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INTERLIB

Journal of the Liberal International British Group



AFGHANISTAN GUINEA HONG KONG BNOs CUBA
SOUTH SUDAN LIBERAL DEMOCRATS CONFERENCE

EVENTS

14th September – Free Tibet Demonstration, Royal Mint Building, Royal Mint Court, London EC3N 4DX 6.00pm see page

15th September – Afghanistan’s Future under Taliban 2.0 Rule, Webinar by German Group LI (in English) 4.00 UK time, 5.00 CET. See page 4

17th - 20th September – Liberal Democrats Autumn Conference.

19th September – International Talk Like a Pirate Day

21st September – Radix – The China Conundrum 6.00pm Zoom – see pages

30th September – Paddy Ashdown Forum/European Liberal Forum – The Rise of China 12.00 noon NLC/Zoom see pages

1st-3rd October – 204th Executive Committee Meeting of Liberal International, by Zoom. Deadline for Urgency resolutions (post 6th August) 30th September – contact office@liberal-international.org

2nd October – 136th Liberal Party Assembly, Briar Rose Hotel, Birmingham. B2 5RE

8th-9th October – Scottish Liberal Democrats Virtual Autumn Conference.

9th-10th October – Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru/Welsh Liberal Democrats Virtual Autumn Conference

1st November – LIBG AGM (followed by speaker on South America) – 6.30pm Zoom

InterLib is published by the Liberal International (British Group). Views expressed therein are those of the authors and are not necessarily the views of LI(BG), LI or any of its constituent parties.

Comments and articles can be sent to Lockhart & Hastings, Intellectual Properties Consultants, 29 St Helen’s Crescent, Hastings TN34 2EN, email lockharthastings@btconnect.com

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Photographs: Stewart Rayment, Liberal International, Chinese Liberal Democrats.

Cover Photograph – Afghanistan Embassy, 31 Princes Gardens Kensington.



LIBG AT CONFERENCE



SATURDAY 18th SEPTEMBER

16.20-17.30 FRINGE

Liberal International British Group & Liberator

Russia and its influence on neighbours?

From Gender, LGBTQ+ and Judicial/ freedom of rights - how can we protect our friends? Human rights – in particular for women and LGBTQ+ people – are being eroded in the former Soviet Union and much of eastern Europe. What is happening and how can we help to protect our friends? Liberal International British Group and Liberator present a discussion led by speakers who represent nations affronting this persecution. Chair Adrian Hyyrylainen-Trett (LIBG Chair) Baroness Sal Brinton (ALDE Vice President), Tamas Csillag (Hungarian representative from Momentum Party) Others to be confirmed.

www.Libg.co.uk @LibIntBg @juvelad

SUNDAY 19th SEPTEMBER

16.20-17.30 FRINGE

The International Office together with FIRC

The Rise of Authoritarian China

What should our Long-Term Response be? China is expected to be the largest world economy by the end of this decade. How should we manage this relationship with the Chinese Communist Party in charge? What are the 'red lines' for UK/Europe to coexist with China? Chair Phil Bennion, (FIRC Chair), Reinhard Bütikofer - Chair European Parliamentary Delegation with PRC, Baroness Smith of Newnham - Lords Spokesperson on Defence, George Cunningham - Chair FIRC Sub Committee on China, Ilhan Kyuchyuk - Co President of ALDE

MONDAY 20th SEPTEMBER

19.05-20.15 FRINGE

Rights-Liberties-Justice (Lib Dem Lawyers Assoc) with Liberal International British Group

Human rights challenges for UK foreign policy

The discussion will focus on recent/emerging challenges, especially South Asia; is the west losing its influence/authority to address issues (Myanmar, Uyghurs and now Afghanistan). Adrian Hyyrylainen-Trett (Chair LIBG), Callum Robertson (Chair Young Liberals), Baroness Alison Suttie (expert on Central Asia & Human Rights), James Sandbach (Lib Dem Lawyers), Geoffrey Nice QC.

Webinar

Afghanistan's future under Taliban 2.0 rule

September 15, 2021 4:00 PM (UK time)

The German Group of Liberal International. is organising a webinar on the political situation in Afghanistan after the fall of Kabul, the getaway of President Ashraf Ghani and the collapse of his government, and the takeover of power by the Taliban.

Discussion will be with. **Hayatullah Jawad** of the Afghan Human Rights Research and Advocacy Organization (AHRRAO), a knowledgeable representative of Afghan democratic civil society, and the topic is: "Afghanistan's future under Taliban 2.0 rule"

Our host will be **George Cunningham**, who is a former EU Deputy Ambassador to Kabul and very familiar with the realities of the country.

We invite you to attend our webinar **on Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 5:00 p.m. German time / 4PM UK time**
Please click on the following link to participate in the webinar using your computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://www.gotomeet.me/juergenmartensmdb/dgli>

Access code: 244-819-445

You can also dial in using a telephone.

Germany: +49 892 0194 301

Access code: 244-819-445

This special session will be in English.

Please note: This is not an LIBG event. Enquiries to: info@dgli.de

Background to the meeting:

A new tragic chapter is unfolding in Afghanistan: The Taliban have taken power and have just formed a new non-inclusive government, including UN-sanctioned terrorists. Many states have evacuated their citizens and some of their local employees, un-der dramatic circumstances. Troubled times are ahead for the country. After the Taliban's victory, it is time for the West to re-think its strategy in the fight against terrorism. A mission that began in 2001 under the auspices of the war on terror and then made an attempt at nation-building has ended in failure. The West would do well to avoid such scenarios in the future. For the nascent Afghan civil society, advocating human rights, women's rights and a self-determined life in freedom, the development is an absolute disaster. What are their prospects under the Taliban 2.0 regime? What's about their "life, liberty and pursuit of happiness" in Afghanistan. How will the Great Game in Central Asia play out next?

Speaker biography:

Hayatullah Jawad is founder and director of the Afghan Human Rights Research and Advocacy Organization (AHRRAO). He holds a master degree on Human Rights of Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg and a bachelor degree from Persian Literature Faculty of Balkh University. He worked as Field Monitoring Officer for about 10 years in Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and in close partnership with the German Federal Foreign Office, GIZ, Berlin Free University, Berghof Foundation, and Max Plank Institute for the Rule of Law.

Jawad participated in the Doha Peace Conference for Afghanistan in 2019 organized by Berghof Foundation and supported by the German Foreign Office. Until recently Jawad worked in Afghanistan on strengthening of decision making processes in peace talks in his home country through academic measures in order to keep the space open for civil and political activities. He is now back in Germany with his core family members. He is a scholar of Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

Too Little Too Late? The UK's Response to the Situation in Afghanistan

Dr. Julie Smith

In the days and weeks following the Taliban's rapid takeover of Afghanistan the British Government had two main messages: first, that the collapse of the Afghan regime came so quickly, that they were blind-sided (hence the Foreign Secretary and several senior civil servants could justify being on holiday, or so they thought) and, secondly, that the evacuation of around 15,000 British and Afghan nationals in Op Pitting was a wonderful achievement, never had so many people been evacuated so swiftly since the end of World War Two. Alongside these declarations was a commitment to accept 20,000 refugees in an initiative called Op Warm Welcome.

