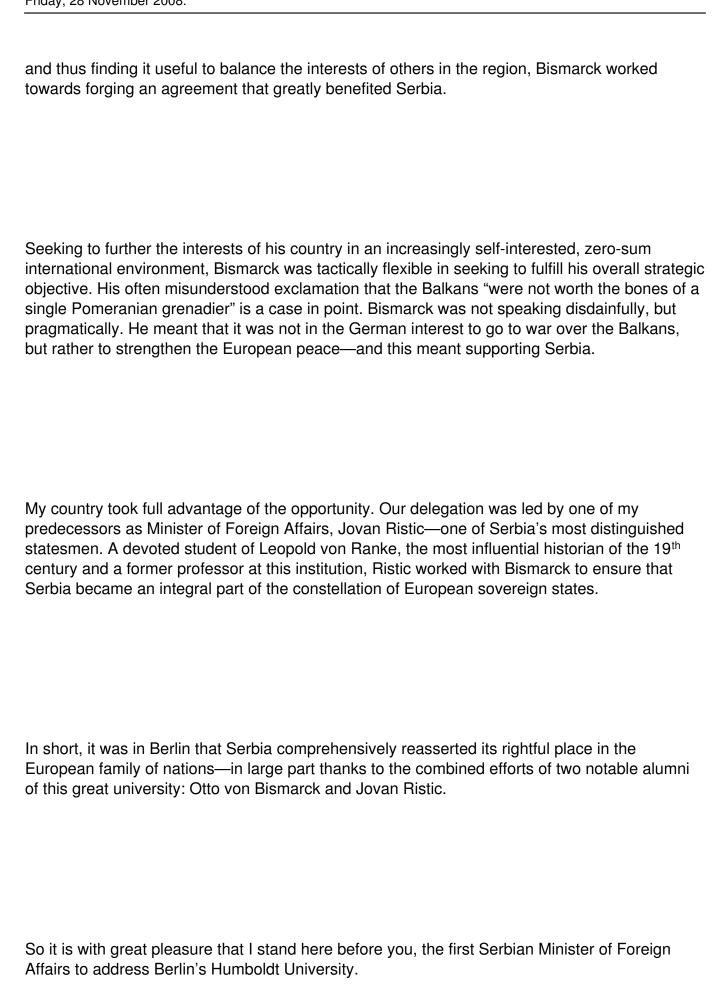
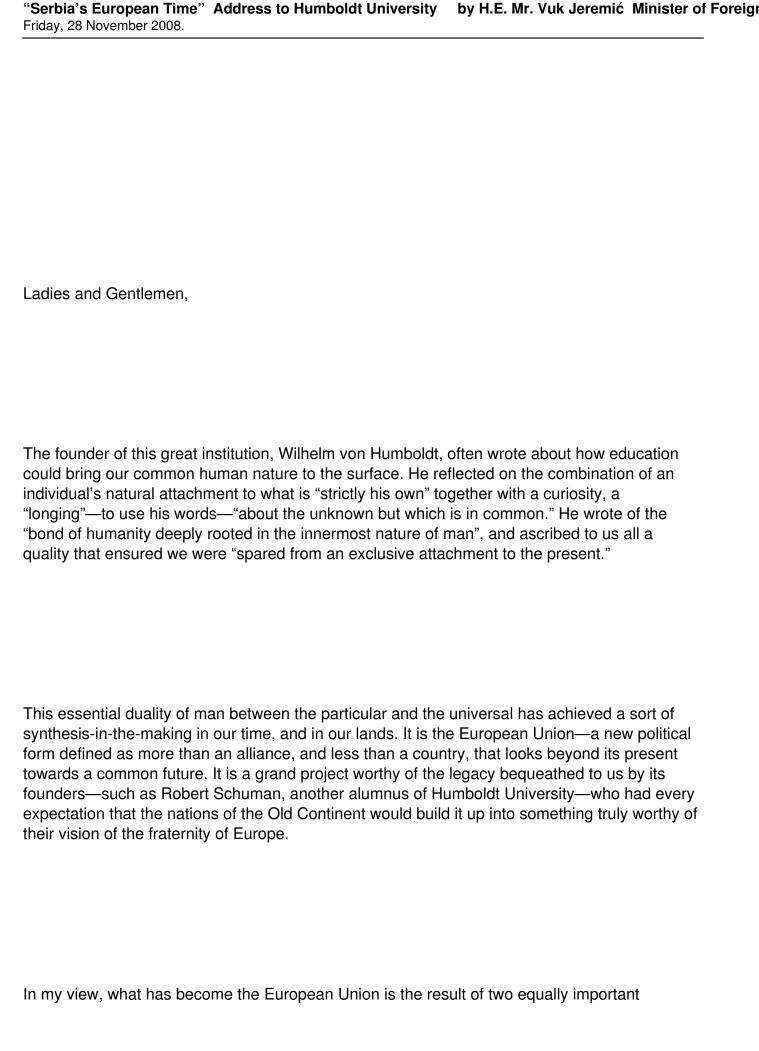
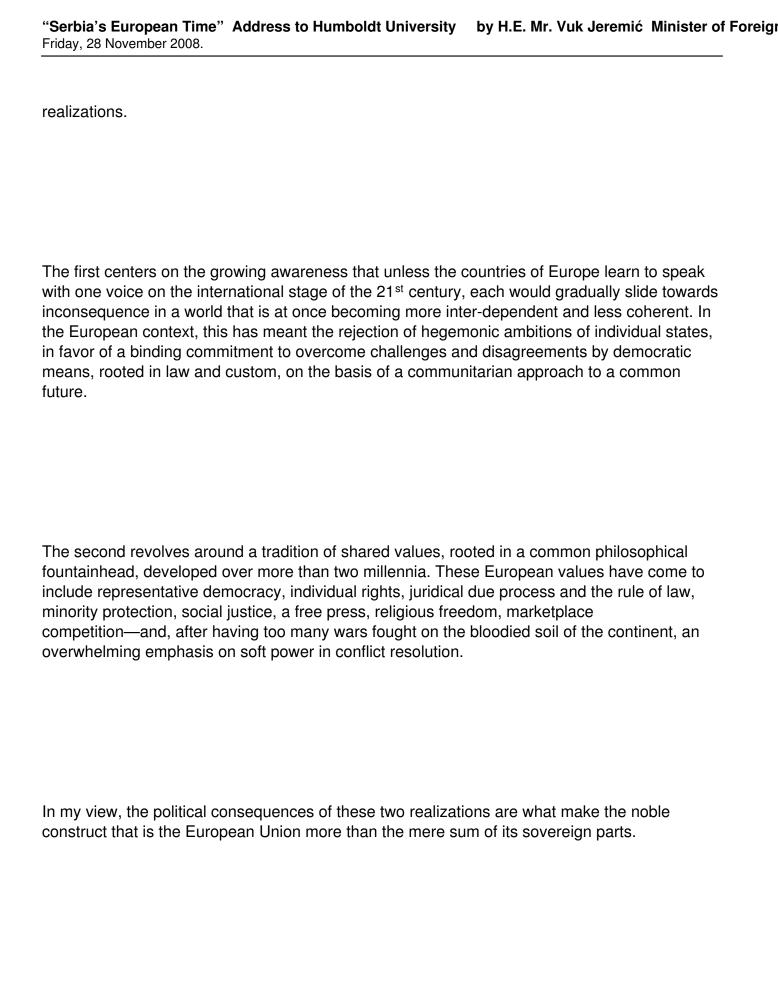
