

Leo Hohenberg: historic speech for peace, preservation of values and personal responsibility

• November 19, 2024



Książę Leo von Hohenberg podczas swojej historycznej mowy 16 listopada 2024 w Artstetten, zdjęcie: Info-Direkt

On November 16, 2024, Leo Hohenberg, great-grandson of Crown Prince Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Este, delivered a historic speech at Artstetten Castle. Selected media representatives were invited, including Report24.news. The assassination of Franz Ferdinand on June 28, 1914, marked the beginning of the horrors of World War I, which claimed the lives of 17 million people. Even now, the world stands on the brink of a third world war – and this speech for peace should give everyone pause for thought.

*With kind permission from Leo Hohenberg,
great-grandson of Crown Prince Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Este
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Let me make it clear from the outset: I am neither a historian nor a politician or a philosopher. In fact, I have no special qualifications to stand here before you and speak – other than the coincidence of my birth.

However, I am a father, husband, reserve officer of the Austrian Armed Forces, and a Christian, and I feel obligated to do everything in my power in the service of peace. Just like all of you here, I want to preserve our beliefs, our values, and our freedoms as the foundation for a fulfilling and peaceful life for the next generation.

The upheavals of the last decade – with mass migration, the complete decline of traditional Western values, and most recently, a general war frenzy – have compelled me to make a statement here today.

The murder of my great-grandfather marked the first catastrophe of the 20th century, preceded by a wave of moral confusion and ultimately war euphoria – not unlike our current situation.

But before I can talk about peace, I would like to take a step back and analyze how we have arrived at our current situation. A divided world that is once again dangerously close to a world war and is currently experiencing a different kind of war.

This war is not fought with weapons, as in Ukraine or the Middle East. It is a much deeper war, a spiritual war. It is a war for public and political thoughts, waged with the full spiritual and financial power of large international institutions. The goal is globally centralized uniformity, and only those who conform are allowed to participate and access the pool of tax money.

Most people either don't care or see no reason to. Others feel compelled to bend the knee and submit. But whether we want to or not, whether we ignore it or not, we are already in the midst of this war.

We must be aware that this war is being waged with very subtle means: there are no battlefields, no execution squads, no gulags in the traditional sense. Through the redefinition of concepts and the targeted selection of terms, through the alteration of values via the universal repetition of mantras in media, film, and television, through the adjustment of school and university curricula, selective data manipulation—with the help of AI—and other subtle techniques, opinions are influenced, cultural identities are shifted, our social cohesion is destroyed, our voting behavior is manipulated, and we are driven into a state of unconscious submission by new world ideologies.

Those who do not conform will be canceled. Access to their money is frozen, work and travel permits are revoked, and they are eliminated at the push of a button – as we have already seen in some countries of the so-called Western democracies.

How does this happen? It always begins with a call for tolerance. First, we are asked to tolerate anomalies. Then we promote them in a display of civilized, unbiased maturity. The next logical step is to legalize them and even celebrate them, until we end up being persecuted for still calling them by their true name. Dostoevsky aptly said: "Tolerance will reach a level that forbids wise people from thinking, so as not to offend the foolish."

If you tolerate everything, you stand for nothing and can therefore be manipulated into anything – and that is exactly where we are heading. War is peace, and peace is war; it feels as if *1984*, *Brave New World*, and *Animal Farm* are no longer fiction.

Most Christians completely misunderstand tolerance. You see, Jesus did not eat with sinners because He wanted to appear tolerant, inclusive, and accepting. No, He ate with them to call them to change their lives and lead a fruitful life with Him. He calls for a transformation of life, not for the affirmation of utopian ideologies. It is about a turning back to everything that is good, true, and beautiful.



Ladies and gentlemen, our commitment to the next generation to preserve peace lies in developing the courage to take responsibility and to save normality. We must influence not only our immediate environment but also our culture by advocating for normality, standing against normaphobes with their destructive impact on our cultural identities and the family.

I recently heard the expression "The courage to be responsible." It made a deep impression on me and made me think.

See, I consider a traditionalist to be someone who has the highest respect for God, humanity and his ancestors. A traditionalist does not desire the past at the expense of the present and the future, and does not get stuck in the past and embellish historical mistakes. With the lessons learned from the past, he takes responsibility for the future. The traditionalist has such great respect for the price of the lessons his ancestors had to go through that he fights with all his strength against forgetting.

Let me rephrase that: the Traditionalist has so much respect for the price of the lessons his ancestors had to learn that he fights against oblivion with all his skills.

The most obvious and basic of such lessons is the price of war - an unquestionably ineffective method of dealing with conflicts that we reach for again and again, vowing that it will be the last time. A similar lesson is that all attempts to introduce authoritarian forms of government have consistently led to misery and destruction.

It is neither brave nor responsible to impose an ideology disguised as governance. Take, for example, the current phenomenon of global organizations that call their unchecked power "governance." These organizations are heavily beholden to global corporations and their financiers, who implement their interests and globalist utopias undemocratically and enact laws that were not elected by their sovereign, the people.

Historically, generic, authoritarian, supranational forms of government have failed because they tend to ignore the identities of the nations they seek to rule. When a nation doesn't know what makes it unique and what it stands for, someone else will define it for it.

The nation-state is the natural organizational form of human societies. It enables not only cooperation between nations, but also the purposeful protection of the definition and identity of each individual state.

