



## (NON)RECONCILIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST PAST: EUROPEAN CONTEXT

NOVEMBER 12–14 2024, LIECHTENSTEIN PALACE - UNDER THE AUSPICES  
OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC PETR FIALA

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NOVEMBER 12, 2024 / TUESDAY

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8:30 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 9:30 Welcome Address – Kamil Nedvědický (Conference Expert Guarantee), 1st Deputy Director  
of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes (ÚSTR)

Opening of the conference, introductory speeches

**Martin Dvořák** Minister for European Affairs of the Czech Republic

**Ladislav Kudrna** Director of ÚSTR

**Petr Blažek** Director of the Museum of Memory of the 20th Century

9:30 – 10:00 Methodological Contributions:

**Igor Lukeš** Professor of History and International Relations at Boston University  
(Non)reconciliation with the Communist Past from a Historian's Perspective

**Kamil Nedvědický** 1st Deputy Director of ÚSTR

(Non)reconciliation with the Communist Past from a Lawyer's Perspective

10:00 – 11:30 **PANEL 1 - CONTINUITY AND DISCONTINUITY OF LAW AFTER 1989**

Moderator: **Kamil Nedvědický**, 1st Deputy Director of ÚSTR

**Jiří Přibáň**, Professor at Cardiff University, Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic  
Democratic Self-Defense and the Value Basis of the Constitutional State: A Historical Reflection  
on the Law on the Illegality of the Communist Regime

**Lubomír Müller** Lawyer

"The War of Courts" over the Principle of "ne bis in idem"

**Kamil Nedvědický** 1st Deputy Director of ÚSTR  
"On January 1, 1991, the Discontinuity of Law Came into Effect," or the Problem of Legal Continuity through the Lens of Alternative History

**Alena Mornštajnová**, Writer  
Alternative History in Literature

11:30 – 11:45 CoffeeBreak

11:45 – 13:15 **PANEL 2 - MEMORY POLITICS AND THE POLITICS OF MEMORY**

Moderator: **Ladislav Kudrna**, Director of ÚSTR

**David Satter**, TRS Vice Chairman and Director of Education Programs  
The Origins of the Russia-Ukrainian War

**Tomáš Goláň**, Chairman of the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee of the Senate of the Czech Republic

**Břetislav Rychlík**, Senator, Director

**Petr Kreuz**, archivist  
Dealing with the Past from the Perspective of an Archivist

13:15 – 14:15 Lunch

14:15 – 15:15 **PANEL 3 - THE PAST CASTS A SHADOW ON OUR PRESENT**

Moderator: **Monika MacDonagh-Pajerová**, University Lecturer at Anglo-American University in Prague and Chair of the ÚSTR Council

**Igor Lukeš**, Professor of History and International Relations at Boston University

**Alexandr Mitrofanov**, Journalist

**Martin Dvořák**, Minister for European Affairs of the Czech Republic

15:15 – 15:30 CoffeeBreak

15:30 – 17:15 **PANEL 4 - CONTINUITY AND DISCONTINUITY OF LAW AFTER 1989 IN EUROPEAN CONTEXT**

Moderator: **Kamil Nedvědický**, 1st Deputy Director of ÚSTR

**Doville Sagatiené**, Vice-Dean for Research at the Law School at Mykolas Romeris University (MRU) and Senior Researcher at MRU  
Symbolic Justice for Soviet Victims in the Baltic States at the European Court of Human Rights

**Davor Paukovič**, Professor at the Faculty of Media and Public Relations at the University of Dubrovnik.  
Disputed Legacies: Croatia and the Memory of Communism

**Ötvös István**, Committee of National Remembrance of Hungary

**Jacques Rupnik**, French Historian and Political Scientist, Professor at the College of Europe in Bruges (Belgium) and Director of Research at the Fondation des Sciences Politiques in Paris