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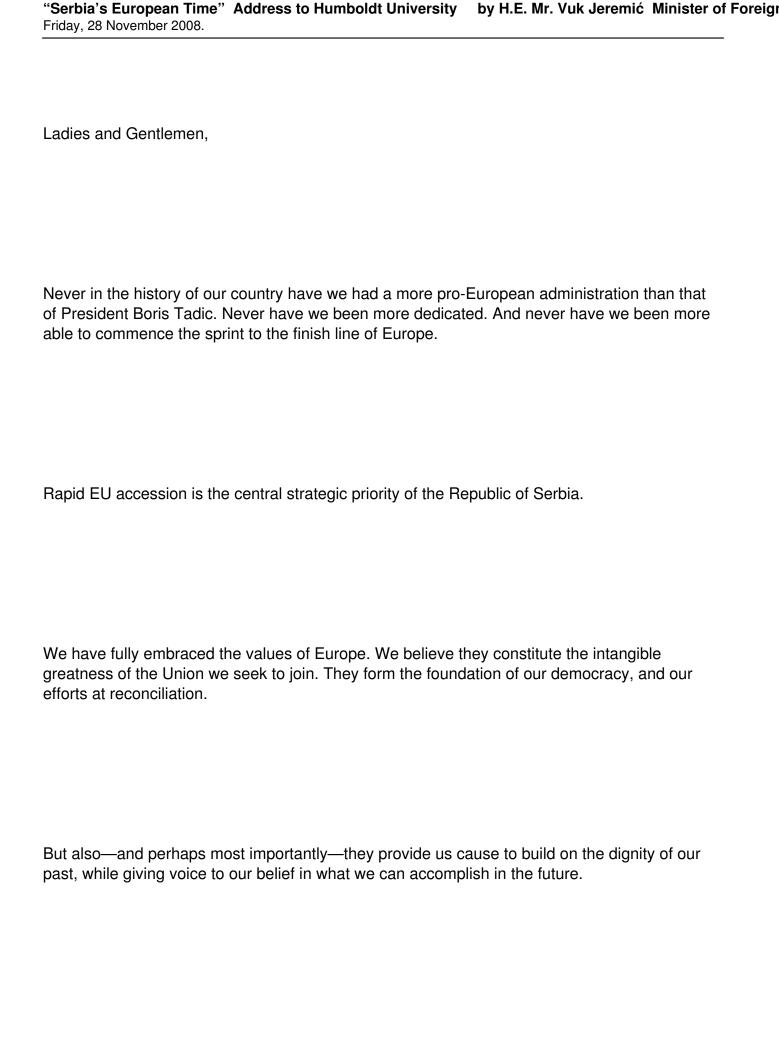
"Serbia's European Time" Address to Humboldt University

