

## **Körber History Forum**

### **Connecting Politics and History**

Talk with each other, not about each other! For 60 years, the Körber Foundation has been committed to international understanding and dialogue across political, national and religious boundaries, helping to overcome the absence of exchange, to build bridges and to stimulate debate. Based on this tradition, it has established the Körber History Forum as a platform for international debate about the political dimension of history in 2016.

In an age of growing political, national and religious divisions, discourses of history have become inseparable from their political meaning. The Körber History Forum addresses issues of history and politics on a European and global level, annually bringing together 200 international experts from the realms of academia, politics and diplomacy, civil society and the media in Berlin.

The Körber History Forum will take place on 13 and 14 May, 2019, at the Humboldt Carré, Behrenstraße 42, 10117 Berlin

### **Programme**

#### ***Monday, 13 May***

6:00 p.m. Opening

**Thomas Paulsen**, Executive Board, Körber-Stiftung, Hamburg

6:15 p.m. Keynote

#### **A broken promise of a better future?**

#### **Reassessing the road to the post-Cold-War order after 1989**

Thirty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the euphoric proclamation of a “new world order”, old-fashioned power rivalries continue to characterize international relations. The developments that followed 1989 have, in the longer term, produced a deepening antagonism between Russia and the West; while some borders have disappeared, new fronts have emerged. Among the central points of dispute is the question of mutual assurances regarding spheres of geopolitical interest, including the issue of NATO expansion. Diverging interpretations of these historic developments continue to hinder international understanding and dialogue. To what extent do current challenges for European security policy have their roots in the decisions and commitments of the powers involved in the process of German and European reunification? Which myths and misperceptions need correcting in order to facilitate future dialogue?

**Mary Elise Sarotte**, Johns Hopkins University, Washington

Moderator: **Gabriele Woidelko**, Körber-Stiftung, Hamburg

*Followed by reception*

*Tuesday, 14 May*

08:30 a.m. Coffee and Exchange

09:00 – 10:00 a.m. Focus

**What is the value of Europe?**

Central Eastern Europe has changed profoundly since 1989 and asserted itself as an integral part of the European project. Yet while political and economic development and European integration propelled former socialist countries toward free markets and democratic statehood, joining the European Union came at a price. Deepening divisions in domestic political arenas have exposed a rising estrangement from liberal democratic values and ideals once so instrumental to forging European unity. Based on the Central Eastern European experience of transformation, what values will hold the European project together in future?

**Bronisław Komorowski**, former President of the Republic of Poland, Warsaw

Moderator: **Thomas Paulsen**, Executive Board, Körper-Stiftung, Hamburg

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. Panel discussion

**Is strong leadership a threat to democracy?**

**Personality, power and populism in historical context**

At the beginning of the 21st century, populist movements and calls for “strong leadership” gained key importance in national and international politics. While on the one hand concerns are brought forward that this development promotes an erosion of principles of liberal-democratic decision-making, other voices point out the need for democratic renewal and the legitimacy of strong political leadership. Are democratic principles weakened by strong leaders? What lessons does the past, and especially the history of vulnerable democratic policies of the 1920s, hold with regard to current challenges?

**Zoltán Balog**, Foundation for a Civic Hungary (PMA), Budapest

**Ruth Ben-Ghiat**, New York University, New York

**Archie Brown**, University of Oxford

**Timothy Snyder**, Yale University, New Haven

Moderation: **Daniel Brössler**, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Berlin

11:30 – 12:00 a.m.

*Coffee Break*

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Panel discussion

### **Thinking beyond Versailles**

#### **Current lessons from the Paris Peace Order and its concepts for collective security**

After the end of World War I, the Paris Peace Conference aspired to establish a stable peace order for Europe and the world, based on the peoples' right to self-determination and the establishment of a League of Nations as the core of a new concept of collective security. Though widely regarded as a seminal moment in modern diplomacy, the treaties concluded at Paris were subject to stark contemporary criticism and, ultimately, limited in their influence on the international order of the interwar period. What remains of the legacy of Paris and what lessons can be learned from the diplomatic feats and failures of the interwar period?

In cooperation with Der Spiegel as part of the debate series “Making peace”.

**Wolfgang Ischinger**, Munich Security Conference, Munich

**Eckart Conze**, University of Marburg

Moderator: **Dirk Kurbjuweit**, Der Spiegel, Hamburg

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

*Parallel, thematically oriented breakout sessions (see attachment)*

3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Panel discussion

### **A stolen past?**

#### **Europe and the compensation of colonial injustice**

To this day, the legacy of the colonial era influences international relations and domestic debates both in European and former colonial societies. While new initiatives seek to right past wrongs, misconceptions of the scope of injustice, imbalance and conflict established through colonial rule persist. How can a genuine understanding of the profound and systemic impact of colonialism be reached? And what is needed in order to achieve an egalitarian and forward-looking dialogue between former colonial powers and previous colonies?