Cynically, one might think the most surprising of these facts is that the Home Office under Priti Patel would consider giving anyone a warm welcome. Has the UK's hostile environment been vanquished? From the scenes in the Channel and the Home Secretary's attempts to stop migrants reaching British shores by boat, it would seem not. Indeed, the contrast between the pledges for the 20,000 who will be permitted to come from Afghanistan and those, including Afghans, seeking to enter the UK by sea is stark. Moreover, the proposals for the 20,000 who would be granted safe passage and asylum over the course of the next four years remain vague and ungenerous. The 20,000 will not all be permitted to arrive in 2021 – the time when the most vulnerable need to leave with the utmost urgency, lest they are no longer alive to take up the UK's offer. Rather, the Government has pledged to accept just 5,000 people this year, with the remaining 15,000 permitted to come over the next four years. These numbers are paltry and the vast majority of places delayed for far too long. The situation is urgent and the FCDO needs a response that reflects that urgency – it cannot and must not be hamstrung by an illiberal, intolerant and mean-spirited Home Office. The idea that 20,000 reflects the numbers of refugees that David Cameron agreed to accept from Syrian refugee camps completely fails to reflect the gravity of the situation in Afghanistan, the numbers of internally displaced people, and the consequences of almost twenty years of British, American and wider NATO involvement in Afghanistan.

The legacy of that engagement is such that the UK has a moral duty to support many individuals who have worked with, for and shoulder-to-shoulder alongside UK nationals in the military, Embassy or British Council, whether as interpreters – perhaps the best known category – chefs or cleaners, often contract workers, not directly employed by the British Government. True, the Government created the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme, which came into effect in April 2021 for those who had worked most closely with the UK. But the rules were tightly drawn and those who had been sub-contracted to work for the UK rather than directly employed saw their applications routinely rejected. Similarly, some who had been dismissed for minor offences which members of the Cabinet past and present have admitted to, such as smoking dope, were excluded without further consideration. Would such people really pose a threat to the UK national interest? Apart from such inherent flaws in the scheme, other questions arise with ARAP, not least which family members might be entitled to leave and to what extent are dependents included in the Government's figures of those who had left before 15th August and those who were evacuated in the period up to the closure of Kabul airport. Why does this matter? Because the Government has an idea of the numbers to whom it owes this duty – and leading signatories of the letter sent several weeks earlier led by Richard Dannatt and Charlie Herbert calling for the interpreters to be supported already raised such questions. How many of those on the ARAP have been evacuated and how many remain are crucial questions, as is the issue of family reunion. The details of such questions currently seem to elude ministers and that makes it difficult for MPs or peers (of whichever political hue) to give people the best advice regarding loved ones who are currently in Afghanistan.

It is well known that not everyone on the existing ARAP list, far less the wider group who are now deemed eligible to apply, having been previously rejected or told they were not eligible, managed to get out of Kabul before the airport closed in late August. Those left behind have been in an existential limbo. Some who had been expecting to leave were not ultimately able to do so as the terror attack led to changed advice (rightly for once) and fewer people managing to leave. The situation for these individuals, and for many others who worked with NATO allies or played leading roles in Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001, especially professional women, notably judges and parliamentarians, is one of extreme uncertainty. They fear not only for their own lives but also for their closest relatives – young daughters who might be taken as brides of the Taliban; sons who might be taken as soldiers. Many such people have an urgent need for support, to be given sanctuary in the UK or elsewhere. But what are their prospects? It is not clear that the Government has a strategy and even if it did, the 20,000 would barely be enough in 2021 alone.

Even for those who did not have particular links to Western forces or play a significant role in civil society before the return of the Taliban find themselves subject to unexpected and unwelcome dangers – people are not able to get money and without it cannot feed themselves or their children. Some aid has started to get through as Kabul airport has reopened but it remains limited. For women their careers are now unfeasible, for girls their prospect of education – a wonderful prospect over the last twenty years - has been ripped away. In short, the situation left in the wake of the NATO withdrawal is one that has left millions more vulnerable and tens of thousands in need of urgent assistance, including evacuation under the ‘safe passage’ the Taliban allegedly offered to allow until the end of August – that must be reinstated and the UK Government should make aid conditional on such cooperation.

In due course there must be an inquiry into the UK’s role in Afghanistan – both during the twenty years after 9/11 and more especially on the recent past. Why was the Government so surprised by events in the summer? The House of Lords International Relations and Defence Committee had raised concerns in January – the Government had even replied to that report. Why it failed to take note of the issues raised, including the need to lobby President Biden and suspend troop withdrawal remains a mystery. Answers are needed. But in the short term the focus must be on limiting the humanitarian crisis and giving all the support possible to UK citizens still in Afghanistan and to those left most vulnerable.

Julie Smith

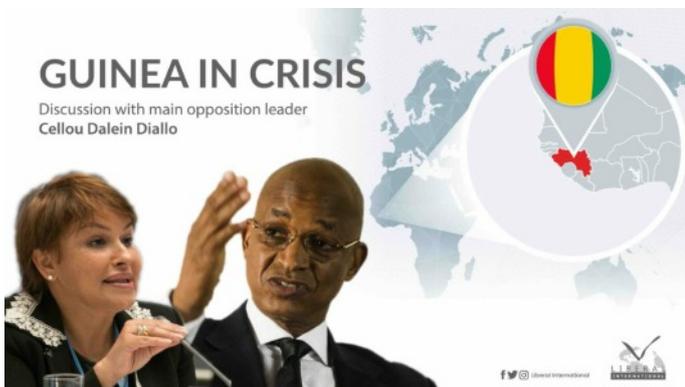
Dr. Julie Smith, Baroness Smith of Newnham, is Liberal Democrat spokesperson on Defence in the House of Lords.

Guinea in Crisis

On the 5th September, army forces led by Colonel Mamady Doumbouya staged a coup d'état in Guinea capturing authoritarian president Alpha Condé and dissolving the constitution and government. Obviously Liberals will have differences with Alpha Condé, but would question if this is the right way to resolve the problem.

“The international community must mobilize [demanding for the return of the constitution] to ensure fair, just and transparent elections,” said Cellou Dalein Diallo in a Liberal International facebook live event – his first video interview since the military seizure of power in Guinea which occurred on Sunday evening – with President of Liberal International Dr Hakima el Haité.

Cautioning that the international community must not ignore the plight of Guinea again, Mr Diallo said that “the coup d'état has been condemned by many in the international community and by the United Nations, but many previously failed to condemn Condé’s illegal changes to the constitution in 2020, as it directly paved the way for him to seek a third term.”



On 5 September 2021, military leaders in Guinea seized power from President Alpha Condé – shut its borders, installed a nationwide curfew and dissolved the constitution of the West-African Republic. Calling on “the international community to be the guardian of human rights and demanding the supervision process of democratic transition,” Dr El Haité also denounced the seizure of power by arms, citing a wave of deadly protests and human rights violations under Condé’s rule in recent years.

Dr El Haité asked what role Mr Diallo sees himself playing as Guinea’s democratic future sits on a knife-edge. Mr Diallo was hopeful stating that, “as the main opposition and a political force in the country, I am ready to participate in dialogue making sure that the country moves towards free and transparent elections.”

“Only through the promotion and protection of democracy are we capable of leading the reforms to guide national reconciliation”, Mr Diallo added.

Closing the virtual meeting, both Mr Diallo and Dr El Haité stated that “human rights must be respected and we must put an end to the impunity.”

Over many years Liberal International has vocally and actively supported the democratic forces in Guinea and stands ready to continue doing so as the country faces a fresh crisis.

