

**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*

László Borhi

Anne Deighton

Ross Johnson (to be confirmed)

Petr Luňák

Alex Pravda (tbc for this panel)

Georges-Henri Soutou

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*

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

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

Oldřich Tuřma: “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)**

**10:00-12:00**

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

*Chair: Christian F. Ostermann*

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."

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

Oliver Bange

*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: "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 Tůma / Vít Smetana

**18:00 – 20:00**

***Cocktail for all participants***