17:15 – 17:25 CoffeeBreak

17:25 – 18:30 **PANEL 5 - REMEMBRANCE IN PUBLIC SPACES**

Moderator: **Andrea Seelich**, Coordinator of International Cooperation at ÚSTR

**Vjedran Pavlakovič**, Professor of History and Cultural Studies at the University of Rijeka, Croatia  
The Muralization of Memory: Graffiti, Murals, and Dealing with the Past in the Former Yugoslavia

**Lena Ens**, Project Coordination, Federal Foundation for the Reappraisal of the SED  
Dictatorship Berlin, Germany  
Memory Needs Places

**David Hána**, Research Assistant at the Center for Regional and Political Geography (RegPol)  
at the Department of Social Geography and Regional Development at Charles University  
Monuments in Prague's Public Space as Conflicted Memory Places

**Martin Šmok**, OpenEye, z.s. Czech Republic  
"Here We Understand Things Differently"

18:30 – 18:45 Summary of the Day – **Kamil Nedvědický**

19:00 Reception Hosted by ÚSTR

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**NOVEMBER 13, 2024 / WEDNESDAY**

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8:30 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 10:15 **PANEL 6 - EXAMPLES OF JUSTICE IN PRACTICE**

Moderator: **Petr Hlaváček**, Director of the Department of Research and Education ÚSTR

**Petr Placák**, ÚSTR  
A Snitch in Prison or a Description of One Case

**Zdeněk Kühn**, Professor at the Faculty of Law at Charles University in Prague and Judge of the  
Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic  
Criminal Trials After 1989

**Celo Hoxha**, Director of ATSH  
The Position of Post-Communist Albania Towards the Crimes of the Communist Regime  
and Its Victims

**Jan Kalous**, ÚSTR, Institute of National Memory of the Slovak Republic  
Criminal Prosecution of Perpetrators of Crimes Related to Human Rights and Freedoms  
Violations in Communist Czechoslovakia – Examples.

10:15 – 10:30 CoffeeBreak

10:30 – 11:00 **PANEL 7 - PERPETRATORS AND VICTIMS**

Moderator: **Jan Kalous**, ÚSTR

**Tomáš Sokol**, Lawyer, Former Minister of Interior  
Punishment or Non-Punishment of Perpetrators of Communist Crimes

**Mirostaw Szumilo**, Polish Historian, IPN, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin  
The Question of Constitutional and Criminal Responsibility for the Introduction of Martial Law in Poland in 1981

**Rolandas Račinskis**, Director of the International Commission for the Evaluation of Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes Crimes in Lithuania  
“De-Sovietization. The Case of Lithuania.”

**Daniel Kroupa**, Politician  
Efforts for Legal Discontinuity after November 17, 1989

11:00 – 11:15 CoffeeBreak

11:15 – 13:00 **PANEL 8 - THE WAR IN UKRANIA FROM A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE AND IN RELATION TO THE FUTURE. IN SEARCH OF A SOLUTION**

Moderator: **Martin Palouš**, Philosopher, Lawyer, Member of the ÚSTR Council

**Denis Bilunov**, PhD Candidate at FSV UK, Founding Member of the Prague Russian Antiwar Committee  
The Russian Political Exile: Current State, Potential, and Limitations

**Taraz Kuzio**, Professor in the Department of Political Science, National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and Associate Fellow at the Forum for Foreign Relations.  
The Axis of Upheaval and Russia's War Against Ukraine: Why Ukraine and Israel are Fighting the Same Evil

**Evgenia Chirikova**, Open Estonia Foundation  
The Ukrainian-Russian Conflict: Who is to Blame and What Should be Done? How the Russian Anti-War Movement is Helping Ukraine

**Liucija Mažylytė-Vervečkienė**, Assistant Professor at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University.  
Concept of “afterness,” particularly methodological issues related to memory, memory policy, and interdisciplinary memory studies.

