



Discussing Europe – Decline or Renewal?

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By Barbara Grabner

The future of Europe is an increasingly hot issue, discussions run wild. To provide an alternative view, UPF invited people to the lecture “Europe, Quo Vadis?” which was given by Barbara Grabner before the pandemic in four nations, but never in Slovakia. Hence it was a premier event for that nation.

Already days before people signalled interest and the organizers were filled with optimism. However, shortly before the event on Monday the speaker contracted food poisoning, and a heat wave poised another burden. It almost bordered on a miracle that a large audience tuned in and the weakened lecturer did not collapse but was able to speak in Slovak with little help by the translator. The attentive audience included the former dean of a

university, a famous Marxist philosopher, the chairman of a journalists' association, a leading functionary of a Catholic organization and last but not least some youth.

The contents focused on the theories of the historians Oswald Spengler and Arnold J. Toynbee, in the later part passages from Rev. Moons autobiography were read by UPF president Milos Klas. Spengler contended that because most civilizations pass through a life cycle, not only can the historian reconstruct the past but he can predict the spiritual forms, duration, meaning and product of the still unaccomplished stages – it is like making a weather forecast: Data from the past is merged with present observations requiring the forecaster to remember a previous weather event that is expected to be mimicked by an upcoming event. Spengler predicted

that about the year 2000, the Atlantic civilization would enter the period of pre death emergency.

Toynbee contended that though Western civilization may be headed for destruction, it will first bring about the political and cultural unification of mankind. The coming world-embracing civilization will be essentially religious. He was also convinced of the necessity to create a global nation (!) because the individual states cater only to their interests and sacrifice the common good for selfish gains.

The gloomy perspectives from the European point of view were then brightened by the speaker's outlook on the dawning Pacific Era. This went down very well with the audience! By all means, the contents provided food for discussions in small groups afterwards..