

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PRESIDENTS

(ICP)



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I. Letter from the chair

Greetings Delegates,

It's a pleasure for us to accompany you in the VIII version of the Asmun. We, David Lominett and Sara Haag, as the members of the chair, welcome you to the International Congress of Presidents (ICP). We are happy to lead you in an environment where you can express your ideas and earn knowledge in a diplomatic way.

We hope that you can improve skills such as oral presentations, research, work ethic, speechmaking and teamwork. Never doubt your abilities, and remember that it's ok to make mistakes along the way.

With gratitude, we're fully confident the committee awaits nothing short of greatness and solutions beyond our world. We hope you will enjoy this experience as much as we will. If you have any inquiries don't hesitate to contact us, we are happy to help you.

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II. About the International Congress of Presidents

2.2. What is it and how does it work?

The International Congress of Presidents is a fictional committee where presidents around the world meet in order to discuss geopolitical issues of global concern and relevance, and find viable solutions that bring peace and order to all parties involved. 3. The debate system and parliamentary procedure is the same as any UN committee, as well as the voting system and working papers. The presidents chosen for each committee will depend on how involved their country is in the matter.

Topic: The rise of a Global Oligarchy

3.1 Introduction of the topic

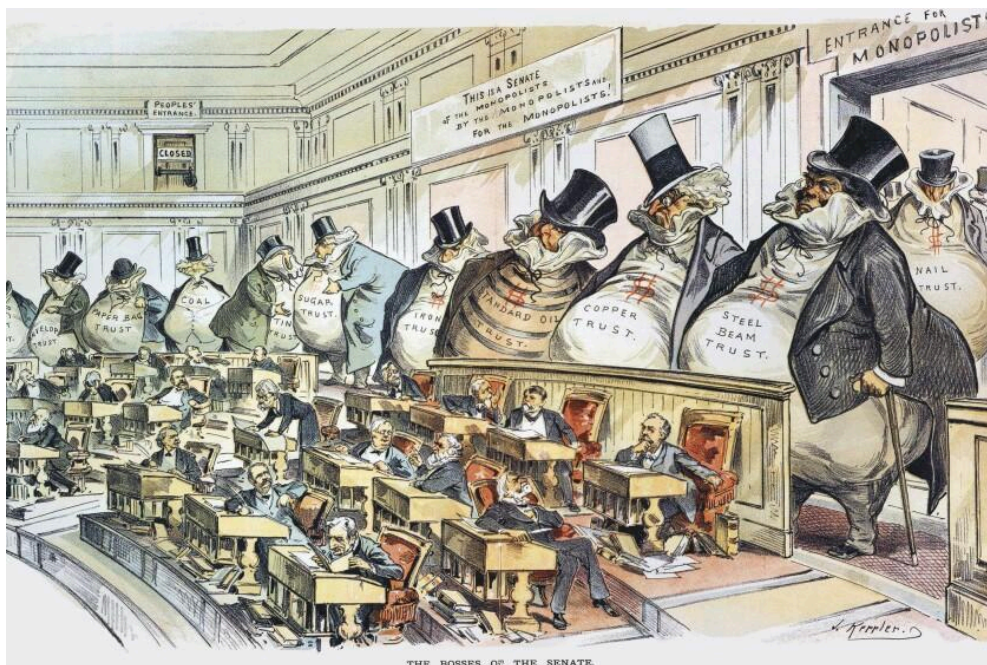
This committee will bring together world leaders, diplomats, and analysts to debate the growing power of a global economic elite over governments. The discussion will focus on how the increasing influence of business leaders, billionaires, and private actors in politics challenges national sovereignty and democracy.

Across the world, political leaders have increasingly appointed figures from the private sector to key government positions, raising concerns about the consolidation of power among a select economic elite. This trend is not limited to any single nation; from financial hubs in Europe to rapidly growing economies in Asia and Latin America, private interests are playing an unprecedented role in shaping domestic and international policies.

