

**Rackham Symposium: Emerging Concepts of Democracy in China,  
Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union**

**Thursday, April 5, 8:00 pm, Rackham Amphitheater**

**Format: JJD Opens with Welcome, then JD'A with opening and  
introduction of keynote speaker.**

**TALK POINTS**

**Colleagues, friends, distinguished guests**

**I am delighted to be here this evening**

**to welcome you to this Symposium---**

**Emerging Concepts of Democracy in China,**

**Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.**

**Who can doubt that this past year will be forever noted**

**in the history books**

**From Warsaw to Berlin to Bucharest, from Prague**

**to Moscow and Beijing**

**We have seen the power of ideas literally change our world.**

**Recent world events offer a sobering and also, I think,**

**inspiring reminder to us as scholars,**

**that what we do---**

**what scholars, writers, artists and intellectuals do---**

**is powerful--**

**In the day to day work of the academy,**

**we may sometimes lose sight of our critical role**

**in society.**

**But what more important calling can there be**

**than preserving, transmitting and advancing truth?**

**and thus helping to extend the foundation**

**of freedom and justice in the world.**

**What more precious trust than ours to prepare the young  
to be leaders in the search for truth.**

**Events of this year have moved at a breathtaking pace.**

**It has been difficult to absorb the changes,  
to assess their immediate implications  
let alone to try to understand what they mean  
for our collective human future.**

**I think it is important that we try to do that--  
that we try to analyze recent political events  
in their historical and cultural context  
and in relation to global political and social realities.**

**Our University has always been known**

**for its international programs and connections,  
so it is very appropriate that we should take this initiative  
to bring scholars and scholar activists together  
to think about the extraordinary events of this year  
on the front lines of freedom.**

**Because one thing is certain in today's world.**

**We are all in this together. Events in any part of the globe however  
remote  
now affect all of us in ways that would have been unimaginable.  
even a few years ago.**

**We each have a stake in how freedom fares in countries around the  
world.**

**We all have a lot to learn about each other and to teach one  
another.**

**as we enter this new world in the making.**

**Congratulations and thanks to Dean D'Arms and his colleagues**

**who have helped organize this meeting.**

**Best wishes for a very stimulating and significant set of discussions.**

