

Gastvortrag

Bruce RICH A (New) Global Ethic from Ancient India?

Where/Wo?: Rokoko-Saal, Karl-Rahner-Platz 1 (Theologie, 1. Stock)

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A new, global civilisation and economy needs a new, global ethic. What seems to be obvious is far from being agreed on. However, Bruce Rich calls for such an ethic, inspired by the writings and lives of two of the greatest figures of ancient India – Ashoka and Kautilya. Both addressed questions of political realism and idealism, the role of force and violence in international relations, and the tension between economics and ethics, and particularly Kautilya also stressed questions which today would be termed environmental. Rich calls for a new global ethic, distilling the message of Ashoka and Kautilya while drawing on thinkers across the ages, from Aristotle and Adam Smith to Karl Polanyi and Hans Kueng.

Bruce Rich ...

... is an American writer and lawyer who has published extensively on the environment in developing countries and development in general and was awarded the United Nations Global 500 Award for environmental achievement. Since the 1980s Rich worked as an attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Environmental Defense Fund. He has as well worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development, the United Nations Environment Program, the World Resources Institute, the U.S. Congress Office of Technology Assessment and the World Bank. Finally, he has also lectured widely at universities and colleges around the U.S.

Selected publications:

- *To Uphold the World: The Message of Ashoka and Kautilya for the 21st Century*, with a Forward by Amartya Sen and an Afterword by His Holiness the Dalai Lama; Beacon Press, Boston, 2010.
- "Exporting Destruction", in Steve Hiatt, ed. *A Game As Old As Empire*. Berrett-Koehler Publishers, San Francisco, 2007.
- "The World Bank under James Wolfensohn", in J.R. Pincus and J.A. Winters, eds., *Reinventing the World Bank*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 2002.
- *Mortgaging the Earth: The World Bank, Environmental Impoverishment, and the Crisis of Development* (Earthscan, London; Beacon Press, Boston, 1994; revised edition in preparation).

All people interested are warmly welcomed! Alle Kolleginnen und Kollegen,
Interessierte sowie Studierende sind herzlich willkommen!