3.2 Historical Background

1. The Gilded Age in the United States (1870s–1900)

During the Gilded Age, rapid industrialization led to the rise of powerful industrialists known as “robber barons,” such as Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, and J.P. Morgan. These individuals amassed significant wealth and wielded considerable influence over both the economy and politics, raising concerns about the implications for democracy and economic equity.



https://commons.m.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Bosses_of_the_Senate_by_Joseph_Keppler.jpg#mw-jump-to-license

2. Post-Soviet Russia (1990s)

Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russia transitioned to a market economy. During this period, a small group of individuals acquired substantial wealth by purchasing formerly state-owned assets at low prices, becoming known as oligarchs. These

individuals wielded considerable economic and political influence, shaping Russia's post-Soviet landscape



3. Apartheid Era South Africa (1948–1994)

Under apartheid, South Africa was governed by a minority white population that controlled the country's political and economic systems, effectively functioning as an oligarchy. This minority rule enforced policies that marginalized the non-white majority, leading to significant social and economic disparities.



4. Modern Perceptions of Oligarchy in the United States

In contemporary discussions, some scholars and political figures argue that the United States exhibits oligarchic tendencies. The increasing concentration of wealth and the significant political influence of affluent individuals and corporations have raised concerns about the health of its democratic institutions.

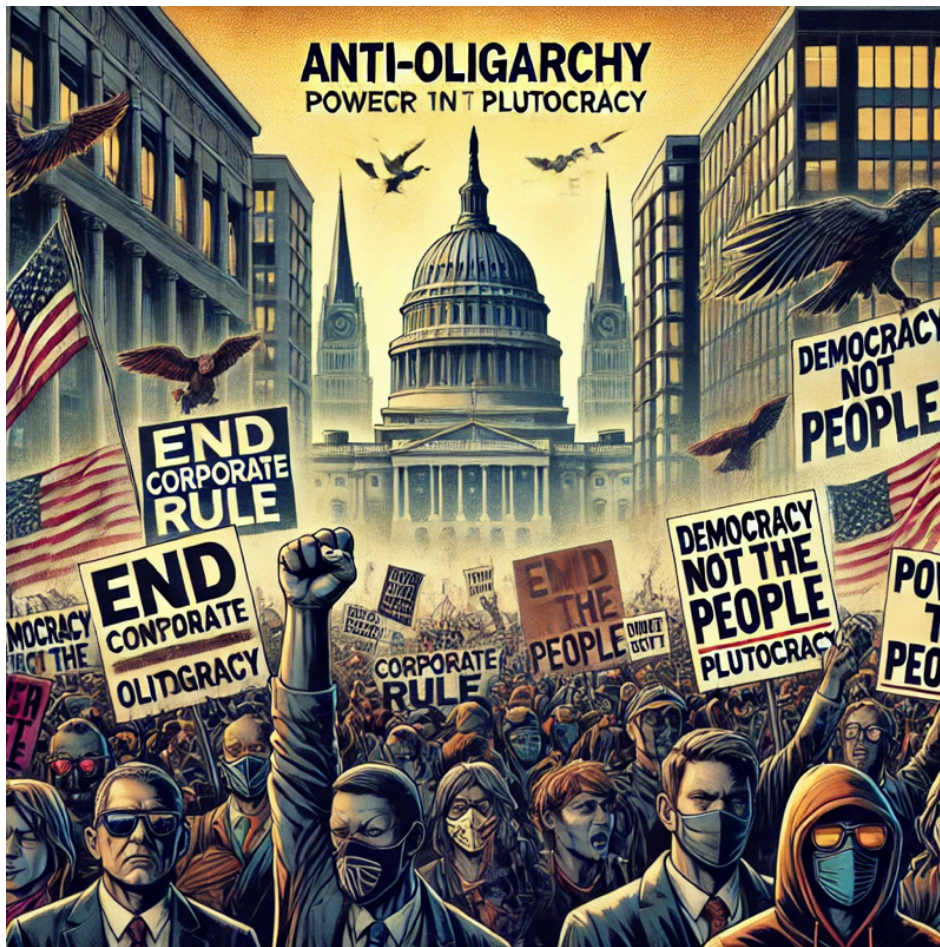


https://cbsaustin.com/news/nation-world/gallery/elon-musk-in-oval-office-with-president-donald-trump-for-executive-orders?_gl=1*vs3ld2*_ga*OXEwRE1LTWhMwTA2bXNiNIU5dER6YVctV0Q4VzlCX1F2U0J3MVJ5a1RxQk94c2ZaWFBYb2FVNF9uWDE5VVZFNw..&photo=1

