



COMMUNIST PARTIES IN THE SOVIET BLOC IN 1985–1989. FALL OF THE SYSTEM

WARSAW, 9–10 OCTOBER 2024

WEDNESDAY, 9 OCTOBER

10.00–10.20 **Opening of the conference**

10.20–11.40 **PANEL I: POLAND**

Tomasz Kozłowski, Ph. D.

(IPN Historical Research Office, Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences)
Jaruzelski between East and West. Geopolitical Determinants of Reforms in Poland (1985–1989)

Prof. Mirosław Szumiło

(IPN Historical Research Office, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin)
The leadership of the Polish United Workers' Party in 1988–1990

Rafał Łatka, associate professor

(IPN Historical Research Office, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw)
Wojciech Jaruzelski's strategy of action against the Church in Poland (1985–1989)

Discussion

11.40–12.00 Coffee break

12:00–1:30 **PANEL II: POLAND IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Przemysław Gasztold, Ph.D.

(IPN Historical Research Office, War Studies University)
PUWP's Foreign Policy and the Future of Marxism. Relations with Third World Communist and Revolutionary Parties (1985–1989)

Sylvia Szyc, Ph.D.

(IPN Historical Research Office)
The Twilight of Fraternal Friendship: Polish-North Korean Relations in the late 1980s

Daniel Filip-Afloarei, Ph.D.

(The Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile)
The relations between the Romanian Communist Party and the Polish United Workers' Party under Gorbachev's "reign"

Discussion

1:30–2:30 Break

2:30–3:50 **PANEL III: HUNGARY**

Pál Germuska, D.Sc.

(Office of the Committee of National Remembrance, Hungary)
Reforming Socialism or Building Capitalism? The International Financial Institutions and the Hungarian Economic Reforms in the second half of the 1980s

Attila Apor, Ph.D. candidate

(Pazmany Peter Catholic University in Budapest, Hungary)
The Fall of János Kádár. The May 1988 Party Conference and its Consequences

Gábor Szilágyi, Ph.D.

(Office of the Committee of National Remembrance, Hungary)
Why Did It Have To Be Grósz? Candidates and Alternatives for János Kádár's Succession

Discussion

3:50–4:10 Coffee break



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4:10–6:00 PANEL IV: CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Tomáš Malínek, Ph.D.

(Institute for the Study of the Totalitarian Regimes, Czech Republic)

The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and its response to the East German refugee crisis in 1989

Martin Halmó

(Nation's Memory Institute, Slovakia)

Too little – too late. The Period of Reconstruction in Czechoslovakia through the lens of the documents of the Communist Party of Slovakia

Peter Jašek, Ph.D.

(Nation's Memory Institute, Slovakia)

Communist Party of Slovakia and its attitude towards the public opposition movement from the Candle Manifestation to the Gentle Revolution. Between the hard line and dialogue

Adam Bielez, Ph.D.

(Nation's Memory Institute, Slovakia)

Meetings of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Slovakia during the Velvet Revolution

Discussion

THURSDAY, 10 OCTOBER

10:00–11:20 PANEL V: BULGARIA AND ROMANIA

Anton Mioara, Senior Researcher

(„Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History, Romanian Academy)

The final countdown. Nicolae Ceaușescu at the end of the totalitarian utopia

Detelina Dineva, Ph.D.

(Institute for Historical Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)

The Process of Perestroika and Bulgaria

Krasimira Todorova, Ph.D.

(Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Bulgaria)

The fall of the Communist Regime in Bulgaria (1989–1990)

Discussion

11:20–11:40 Coffee break

11:40–12:45 PANEL VI: YUGOSLAVIA

Prof. Aleksandar Životić

(Department of History of Yugoslavia Faculty of Philosophy, Belgrade University, Serbia)

League of Communists of Yugoslavia and political changes in the Soviet Union (1985–1989)

Aleš Gabrič, Ph.D.

(Institute of Contemporary History in Ljubljana, Slovenia)

Intellectuals as opposition in Slovenia in the 1980s

12:45

Discussion and closing of the conference