

THE CRISIS YEAR 1953 AND THE COLD WAR IN EUROPE



Photos: Landesbildstelle Berlin

**An International Conference
10-12 November 1996**

Venue: Kulturhaus Altes Rathaus Potsdam, Am Alten Markt

Organizers:

**Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung (ZZF)
Cold War International History Project (Wilson Center, Washington, DC)
The National Security Archive (Washington, DC)**

In cooperation with:

**The Center for the Study of Force and Diplomacy, Temple University (Philadelphia)
Brandenburgische Landeszentrale für politische Bildung (Potsdam)**

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The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (Chicago)
The Smith Richardson Foundation (Westport, CT)
Volkswagen Stiftung (Hannover)**

Languages: Simultaneous translation: English, German & Russian



10 November 1996

17.00

Opening and welcoming remarks

Christoph **KLESSMANN** (ZZF)

William **TAUBMAN** (Woodrow Wilson Center)

Thomas S. **BLANTON**/ Malcolm **BYRNE** (National Security Archive)

17.30

Key Note Address

Egon **BAHR** (Bonn)

“The Year 1953 in Germany and Its Consequences for German Politics”

To be followed by a reception at the Kulturzentrum Altes Rathaus, Potsdam



11 November 1996

9:30-12.00

**Session I : Origins and Consequences of the June 1953 Uprising in East Germany:
Recent Research and Debate (Roundtable)**

Chair: Christoph **KLESSMANN** (ZZF)

Panelists:

Gerhard **BEIER** (Kronberg)

“On the Role of the East Berlin Construction Workers”

Torsten **DIEDRICH** (MGFA Potsdam)

“Militarization as Cause of the Crisis and the Suppression of the Uprising by the Armed Forces”

Ruud van **DIJK** (Ohio University)

“The German Question Dropped, Revisited and Frozen. The Kremlin, the East Germans and the GDR, 1952-1953”

Manfred **HAGEN** (Göttingen University)

“Long-term Consequences of the June Uprising on Population and Party”

Monika **KAISER** (ZZF Potsdam)

“The SED Leadership and the Crisis of the Stalinist System”

Ilko-Sascha **KOWALCZUK** (Humboldt University, Berlin)
“June 17 in Recent Research: Social Classes and Political Actors”

Helmut **MÜLLER-ENBERGS** (Federal Commission for the Records of the
former GDR State Security, Berlin)
“The Stasi and June 17, 1953”

12.00-13.00
LUNCH

13.00-15:45
Session II A: New Evidence on the “Beria Affair”

Chair: William **TAUBMAN** (Amherst College)

Panelists:

Lew **BEZYMENSKI** (Moscow)

Mark **KRAMER** (Harvard University)
“New Evidence on the Beria Question”

Vojtech **MASTNY** (Wilson Center)
“Missed Opportunities After Stalin’s Death”

Gerhard **WETTIG** (BIOST Cologne)
“Did Beria Seek Agreement on Germany”

Vladislav **ZUBOK** (NSA)
“The Succession Struggle and Soviet Policy on Germany”

Commentators:

Amy **KNIGHT** (SAIS)

Elke **SCHERSTJANOI** (IfZ Potsdam)

15:45-16:15
BREAK

16:15-19:00

Session II B: Soviet ‘Deutschlandpolitik’ Before and After the June Uprising

Chair: Alexander O. **CHUBARIAN** (Institute of Universal History)

Participants:

Alexei **FILITOV** (Institute for Universal History, Moscow/KWI, Essen)

Victor **GORBAROV** (CWIHP)

“New Russian Evidence from the Russian Military Archives”

Hope **HARRISON** (Lafayette College)

“Soviet Deutschlandpolitik before and after June 17, 1953”

Sergej Vladimirovich **MIRONENKO** (State Archive of the Russian Federation, Moscow)

Faina **NOVIK** (Russian Academy of Sciences)

“Soviet Policy Towards the GDR After June 17, 1953”

Leonid **RESHIN** (Moscow)

“The Events of June 17 in the GDR as Reflected in the Moscow Archives”

Zoia Constantinovna **VODOPIANOVA** (Storage Center for Contemporary Documentation, Moscow)

Commentator: Jochen **LAUFER** (ZZF)



12 November 1996

9.00-11:45

Session III: Stalin’s Death and East Central Europe

Chair: Malcolm **BYRNE** (The National Security Archive)

Panelists:

Leo **GLUCHOWSKI** (Toronto University)

“The Events in Poland in 1953”

Andras B. **HEGEDUS** (Institute for the History of the 1956 Revolution, Budapest)

“The Impact of Stalin’s Death in Hungary”

Wanda **JARZABEK** (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw)
“New Polish Evidence on the 1953 Uprising in the GDR”

Mihai **RETEGAN** (University of Bucharest)
“Stalin’s Death and the Romanian Response”

Commentators:

Andrzej **PACZKOWSKI** (Warsaw)

Jan **FOITZIK** (IfZ Berlin)

11:45-13.00

LUNCH

13.00-16.00

Session IV: The West and the 1953 Uprising

Chair: James G. **HERSHBERG** (CWIHP)

Panelists:

Richard **IMMERMAN** (Temple University, Philadelphia)
“‘Chance for Peace?’ The Initial U.S. Response to Stalin’s Death”

Gary **BRUCE** (McGill University)
“The MfS, the West and the June 17 Uprising”

Klaus **LARRES**
“Great Britain and the June 1953 Uprising”

Michael **LEMKE**
“Adenauer and June 17, 1953”

Bernd **STÖVER** (U. Potsdam)
“American Discussions and Political Strategies after the Uprising”

Commentators:

Robert **BOWIE** (Washington)

Christian F. **OSTERMANN** (The National Security Archive)

16.00-16.30

BREAK

16.30-19.00

**Session V: The Legacies and Historical Significance of the 1953 Uprising
(Roundtable)**

Chair: Jürgen **KOCKA** (Free University Berlin)

Panelists:

Mary **FULBROOK** (University College, London)

Manfred **GÖRTEMAKER** (Potsdam University)

Stefan **HEYM** (Berlin)

György **LITVAN** (Institute for the History of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution,
Budapest)

Wilfried **LOTH** (KWI Essen)

Hans **MISSELWITZ** (Brandenburg State Agency for Political Education,
Potsdam)

Edgar **WOLFRUM** (Free University Berlin)

End of Conference



13 November 1996

**Workshop on Archival Situation and Research in Progress on Contemporary
German and Eastern European History (optional)**

Venue: ZZF, Potsdam

*For information about the Conference, contact **Christian Ostermann** at the National
Security Archive: chrisost@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu*

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