



# PROGRAMME

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**International Conference**

**PL/EN/RU**

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## **Burden of Victory**

The Second World War and its consequences  
from the perspective of 75 years since its end

**8 May 2020 | Friday**

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**On-line: YouTube - MuzHPtv**

**Facebook - Muzeum Historii Polski**

# Programme

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10:00–11:00

PANEL 1:

**Memory of the Second World War. Cultivation - forgetting - political application**

This debate shall concern the place which the Second World War holds in the cultural memory in Europe and, more broadly, the world. In reference to Europe, we would like to inquire whether one can speak today of the shaping of a uniform European memory. Are national memories coming closer to one another? Are there still differences between memory in Western Europe and that in Central-Eastern Europe? Another question shall concern the influence of historians on the shaping of the memory of the Second World War. What is their role? Have they not been pushed into the background by the messages coming from the mass media (popular books, films, computer games, etc.)? The third question shall concern the areas and mechanisms of forgetting history and the extent to which they are caused by various countries' current political needs and the extent to which they fall within the scope of the processes of forgetting the actual cultural memory (suppression of the phenomena which for some reasons do not match one's own identity).

**Participants:**

Andrzej Nowak | *Jagiellonian University*

Mark Solonin | *Russian independent historian*

Jonathan Walker | *British Commission for Military History*

**Moderator:**

Sławomir Dębski | *Polish Institute of International Affairs*

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11:15–12:15

PANEL 2:

**Law towards lawlessness. Legal issues resulting from the Second World War in contemporary Europe**

Even though it has been 75 years since the end of the Second World War, the 1939-1945 events still weigh on the international relations. Different European countries can have a different approach to the legality of the actual shifting of the borders during that period. They also differ in their opinions on the legitimacy of the reparations for the crimes committed during the war. Last but not least, they can look differently on the legal titles to the works of art moved as a result of the war. Some countries dispute the legal qualification of certain crimes committed during the war as genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, or crimes against peace. The panel is to discuss the selected legal problems rooted in the history dating back to the 1939-1945 period and still having some influence on the relations between the individual European countries or affecting the state's obligations towards a certain group of citizens. The discussion shall regard, for instance, the Federal Republic of Germany's and the Russian Federation's responsibility in the light of international law for the actions undertaken by the Third Reich and the Soviet Union.

**Participants:**

Łukasz Adamski | *Centre for Polish-Russian Dialogue and Understanding*

Oldřich Tůma | *European Network Remembrance and Solidarity*

**Moderator:**

Jan Rydel | *European Network Remembrance and Solidarity*

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13:00–14:00

PANEL 3:

**Victory or 'Victory' - historiographical discussions about consequences of the Second World War**

This debate shall focus on the question about the price of the division of Europe after the Second World War. The fundamental question shall regard the nature of the 1944–1945 events. Should the capture of Eastern Europe by the Red Army be regarded as liberation or new occupation? To what extent has contemporary historiography come to terms with the experience of the Second World War? We are particularly interested in the extent to which the fall of communism stimulated new research and the change in the evaluation of the Second World War in countries from the former communist bloc and also whether and how that research was received by the international historical milieu.

**Uczestnicy:**

Łukasz Kamiński | *Platform of European Memory and Conscience*

Georgiy Kasianov | *National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine*

Peter Oliver Loew | *Technical University of Darmstadt*

Alvydas Nikžentaitis | *Lithuanian National Historians Committee*

**Moderator:**

Robert Kostro | *Polish History Museum*

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**Dr. Sławomir Dębski** – historian (PhD), political scientist, international expert. Director of the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM). Author of books, articles and collections of sources of diplomatic history. Interests: Polish foreign policy, EU external relations, NATO and transatlantic relations, Russian foreign and domestic policy, German-Russian relations.

**Prof. Andrzej Nowak** – professor, Head of Department of History of Eastern Europe at the Jagiellonian University and at the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He published several dozen books (among them History and Geopolitics: A Contest for Eastern Europe, three from planned 11 volumes of history of Poland). Member of the National Council of Development at the President of Poland and Scientific Board of the Institute of National Memory; the Chairman of the Council at the Centre for Polish-Russian Dialogue and Understanding.

**Mark Solonin** – a Russian independent historian. His studies focus on the opening weeks of The Great Patriotic War with the goal of finding a reason why Stalin's empire, after years of preparation for the Big War, suffered a crushing defeat in the summer of 1941. In the Soviet offensive plans controversy he supports the view that Soviet Union prepared and planned for an offensive war. Solonin has written seven books, his works have been published in Poland, Germany, Czech, Estonian, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Romania.

**Jonathan Walker** – a military historian and lecturer on aspects of 20th century warfare. His books reflect his wide interest in not only the strategies and tactics of warfare but also the individual men and women involved in those hostilities. He relies on primary sources to validate the tales of heroism and self-sacrifice as well as disaster. His books include „The Blue Beast. Power & Passion in the Great War”, „Poland Alone”, „Aden Insurgency, The Blood Tub”, „War letters to a Wife” (as editor). His latest book, „Operation Unthinkable”, is a study of Churchill's top secret plan to attack the Soviet Union in 1945. Jonathan Walker is a member of the British Commission for Military History and Honorary Research Fellow in War Studies at the University of Birmingham.