Watch the interview between Dr El Haité and Cellou Diallo at

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=3094169767514196&ref=watch_permalink

InterLib last commented on events in Guinea in issue 2021-02 page 9 - LI Vice President Cellou Diallo barred from leaving Guinea by illiberal Alpha Condé and previously in 2018-02 Pages 5-7 - Guinea Foul

Welcoming HK BNOs

Dr Yeow Poon

Recently, the Chinese Liberal Democrats received a message expressing the following:

"I really appreciate the Liberal Democrats for the solid support given to us Hongkongers! However, I'm worried about the safety of Hongkongers moving to the UK, especially if supporters of the Chinese Communist Party gain political influence or get invited as a consultant to handle affairs regarding Hong Kong immigrants. There's a real risk that these people will cooperate with the Hong Kong or Chinese government to extend their oppression in and outside Hong Kong. I hope the Liberal Democrats can take some action regarding this and protect the safety of Hong Kongers who're seeking freedom and new lives in the UK."



The above message reflects rising tensions within the British Chinese community as allegations are made that Chinese community organisations cannot be trusted to support holders of Hong Kong BNO passports, as they have either been infiltrated or influenced by the Communist Party of China. In recent weeks, these allegations have spilt over to targeting individuals for views they may or may not have, and for their association with organisations that are deemed to be pro-China by those that are anti-China.

As Liberal Democrats, our policy towards refugees is to protect people forced to flee their homes to escape war and persecution. We believe in a fair migration

that ensures migrants coming to the UK are welcomed for the skills and contribution that they bring. We advocate the building of a diverse and inclusive society where rights and liberties are protected, where people can go about their lives in peace without fear of discrimination regardless of their ethnicity, religion or political beliefs. We also believe in fairness and tolerance, and in holding power to account.

Chinese Liberal Democrats acknowledge the struggle in Hong Kong between those seeking democracy for Hong Kong and those supporting China. We recognise the responsibility of the UK as set out in the Joint Declaration, and the obligation to support those who choose to leave Hong Kong and settle here. We are committed to enabling Hong Kong migrants to build a new peaceful, prosperous life as residents and eventually as citizens in the UK.

However, for a democratic society to function well, there are certain principles that we all need to adhere to. The first is freedom of speech, which means we should all be able to express our beliefs, political and otherwise, without fear of persecution, ridicule or being labelled as this or that. As Voltaire has said, "**I may disagree with what you have to say, but I shall defend, to the death, your right to say it.**"

The second is fairness and tolerance. There will always be disagreements in a diverse society, and we have to learn to agree to disagree, to co-exist peacefully with each other, as well as put aside our differences to work together for the common good where there are shared concerns.

The third is the rule of law. It is not helpful to community cohesion in the UK to insinuate wrongdoing when the evidence is thin, circumstantial or not properly investigated. There are proper channels to follow. For example, organisations that are registered with the Charity Commission, are not allowed to participate in political matters that lie outside their charitable purpose. Hence, if a Chinese community organisation is deemed to have taken political sides, it should be reported to the Charity Commission for investigation. **It is not for us to make allegations in public fora and to act as judge and jury.** If we are worried for our safety and have concerns about any illegal activities, we should bring the matter to the Police. If we are not satisfied with the conduct of the UK government or any statutory bodies, there are means of bringing them into account.



In summary, as Chinese Liberal Democrats, it is our hope that new migrants from Hong Kong and the existing Chinese communities in the UK can overcome any suspicion and learn to accept each other. We are aware that there are radical elements on both sides that see each other as mortal enemies and that their struggles will sometimes erupt into the wider community. The British Chinese community is after all not homogenous. We originated from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Mainland China, Malaysia, Singapore and other parts of Southeast Asia. Although we have a common Chinese heritage, we may also have diverse range of beliefs, values and ways of life.

Hence some CLD members/supporters may be pro-democracy for Hong Kong, some pro-China, others neutral or ambivalent. Yet, we can agree that we should *all* help HKers settling in the UK who have chosen (as we have) to make Britain home.

Dr Yeow Poon

Dr Yeow Poon is Chair of the Chinese Liberal Democrats

There is a template motion for local councils to welcome HK BNO (British National (Overseas)) residents to the UK on the Chinese Liberal Democrats website.

[Template Motion to welcome HK BNO residents to the UK \(Chinese Liberal Democrats\)](http://chineselibdems.org.uk)
chineselibdems.org.uk

LI Human Rights committee condemns new internet laws in Cuba

Liberal International's human rights committee condemns the recent restrictions imposed by the Cuban regime on internet use and social media, further curtailing the freedom of expression of the Cuban population. We applaud the strength and bravery of the Cuban people who took to the streets in one of the country's largest popular protests in decades to speak out against the dictatorial Castroist regime. The protests in response to the severe economic crisis and food and medicine shortages, shook the government which has been repressing dissent for the past 60 years.

We are alarmed that the regime did not seize this outpouring of political expression as an opportunity to engage constructively with its people. Instead, the adoption of "Decree 35" and accompanying legislation now paves the way to legitimising digital repression and further risking criminalisation of criticism of the government online.

The introduction of misinformation laws, which can be applied to suppress dissent, unveils a concerning potential for the state to exercise excessive use of force, internet shutdowns, and the arbitrary arrest of hundreds of peaceful protesters. Already, scores of protesters are in custody, with their families unaware of their location and legal status.

As liberal proponents of digital rights the human rights committee calls on the government to respect the right to access of telecommunications networks and to respect the fundamental freedoms pertaining to legitimate, free, and democratic expression on digital platforms. We further call for an immediate release of all political prisoners, including those detained during and in the aftermath of the protests in July.

NB: The Liberal International human rights committee is championing a campaign to promote liberal principles of digitalisation. You can engage with the campaign and learn more about the principles here.
<http://liberal-international.org/digitalprinciples/>

South Sudan's Miserable Tenth Birthday Rebecca Tinsley

The Republic of South Sudan has little to celebrate as it marks a decade since independence from the north. Human Rights Watch and Amnesty express concern that government corruption is rampant, human rights are ignored, peaceful critics and opposition figures are detained and tortured, and leaders manipulate ethnic grievance to maintain their grip on power.

An estimated 400,000 people out of a population of 11 million have died in the conflict that erupted in 2013. Commentators believe that the president, Salva Kiir (an ethnic Dinka) and his vice-president, Riek Machar (a Nuer) have deliberately provoked tribal clashes across South Sudan, each trying to gain political advantage. They eventually signed a peace deal in 2018, but the violence continues. Now, it seems the forces they unleashed have moved beyond their control, taking the form of cattle rustling, bride theft and robbery. While cattle rustling and bride theft are long standing problems in the region, these crimes are now perpetrated by heavily-armed young men who rape and kill to achieve their aims.

The rot starts at the top. Diplomats from the USA, South Sudan's most generous backer, express disgust at the personal greed of government officials and ministers, and their indifference to the suffering of their citizens. Yet, their fury has had little effect in the capital Juba, not least because American aid continues to flow into government coffers. The Troika (the UK, USA and Norway) which has midwived the world's newest nation, are reportedly frustrated by those in power.

Salva Kiir was democratically elected in 2010, but has cancelled subsequent polls. There are rumours that some military officers may be willing to rebel, but failure would probably bring with it a trip to one of the notorious ghost houses where dissidents are allegedly tortured and sometimes killed.

Speaking to *interLib*, Suzanne Jambo of the STEPS opposition party says Kiir and Machar must step aside "so we have something good to remember them by." She reflects on people's decades of sacrifice during the civil war against the Islamist regime in Khartoum. "After all that we went through, is this what we deserve?" she asks. Millions are internally displaced or are refugees in neighbouring Uganda, relying on food aid to survive.

Attempts by South Sudanese civil society to highlight popular concerns have been met with violence. A peaceful demonstration, called for August 30th, was abandoned when the government promised to respond to any protest with bullets. Civil society leaders including clergy were rounded up, mildly critical think tanks were closed, the internet was suspended prior to the march, and radio stations were taken off air. South Sudan is now cited by dictators as a warning to disgruntled minorities and movements seeking secession from repressive ruling elites. The country's unfolding tragedy is yet another example of what happens when the West loses interest in a nation before the work of building legitimate and sustainable institutions is complete.



