



# DOMINIQUE MOISI

## Special Adviser to Ifri - Conclusion

I would like to come back to three points: the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Europe and Asia. Traditionally, we contrast Corneille's world - the world as it should be – to Racine's world – the world as it is. Thanks to Hubert Védrine, we had a third category this evening – the world as it could be. And we often see Hubert Védrine as the worthy heir of Bismarck and Kissinger. Tonight he proved to be the worthy heir of Thomas More and utopia. But it's a profoundly realistic utopia, a utopia that is indeed possible if we allow it to happen. And the whole question, of course, is knowing whether it's too late.

I, for one, believe it's not too late. In fact, an event occurred this week, a dramatic news item, the rescue of the Chilean miners, which showed how much the world needs stories and how much the world needs to believe that we can accomplish something. The [story of the] 33 miners that came out of the mine one after the other was an actual and practical illustration of the end of the last act in Beethoven's *Fidelio*, where you see prisoners heading toward the light one after the other as they leave [prison]. In fact, in this particularly dramatic world dominated by a certain cynicism, it's good to believe. It's good to think that things are possible.

What's true for the Middle East should be even more so for Europe. Europe has the right message. As we have heard many times, it has successfully reached difficult consensus on key issues. In terms of governance, it is ahead of others. Its purpose is to reinvent the concept of sovereignty for the 21st century. But Europe teaches us something else that is more painful. This lesson is that it's not only *what* we say that's important, it's also the credibility of the person who says it. On that score, the Copenhagen summit was especially painful for Europe. The United States and China decided to disagree behind our backs, quite simply because we were the ones doing the talking. And I believe that Europeans must ask themselves each time their populations take to the street to demonstrate, that a government collapses, that a country is on the verge of falling apart, what image are they portraying of Europe to the world. If you want to be credible, behave in a credible manner.

My third and last point: Asia. The former president of Mongolia illustrated how important good governance is to peace by citing the almost extremely absurd example of North Korea. To use more traditional examples, I believe that we're currently talking about good governance as we used to talk about good government, as when the abbot Saint-Pierre and Kant stated that democracy was a precondition for peace. What's happening in North Korea, where a bizarre sect is monopolising a country and keeping it in particularly unacceptable famine conditions, demonstrates just how dangerous this is. We appeal to a country which must accept its responsibilities on the world stage and act responsibly, commensurate with its new power. That country, of course, is China.

In this environment, we can see to what extent good governance relies on all countries taking action and not just deliberating. What would be most dangerous is that what held true for governance in the past holds true today – contrary to the Dreyfus affair, I would say. Remember: always think about it, but never talk about it. What sometimes worries me about governance is that we could go too far in the opposite direction: always talking about it but never really thinking about it when we carry out our plans.

I wish to sincerely thank all of you, gentlemen, for having kept to your time limit. I believe that we're ending this session almost exactly on schedule. Let's give a round of applause to the members of the panel.