by H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić Minister of Foreign

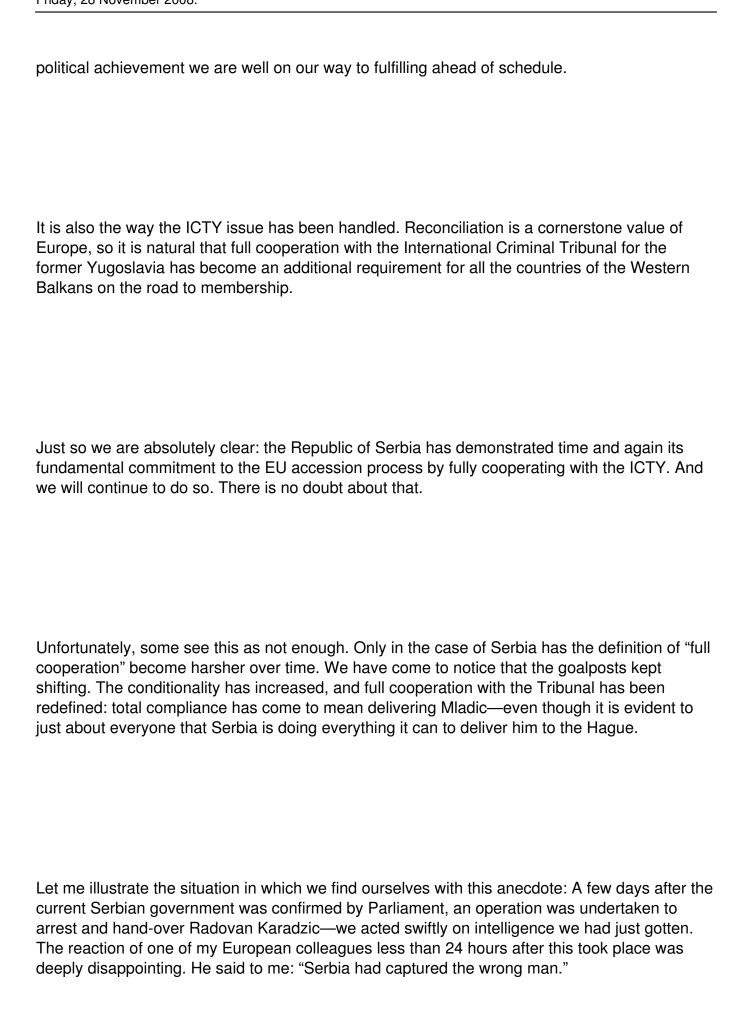


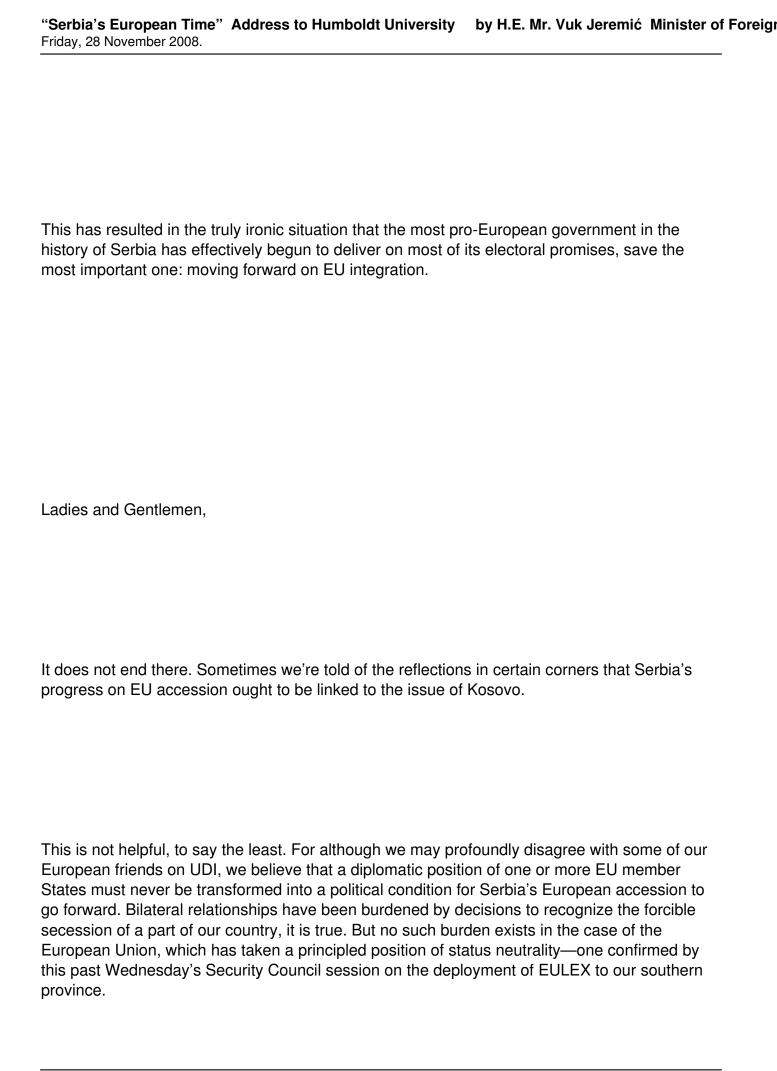


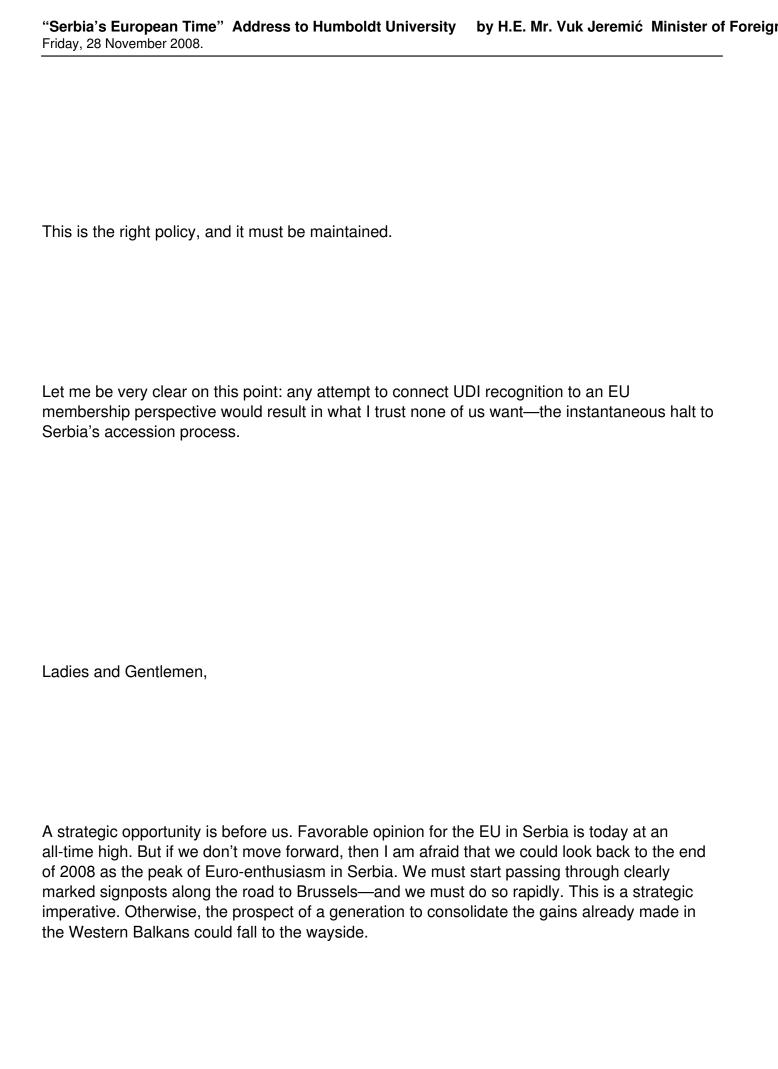




And what is of great significance is that my country's absolute dedication to join the EU is shared by all the countries of the Western Balkans. Europe, in other words, has become <i>the</i> unifying force of the region. Should the process of enlargement be successfully completed, I believe that the entire region can be propelled generationally forward. The Balkanization of the Balkans would not only be reversed, but buried once and for all.
Why then has this not happened? Why are we not closer? Why isn't a sense of imminent belonging being felt throughout the region—and especially in Serbia? Why is there a creeping feeling that an opportunity is about to be missed—the best regional opportunity to come along in this generation to complete the European project in the Western Balkans?
My answer revolves around the distinct impression that prevails in our public that we are not being treated like other EU membership aspirants in the Western Balkans. We seem to be held to a different set of standards.
Ladies and Gentlemen,
It seems like it is not just the Copenhagen Criteria—an objective standard of technical and







What is needed, therefore, is a roadmap for accession success.
Let 2009 become Serbia's leap year, our year of European achievement. Let us work together to create that all-important sense of regional imminent belonging to the House of Europe.
Here is what I propose.