*Rebecca Tinsley's novel about Darfur, When the Stars
Fall to Earth, is available on Amazon in English & Arabic.*

Going YLd in Manchester

Peter Banks

Young Liberals Conference is always a laugh. It's an opportunity for like-minded young people to come together, network, debate, and yes, experience a city's nightlife and nurse the ensuing hangovers. Without doubt, our first post-Lockdown Conference was sure to follow a similar path. More importantly, though, as International Officer of Young Liberals, I was determined to make sure that we were back at the vanguard of foreign policy creation, both within the Liberal Democrats and at the international level through our umbrella organisations in Europe (LYMEC) and globally (IFLRY). To this end, Young Liberals' Policy Officer, Janey Little, and I have worked very closely to bring a series of motions to both Young Liberals Conference and also to Federal Autumn Conference, reasserting Young Liberals' progressive, radical and necessary positions on foreign policy and human rights.

I was proud to move the motion *For Peace and Democracy in Belarus* as the first resolution discussed at Young Liberals Summer Conference. This motion was brought in solidarity with our sister organisation in Belarus, Civil Forum, whose members' homes and offices were raided by the Belarusian special forces just days before our Conference began. The motion commits Young Liberals to continue to campaign for the democratic freedom of Belarus, the end of the brutal dictatorship of Aleksandr Lukashenka, and the recognition of the mass movement of democratic opposition voices through acknowledging Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya as the rightful winner of the 2020 election. Belarus is Europe's last dictatorship, and Young Liberals will not stand by as freedom and democracy are crushed by a despotic regime and their Russian lackeys.

Toward the end of Conference, I also felt compelled to move an Emergency Motion entitled *Young Liberals in Solidarity with Uyghurs*. As a member of IFLRY's Standing Committee on the Uyghur Genocide and a frequent contributor on Uyghur issues and human rights more generally, I no longer felt I could stand by while a former Party leader used his position of authority to promote views (views commonly espoused by the Chinese Communist Party, I might add) amounting to genocide denial. There *is* a genocide taking place in China, right now, as Uyghurs are being tortured, forcibly sterilised, and made to disappear, all with the express purpose of annihilating an entire ethnic group. We as liberals have a moral duty not just to call this atrocity out for what it is-- a genocide-- but to move Heaven and Earth to try to stop it. There are many in this party who work tirelessly to do just that, not least Alistair Carmichael as Chair of the APPG on the Uyghurs, but while Sir Vince Cable continues to share convivial pints with Nigel Farage on GB News while denying these atrocities, our work to prevent them feels diminished and in vain. This is why my Emergency Motion called upon the Young Liberals Executive explicitly to express the view that Vince Cable is no longer welcome in the Liberal Democrats. This motion passed almost unanimously. There must be zero tolerance of genocide denial within the Liberal Democrats.

Of course this is of particular interest given the motion Young Liberals submitted to Liberal Democrat Autumn Conference also on the Uyghur Genocide; not only an important piece of policy, but an important milestone for Young Liberals, as our first foreign policy motion selected for debate at Federal Conference since we led the way in calling for an end to Apartheid over fifty years ago. Young Liberals, then, have never been scared to hold the torch for liberalism and light the way for our own mother party. It is time the whole party once again follow in Young Liberal footsteps, and add our voices to the chorus of activists and organisations condemning the CCP for their genocidal actions in Xinjiang, and committing to restore freedom and human rights to the most scarred regions of China. I hope the party will stand with me, with us, and say with one voice: we must stop the Uyghur genocide.

Peter Banks

Peter Banks is International Officer of the Young Liberals

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS' AUTUMN CONFERENCE: THE INTERNATIONAL BITS

For once we have a serious International agenda at the Liberal Democrats Autumn Conference, and a Fringe to match, though unfortunately too many of them clash.

FRIDAY 17th SEPTEMBER

18.45–19.30 F7 Policy motion: **Towards a Fair Global Corporation Tax System**

SATURDAY 18th SEPTEMBER

09.30 Policy motion: The Climate Change Conference and the UK Government

11.25 to 11.55pm F14 Policy Motion. **The Uyghur Genocide**

13.05-14.15 FRINGE

Liberal Democrat European Group – LDEG *The UK's relationship with the EU and our vision for its future* With this debate we start the Lib Dems' contribution to the "Conference on the Future of Europe" and engage our consultation on UK and EU's future relationship. Confirmed Speakers: Layla Moran MP, Lib Dem Foreign Affairs Spokesperson, Henrik Bach Mortensen, Vice President ALDE; Lord Adonis, Chair European Movement. www.ldeg.org @LibDemEurope

16.20-17.30 FRINGE

Liberal International British Group *Russia and its influence on neighbours? From Gender, LGBTQ+ and Judicial/ freedom of rights* – how can we protect our friends? Human rights – in particular for women and LGBTQ+ people – are being eroded in the former Soviet Union and much of eastern Europe. What is happening and how can we help to protect our friends? Liberal International British Group and Liberator present a discussion led by speakers who represent nations affronting this persecution. Chair Adrian Hyyrylainen-Trett (LIBG Chair) Baroness Sal Brinton (ALDE Vice President), Tamas Csillag (Hungarian representative from Momentum Party) Others to be confirmed.
www.Libg.co.uk @LibIntBg @juvelad

Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine – *Rethinking the path to Israeli-Palestinian peace: What can the UK do?* Hugh Lovatt is a Middle East expert, on the European Council on Foreign Relations, and will describe ways peace between Israel and Palestine could be achieved, and what the UK government could be doing to advance the process.

Spokesperson Q&A Climate Change with Wera Hobhouse MP and Lord Oates. Wera Hobhouse MP is the Spokesperson for Climate Change and Lord Oates is the Lords Spokesperson for Climate Change. They will be discussing the challenges that the UK is facing, what creative changes need to be made to meet the demands of the 21st Century, and what the Lib Dems are calling for. With all eyes on the upcoming COP26 Summit in Glasgow and regular climate disasters across the world, the urg

16.20-18.45 FRINGE

Lib Dems in International Development Please join LDID in discussing urgent development issues including the FCDO merger and the 0.7% aid cut. Lib Dem Lords 'In Conversation' will be followed by a

‘Decolonising Aid’ panel featuring frontbenchers and leading NGOs. Supported by CGP and BOND. Note: this event starts at 16.20 and ends at 18.45.

17.30-18.45 FRINGE

Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary (LD4SOS) *Annual General Meeting and Open Forum* The AGM business will include the opportunity to consider the way forward for LD4SOS followed by an open forum to discuss how Liberal Democrats can respond to the pressing issues faced by seekers of sanctuary in the UK. www.ld4sos.org.uk www.facebook.com/ld4sos @LD4SOS

SUNDAY 19th SEPTEMBER

13.05-14.15 FRINGE

Lib Dems Abroad *Lib Dems Abroad and the new Elections Bill* Millions of additional voters, ALL ages, in ALL constituencies. Speakers from the US and Britain, the Lords and the Commons. @Liberal Democrats Overseas

Liberal Democrat Friends of Israel “*Israel: A thriving liberal democracy*” with Israel’s Deputy Foreign Minister, Idan Roll In May a new Israeli government took office, consisting of 8 political parties, including an Arab party. The largest party is Yesh Atid, the Liberal Democrats’ sister party. Join LDFI and Israel’s Deputy Foreign Minister to explore the government’s vision. @_LDFI

16.20-17.30 FRINGE

Her Majesty’s Government of Gibraltar *WHERE TO NEXT* A level playing field for UK’s nations post pandemic and Brexit? Alistair Carmichael MP, Lib Dem Home Affairs, Dr Stephen Farry MP, Alliance Deputy Leader, and Dr Joseph Garcia, Gibraltar Liberal Party Leader and Deputy Chief Minister, debate.