We should not confuse centralization of power with international cooperation. Therefore, a truly courageous and effective supranational government should have as its sole objective the protection of the culture, history, and economic and political freedoms of each individual country.

A truly courageous and effective supranational government would therefore confine itself exclusively to supranational affairs, thus ensuring the self-determination of the people in the face of the imposition of artificial agendas. In other words: from the bottom up, not from the top down.

Genuinely democratic cooperation between countries should respect the intellectual output and cultural heritage of each country.

Unfortunately, European and global institutions only make declarations in favor of supranational principles. A viewpoint limited to legislative periods makes legal and

regulatory measures the only goal. The recent emergency laws passed by the World Health Organization (WHO) are an example of this kind of dictatorial legislation.

Power needs control.

We are experiencing a coordinated collapse of national identities and personal freedoms, and are now being encouraged to reject every faith, every tradition and all values and replace them with a "new truth."

Of course, we have learned nothing from history. Several examples from our recent history come to mind, in which the persistent imposition of ideologies that contradict the truth has led to unimaginable suffering and offense to God. So how can respect for our ancestors help us protect our civilization from the onslaught of utopian organizations and guarantee a hopeful and peaceful future?

I believe the answer lies with the man in the mirror. God gave us the ability to transform our thoughts into actions. From actions, habits are formed, and habits shape our lives. Where we collectively choose to direct our thoughts determines where our society goes. God has given each of us the ability and freedom to think and train our minds to focus on what is just, true and God-given.

No one, believer or atheist, can question the validity of the Ten Commandments - or, if you prefer, the Ten Directions for Life.

Divine freedom of thought was created to protect us from the tyrannical imposition of ideology. Our Christian heritage is designed to protect us from being misled. We are divinely programmed to know that there are absolute truths and that "personal truths" are merely opinions, not facts - they are merely distortions of the truth.

The most obvious example of the distortion we are subjected to is language. Language is not just a means to express our thoughts, it also affects how we think and act. Over the past 15 years, we have experienced a rapid change in how things are called, with a new selection of words using euphemisms to distort the truth.

Which sounds better: "castration and mutilation" or "sexual health"? "Child murder" or "reproductive health"? "Censorship" or "protection against disinformation"? A different choice of words changes your perception of a concept, changes your thoughts, and thus also your actions.

We must fight these psychological games. Don't underestimate your divine sense of truth. If something smells rotten, it probably is. To be an instrument of change and peace, we can, as conscious citizens, adopt daily habits:

- Pay attention to your choice of words you hear and read. Be aware of how you express your thoughts, and carefully and consciously choose your vocabulary;
- A responsible person shows a healthy skepticism toward all forms of media and has the courage to formulate independent views on current events, guided by his God-given compass;

- Question the trends. Don't be afraid to be the black sheep. Think about it;
- If you follow the herd, you can step into what it leaves behind!
- Limit your time spent in front of a screen and on audio. Discover the classics, ancient philosophers and actively seek ancestral knowledge. Talk to older members of your family, teach your children and grandchildren!
- Even the most conflict-avoidant person among us should actively seek out opportunities to talk to others about all manner of issues, using your sense of what is right and just as a guide. Whether in a friendly environment, as here today, or in a more controversial environment, your credibility and integrity, your inner moral strength, offer you the most honest and effective arguments. "It just seems incorrect to me" or "Can you explain it to me?" are arguments that everyone can respect. Don't be afraid to express your opinion, even if it's only in your immediate environment. You'll be surprised how many people agree with you;
- To avoid feeling isolated and powerless, actively seek conversation with like-minded people to strengthen your resolve and spirituality;
- When you're among strangers, take your eyes off your phone and try to strike up casual conversations with a cashier, a cab driver, a fellow passenger on a train or plane. Every encounter, no matter how trivial, is a Divine opportunity. You never know what effect your words may have on another person;
- Pray that the Holy Spirit Himself will work through your inconspicuous actions. Be sincere in your love for other people; God will do the rest;
- - Seek God's wisdom and guidance in every way possible and have the courage to stand up and speak out!

Ultimately, don't let these difficult times give you the feeling that you are just a powerless victim. Don't give in to feelings of uncertainty or even fear. Actively fight the temptation, against better discernment, to retreat into passivity and conformity. Allow your mind to think beyond the opinion of the masses. Make a conscious effort to respectfully question authorities and the opinions of so-called experts.

The struggle of the individual against the decline of the collective spirit may seem impossible. Nevertheless, we can reclaim the power of anonymous institutions. Change happens when you refuse to be shaped by the status quo. Change happens when you refuse to tacitly accept the omnipresent narrative.

Saint Teresa of Ávila taught us:

*Christ has no body now, except yours,
has no hands, no feet on earth, except yours.
Yours are the eyes through which He looks at this world with compassion.
Yours are the feet through which He does good.
Yours are the hands with which He blesses the whole world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,*

*Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no other body on earth now than yours.*



Leo Hohenberg descended from the Austrian Hohenberg dynasty, which held the title of Prince of Poland and Hungary until 1919. The Hohenbergs descended in the male line from the imperial Habsburg Lorraine family, and in the female line from the old Bohemian noble family of Chotek of Chotkov and Vognin. His great-grandfather, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, was assassinated along with his wife by Bosnian Serb nationalist Gavrilo Princip on June 28, 1914 in Sarajevo. It was the beginning of World War I.

After the speech, we had the opportunity to record a short conversation with Mr. Hohenberg.



Interview in German. [English subtitles can be included.](#)