

DROPPING, MAINTAINING AND BREAKING THE IRON CURTAIN:

The Cold War and East-Central Europe twenty years later

(Preliminary programme of the conference)

THURSDAY, 19 NOVEMBER

(Straka Academy – seat of the Czech Government)

17:30 – 19:45

Introductory word

Prime Minister Jan Fischer (to be confirmed)

Oldřich Tůma

Panel discussion: “How Well Did the Cold War Experience Prepare for Membership in NATO and EU?”

Chair: Vojtěch Mastný

Anne Deighton

Georges-Henri Soutou

Petr Luňák

László Borhi

A. Ross Johnson (to be confirmed)

Alexandr Vondra

FRIDAY, 20 NOVEMBER

(Liechtenstein Palace)

9:30 – 11:45

1) The struggle for East-Central Europe as a primary cause of the Cold War?

Chair: Oldřich Tůma

Leonid Gibianskii: “Stalin, Eastern / East-Central Europe and the Initial Stage of the Cold War: Modern Knowledge of Documents, and Ongoing Old and New Discussions”

Michael Hopkins: “The United States and Eastern Europe, 1943-1948”

László Borhi: “Why Was Eastern Europe Sovietized? – New Archival Evidence on the Case of Hungary, 1945-1956”

Vít Smetana: “Czechoslovakia’s Road to the Cold War”

Rolf Steininger: “Austria and the Cold War, 1945-1955”

Discussion

Lunch

13:00 – 15:00

2) Plans for a major war in Europe and the importance of nuclear weapons

Chair: James Hershberg

Timothy Naftali

Vladimír Nálevka: “The International Crises of the 1960s Viewed from the Central European Perspective”

David Holloway: “Nuclear Weapons and the Cold War Order in Europe.”

Petr Luňák: “Warsaw Pact Planning for the Central European Theater in the Last Cold War Decade”

Discussion

Coffee break

15:30 – 17:30

3) Attempts to break the Cold War deadlock versus efforts to stabilize the existing system

Chair: Thomas Blanton

Peter Ruggenthaler: “The Stalin-Note Debate – The Soviet Union and the German Question”

Csaba Békés: “Cold War, Detente and the Soviet Bloc, 1953–1975”

Oldřich Tůma: “Was the Prague Spring a Cold War Milestone?”

Dariusz Stola: “What Was Detente for Ordinary Men? Poland's Opening from Isolation to Mass Mobility to the West”

Vilém Prečan: “Perestroika the Czech Way: The Roots and Causes of Czechoslovak Immobility in the 1980s”

Discussion

**SATURDAY, 21 NOVEMBER
(Liechtenstein Palace)**

9:30-11:45

4) The German Question – the pivotal point of the Cold War

Chair:

Anne Deighton: “Britain and the German Question”

Georges-Henri Soutou: “The German Question as Seen from Paris”

Hope M. Harrison: “The Building of the Berlin Wall: What we have learned in the 20 years since the fall of the Wall.”

Oliver Bange: “Germany as an object of CSCE policies between East and West”

Bernd Schäfer: “Pulling the Rug: Eastern Europe and the Implosion of East Germany”

Discussion

Lunch

13:00 – 15:00

5) The ending of the Cold War and the role of East-Central Europe in the process

Chair: Vít Smetana

Thomas Blanton: "U.S. Policy and the Revolutions of 1989"

Alex Pravda: "Soviet Policy and East-Central Europe, 1988-89"

William Taubman: "Gorbachev's Role in Ending the Cold War"

Svetlana Savranskaya: "The Fall of the Wall, Eastern Europe and Gorbachev's vision of Europe after the Cold War"

Soňa Szomolányi: "The Common External Factor of the Fall of Communism and the Diverging Transition Paths of the East Central European Countries"

Discussion

Coffee break

15:30 – 17:45

6) Varying interpretations of the Cold War and its historical importance

Chair: Odd Arne Westad

Mark Kramer: "The Onset and Long Duration of the Cold War"

James Hershberg: "The Fading of Cold War History – A Tale of Two Conferences, 1988-89"

Silvio Pons: "Rethinking 1989: Some Historical Reflections on Communism"

Richard Ned Lebow: "The End of the Cold War as a Non-Linear Confluence."

Discussion

Concluding words

Odd Arne Westad: Summary speech

Oldřich Tuřma / Vít Smetana

18:00 – 20:00

Reception