The International Office together with FIRC *The Rise of China*: what should our Long-Term Response be? China is expected to be the largest world economy by the end of this decade. How should we manage this relationship with the Chinese Communist Party in charge? What are the ‘red lines’ for UK/Europe to coexist with China? Chair Phil Bennion, (FIRC Chair), Reinhard Bütikofer - Chair European Parliamentary Delegation with PRC, Baroness Smith of Newnham - Lords Spokesperson on Defence, George Cunningham - Chair FIRC Sub Committee on China, Ilhan Kyuchyuk - Co President of ALDE

Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary (LD4SOS) ‘*The Nationality and Borders Bill*’ LD4SOS hosts a panel of informed speakers to discuss the progress of this Bill through Parliament with information on how to campaign to mitigate its devastating impact on asylum seekers and refugees. Put your questions to our panel. www.ld4sos.org.uk www.facebook.com/ld4sos @LD4SOS

17.35-18.45 FRINGE

LGBT+ *Liberal Democrats Fighting for Global LGBT+ Rights* From San Francisco to Tblisi and even in the EU, LGBT+ people are under attack worldwide. Join us to look at the current global picture and discover what the Liberal Democrats can do to help at all levels. <https://lgbt.libdems.org.uk>

18.45 Party business: **Party Bodies Reform: constitutional amendment** (Considers, amongst other things the relationship of LIBG with the Liberal Democrats).

19.20 to 20.00pm F35 **Policy Motion International Trade and the DIT**

MONDAY 20th SEPTEMBER

10.10am to 11.35 F37 Potential Motion on Afghanistan (to hopefully be selected by conference)

12.00-13.00 F39 Policy Motion: towards a lasting peace in Israel and Palestine

15.30- 16:00 Policy Motion: Rebuilding our Cultural, Artistic, and Educational ties with Europe

17.50-19.00 FRINGE

Green Liberal Democrats *Legacy of Leadership: How Lib Dems shaped UK climate leadership ...and what next post COP26.* Join GLD, PRASEG and sustainability hub to look at the leadership/role that Lib Dems in Parliament and local government can play in ensuring that the government delivers on its net zero promises with concrete action. Chair: Keith Melton (GLD). Speakers: Ed Davey (LD); Karen Potter (sustainability hub); Sarah Dobson (LD Invited); James Cameron (Yale, invited). www.greenlibdems.org.uk @GreenLibDems

19.05-20.15 FRINGE

Rights-Liberties-Justice (Lib Dem Lawyers Assoc) with Liberal International British Group *Human rights challenges for UK foreign policy* The discussion will focus on recent/emerging challenges, especially South Asia; is the west losing its influence/authority to address issues (Myanmar, Uyghurs and now Afghanistan). Adrian Hyyrylainen-Trett (Chair LIBG), Callum Robertson (Chair Young Liberals), Baroness Alison Suttie (expert on Central Asia & Human Rights), James Sandbach (Lib Dem Lawyers), Geoffrey Nice QC.

International Abstracts

USA

We will not be denied our freedom to consume ourselves, by Art Cullen, Storm Lake Times. 19th August 2021

The World burns; America burns; Pulitzer winning journalist Art Cullen gives you some idea of the scale of the problem. Storm Lake, Iowa, population 10,300. The state flag and seal of Iowa bear the legend 'Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain'.

<https://www.stormlake.com/articles/we-will-not-be-denied-our-freedom-to-consume-ourselves/>

Biden made the hard choice in Afghanistan and the right one, by Jake Auchincloss. Washington Post 25th August 2021

Auchincloss, a former marine, is Democrat representative for Massachusetts's 4th district in the U.S. House of Representatives.

[Opinion | Biden made the hard choice in Afghanistan, and the right one - The Washington Post](#)

Washington Manned Up and Let Us Down After 9/11, by Maureen Dowd. New York Times 11th September 2021.

How the macho response to 9/11 got us where we are.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/11/opinion/september-11-masculinity.html>

Syria/China

The limits on China's role in Syria, by Guy Burton, Nick Lyall & Logan Pauley. The Diplomat 3rd June 2021.

Resume of the pros & cons of Chinese investment in an unstable Syria

[The Limits on China's Role in Syria – The Diplomat](#)

The full article appears at [Project MUSE - China and the Reconstruction of Syria \(jhu.edu\)](#) The Middle East

Liberal International British Group: In the Beginning

Tom Dale

At the end of the Second World War, a “call” was heard in both Belgium and Norway for a revival of international Liberal co-operation which had existed in a primitive way before the war. This feeling came together at a conference in Oxford I 1947 where the Liberal International was founded.

The people behind this conference included John MacCallum Scott – whose father had been a Liberal MP and PPS to Winston Churchill when a Liberal Party MP; Sir Percy Harris – who had been the Liberal Chief Whip throughout the war but lost his seat in the 1945 general election; Senator Roger Motz – the Belgian Liberal Party Leader, who wanted his party to play a role in the moves towards a united Europe; Hermond Lannung – a leading member of Denmark’s Radikale Venstre; Max Salvadori – a leading anti-Fascist, who had been imprisoned in Italy; and Don Salvador de Madariaga – who had served in the anti-Fascist government in Spain.

The conference was held at Wadham College, Oxford, and was opened by the Liberal Party Leader – Clement Davies MP – Liberals from nineteen countries were present and included Huntley Sinclair (representing the Canadian Liberal Party).

The Liberal International was established but many problems remained, especially in the United Kingdom, as its activities were ‘low down’ on the Liberal Party’s agenda – particularly in financial support. As a result, a separate organisation was established: The British Liberal International Council. This organisation was soon renamed “The Liberal International [British Group]” and it quickly became the principal voice of the International in Great Britain with a membership and a programme of activities. It contained within its ranks many prominent British Liberals, including Lord Layton, Sir Percy Harris who became its Chairman, Professor Denis Brogan, Rose Macaulay, Michael Kaser, Alistair Buchan, Wilfred Roberts MP and Lady Violet Bonham-Carter.

The International had set up its Headquarters in St James’s Place and the British Group operated from the same address with a separate programme of activities: weekend schools and study courses in places like Buxton; The Time Lectures at Church House, Westminster, the first given by Learie Constantine; and fundraising events.

The International began preparations for its Second World Conference planned to be in Zurich in 1948. Meantime, the British Group had been growing with people like Peter Calvacoressi joining its ranks. Its activities were designed to raise funds, recruit members from the Liberal Party and from outside its membership, and to educate party members and others of their role in world politics.

Tom Dale

This piece was found amongst the papers of the late Tom Dale; he never finished it. To many Tom was the British Group over more than fifty years. Tom got Alzheimer’s Disease - it started way back in about 2006 with him becoming a bit forgetful; then it developed slowly until 2012 after one of the County Council annual receptions for Past Chairmen and other dignitaries, he was coming to stay with me for a couple of weeks to have a holiday and give Michael a couple of weeks' break. He never went back and we brought a lot of his things down here so that he had familiar stuff around him. In 2015, he had to go into a residential home where he couldn't get out as he was constantly going for long walks and being brought back by friends and acquaintances who were, by then, looking out for him when he was getting lost and didn't know his way back home. He had been going out of the front door and charging across the road without looking for traffic and had become a real danger to himself. He was, at the end, a mere shadow of the Tom we all knew and had no idea who he was, let alone where. As you can imagine, it broke my heart.

