

26th Annual Teachers Outreach Conference

Center for Slavic and East European Studies
University of California, Berkeley

EASTERN EUROPE AND THE FORMER SOVIET UNION: Ten Years After the Fall of the Berlin Wall

March 11 and 12, 2000 at UC Berkeley

Ten years ago, events in Eastern Europe dominated the world scene and overshadowed all other news. It was a memorable time. Beginning with Poland in July, expanding to Hungary, Germany, Czechoslovakia, and then to Bulgaria, the region underwent major transformations. The execution of the Ceausescus on December 23, 1989 marked a bloody end to a series of mostly non-violent revolutions. On July 1, 1990, East and West Germany reunited, and the following year the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia disintegrated, to be followed by Czechoslovakia's "velvet divorce" in January 1993.

"Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union: Ten Years After the Fall of the Berlin Wall" is the subject of the Teachers' Outreach Conference at UC Berkeley on March 11–12, 2000. The region has witnessed a multitude of dramatic events and unanticipated developments since the collapse of communism. The conference will provide a retrospective on the past decade, an overview of post-communist developments in the twenty-nine states of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and a survey of the region at the beginning of the new millennium.

The conference will consist of presentations by experts who will discuss political, social, economic, and cultural life in the region. Questions to be addressed include: Were the events of 1989 revolutionary? What are the prospects for democracy and economic reform? What is the legacy of Gorbachev? Will historians treat Yeltsin and the Yeltsin era favorably? Why was there a velvet divorce in Czechoslovakia but a protracted civil war in Yugoslavia? How should we understand the survival of reconstituted Communist parties? How have various countries dealt with the problems of forgiving and forgetting?

The Teachers' Outreach Conference provides lively presentations and ample time to question the speakers and engage in a dialogue about key issues. Background materials will be distributed that can be used in the classroom or for future reference, including maps, chronologies of events, and bibliographies.

Please join us for two days on March 11–12, 2000 to explore one of the most important turning points of the twentieth century.

Conference Director: Victoria E. Bonnell,
Professor of Sociology and Chair of the
Center for Slavic and East European Studies,
UC Berkeley

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Saturday, March 11, 2000

Welcoming Remarks: **Victoria E. Bonnell**, Professor of Sociology, and Chair, Center for Slavic and East European Studies, UC Berkeley

Jeffrey Kopstein, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder, “*Victims, Perpetrators, and Democracy in East Germany*”

Sharon Wolchik, Professor of Political Science, George Washington University, “*The Czech Republic: Expectations and Realities*”

Andrew Janos, Professor of Political Science, UC Berkeley, “*Politically Correct on the Edge of Europe: Hungary Ten Years After*”

Sorin Antohi, Visiting Scholar, Center for Advanced Study of the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford; Central European University, Budapest; University of Bucharest, “*Romania After 1989: Undoing Communism, Crafting Robber Capitalism*”

Roumen Daskalov, Visiting Professor of History, UC Berkeley; Central European University, Budapest, “*Bulgaria, Ten Years After: Hopes and Disappointments*”

Obrad Kesic, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, ICN Pharmaceuticals, Inc., “*Clearing the Debris of the Cold War: Still Searching for Peace in the Former Yugoslavia*”

Discussion

Sunday, March 12, 2000

Timothy Snyder, Academy Scholar, Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, “*Poland: a Decade of Surprising Successes*”

Jane Dawson, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Oregon, “*Ethnic and Environmental Issues in the Baltic States*”

M. Steven Fish, Associate Professor of Political Science, UC Berkeley, “*Russia without the Soviet Union: Ten Years After*”

Roundtable Discussion