3.3 CURRENT SITUATIONS

1. Anti-Oligarchy Movements in the United States

Senator Bernie Sanders has been actively addressing concerns about oligarchic power in the U.S. His “Fighting Oligarchy” tour has drawn significant attention, especially in traditionally Republican regions like Wisconsin, Iowa, and Nebraska. Sanders emphasizes the need to combat authoritarianism and kleptocracy, criticizing both major political parties for not adequately representing the working class. His efforts aim to mobilize public sentiment against policies favoring the wealthy at the expense of essential services.



2. Shifts in U.S. Foreign Policy and Global Order

President Donald Trump's recent actions have led to notable shifts in the international order established post-World War II. These include imposing tariffs on allies such as Canada, halting military support to Ukraine, and aligning more closely with authoritarian leaders like Russia's Vladimir Putin. Such policies have caused traditional U.S. allies to reconsider their positions, potentially leading to increased militarization and independent security measures in Europe. This departure from longstanding U.S. commitments to democratic alliances and free trade raises concerns about global geopolitical stability.



3. Tensions Over the Panama Canal

Panamanian President José Raúl Mulino recently accused President Trump of “lying” about U.S. intentions to reclaim the Panama Canal. Trump’s announcement of efforts to regain control over the canal has been met with strong opposition from Panama, which has managed the canal independently since 1999. Additionally, under U.S. pressure, Hong Kong’s CK Hutchison Holdings agreed to sell a significant stake in the Panama Ports Company to a consortium led by BlackRock for \$19 billion, though the company denies any connection to Trump’s statements.



4. Emergence of the “Axis of Upheaval”

A term coined in 2024, the “Axis of Upheaval,” describes the growing anti-Western collaboration among Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea. This informal alliance opposes U.S. hegemony and seeks to reshape the global order into a multipolar system. Characteristics of this axis include:

- Anti-Westernism: A shared desire to diminish U.S. global dominance and resist Western-defined universal values.
- Autocracy and Neo-Imperialism: All four nations exhibit authoritarian governance, with some engaging in expansionist activities.

- **Economic Cooperation:** Strengthened economic ties, such as increased trade between China and Russia, and efforts to reduce dependency on the U.S. dollar.
- **Military Collaboration:** Enhanced military cooperation, including joint exercises and arms exchanges.
- **Diplomatic Coordination:** Unified stances in international forums to counter Western influence.

This alliance represents a significant shift in global dynamics, challenging the existing international system.



3.4 FACTORS AFFECTED BY THE ISSUE

1. Democratic Integrity & Political Autonomy

- **Erosion of Democracy:** The increasing influence of wealthy individuals in politics can undermine democratic processes. For instance, the alignment between political leaders like Donald Trump and business magnates such as Elon Musk signifies a shift towards oligarchic governance, aligning the U.S. more closely with authoritarian states like Russia and China.

- **Weakening of Political Institutions:** The consolidation of power among oligarchs can lead to the erosion of democratic institutions. In Russia, oligarchs amassed significant power in the 1990s, influencing national policies. A similar trend is observed in the U.S., where tech giants, led by figures like Elon Musk, have formed close ties with political leaders, potentially undermining democratic institutions.



<https://www.dreamstime.com/house-government-russian-federation-white-moscow-russia-night-image146190602>

2. Economic Inequality & Wealth Distribution

- Concentration of Wealth: The rise of oligarchs often leads to a significant concentration of wealth, exacerbating economic inequality. This disparity can result in social unrest and challenges to national sovereignty as the interests of the few overshadow the needs of the many.

- **Limited Economic Mobility:** As wealth becomes concentrated among a small elite, opportunities for economic advancement for the broader population diminish. This limited mobility can lead to social stratification and reduced national cohesion.