Janet Russell

Tom’s obituary appeared in interLib 020-08 pages 20-21

reviews

The Political Economy of Hydropower Dependent Nations: a case study of Zambia, by Imaduddin Ahmed

Palgrave Macmillan 2021 £99.99 ebook £79.50

isbn 9783030712655 ebook isbn 9783030712662

This book lacks an attention-grabbing title, but its author reminds us that until recently the World Bank funded many projects in the developing world which are designed to benefit the West. The study also makes grim reading for proponents of hydropower as a sustainable energy source because, among other things, climate change is causing drought and emptying reservoirs. Drought is therefore causing power supply disruption, making it hard for nations wishing to diversify into manufacturing and away from relying on mining or subsistence agriculture.

Dr Imaduddin Ahmed was motivated to investigate Zambia's hydropower provider, ZESCO, after repeated power outages in 2015-16. For decades the World Bank applied a template for development based on the Tennessee Valley Authority, an FDR-era project that revolutionized the lives of millions of poor Americans. Put simply, the TVA stimulated a consumer boom for US-made products and created employment. The World Bank then imposed the TVA model on countries with no domestic manufacturing base, meaning that America had new export markets for its goods.

The WB began funding hydro power plants on the Zambezi in 1956, giving the copper mines (run by foreign companies paying tax elsewhere) the energy they needed. Few local jobs were created. The eventual economic uptick was then wiped out in the 1990s when international financial institutions imposed structural adjustment, forcing governments to sell off their assets and drop import tariffs. All these years later, only 33% of Zambians have access to the grid: it remains geared to the benefit of the mining companies who consumer 70-80% of power and pay subsidised prices. Now that climate change is causing drought, there are frequent outages, forcing manufacturers and others to use highly polluting diesel generators. (Anyone spending time in Africa will be familiar to the rattling drone and greasy smell of generators that supply as much as a fifth of the continent's energy).

Dr Ahmed runs through the alternatives to hydro, suggesting a mix of sources, and regional integrated power grids. But where the WB left off, Chinese state companies now secure construction contracts and mining concessions through corruption (according to a former director of the Central Bank of Zambia). We are reminded that the world needs an efficient means of storing sustainable produced energy. Despite its rather heavy-going appearance, this book is a fascinating read for anyone interested in the developing world and/or the environment.

This review ends on a hopeful note: in August, Zambia had its third peaceful transfer of power, what Human Rights Watch calls "an uncommon occurrence across Africa." Hakainde Hichilema of the United Party for National Development won a landslide victory against the incumbent, Edgar Lungu of the Patriotic Front. Hichilema had support from young people seeking a brighter future and voters fed up with corruption, environmental disasters, human rights abuses and the decline of democratic norms. He will have his work cut out.

Rebecca Tinsley

Dr Hakima el Haité, President of Liberal International, has written to Hakainde Hichilema congratulating him & his party for their resounding victory on 12th August. She wrote 'Your inauguration as the 7th President of the Republic of Zambia lights a beacon of hope on the continent, demonstrating that Africans can and will use their vote to hold leaders accountable.' The UPND is a member of the Africa Liberal Network.

The Lost Gloves, by Patricia A. Shaw, illustrated by Nick Roberts.
New Generation Publishing, 2020
isbn 9781800316706

Something always seems to get lost in Pat Shaw's books. Last time it was a leopard who went walkabout (*Leopard and Me*, reviewed interLib 2020-11 page 26). This time, as the title suggests, it is a beloved pair of gloves. Will Pat find them? Will they send postcards from the other side of world as our friend Leopard did? That would be a spoiler, but how the situation resolves itself will charm you. Like *Leopard and Me*, *Lost Gloves* is also available as a colouring book.

Stewart Rayment



The Beginning of Politics, power in the Biblical Book of Samuel, by Moshe Halbertal & Stephen Holmes. Princeton University Press 2017 £22.00, pbk 2019 £14.99
isbn 978069119683 ebook 9781400884896

How much do we think of the Bible as an influence on our political thought? My first call is invariably Athens, though I do set British Liberalism as emerging from a Christian context – either humanity is fallen, or (obviously) it is not. Yet the Non-Conformist influence on 19th century Liberalism is well-known, and indeed when reviving the Liberal party in the 1950s and 60s advice was often ‘go and ask the Congregationalist or other free church minister’.

That said, I should warn any reader of a Jewish, Christian or Moslem persuasion who venerates David, I commend this book, but don't read on. Whether David was beloved of the Lord or not, he was a bad man, fulfilling the dire warnings of Samuel. So, to save offence don't read on.

The David of myth, or Sunday School, is a youth, barely more than a child in some depictions, who kills a giant that all the men in the army are afraid to face. Otherwise, he is a pretty cool musician, but most of us probably don't even get that far. In Judaism he is a successful, whatever the short-comings in his tale; in Christianity this extrapolates into the lineage of Jesus, in Islam he is a prophet a model for the just ruler and a receiver of divine messages – the psalms (though these are not scriptural in Islam). So, what do I mean when I say David was a bad man? God warns us through Samuel all of the short comings of the human king the Hebrews crave – they will rob and enslave you. Some say this is a Biblical argument for republican as opposed to monarchical government. Saul and David, the Hebrew's first kings, fulfil this prophecy. David was a murderer and a slut.

The Bible is primarily myth; this doesn't detract from its authority. Its stories have little or no backing in the surviving records of its neighbouring peoples, Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Hittites etc. There is little archaeological evidence, despite the investment of the Israeli state to try to back it up. Religion is based on faith, not fact. Indeed, David is the first person named in the Bible who may have existed; a fragment refers to the Davidic line¹. For Samuel, Saul etc. we have to rely on oral tradition – but then in our own myth cycle, who doubts King Arthur or Robin Hood? Halbertal and Holmes postulate that the Book of Samuel is the point where the Bible moves from mythic time into historical time. In political terms that is to say in the Middle Eastern societies before Saul and David either the King was a God (the Egyptian Pharaoh for example) or God was King (primarily the Hebrew exception) and this is mythical time. In the Book of Samuel (which extends into Kings) the King is not a God, he is a man, with all of the frailties of mortality. To Halbertal and Holmes we have moved into historical time, though whilst they feel that author (it is primarily of one hand) was close to the events recorded, the richness of the book comes from the narrative that they could not have known and invented to demonstrate the nature of power used and abused by a mere man.

The Encyclopaedia Britannica speculates that David flourished around 1,000 BCE, 500 years before it is speculated that the Torah was codified. You see the problems that we are facing. It seems plausible to me that a psalm attributed to David might be older, on the basis that a song might survive more easily in an oral culture. Philologically the story falls into place from the 8th century BCE and the oldest surviving fragments are amongst the Dead Sea Scrolls. Scholarship varies on authorship; our scholars follow Noth on single authorship – having never given the matter any thought, I like their arguments, though that author would have to be a Methuselah to have been a contemporary of David. One might speculate as to whether a single author's experiences could have been drawn from the court of Hezekiah, set upon earlier oral tradition?

Other things to bear in mind – the territory of the story is not much bigger than Wales (throw in the Marches & Lancashire perhaps) – conceptually larger if you are travelling on foot, or at best a mule, given the topography of the Holy Land. Prior to kingship, the tribes that constitute the Hebrews live in a primitive anarchy, probably mainly pastoralists so

in an unfixed relationship with their neighbours. The abdication of God as King to mortal kingship is part of a move to a more settled status, perhaps coupled with the arrival of a more sophisticated military rival.

