

**Former Prime Minister of Great Britain,
The Honorable Tony Blair**
(Video presentation during the 400th Anniversary ceremonies)

...The journey that began at Jamestown 400 years ago has seen America become a great nation and force for freedom around the world. Together Britain, the United States and other nations that share our values have faced down tyrants fought and given their lives to defend freedom from fascism, communism; and today those who use terror to achieve what they cannot achieve by persuasion. We have stood up for the basic rights of all people to live in peace, with justice, and to govern them selves. This journey to Jamestown truly has changed the world and is changing it still.

When Her Majesty, the Queen, joined you for your 400th Anniversary festivities in May, she spoke for all the people of Britain when she spoke fondly of the bonds between our nations, and also of the positive changes that have taken place in the last 50 years since she first came to the United States to celebrate Jamestown Anniversary. Within our two countries, and within the broader community of nations, we've witness a growing consensus about the universality of certain ideas, of basic liberties, of human dignity, and equality, and justice, and fairness, and the right of people to choose their own government. These are not and never have been western, American or, indeed, British values. They are the universal values the human spirit and anytime people have the power to choose they choose freedom, justice and democracy.

We face, of course, real threats from those who do not share those ideas, and our generation, like those before, is called upon to meet those challenges, to answer those threats and to stand firm and not shrink from the task of preserving, protecting, and defending our freedoms. It is a time of danger, but also a time of immense opportunity; and nothing good comes easily, as we know.

The lesson of Jamestown teaches this well. Jamestown ultimate success was first a lesson of survival, a struggle to meet basic human needs. It was next a lesson of perseverance. Although the coming, or manner of adversity, of conflicts and differences; of unspeakable hardships. And it was finally, a lesson of understanding. Three cultures came together under very different circumstances, yet, over time a single nation was forged; a united nation that celebrates today its' diversity, and it has worked over the centuries to right those things that are wrong and to fill its founders promise of liberty and justice for all.

We can learn much from America's example. I know that has been a central part of your dialogue, these last two days. But you have also looked at the global picture, at the challenges and opportunities of democracy around the world. And at inter-related issues like national security and multilateral cooperation, religious and ethnic differences, economic development, poverty, climate change and sustained ability.

In the final analysis, we know that democratic principle can only become a self-governing reality in nations where abstract liberty is matched by tangible opportunity. We know that vexing geopolitical issues of economic and environmental, cultural, social and other dimensions that must be addressed. And we know the nations who share common values of humanity and nations of human dignity and liberty, must work together despite whatever lesser differences they may have.

Nations must work together today to address the tragedy of millions around the globe, beset by poverty, disease, ignorance and fear. They must work together to resolve historic conflicts and bring peace to war ravaged lands. And they must respond unflinchingly to radical ideologies and violent movements, especially those that pursue power through the mass murder

of innocence, and who pose a threat not only to our form of government and our way of life, but even to life itself.

Many of you, I know, have come a great distance to lend your experiences and ideas to this dialogue, vitally important, that has taken place in this *World Form on the Future of Democracy*. I congratulate you on your commitment and wish you well in your work, as you return to your homelands.

These international discussions that have taken place throughout this year-long Conference Series on the foundations and future of democracy, I think it made a really valuable contribution to our understanding of each other, and of the opportunities before us. So let us now resolve to build on these and other fruitful discussion to bring positive change throughout our world. Others may seek to tear down. Let us seek to build up. Let us build on a foundation of freedom whose cornerstone was put in place not far from your present sight, now four centuries ago. And let us continue on a journey that has brought hope to millions and is still changing the world for the better.