First, let us restore a common-sense understanding of what full cooperation with the ICTY really means, and un-freeze the Interim Agreement between Serbia and the European Union by the end of this year.
Second, let Serbia be put on the White Schengen List next year—for freedom of movement, the right to travel visa-free, is an embodiment of what Europe is to ordinary citizens of my country. And third, let 2009 be the year we commence the constructive management of Serbia's application process, and achieve Official Candidacy Status.

"Serbia's European Time" Address to Humboldt University by H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić Minister of Foreign Friday, 28 November 2008.

That said, I would be satisfied if you took away just this one thing from my remarks to you today: Serbia is a proud democracy, absolutely dedicated to consolidating regional peace and stability—that views achieving membership in the European Union as being in our 'supreme national interest.'
Ladies and Gentlemen,
I began my remarks to you this afternoon with Bismarck and 1878, and spoke of some of his accomplishments and limitations. I end with a brief consideration of what the Europe of the 21st century can truly become.
The EU whole, free and at peace—incorporating everything from the Baltics to the Balkans, Scandinavia to Iberia, the North Sea to the Black Sea—will turn out to be the magnificent answer to the until-now irrevocably unstable relationship between power and legitimacy in the long history of the Old Continent. Here is why:
We Europeans have learned over the course of many bloody centuries that unconstrained power failed to be a reliable guide to European order. Equally, we have discovered that

