



# THIERRY DE MONTBRIAL

Fondateur et président de la World Policy Conference

It is my great pleasure to have President Paul Kagame from Rwanda as our guest speaker tonight. I would like to thank him for two reasons. The first one is practical. It was not easy for him to be here. He had to reschedule some of his activities and I am very grateful to him for that. However, the fundamental reason why I feel honored to have President Kagame tonight is that I am convinced that he is one of the greatest leaders in Africa today.

After a very bloody war, he was able not only to reconcile the population of the country, but as I understand it, to help create a real nation. This concept of nation is not obvious, as in many other states in Africa. A nation cannot exist easily because of the division of Africa into borders inherited from colonial times. After the bloody war of the '90s, President Kagame was able to build a nation, not only to reconcile people but to build a nation.

Since then, he has transformed the state into a model state which is very often compared as the Singapore of Africa. I would say Singapore with a better climate as I understand it. Mr. President, I thank you very much again. I am going to invite you to join me. You are going to make a short presentation and after that, the two of us are going to have a short discussion. I will open the floor to a general discussion. Mr. President, the floor is yours.