Since the collapse of communism, the world has seen rapid globalization, the emergence of new geopolitical realities and conflicts, and a global economic crisis. Have social scientists been able to explain or justify the present? The fall of communism gave rise to a set of beliefs, at least two of which will be discussed. The first was that, with the advent of the Cold War, liberal democracy prevailed itself the best form of governance and that no further political evolution is necessary. However, while dictatorship has been discredited, the EU and the US have relatively different models of democratic politics. Their differences beg the question whether further evolution is needed and, if so, in what direction? The second thesis was that the end of the Cold War proved that liberal capitalism was the best of all economic systems. The global economic crisis and the nationalization of certain economic sectors calls this into question. On the other hand, the spread of liberal democracy and free markets across the globe over the last 20 years, and the lack of coherent alternatives seem to support the end of "history" thesis.

6:30pm The End of History?
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