**Don Ritter**, Congressman, Chairman of The Remembrance Society

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:15 **PANEL 9 - WHY WAS THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND ITS SYMBOLS NOT BANNED AFTER 1989?**

Moderator: **Petr Blažek**, Director of the Museum of Memory of the 20th Century, ÚSTR

**Martin Mejstřík**, Former Politician  
**Hana Kordová Marvanová**, Lawyer and Politician  
**Kamil Nedvědický**, 1st Deputy Director of ÚSTR

15:15 – 15:30 CoffeeBreak

15:30 – 16:45 **PANEL 10 - UNDEALING WITH THE COMMUNIST PAST IN CZECH HISTORIOGRAPHY**

Moderator: **Ladislav Kudrna**, Director of ÚSTR

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Historical Revisionism vs. Primitive Anti-Communism: Mere Labels or a Paradigm Shift?

**Jiří Mihola**, Head of the Department of History at the Faculty of Education, Masaryk University in Brno, Member of the ÚSTR Council

The Interpretation of Everyday Life under Communist Totalitarianism in History Textbooks and Its Perception by Future History Teachers.

**Jan Cholínský**, ÚSTR

Czech Historical Memory and Historiography After 1989

**Ivo Cerman**, ÚSTR, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice

The Return of Communist "Anti-Zionism" in the Czech Republic: A Failure to Deal with Israel

16:45 – 17:00 CoffeeBreak

17:00 – 18:15 **PANEL 11 - DEBATE: HOW HARD IS IT TO MAKE FILMS ABOUT COMMUNISM?**

Moderator: **Petra Jungwirthová**, Head of the Communication Department at ÚSTR

**Kristýna Vlachová**, Director

**Vavřinec Menšl**, Director, Head of 3Kina

**Tomáš Mašín**, Director

**Petr Kopal**, film historian, ÚSTR

18:15 – 18:30 Summary of the Day – **Kamil Nedvědický**

18:30 – 19:00 Transfer to Lobkowicz Palace

19:00 Gala Dinner at Lobkowicz Palace – Hosted by The Remembrance Society

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**NOVEMBER 14, 2024 / THURSDAY**

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8:30 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 10:15 **PANEL12 - EDUCATION**

Moderator: **Petr Hlaváček**, Director of the Department of Research and Education ÚSTR

**Petr Hlaváček**, ÚSTR

The Culture of Memory: How the Decommunization of Czech Public Space Took Place

**Stanislav Balík**, Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Emeritus Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic  
Transformation of the Legal Order in the 1990 s from the Perspective of a Witness and Today's Law Student – Some Reflections on the Transmission of Historical Memory.

**Jan Špringl**, Head of the Education Department of the Terežín Memorial

**Murray Besette**, Associate Director for Education Programs for The Remembrance Society

10:15 – 10:30 CoffeeBreak

10:30 – 12:00 **PANEL 13 - COMMUNIST PAST AND PRESENT**

Moderator: **Tomáš Malínek**, ÚSTR

**Aurimas Švedas**, Director of the Lithuanian Historical Institute  
How to Talk About the Soviet Past in the 21st Century: Curatorial Experience of the Exhibition "Trapped (with Central Heating)"

**Daniel Povolný**, ÚSTR  
Overlooked Victims of the Day of Shame and Defiance on August 21, 1969

**Jan Cholínský**, ÚSTR  
Polish Struggles for the Past and Present

**Grigory Amnuel**, Director of Open Club International Dialogues  
Answers to the Questions of the Conference and More than a Hundred Years of History

12:00 – 13:00 **PANEL 14 - DEALING WITH THE PAST AS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT FOR THE PRESENT**

Moderator: **Kamil Nedvědický**, 1st Deputy Director of ÚSTR

**Edward**, Lucaswriter, security specialist  
Bad Guys and Their Bad Ideas

**František Neupauer**, Nation's Memory Institute, Slovakia  
From the Perspective of Victims

**Petr Pithart**, Associate professor at the Law Faculty of Charles University, former Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, and former Chairman of the Senate of the Czech Republic.  
Reconciliation and Dealing with the Past.

**Rafal Rogulski**, Director of the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity  
International dialogue about history – support for struggling with the past.

13:00 – 14:00 Discussion

14:00 Closing Summary – **Kamil Nedvědický**