<https://cepr.org/voxeu/columns/beneath-surface-what-medieval-mobility-reveals-about-intergenerational-wealth>

3. Geopolitical Stability & International Relations

- **Shift in Global Power Dynamics:** The alignment of wealthy individuals with political leaders can alter traditional power structures, impacting international relations. For example, the collaboration between Donald Trump and Elon Musk signifies a shift towards oligarchic governance, aligning the U.S. more closely with authoritarian states like Russia and China.
- **Rise of Authoritarianism:** The consolidation of power among oligarchs can lead to the erosion of democratic institutions and the rise of authoritarian regimes. This shift poses a threat to global stability and the sovereignty of nations.



<https://www.economist.com/democracy-in-america/2018/07/17/the-missing-middle-of-the-trump-putin-meeting>

4. Media, Technology, & Information Control

- Manipulation of Public Opinion: Oligarchs often control major media outlets, shaping public narratives to serve their interests and suppressing dissenting voices. This control can mislead the public and undermine democratic processes.
- Surveillance & Digital Censorship: Large tech companies, many of which are closely tied to governments, play a key role in data collection, influencing elections, and restricting access to information. This control can lead to surveillance and censorship, infringing on individual freedoms and national sovereignty.



<https://medium.com/illumination/the-erosion-of-democracy-unveiling-the-suppression-of-media-a8955bc9e5b9>

5. Environmental & Social Policies

- **Climate Policy Manipulation:** Corporations with vested interests in fossil fuels or unsustainable industries may lobby against climate action, delaying global efforts to combat environmental crises. This manipulation can hinder national and international environmental policies.
- **Labor Rights & Exploitation:** Oligarchic influence often weakens labor protections, leading to exploitative working conditions and suppression of workers' rights. This exploitation can result in social unrest and challenges to national sovereignty



<https://www.freepik.com/free-photos-vectors/society>

3.5 DELEGATIONS POSITION

Presidents:

1. Donald Trump (United States): In his farewell address, President Trump warned of a looming “tech industrial complex” and the formation of an “oligarchy” that threatens democratic principles. He emphasized concerns about misinformation, the unchecked power of social media platforms, and the potential risks and benefits of artificial intelligence.

2. Vladimir Putin (Russia): President Putin has been accused of centralizing power and wealth among a close circle of oligarchs, leading to concerns about democratic backsliding and the erosion of national sovereignty in Russia.

3. Xi Jinping (China): Under President Xi’s leadership, China has implemented the Social Credit System, which has been criticized for increasing state surveillance and control, potentially undermining individual freedoms and contributing to a form of state-led oligarchy.

4. Emmanuel Macron (France): President Macron has advocated for a stronger European Union to counterbalance global superpowers and protect national sovereignty within the framework of a united Europe.

5. Olaf Scholz (Germany): Chancellor Scholz supports policies aimed at reducing income inequality and strengthening social welfare systems to prevent the rise of oligarchic structures within Germany.

6. Keir Starmer (United Kingdom): Prime Minister Starmer has emphasized the importance of addressing economic disparities and ensuring that political power is not concentrated among a wealthy elite, thereby safeguarding national sovereignty.

7. Narendra Modi (India): Prime Minister Modi has promoted economic reforms to encourage foreign investment while emphasizing the need to protect India's sovereignty and prevent undue influence from global corporations.

8. Shigeru Ishiba (Japan): Prime Minister Ishiba has expressed concerns about the influence of large corporations on politics and advocates for policies that ensure economic power does not undermine democratic governance.

CEOs & Business Leaders:

1. Elon Musk (Tesla, SpaceX, X, Neuralink): Musk has been criticized for leveraging his wealth and influence to shape public policy and opinion, raising concerns about the emergence of a new oligarchy.

2. Jeff Bezos (Amazon, Blue Origin): Bezos's vast wealth and the market dominance of Amazon have sparked debates about economic inequality and the concentration of corporate power, which could impact national sovereignty.

3. Mark Zuckerberg (Meta): Zuckerberg's control over major social media platforms has led to discussions about the role of tech giants in shaping public discourse and

their potential to influence political processes, contributing to concerns about a tech-driven oligarchy.

4. Bernard Arnault (LVMH): As one of the world's wealthiest individuals, Arnault's influence in the luxury goods market has raised questions about economic disparities and the role of elite wealth in society.

