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My friends and fellows!

At the gates of the Woke Empire

“In God we trust!”. After decades of liberal domination this is a battle cry of postliberalism, standing at the gates of woke empire. It is our voice threatening global ideologies that tried to implement top-down global management, ignoring our culture and tradition, our religious identity, and our sovereignty.

This is a strong demand to include national and religious contexts, traditions, and arguments into the political sphere. Nation after nation join this calling.

Religious and national identities are rediscovered as the only vaccination against wokeness and misery of false ideologies – many variants viruses, as they were called yesterday by PM Orban.

“In God we trust!”, once understood as “ceremonial deism” by secular legal doctrine in the US – today it regains its original meaning, bringing back creative identity of Judeo-Christian civilization.

For us – conservatives – TRUST IN GOD was never a blind faith nor emotional euphoria. Never an empty motto. It was always deep, rational conviction that ten commandments, individual freedom, human dignity, and the common good principle are essential parts of common-sense environment for the pursuit of individual happiness.

Hope and political program

In the dark years of totalitarian slavery, “In God we trust” was a sign of hope.

In times of democratic governance, “In God we trust” is a political program of common sense and responsible care for common good.

Forgive me two personal stories. In 1949 when my grandfather was imprisoned by Soviets in occupied Poland just because he was an entrepreneur doing business as many of you do. When in 1981 Solidarity movement was crushed with tanks and army, my father was taken by security services at midnight from our home as dangerous academic opponent of socialist theories. What is left to us? “In God we trust!”. As a silent prayer for hope and strength.

What was an experience of my family is today an experience of many victims of woke ideology. In the modern world, (i) academics again are suspended or dismissed – this time for critical approach to gender fluidity, (ii) entrepreneurs again are charged and persecuted - for not following radical left policies, (iii) pro-life campaigners are imprisoned for peaceful public prayers. What is left to us? “In God we trust”! As program of revival of common sense, human dignity, and natural rights.

Hungary and Poland may serve as examples that “In God we trust” is not only a battle cry of postliberal times, but it is an effective and, in fact, the only way to preserve the cultural heritage of Europe.

Destruction of rights and liberties

Liberal experiments of democracies founded on secular reasoning only, without any higher standard of natural rights, any unalienable principles of human dignity – produced modern neo-totalitarian woke states.

We all observe as newly emerging so-called rights like “right to abortion”, “right to protection against hate speech”, “children right to transition” – take precedence over well-established natural rights – right to life, freedom of speech, protection of family and parental rights. This way woke rights revolution takes down precious natural rights and liberties that our ancestors were fighting for.

Prophecy of John Paul II from the encyclical “Centesimus Annus” resonates in our days: “A democracy without values easily turns into open or thinly disguised totalitarianism”.

To bring the values back to our democracies we need a renewed national and world politics with leaders brave enough to honestly gather the nations under the motto “In God we trust”, openly articulating their program of “God, Homeland and Family”.

Alternative to sterile secularism

I am well aware that old liberals tremble with disgust when religious arguments are brought to the public forum of democratic states. But look! Democracy supports this inclusive approach. Inclusiveness of religion produces societies more involved and more focused on common good. Societies of those, who internalize responsibility with all the power of deeply religious motives. At the same time regimes of “old liberals”, without religious, national and cultural foundations, experience the destruction of basic social structures.

For years modern politics sterilized public sphere of religious arguments. Liberal states and international organizations like UN, tend to accept without second thought a narrow perspective of secularism as the only platform of cooperation between diverse nations and cultures. This secular language of liberal international law and policies was born in 1970’s and received doctrinal support from John Rawls, the godfather of political liberalism in philosophy.

XXI century shows how tragic this secular approach was. Democracy lost its global charm the moment it renounced its cultural, national and religious sources. The moment it renounced religious legitimization of its laws. The moment it turned religious and honest “In God we trust” into pagan “ceremonial deism”.

That’s why we are much closer to what Jurgen Habermas stated in his polemics with Rawls. Religious traditions have “special power to articulate moral intuitions”. A state without access to them will “cut itself off from key resources” needed to fuel democracy and rule of law.

Conservative call for inclusive and multicenter global policy

The goals of this CPAC will not be achieved without a call to action. It is high time to bring this program of mainstreaming religious, national and cultural traditions to the global level. To shake the United Nations in booming voice with “In God we trust”! To reintroduce religious and nationalist arguments and thinking into global politics. It means limiting power of centralized,

secularist institutions. It means draining the swamp of UN, WHO. It may be an end of World Economic Forum.

But it also means respectful dialogue and stronger involvement of religions, cultures, nations and peoples in the global policymaking processes. It means battle against plans of global management and marginalization of nation states.

And, as environmentalism seems to be the most developed tool of unification and top-down global management today, dominated by progressive global players, it should be our first battleground. We need to strike down ineffective global management of environmental policies that undermines development of our economies, jobs and especially harms developing countries of the global South. Instead, we should turn to the regional cultural and religious heritage, with their special force capable of bottom-up and peaceful transformation of societies, disseminating attitude of responsible care for the natural environment. There is also an urgent need to define a catalog of fundamental, religious principles regarding the relationship between man and the natural environment, covered by the broadest consensus of great cultures and civilizations.

“In God we trust” should become a global pact of the diverse, independent yet unified.

**** “In God we trust” so we may say “United we stand” ****