

Abstract for Harvard College in Asia Project (HCAP)
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“Why two words “Freedom” and “Democracy” generate intellectual laziness”

Every Western leader declares that he or she is in favor of Freedom and Democracy. In theory, they are absolute ideals. The Western leaders will pay any price; bear any burden etc. to defend them. In practice, Western national interests trump Western values in their foreign policy formulation. Even when democracy is promoted, the results can be negative. Witness Rwanda and Yugoslavia. Or compare Russia and China. The long-term destination is not in doubt. All nations must eventually become democratic. But the journey there can be arduous and difficult. The West has hurt many countries by making them believe otherwise. This story too needs to be told. Hence, the world needs a new discourse on the subject of Freedom and Democracy.

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