**Nwando Achebe**, Michigan State University, East Lansing

**Antje Leendertse**, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

**Philip Murphy**, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London

**James Shikwati**, Inter Regional Economic Network, Nairobi

Moderator: **Christine Gerberding**, Norddeutscher Rundfunk Television, Hamburg

4:30 – 5:00 p.m.

*Coffee Break*

5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Panel discussion

**The power of manipulation**

**On dealing with propaganda and “fake news” in the past and present**

With the advent of a so-called “post-fact era”, the importance of balanced information vis-à-vis manipulative misuse of media has become a central concern to safeguarding democratic debate and maintaining social peace. History shows a long tradition of manipulative communication patterns, propaganda and falsification, often gaining destructive public influence. How have demagoguery and manipulation been held in check in the past and what tools are needed to do so today?

**Anne Applebaum**, London School of Economics, London

**Jo Fox**, University of London

**Markus Engels**, Global Solutions Initiative, Berlin

**Jason Stanley**, Yale University, New Haven

Moderator: **Natalie Nougayrède**, The Guardian, London

*Followed by dinner*

## **Lunchtime: parallel breakout sessions**

### **1. From the Hanseatic League to North Stream II**

#### **Cooperation and conflict in the Baltic Sea region**

Throughout history, the Baltic Sea region was shaped by both cross-continental cooperation and hegemonic conflicts. Against the background of its dynamic but fragmented socio-economic development since the 1990s, how can the greater Baltic area defend its model of pragmatic regional cooperation in times of rising geopolitical tensions?

**Andres Kasekamp**, University of Toronto

Moderator: **Elisabeth Braw**, Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, London

### **2. In the name of the law**

#### **The French perspective on legitimacy and limitations of history laws**

European history laws began as state measures to protect the memorialisation of genocide and political symbols. Historically, France has been perceived as role model regarding its juridification of the past. However, with growing awareness of complex issues related to the Second World War and colonialism, protest was raised. Ultimately, with the “Appel de Blois”, it culminated in a public call of intellectuals to abandon all history-related legislation. Are history laws indeed helpful in “protecting the past” and how prone are they to political instrumentalisation?

**Myriam Bienenstock**, Université François Rabelais, Tours

Moderation: **Nikolay Koposov**, Emory College of Arts and Sciences, Atlanta GA

### **3. A country in transition?**

#### **Nation, identity and the culture of remembrance in Belarus**

Situated in the transitional area of the Eastern European borderlands, Belarus showed a barely pronounced national consciousness at the beginning of the 20th century, which would see its lands ravaged by National Socialist terror. Stalinism and the Soviet rule added further scars. What are the cornerstones of Belarusian national identity and how does the country currently assert its independence in a region strained by geopolitical interests?

**Pavel Tereshkovich**, Nil Hilevich University (in the course of formation), Minsk

Moderator: **Ian Bateson**, Journalist and Author, Kyiv

### **4. An exceptional case?**

#### **Revisiting the legacies of “1989” in Romania**

Whereas independence movements had established themselves in most states of the former Eastern Bloc by the mid-1980s, the Romanian dictatorship under Nicolae Ceaușescu managed to brutally suppress any opposition until the very end of 1989. Finally, a bloody revolution swept away the regime within the course of a few days: the desire for freedom and a liberal society was stronger than oppression. What remains of this legacy? Which challenges does democracy face in Romania? And what does this mean for the country’s role within the European Union?

**Alina Mungiu-Pippidi**, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin

Moderator: **Joachim von Puttkamer**, Imre Kertész Kolleg, Jena

5. **World champion! Really?**

**Germany and “coming to terms with the past”**

After 1945, coming to terms with the legacy of National Socialism became part of German collective identity. The collapse of communism after 1989 and the growing global challenges of the 21st century brought new challenges for Germany’s *Vergangenheitspolitik*: which aspects of German history have been adequately dealt with, and where are the blind spots? How should the German way of coming to terms with its past be realigned for an increasingly diverse society?

**Frank Bösch**, Centre for Contemporary History, Potsdam

Moderator: **Géraldine Schwarz**, Author, Berlin

6. **How Christian is the Western world?**

**European identity and values in a globalised world**

Christian and Christian-Jewish heritage is increasingly cited in public debates as the foundation of European identity. Yet, while a set of shared values on the basis of religious affiliation enables to identify a precarious foundation of cultural and historical community, it reverts to patterns of exclusion by the same token. Does the notion of a “Christian West” withstand historical review? What role do religion and religious beliefs play in social and individual identity in Europe today?

**Giuseppe Veltri**, Academy of World Religion, University of Hamburg

Moderation: **Hedwig Richter**, Hamburg Institute for Social Research, Hamburg