

1945
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International conference

**Historical (Re-)interpretations of 1945
in the Former European Socialist Countries**

Zagreb, 25 September 2025

Venue:

Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Marulić Square 19, Zagreb



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Opening of the conference (09:00 – 09:15)

Welcome words from the organizers:

Miroslav Akmadža (*Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb*)

Željko Holjevac (*Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb*)

Ulf Brunnbauer (*Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg*)

Panel I (09:15 – 10:30) (moderator: Ivan Hrstić)

Darius Staliūnas (*Lithuanian Institute of History, Vilnius*)

Trauma or Victory? The Legacy of May 9, 1945 in Lithuania and beyond

Oleksandr Avramchuk (*University of Warsaw, Warsaw*)

1945 Revisited: Ukrainian Exile Debates during the Cold War

Rafał Łatka (*Institute of History, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University /
Institute of National Remembrance, Warsaw*)

Year One 1944-1945. “Liberation” from the Germans as the main element of political legitimacy of communist power in Poland versus the new enslavement of the nation

Discussion (30 min)

Coffee break (10:30 – 11:00)

Panel II (11:00 – 12:30) (moderator: Milan Sovilj)

Vojtěch Kyncl (*Institute of History, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague*)

Criminal Settlement with the Nazi Past in Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic (1945–2025)

Marek Syrný (*Faculty of Arts, University of Matej Bel, Banská Bystrica*)

Perception of the Year 1945 in Slovak Historiography and Public under the Communist Regime, after 1989 and Today

Sándor Horváth (*Research Centre for the Humanities, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest*)

Making of the Memory of 1945: Social Experience, Labour, and Commemoration in Hungary

Péter Apor (*Research Centre for the Humanities, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest*)

The Missing Working Class: The Memory of Workers’ Politics and Violence in 1945

Discussion (30 min)

Lunch (12:30 – 13:30)

Panel III (13:30 – 14:45) (moderator: Josip Mihaljević)

Matei Gheboianu (*Faculty of History, University of Bucharest, Bucharest*)

The Year 1945 in Romanian Historiography

Artan R. Hoxha (*Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg / Academy of Sciences of Albania, Tirana*)

The Global Submerged into the Local: An 80-Year-Old Story of Nationalist Parochialism, (De) Legitimation of Power, and Clashes over the Meaning of WWII in Albania

Mariyana Stamova (*Institute of Balkan Studies and Center of Thracology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia*)

Overview of Bulgarian Historiography about 1945

Discussion (30 min)

Coffee break (14:45 – 15:00)

Panel IV (15:00 – 16:15) (moderator: Milan Sovilj)

Aleksandar Stojanović (*Institute for Recent History of Serbia, Belgrade*)

Serbian 21st Century Historiography on 1945, WW2 and its Aftermath

Željko Oset (*Study Centre for National Reconciliation, Ljubljana*)

Slovenian Academia of 1945 in Slovenian Historiography

Josip Mihaljević & Ivan Hrستیć (*Croatian Institute of History & Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb*)

Eighty Years of Croatian Historiography on the Year 1945

Discussion (30 min)

Coffee break (16:15 – 16:30)

Final discussion and concluding remarks (16:30 – 17:00)

(moderators: Ivan Hrستیć, Milan Sovilj, Josip Mihaljević)

NOTE: Change of programme reserved.

Conference papers: 15 minutes.

Organizers

Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb
Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb
Institute of History, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague
Study Centre for National Reconciliation, Ljubljana
Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS), Regensburg
Research Centre for the Humanities, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest

Organizing committee

Josip Mihaljević, Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb
Domagoj Knežević, Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb
Tomislav Kardum, Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb
Ivan Hrstić, Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb
Ivan Brlić, Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar – Regional Center Gospić
Milan Sovilj, Institute of History, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague
Tomaž Ivešić, Study Centre for National Reconciliation, Ljubljana
Ulf Brunnbauer, Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg
Sándor Horváth, Research Centre for the Humanities, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest

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This conference is co-funded by two NextGenerationEU projects:

Political climate and repression in Croatia and Yugoslavia from 1941 to 1995 – selective memories and interpretations (POREHR)

Border Area Development between the Una River and the Adriatic Sea: From the Habsburg Military Border to the Schengen Edge of the EU (BAD).

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