5. Mukesh Ambani (Reliance Industries): Ambani's significant wealth and influence in India have led to discussions about the concentration of economic power and its implications for democratic governance.

6. Pony Ma (Tencent): Ma's leadership in one of China's largest tech companies has been associated with the government's use of technology for surveillance, raising concerns about individual freedoms and the potential for a state-led oligarchy.

7. Jamie Dimon (JPMorgan Chase): As CEO of one of the largest financial institutions, Dimon's role in the global banking system has implications for economic inequality and the concentration of financial power.

8. Jensen Huang (NVIDIA): Huang's leadership in the tech industry, particularly in AI development, has sparked conversations about the ethical implications of technology and the potential for tech companies to wield significant influence over society.

3.6 BACKGROUND INFORMATION :

1. Influence of Tech Billionaires: The convergence of political power and technological wealth has become increasingly evident. Notably, during Donald Trump's second inauguration, prominent tech magnates such as Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, Tim Cook, and Sundar Pichai were in attendance, highlighting a shift towards governance influenced by a wealthy few. This alignment suggests a move towards oligarchic structures, where the interests of the elite may overshadow those of the broader populace.



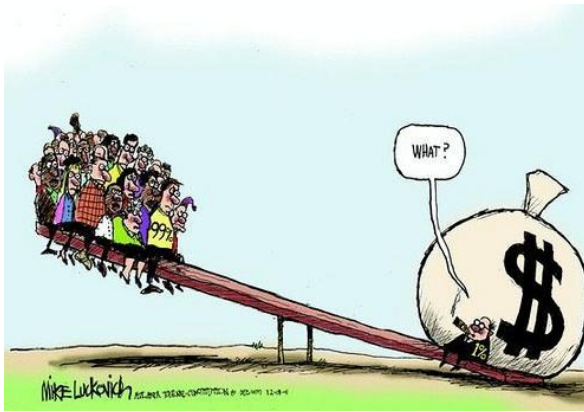
<https://fortune.com/2024/08/28/nvidias-billionaire-boss-i-used-to-clean-bathrooms-and-now-i-m-the-ceo/>

2. Erosion of Democratic Institutions: The growing influence of wealthy individuals poses challenges to the integrity of democratic systems. Elon Musk's significant wealth and political connections exemplify this trend, raising concerns about the potential for policy manipulation and the undermining of democratic processes.



<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/academics-moderate-students-political-views/2013989.article>

3. Economic Inequality and Social Stability: The concentration of wealth among a select few exacerbates economic disparities, leading to social unrest and instability. The unchecked power of billionaires like Musk threatens democratic institutions, as their influence can skew policies in their favor, further widening the gap between the rich and the poor.



<https://sevenpillarsinstitute.org/consequences-economic-inequality/>

4. Redefining Freedom and Sovereignty: The interplay between individual freedoms and societal structures is complex. Historian Timothy Snyder emphasizes that true democratic freedom requires more than just individual liberties; it necessitates a system ensuring all citizens can thrive equally. He critiques the notion of negative freedom, which benefits the wealthy by reducing government constraints, transforming freedom into privilege.



<https://www.aclu.org/issues/free-speech>

5. Global Autocratic Collaborations: In her book *Autocracy, Inc.: The Dictators Who Want to Run the World*, Anne Applebaum examines how autocratic governments, despite lacking a shared ideology, collaborate to enhance their power and control. These regimes utilize global economic systems and personal networks to support each other, often at the expense of democratic nations. This cooperation extends to media control, arms trading, and financial maneuvers, creating a formidable challenge to democratic governance.



https://www.google.com/search?q=global+trade+images&sca_esv=b657747ebb3c27f5&rlz=1CDGOYI_enCO1116CO1116&hl=en-US&udm=2&biw=390&bih=669&ei=vpHsZ8a-Mr6XwbkPp7TIkAE&oq=global+trade+im&gs_lp=EhJtb2JpbGUtZ3dzLXdpei1pbWciD2dsb2JhbCB0cmFkZSBpbSoCCAAyBRAAGIAEMgUQABiABDIFEAAyAQyBRAAGIAEMgUQABiABEj_T1CpD1jfRnACeACQAQGYAcsUoAGdKKoBDDAuMTEuMy4xLjktMbgBAcgBAPgBAZgCEaACxyaoAgzCAgIQKcICCBAPGIAEGKIEwgIKEAAyAQYQxiKBcICBxAAGIAEGAqYAwilBgGSBw4yLjExLjluMC4xLjgtMaAHhSqyBw4wLjExLjluMC4xLjgtMbgHvCY&sclient=mobile-gws-wiz-img#imgsrc=JbDQQhhw-uYWZM&imgdii=v2tiv_qYi5Gt3M