What does all this tell us about politics? As I said at the beginning, I'm given little thought to the Biblical sources of political philosophy. Machiavelli makes bare reference to David – briefly, the mythic conflict with Goliath. Like *The Prince*, Halbertal and Holmes see the Book of Samuel as about what politics, or more specifically power, does rather than what it should be. The theme is that power is granted to an individual and their successors to overcome particular problems – for which that individual will have the powers to tax and conscript towards the ends of that realm, and to pass those powers to their kin, as a means of securing the good of the realm. Given that power, the individual will subvert it to their own ends. None of the central characters – Samuel, Saul or David, are pleasant individuals. I feel most sorry for Saul, who in the tradition of the earlier Judges doesn't seek power, accedes to it reluctantly, but faced with the resentment of Samuel, slips into evil ways. David is much more Machiavellian – a term the authors don't use. The extinction of Saul's line and his supporters is paramount to David's dynastic ends (even after his death), though I would have thought an heir through Michal might have been a unifier (if David wasn't a serial shagger) but Shimei accuses him of leaving her barren. His offspring prove fratricidal and bring about the civil war that hereditary kingship was supposed to overcome. David's lust for Bathsheba and consequent murder of her husband, Uriah undermines his moral authority to deal with these issues.

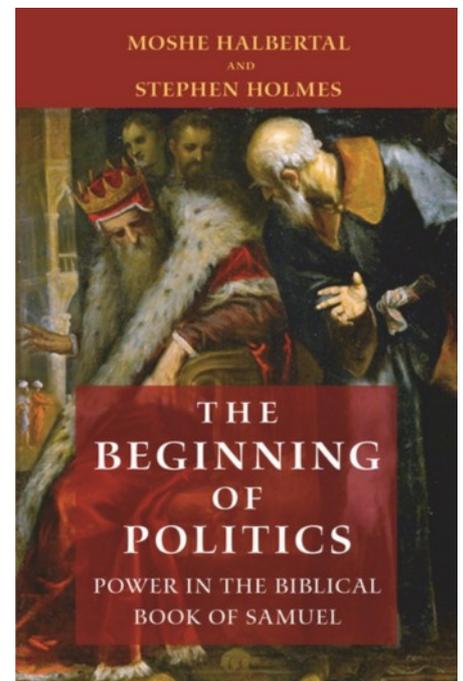
At the root of all of these problems and the failings of the Abrahamic religions in general is patriarchy. The treatment of women in the Book of Samuel is universally bad, with few exceptions. David is complicit in the incestuous rape of his daughter Tamar. The exceptions are the unnamed wise woman of Tekoa who gives David a lesson in real politics to draw something of a line under that issue. You may also cite Abigail in this kind of context. The unnamed witch of Endor counsels and consoles Saul, her persecutor. In *All the Women of the Bible*, Edith Deen speculates what if the witch of Endor had been more forthright with Saul? These ladies are amongst the few sympathetic characters throughout the book.

You will need to read Samuel concurrently. The authors use Robert Alter's translation, *The David Story*² supplemented by other texts. Lord Acton reminds us that power tends to corrupt and, that great men are almost invariably bad men, Samuel, Saul and David prove that all too well. Joab, David's henchman and integral to his survival, may have a better understanding of this and a rationale for his own badness but David dispenses with him too, having no further use of his general after his death. Even God leaves much to be desired in his actions. Within my own limited exercise of power, I don't think I was a better person for it, if I hope, not as bad as all of these dodgy geezers. Read the books together for a greater understanding.

Stewart Rayment

¹ *Biblical Archaeology*, a very short introduction, by Eric H. Cline, Oxford University Press 2009.

² *The David Story*, a translation with commentary of 1 & 2 Samuel, by Robert Alter. W W Norton 1999.





We invite you to join us outside the [Royal Mint Building](#) in London on 14th September at 6pm to call on the Tower Hamlets Council to follow up on their promise and bring Tibet to Tower Hamlets.

Bring Tibet to Tower Hamlets



Imagine passing through Uyghur Court, walking along Hong Kong Road before walking up Tibet Hill. For people in London, this might soon be a reality.

Earlier this year, a motion was passed by Tower Hamlets Council to investigate the renaming of roads due to the efforts of supporters like you. We are now calling on the councillors to keep their promise and we need your help once again.

The Royal Mint building in Tower Hamlets is set to be the location of the largest Chinese Embassy in Europe. This prompted one of the councillors, Liberal Democrat Rabina Khan, to introduce a motion that would see streets around the building named after Hong Kong, Tibet and the Uyghur people.

After several attempts by Councillor Khan, we issued an emergency action, calling for you to contact the councillors and urge them to support the motion. That afternoon, hundreds of you took action. The motion passed, and councillors are now supposed to be looking into the proposal.

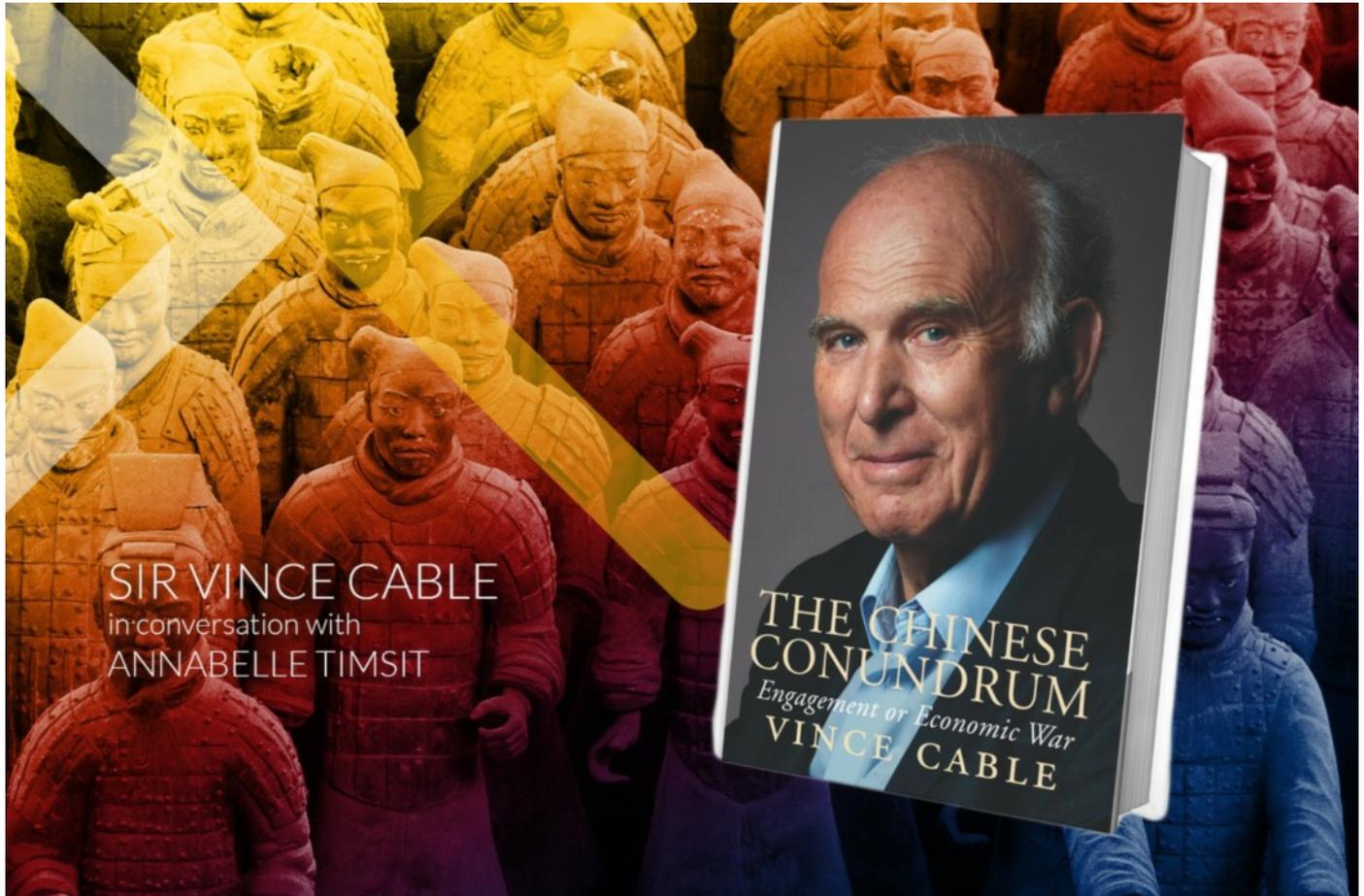
That was a great victory, but we want to ensure that these promises are kept. At **6.00pm on Tuesday 14 September, we will hold a gathering at the Royal Mint Building, Royal Mint Court, London EC3N 4DX** and urge councillors to keep their promise. Hongkongers, Tibetans and Uyghurs will also speak about what the renaming of the streets will mean to them.

