



China raising Respect, Fears and Doubts International Peace Day

Bratislava, Slovakia September 21, 2020

By Barbara Grabner

To uphold the International Day of Peace, UPF Slovakia organized a presentation with the famous journalist and international security expert Igor Cibula, PhD. Our hope to meet our friends and supporters after six months in a public conference hall had to be postponed once more. Though we had no experience to make a zoom conference we needed to risk it. With the help of a young IT expert we equipped our flat so that the audience could link up with a live transmission. We invited guests with mailings, Facebook and twitter advertisements.

The presentation with 28 slides was diverse and enlightening, including elements from history as well as recent developments like the competition with the U.S.A. to be the superior world power, the nuclear arsenal sizes, the ambivalent relationship to Taiwan, border disputes with India, the strategic cargo rout from western China to Gwadar Port in Pakistan, the strategic constraints in China's maritime frontier, and more. Dr. Cibula said, that the book

Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides' Trap? by Graham T. Allison is a must-read for anyone interested.

Afterwards participants could ask questions. One was, which attitude and measures Europe should take in face of China's authoritarian politics and human rights issues. Igor Cibula said that perhaps Singapore could serve as example for the course China could take in the future.

UPF Slovakia president Miloš Klas also showed the recent UPF introduction video

and the forthcoming Rally of Hope. Actually, the online presentation made it possible for people from away, e.g. in the Czech Republic to join into our discussion; other participants were glad because of fear of COVID restrictions.

The presentation in Slovak language is available, please contact mklas@upf.sk