6. Media Ownership and Influence: The consolidation of media ownership among a few wealthy individuals poses significant threats to democratic societies. When billionaires control major media outlets, they can shape public discourse, influence political outcomes, and suppress dissenting voices, thereby undermining the foundational principles of a free and independent press.



<https://www.politico.com/news/2023/05/11/trump-town-hall-cnn-employees-00096430>

Implications for National Sovereignty:

The rise of a global oligarchy presents profound challenges to national sovereignty. As power becomes increasingly concentrated among a global elite, individual nation-states may struggle to implement policies reflecting the will of their citizens. This shift can lead to:

- Policy Manipulation: Wealthy individuals and corporations may exert undue influence on national policies, prioritizing their interests over public welfare.
- Erosion of Democratic Institutions: The alignment between political leaders and the global elite can undermine democratic processes, leading to governance that favors the few over the many.
- Economic Disparities: The concentration of wealth can exacerbate economic inequalities within and between nations, leading to social unrest and instability.

3.7 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Oligarchy	A power structure in which a small group of individuals, often wealthy elites, exert control over a country or organization.
National Sovereignty	The ability of a nation to govern itself without external influence, maintaining control over its laws, economy, and policies.
Global Oligarchy	The concentration of power and wealth among a small elite on a global scale, influencing national policies and international relations.

Economic Inequality	The gap between the wealthy and the poor, often exacerbated by corporate influence and government favoritism.
Corporate Influence	The power that large corporations and their executives hold over governments, policies, and global economies.
Wealth Concentration	The accumulation of economic power by a small number of individuals or entities, often leading to social and political consequences.
Monopoly Power	The dominance of a single company or group in an industry, reducing competition and increasing economic influence.

Media Control	The ability of governments or corporations to shape public opinion by controlling news outlets and social media platforms.
Geopolitical Influence	The ability of a country, corporation, or elite group to shape international politics and global decision-making..
Plutocracy	A system where political power is primarily held by the wealth

3.8 GUIDING QUESTIONS

Subtopic A: The Influence of Wealthy Elites in Political Decision-Making

1. How do ultra-wealthy individuals and corporations shape national and international policymaking?
2. What are the main strategies used by economic elites to influence democratic and legislative processes?

3. How does private funding of political campaigns affect government autonomy and transparency?
4. In what ways does the concentration of wealth impact political representation and decision-making?
5. What historical and contemporary examples demonstrate the political dominance of economic elites?
6. How do media outlets owned by wealthy elites shape public opinion and policy debates?
7. What measures have been introduced to regulate lobbying and political donations by the wealthy?
8. How can governments and international institutions ensure fair elections free from elite influence?

Subtopic B: Geopolitical and Economic Consequences of Oligarchic Influence

9. How does the global rise of oligarchs impact national sovereignty and geopolitical stability?
10. In what ways do oligarchic interests shape international trade agreements and economic policies?
11. How do multinational corporations and billionaire investors affect the sovereignty of developing nations?

12. What role do offshore tax havens and financial secrecy play in strengthening oligarchic power?
13. How have international organizations such as the UN, IMF, and World Bank been influenced by oligarchic interests?
14. How does the technological sector, controlled by a few billionaires, impact national and global governance?
15. What are the social and political risks of increasing wealth inequality due to oligarchic influence?
16. What policies or reforms can nations adopt to limit the power of oligarchs while maintaining economic growth?

3.9 EXPECTATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

We hope every delegate will have a great time in the committee, improving your speaking, social, and resolution capacity skills, through the brave path of taking the responsibility of representing a delegation, with the purpose of providing our world, a new hope of fixing the damage that has been caused by the humankind, we wish you the best of success in this debate.

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