Please join us on the 14th and together we can make this proposal a reality.



THE CHINESE CONUNDRUM: ENGAGEMENT OR ECONOMIC WAR

Tuesday 21st September 2021, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm · Online Event



JOIN US FOR THIS ONLINE EVENT
Tuesday 21st September, 6pm UK time/7pm CET

[Register Here](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAude-%20pqD4sG92YakHZlyJC1FQMeSTUepkJ>

Sir Vince Cable in conversation with **Annabelle Timsit**

Sir Vince Cable, will be discussing his new book “*The Chinese Conundrum: Engagement of Economic War?*” with **Annabelle Timsit**, breaking news reporter at The Washington Post.

This unique book, about the relationship between China and the West in the light of the Covid pandemic and the recent election of Joe Biden as president of the United States, is formally published on 24 th September. We are delighted to offer you a sneak preview as Vince is quizzed by one of the leading journalists in the field.

Those that register in advance for the webinar will also be amongst the first to have the opportunity purchase Vince’s book.

Introduction to The Chinese Conundrum

China's relations with the rest of the world have deteriorated and may now be at an all-time low. Is this a passing phase caused by the shockwaves of the Covid pandemic and the personalities of leaders in China and in the USA, or are the current divergences going to become wider and more entrenched.

Will the West choose to engage with China or are we on the verge of a new Cold War?

In *The Chinese Conundrum*, Vince Cable – author of the Sunday Times number-one bestseller “*The Storm: The World Economic Crisis and What it Means*” – provides an answer to these and many other topical questions of global politics and economy.

PANELISTS



Sir Vince Cable

MP for Twickenham for twenty years, retiring in 2019. Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills and President of the Board of Trade in the Coalition government between 2010 and 2015.



Annabelle Timsit

Breaking news reporter at The Washington Post and formerly a geopolitics reporter at Quartz, global editorial fellow at The Atlantic and writer for Politico Magazine in Washington, DC.

**JOIN THE ZOOM EVENT
Tuesday 21st September
6pm UK time/7pm CET**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAude-%20pqD4sG92YakHZlyJC1FQMeSTUepkJ>

NOTE THAT [PRE-REGISTRATION](#) IS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT

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The Rise of China

The tectonic plates have been shifting eastwards. How should Western liberal powers respond to an increasingly confident and nationalistic China? Should the UK and the EU distinguish their foreign policies from those of the US and pursue a path of constructive engagement, or regard China as a hegemonic force to be constrained?

The Motion for debate

This House believes China is interested in coexistence rather than domination.

Date: 30th September 2021, 12:00 – 13:30 (CEST)

This hybrid event is both Person to Person, Live from the NLC, and Online

[Register Here](#)

About the event

The Paddy Ashdown Forum in association with **European Liberal Forum** is pleased to co-host an Oxford Union-style debate at the National Liberal Club (with live-streaming) on the controversial topic of The Rise of China

Programme

12:00 Welcome by Chris Gleadle, CEO of PAF

12:05 Keynote address by Antonios Nestoras, Head of Policy and Research, ELF

12:15 Introduction of Speakers to the debate by Merlene Emerson and Paul Reynolds

This House believes China is interested in coexistence rather than domination

First Vote on the motion

1st Speaker for the motion: [Professor Michael Mainelli, Executive Chairman, Z/Yen Group](#)

2nd Speaker against the motion: [Rebecca Tinsley, author, and Founder of Network for Africa](#)

3rd Speaker for the motion: [Laia Comerma, LYMEC](#)

4th Speaker against the motion: [Dr Tomasz Kaminski, University of Lodz](#)

Second Vote on the motion

12:50 – 13:15 1-minute interventions and Q&A

13:15 **Final Vote** on the motion

13:20 Response by Dr Yeow Poon

13:25 Thanks and closing

Speaker Bios:



Dr Antonios Nestoras is the Head of Policy and Research at the European Liberal Forum, and an adjunct professor at the Brussels School of Governance of the Free University of Brussels (VUB), where he teaches geopolitics and international relations. Over more than 12 years in the academic, think-tank and European public administration fields, his work has been published in peer-reviewed journals, think-tank reports and EU media.



Professor Michael Mainelli is a qualified accountant, securities professional, computer specialist, and management consultant, educated at Harvard University and Trinity College Dublin. He gained his PhD at the London School of Economics where he was also a Visiting Professor. He is co-founder of Z/Yen, the City of London's leading think-tank, promoting societal advance through better finance and technology. Michael is Emeritus Professor & Life Fellow at Gresham College, Fellow of Goodenough College, Honorary Fellow of King's College London, Visiting Professor at UCL's Bartlett School, Past Master of the Worshipful Company of World Traders.



Rebecca Tinsley is a journalist and human rights activist who has worked in nine African countries. She founded Waging Peace, a London-based group campaigning on Darfur, and Network for Africa, a charity working with survivors of genocide. Rebecca completed a law degree at the London School of Economics. She was a former BBC reporter, was on the advisory board of Bennington College, Vermont, and is a trustee of the Bosnian Support Fund. Her third novel, *When The Stars Fall To Earth* (LandMarc) is based on her interviews with the courageous survivors of the genocide in Darfur.



Laia Comerma, LYMEC Bureau, is a researcher at the Barcelona Institute of International Studies (IBEI) and a PhD candidate in International Relations at the University Pompeu Fabra. Her research is focused on EU-China cooperation from a structural and sectorial perspective. She holds a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (UPF-UC3M-UAM), a MSc in International Relations (LSE), and a postgraduate degree in international economy and commerce (UB).



Dr Tomasz Kaminski is assistant professor at the Department of Asian Studies, Faculty of International and Political Studies at the University of Lodz in Poland. He has more than 10 years' experience in project management and business consulting. His foreign policy research has led him to paradiplomacy viz on subnational contacts between European and Chinese regions, and development of transnational networks in SE Asia. In his teaching activities he has developed the concept of gamification and game-based Learning.

[Register Here](#)

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yGsSWpvQ1kCVYZLQigoTgoiVfg2RIVhIqMoQ_VOVpbNUMEVNRk9TNktRN05SVFJOMFFQVjNVUENWQy4u

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