

Ook de EU moet buigen

EUROPE

EU's pivot to China falls foul of Beijing's censors

Europe learns the risks of courting China as a letter by its envoys is censored in an official newspaper.



A Chinese national flag is flown at half-staff on top of a building in Wuhan in central China's Hubei Province on April 4, 2020. | Ng Han Guan/AP Photo

In Europa:



PRESS RELEASE May 6, 2020

NEW REPORT: Nations in Transit 2020 finds weakened institutions in Europe and Eurasia as politicians flout democratic norms

COVID-19 creates inflection point that could accelerate downward trends or reinvigorate democracy

A growing number of leaders in Central and Eastern Europe have dropped even the pretense that they play by the rules of democracy. They openly attack democratic institutions and are working to restrict individual freedoms, according to *Nations in Transit 2020*, an annual report on democratic governance in the region.

These attacks have resulted in a dramatic democratic breakdown across Central Europe, the Balkans, and Eurasia, leading to category declines for four countries in the past two years: Poland has dropped out of the group of Consolidated Democracies and become a Semiconsolidated Democracy, while Hungary, Serbia, and Montenegro have all left the category of democracies entirely and become Transitional/Hybrid Regimes.

Hungarije, deel van Xi's Belt and Road Initiative

NEWS

Hungary's Orban 'dropped any pretense' of respecting institutions, Freedom House reports

Under the rule of Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Hungary is no longer a democracy, said the US watchdog Freedom House. The Hungarian government responded by claiming links between the group and billionaire George Soros.



Hungary has experienced "the most precipitous" democratic decline ever tracked by the US-based rights watchdog Freedom House in their " [Nations in Transit](#)" report, the think tank said on Wednesday.

The government helmed by conservative Prime Minister Viktor Orban has "dropped any pretense of respecting democratic institutions."

"After centralizing power, tilting the electoral playing field, taking over much of the media, and harassing critical civil society organizations since 2010, Orban moved during 2019 to consolidate control over new areas of public life, including education and the arts," Freedom House said in the latest edition of their report.

The country has now crossed the line from a democracy to a "transitional/hybrid regime," the watchdog said. Such regimes have fragile democratic institutions and citizens face "substantial challenges" to their rights and liberties.

Read more: [Hungary: Orban's fight against press freedom is not just for journalists](#)

Macht via de nieuwe Zijderoute

- De nieuwe handelsroute Belt and Road is bedoeld als geopolitiek economisch breekiijzer en komt uit in Rotterdam...



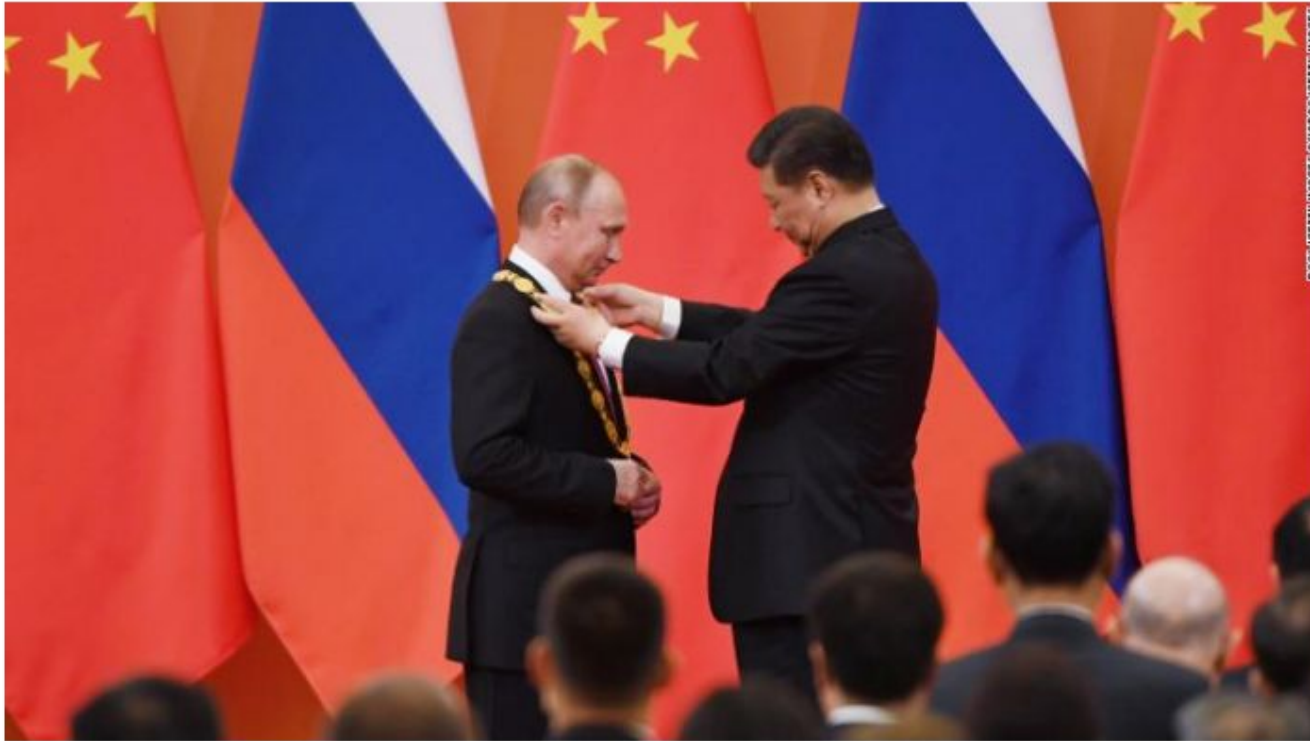
De Russische samenvatting:

- Mensen zien de democratie als bankroet, omdat ze dat ook is.' Het is niets anders dan 'een laag vernis waaronder de elite zijn gang kan gaan.'
- Democratie staat gelijk aan twee wolven en een schaap die stemmen over wat ze willen eten. Steeds meer mensen beginnen dat in te zien

De Chinese versie:

- '2020 is niet het einde van de geschiedenis', door de instorting van de democratie, 'maar het begin van een nieuwe.'
- President Xi Jinping: 'China is vastbesloten een nieuwe internationale orde te bouwen, voor een gezamenlijke toekomst van de mensheid. Het internationale systeem moet worden getransformeerd op basis van Chinese nationale voorwaarden.'
- Daarvoor is het nu het moment, 'nu de crisis in de westerse landen verandert in een ernstige sociale en politieke crisis' (Xinhua, Global Times)

Grondwet aan de kant: Presidents for life



Chinese President Xi Jinping congratulates Russian President Vladimir Putin after presenting him with the Friendship Medal in the Great Hall of the People on June 8, 2018 in Beijing, China.

Zo hoort het:

- Belgrado, Servië: 'Bedankt, broeder Xi'.



Een 'illiberale democratie' naar voorbeeld Moskou: hulp verzekerd

7-5-2020

Orban thanks Putin for help in overcoming EU sanctions impact | Financial Times

fastFT **Vladimir Putin**

Orban thanks Putin for help in overcoming EU sanctions impact



© Getty

Henry Foy in Moscow SEPTEMBER 18 2018

Aan hun glorie mag religie niet afdoen

7-5-2020

Stop using religious matters to smear China: article - People's Daily Online



English >>

Stop using religious matters to smear China: article

(Xinhua) 09:06, May 03, 2020

 Follow on Apple News

BEIJING, May 2 (Xinhua) -- A signed Chinese article slammed a recent report released by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), urging it to stop using religious matters to smear China.

The USCIRF never runs short of political bias against China and has published one report after another to smear China's religious policies over the years, said the article.

The report, based on lies and prejudice, ignored the basic fact that the Chinese government protects its citizens' freedom of religious belief in accordance with the law, said the article.

Zeker dit soort teksten niet:

- Jesaja 1, Micha 6 en Jesaja 30:
- Zoek het recht, houd tirannen in toom, bied wezen bescherming, sta weduwen bij.
- Er is jou, mens, gezegd wat goed is, je weet wat de HEER van je wil: niets anders dan recht te doen, trouw te betrachten en nederig de weg te gaan van je God.
- Want de HEER is een God van recht.