equilibrium yields best results if it predicated on common values.
In the past, the balance of power, in its zero-sum way, limited without preventing the <i>capacity</i> to overthrow the European order. Today and in the future, the unconditional embrace of shared values works to preclude even the <i>desire</i> to undermine, much less overthrow, the emerging 21 st -century European order.
Hard power without legitimacy tempts tests of strength that lead to friction or conflict. The world of today is coming to the realization that legitimacy without power still tempts empty posturing, while inviting derision from the more fierce.
In my view, the European Union is poised to combine these various elements of statecraft into a sublime whole that is more than the sum of its parts—but only if all the parts are there to be combined in a prudent, statesmanlike way. Serbia is one such part—essential to the consolidation of success that will be the European project once completed. There it stands, right around the corner: the torch to illuminate the 21 <sup>st</sup> -century's international landscape—waiting to be seized for the supremely moral prize that it is, anticipating the political achievement that it can easily become, and longing to be the success that it was always destined to be.

That is the Europe and the Serbia we seek, we embrace, and we build: the prudent synthesis of a nation's natural attachment to what is 'strictly its own', together with 'longing for that which is unknown but held in common'—to paraphrase the immortal words of Wilhelm von Humboldt.

Thank you very much for the opportunity you have given me to share my vision of Serbia's European time with you this afternoon.