned or encouraged?



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Bitcoin Energy Consumption index. Digiconomist. (2022, February 25). Retrieved March 17, 2022, from <https://digiconomist.net/bitcoin-energy-consumption>



Topic C: Social networking sites and their repercussions and implications on current society.

Key Concepts:

Social Media:

websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking.

Internet:

a global computer network providing a variety of information and communication facilities, consisting of interconnected networks using standardized communication protocols.

Analytics:

Analytics is the way you interpret and find patterns in data. In a social media context, analytics is the process of following metrics on your social media performance and using that data to improve your strategy.

Application Programming Interface (API):

An API is a set of building blocks that programmers can use to develop computer programs. As far as social media is concerned, all the major social networks have their APIs that let programmers create software that works with the networks.

Networking:

the action or process of interacting with others to exchange information and develop professional or social contacts.



Background:

Social networking sites are internet-based forms of communication. Social media platforms allow their users to have conversations, create web content and share information. These platforms are primarily about connecting with friends, family, and acquaintances. Within the last decade, social media has become one of the most powerful sources for new updates, online collaboration, networking, entertainment, and viral marketing. There are hundreds of social media website applications that are used regularly.

Throughout the pandemic, people have been spending even more time on social media. Day to day social networking applications and platforms are constantly being developed. Social media has heralded a revolution in the world. It has gained momentum globally because of its better features, access, frequency, immediacy, usability, and permanence. It has been recognized so widely, and its usage has increased so incredibly today that it has moved from desktop computers to laptops to mobile phones.

The youth is especially one of the most dominant users of social media. All this makes people wonder that something so powerful and with such a massive reach cannot be all good. Subsequently, people have grown different opinions about social networking sites.



When we look at the positive aspects of social media, we find numerous advantages. The most important being a great device for education. All the information required is just one click away. Moreover, live lectures are now possible because of social media. A person could attend a lecture happening in America while sitting in Spain. Furthermore, as more and more people are distancing themselves from physical newspapers, they are depending on social media for news. Most importantly, these sites provide a great platform for young budding entrepreneurs and artists. People can get great opportunities for employment through social media. These platforms have become a hub for advertising and offer companies great opportunities for connecting with their customers.

Despite having such unique advantages, social media is considered by many people one of the most harmful elements of current society. Many states that if the use of social media is not monitored, it can lead to significant consequences.

It is harmful because it invades your privacy like never before. The oversharing happening on social media makes children a target for predators and hackers. It also leads to cyberbullying which affects any person significantly. Next up is the addition of social media which is quite common amongst the youth.

This addiction hampers the academic performance of a student as they waste their time on social media instead of studying. Social media also creates communal rifts. Fake news is spread with the use of it.



Guiding Questions:

- How can social media spark violence?
- What are the four ways in which social media is weaponized?
- Are social networking sites good for our society?



Guiding links:

Media Update. (2020, February 10). The impact of social media on our society. Media Update. Retrieved March 19, 2022, from <https://www.mediaupdate.co.za/social/147946/the-impact-of-social-media-on-our-society>

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American Psychological Association. (n.d.). Social Media's growing impact on our lives. American Psychological Association. Retrieved March 19, 2022, from <https://www.apa.org/members/content/social-media-research>



Topic D: Interplanetary Colonization and Economical Ventures

Key Concepts

Outer Space: Space further apart from the Earth's Atmosphere.

Space Junk: Unwanted objects or material left in space by human activity, such as pieces of older destroyed equipment.

Asteroid Mining: Asteroid mining is the hypothetical exploitation of materials from asteroids and other minor planets, including near-Earth objects.

Space exploration: Exploration, investigation, using crewed and uncrewed spacecraft, of the reaches of the universe beyond Earth's atmosphere and the use of the information gained to increase knowledge of the cosmos to benefit humanity.

Satellite: Device sent up into space to travel around the earth, used for collecting information or communicating by radio, television, etc.

Space tourism: The activity of traveling into space with the main purpose of relaxation and discovery.

Space Rockets: Rockets are designed to travel through space or to launch a spacecraft.

Commercial use of space: The provision of goods or services of commercial value by using equipment sent into Earth orbit or outer space.

Environmental damage: The negative effects that the activities of people and businesses have on the environment.



Background

Outer space has consistently been one of man kind's biggest mysteries.

Since the beginning of human civilization itself, colonization and commercial use of Outer space has become a very controversial yet important topic to consider. The exploration of outer space in recent years has highly increased due to its importance to human civilization. Advances in technology have helped humanity to discover and explore the unknown. Many public and private firms around the globe have shown huge interest in outer space exploration, furthermore the commercial use of it for different purposes. The benefits that outer space colonization and commercial use could bring to humankind are immeasurable nevertheless it also might bring huge disadvantages.

The multiple undisclosed outcomes that the colonization and commercial use of space could bring has led people to ask if it is worth the hassle.

With the huge advances in technology and the recent expansion in the purchasing power of people, outer space has become a relevant topic to discuss. Many entrepreneurs around the globe have seen it as a new business opportunity. Private firms such as SpaceX, Planetary Resources, Blue Origin, and Virgin Galactic among many others have highly recently invested in the commercial use of Outer Space. Some of them hope that space tourism will become a reality in the near future. On the contrary experts such as Robin Hanbury have manifested their disagreement towards continuing space exploration, and even have stated that it is a waste of economic resources. Furthermore, he affirms that the negative impact of launching these rockets would have a negative cost on our environment.



The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has stated regarding space exploration and all its implications “it helps to address fundamental questions about our place in the Universe and the history of our solar system. By addressing the challenges related to human space exploration we expand technology, create new industries, and help to foster a peaceful connection with other nations. The intangible desire to explore and challenge the boundaries of what we know and where we have been having provided benefits to our society for centuries.”

However, as previously mentioned, space exploration could cause negative effects on our planet. According to a scientist from the BBC, “Space launches can have a hefty carbon footprint due to the burning of solid rocket fuels. Rocket engines release trace gasses into the upper atmosphere that contribute to ozone depletion, as well as particles of soot. But it's not just our immediate environment, 'space junk' is a growing concern as discussed satellites and other objects accumulated in our planet's orbit. On top of the environmental impact, it also demands a large number of economical resources that could be used elsewhere, areas such as poverty and climate change.



Guiding Questions

- How would Space Exploration and Exploitation of economic ventures on it benefit humanity?
- Is it possible for this industry to become sustainable in the near future?
- What kind of opportunities does Outer Space represent for mankind?
- Will humans colonize another planet soon?
- Is outer space exploration worthy and should it continue?
- What type of organization should be in charge of space activities?



Convenient links

On Space Exploration:

CNN. (2020, April 22). These are the benefits of space exploration. YouTube. Retrieved March 17, 2022, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkTeSI-B9D0>

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