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**Prof. Jan Rydel** – a historian and his research areas are Central and Eastern Europe and Polish-German relations in the 19th and 20th centuries. He is the author of “Politics of History in Federal Republic of Germany. Legacy – Ideas – Practice” (2011) and “Polish Occupation of North Western Germany. 1945–1948. An Unknown Chapter in Polish-German Relations” (2000, German edition 2003). Until 2010 he was a researcher and a professor at Jagiellonian University and is currently a professor at the Pedagogical University of Cracow. 2001-2005 he headed the Office of Culture, Science and Information at the Polish Embassy in Berlin. Since 2008 he has been Poland’s representative on the board of the Polish-German Foundation for Sciences. He is a voluntary custodian of the Rydlówka Manor Museum of Young Poland in Kraków. He is a member of the ENRS Steering Committee and coordinates the Polish party in the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS).

**Dr. Łukasz Adamski** – historian (PhD) and political scientist, specialist in Central and Eastern European history as well as in current political situation of Ukraine and Russia. Deputy Director of the Centre for Polish-Russian Dialogue and Understanding since 2016. In 2006-2011 he worked at the Polish Institute of International Affairs, in 2014 he was Reporting Officer in OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. His works were published in academic journals and press.

**Dr. Oldřich Tůma** – Senior research fellow at the Institute of Contemporary History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, formerly (1998-2017) Director of the Institute. His original research focus was medieval and Byzantine history. Since the early 1990s, his research has focused on the modern history of Czechoslovakia and Central Europe, and the history of the Cold War. He is an observer member of the ENRS Academic Council.

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**Robert Kostro** – is a historian, feature writer and Director of the Polish History Museum in Warsaw (since 2006). Graduate of the Faculty of History at the University of Warsaw. Former director of the Foreign Affairs Department at the Chancellery of the President of the Cabinet of Ministers and director of the cabinet of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage. Co-creator and programme director of the Adam Mickiewicz Institute. Member serving on many bodies, such as the Scientific Board of the Ossoliński National Institute or the Historical Programme College of the European Solidarity Centre. Co-author of books, e.g. *Świat polityki, dyplomacji, idei* – słownik podręczny (with Rafał Matyja) and *Pamięć i odpowiedzialność* (with Tomasz Merta). Author of numerous press articles published, inter alia, in *Rzeczpospolita*, *Tygodnik Powszechny* and *Więź*.

**Dr. Łukasz Kamiński** – historian specialising in most recent history of Poland and East-Central Europe. In 2000–2016, he worked at the Institute of National Remembrance, since 2011 as its chairman. Author of numerous publications on communism and opposition in communist countries. Currently, he is a lecturer at the University of Wrocław. Since 2017, he has been head of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience – an organisation active, inter alia, in disseminating knowledge on 20th-century totalitarian regimes.

**Prof. Georgiy Kasianov** – Professor, Head, Department of Contemporary History and Politics, Institute of the History of Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Author, co-author, editor and co-editor of more than twenty books on the History of Ukraine in the 19th–21st centuries. Specialises in the history of the intelligentsia, history of ideas, memory studies. Most recent book: *“Past Continuous: Politics of History in 1980s - 2000s. Ukraine and Neighbours”* (Kyiv, 2018).

**Prof. Peter Oliver Loew** - Director of the German Poland Institute. Studied Eastern European history, Slavic studies and economics in Nuremberg, Freiburg and Berlin. Doctorate on the local history culture in Gdansk between 1793 and 1997. Scientific focus: history of Poland, Germany and German-Polish relations in modern times, history of Poles in Germany, history and present of Gdańsk, Pomerania and Pommerellens, culture of remembrance, history of literature and music, comparative history of Central Eastern Europe. Lecturer at TU Darmstadt since 2009/2010, lecturer at TU Dresden since 2014. 2014 habilitation at the TU Dresden, private lecturer there. 2020 honorary professorship at TU Darmstadt. Translator from Polish and English.

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**Alvydas Nikžentaitis** – Lithuanian historian, former lecturer at the Vilnius Pedagogical University and from 2000 to 2008 director of the Lithuanian Institute of History. In 1992, he founded the Centre for West Lithuanian and Prussian History at Klaipėda University together with Vladas Žulkus – and became its director. 1993-1998 he headed the Faculty of History of Klaipėda University and subsequently collaborated academically with the Centre for West Lithuanian and Prussian History for two years. In 2000, he assumed the directorship of the Lithuanian Institute of History. He specialises in relations between the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Teutonic Order, the history of Žemudž, the history of Lithuanian-German relations and the social history of medieval Lithuania. For the past 10 years he has been focusing his research on memory culture. He is the author of numerous works dedicated to the history of Lithuania as well as articles on general historical themes. He is chairman of the Polish-Lithuanian Jerzy Giedroyc Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation.

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