



Ústav pro soudobé dějiny AV ČR
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The (re-)construction of national history and state-building after Communism:

Belarus, Czechia, Poland, Slovakia, and Ukraine in comparative perspective.

Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague
Národní 3, Room No. 205

Prague, 7-8 May, 2009

The re-construction and redefinition of national historical master-narratives and its public representations has been an indispensable part of the overall transformation process after 1989/1991 in East Central Europe. As such it has been widely reflected in the public political discourses as well as in academic writing usually, though, concerned with one-country case. The aim of the Prague conference is to look at this development from a comparative perspective as well as diverse theoretical angles. The overarching scheme underlining the general topic could be formulated as an endeavour to investigate into the post-communist *historical culture* that could be defined as a social-cultural field comprising roughly three fundamental layers affecting mutually each other:

a) the political, where various historical narratives, historical representations and policies of history/memory are applied and developed in the political discourse, b) the expert that mainly concerns the historical scholarship per se, and c) the society, where the variety of collective and individual historical memories and memory culture projects come to the fore.

In other words, the general questions of the conference could go: how the re-construction of national history was framed within the social, political and economic transformation after state socialism and how the communist/"totalitarian" period has been incorporated/excluded from the national historical master-narratives.

Thursday, May 7, 2009

9:30 - 10:00 Welcome

10:00 – 12:00 State-building and historical symbolism

(state-building and the legacies of historical statehood, question of historical legitimacy, state-driven historical investigations, historical symbolism in the public sphere, toponymy, official state-ideology, political community and nationalism)

Anton Kotenko (CEU, Budapest), Constructing image of Ukrainian national territory

Aleksandr Androshchuk (*Institute of Ukrainian History, Kiev*), Regions in search of themselves: regionalism and collective memory in Ukraine after 1991

Adam Hudek (*Historical Institute, Bratislava*), History of anti-communist resistance as a part of state-building process in Central Europe after 1989

Michal Kopeček (*ICH, Prague*), Struggle for the legacy of dissidence. Politics of history and political legitimacy in post-communist East-Central Europe'

Chair: **Balázs Trencsényi** (*CEU, Budapest*)

12:30-14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Historical discourse vs. legal environment

(historical representation of recent history by law, legitimacy vs. legality, language of rights vs. historical representation, legal arrangements of dealing with the “totalitarian” past, retroactive justice, historical justice vs. political reconciliation)

Stanislaw Tyszka (*EUI, Florence*), Restitution discourses and politics of memory in the Czech Republic and Poland

Petr Roubal (*ICH, Prague*), Legal procedures of dealing with the past and Czech Constitutional Court

Taras Shulga (*Institute of Ukrainian History, Kiev*), Crimea in the politics of history

Chair: **Georgiy Kasianov** (*Institute of Ukrainian History, Kiev*)

15:30 - 16.00

Coffee break

16.00 – 17.30 Historiography

(reconfiguration of the historical studies, institutional change, research and archives, national historical master-narratives reformulated, major historical controversies, legacies of the previous periods – official, dissent, exile etc. historiographies, methodology and theory questions underpinning the expert/political controversies)

Henadz Sahanovich (*EHU, Vilnius*) The major controversy of today's Belarusian historiography

Paulina Codogni (*IPS PAN, Warsaw*) The Polish “Round Table”. Historical accounts and political mythologies

Andrej Findor (*Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Bratislava*), In the name of the Nation - again: analysing the authority and legitimacy claims of Slovak "neo-ludak" nationalist historiography

Chair: **Maciej Janowski** (*IH PAN, Warsaw*)

18.30

Dinner

Friday, May 8, 2009

09.00 – 10.30 History and civic education

(historical education and conceptions of patriotism, the image of the “others”, historical textbooks controversies, common bi-lateral historical commission or textbooks, regional differences and local patriotism projects)

Georgiy Kasianov (*Institute of Ukrainian History, Kiev*), Politics of history in the Ukrainian textbooks and curriculum

Volha Shatalava (*State University, Minsk*) and **Aliaksandr Smalianchuk** (*State University, Minsk*): "Ours" - "strangers" in the conditions of the Second World War (analysis of Belarusian school textbooks and oral history interviews)

Luba Kozik (*State University, Minsk*) and **Prystupa Natallia** (*State University, Minsk*): “Strangers” (i.e. Poles and Czechs) in Belarusian school textbooks

Chair: **Henadz Sahanovich** (*EHU, Vilnius*)

10:30 - 11.00

Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30 Memory culture

(media and collective memory, museums, civic and NGOs initiatives, private enterprises, nostalgia, privatization vs. politization of memory, literary or film representations of historical events, popular culture, historical consciousness and social stratification)

Michal Frankl (*Jewish Museum, Prague*), Holocaust and Czech-Jewish relations in historical mirror after 1989

Luboš Veselý (*Association for International Relations, Prague*) Between historical consciousness and political symbolism. Memorilizing WWII in Belarus and Ukraine in the last two decades

Andriy Portnov (*"Ukraina Moderna" journal, Editor-in-chief, Kyiv*), Politics of Memory in post-Soviet Ukraine: The Case of World War II.

Chair: **Michal Kopeček** (*ICH, Prague*)

13:00

Lunch