

changing the rules in such a way that only the officially “mainstream” approved parties like the Republican and Democratic Party have a chance to run.

Now, Sare is fighting that, and one part of the fight is to take this to the Democracy Summit, because if the United States wants to be the leader of democracy, they should apply more democracy at home, first, because it would give them a better position to speak on the issue.

I think the party system is completely wrong, as George Washington made the point, when he left office, by warning that the party system is very dangerous because it leads to one section of the population trying to rule over the other. And we see in Germany right now, the party system does not function. In Germany, it does not matter if you vote for the Liberal FDP party, or the Green Party, which are very opposite on almost all points, like migration, like taxes, many other issues; or you vote for the SPD, because now you have a coalition government of all three. And they have to make a coalition agreement, which means you get a cocktail of the opinions of these three parties, but every voter gets the same cocktail to drink, which probably tastes very bad for most of the people who thought they voted for their preference.

That is one more case demonstrating that the parliamentary system really does not function. And I could say a lot more about it, but rather let me just suggest that it would be wise to think about a representative system which really works. And there are models different than the one we have right now in most Western countries.

So, I really think that the Democracy Summit will be tested by all of these things. And we should see. But right now, it looks like a geopolitical maneuver, rather than any concern about democracy as such.

Schlanger: One aspect of the Democracy Summit is going to be the continued attacks on Russia, supposedly for suppressing opposition, suppressing free press. All you have to do is look at the example you gave from Diane Sare’s case, of keeping parties and candidates off the ballot, on top of which you have the censorship. And clearly the U.S. is no longer qualified as a democracy under those kinds of definitions.

Now, at the same time you have the war buildup, we’re watching the disintegration of Western economies, with the combined effects of hyperinflation and the collapse of efficient energy systems. There’s recently been reports from Germany on this that are really quite astounding. The whole world is now facing a profound crisis in the aftermath of the COP26 summit.

Our Own Democracy Is In Bad Shape

by Ambassador Chas Freeman

Asked about President Biden’s planned “Summit for Democracy,” former U.S. Ambassador Chas Freeman responded in a Nov. 30 interview with EIR. The full hour-long video and transcript of the Nov. 30 EIR interview with Ambassador Freeman are available [here](#).

We’re about to have a Summit on Democracy, which is ironic, because our own democracy is clearly in bad shape. And we are evaluated internationally as having a partially failed democracy. So, this is an odd moment to be attempting to trumpet the virtues of the system we ourselves are abandoning. But by trying to reorganize the world along ideological lines—democracies versus authoritarian regimes or non-democracies—the whole conceit was ridiculous!

Because authoritarians—I know lots of autocrats, I’ve dealt with many of them over the years. I’ve never met one who was the least concerned about others. They don’t think they have anything in common, they’re concerned to stay in power, not to keep other autocrats in power.

So, there’s no international league of autocrats, but we are creating one. Because by excluding countries that don’t meet or aspire to sycophancy in the democratic sphere, by assembling them as a sort of broad coalition aimed at Russia and China, we have stimulated Russia and China to issue a joint declaration against this, and then try to organize their own coalition.

So, we are trying to replicate the Cold War. I don’t think we’ll succeed, because basically the underlying proposition that somehow the United States is currently in a condition to appeal on a democratic basis to the world is problematic. And I don’t think countries want to choose between the United States and its designated adversaries, whether they are China or Russia or Iran.

We are in effect, creating the very phenomenon we invented and imagined. And it’s not to our advantage.... This smacks of geopolitics rather than ideology. And it will be interesting to see how it goes. Here we are in a country where it’s very uncertain that we will make it through our next general election without violence, or that there will be a peaceful transition in 2024 or 2025, when we have our next Presidential election. This is an odd moment to be insisting that others democratize. Perhaps we should focus on practicing democracy at home. I’m all in favor of democracy. I’d like to see more of it here.