

Your Serene Highness, the Reigning Prince of Liechtenstein,
Your Serene Highness, Madame Ambassador,
Spectabiles,
Dear Students,
Honoured guests,

Let me welcome you most cordially to the presentation of the book *The State in the Third Millennium* which will be held in the presence of its author himself – His Serene Highness Hans-Adam II, the Reigning Prince of Liechtenstein. It is a great honour for me to welcome him among us.

I am also delighted to welcome Her Serene Highness Maria-Pia Kothbauer, Ambassador of the Principality of Liechtenstein to Austria, to the Organization on Security and Co-operation in Europe and to the United Nations.

I also welcome Mr. Pavel Juřík, chairman of the *Liechtenstein Historical Association*.

The book *The State in the Third Millennium*, which is the primary reason we are all gathered here today, was translated into Czech and published by the Grada Publishing House in February 2011 – that is quite recently. Nevertheless, some of Charles University students have already had the opportunity to become acquainted with it. They are also present today together with their teachers: The Faculty of Social Sciences is represented by the Department of West European Studies and its Head, Professor Lenka Rovná, and by the Department of German and Austrian studies and one of his lecturers, Dr. Miroslav Kunštát. The Faculty of Philosophy and Arts is represented by the Institute of World History and Associate Professors Jan Županič and Václav Horčíčka. It is also my pleasure to welcome them all at our meeting.

Let me briefly introduce our special guest:

Prince Hans-Adam II was born in 1945 as the eldest son of Franz Josef II, Prince of Liechtenstein, and his wife, Princess Georgina von Wilczek. He studied at the Scottish Grammar School in Vienna and at the Grammar School at Zuoz in Switzerland. He graduated from the University of St. Gallen in 1969 with the degree of Licentiate. He married Countess Marie Kinsky of Vchynice and Tetov and they have four children.

In 1970, Prince Hans-Adam was entrusted by his father with reorganising the management and administration of the assets belonging to the Princely House. In 1984, he was appointed his father's permanent representative and in 1989, following the death of his father, he assumed the regency.

Under his leadership Liechtenstein became a member of the United Nations in 1990 and of the European Economic Area in 1995. In 2003, voters in Liechtenstein declared themselves strongly in favour of his proposed constitutional amendment that strengthened democracy and monarchy.

In 2004, Prince Hans-Adam II appointed Hereditary Prince Alois his permanent representative in preparation for his succession to the throne. He himself devotes more to managing the assets of the Princely House.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are very pleased that Charles University can host Prince Hans-Adam II., a successful monarch, businessman and head of a state which enjoys one of the world's highest standards of living. He has come to introduce his new book and share with us his views and experience in governance.

I believe that an interesting discussion will develop afterwards but let me first give the floor to Prince Hans-Adam II. In his introductory lecture, he is going to make us acquainted with his book *The State in the Third Millennium*.