



# The Political Logics of DisIntegration I: The Soviet Experience 12-13 January 2012

Closed seminar

*Institute for Human Sciences, Spittelauer Lände 3, Vienna, Austria*

## Agenda

12 January 2012

9:30	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>
9:45 – 11:00	<b>Session I</b> <b>Why the Soviet Union Disintegrated</b>  The dissolution of the Soviet Union was considered inconceivable before it occurred and unavoidable after it happened. When, how and why did the “unthinkable” become the only logical think to happen? When and why did different social groups and political actors come to the conclusion that the Soviet Union was unsustainable?  <b>Moderator: Maria Lipmann</b> <b>Introduction: Stephen Kotkin</b>
11:15 – 11:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11:30 – 13:00	<b>Session I</b> <b>Continuation</b>
13:00 – 14:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
14:00 – 15:30	<b>Session II</b> <b>The Soviet Disintegration: Actors, Perceptions and Unintended Consequences</b>  Most of the actors that contributed to the dissolution of the Soviet Union never aimed at the dissolution of the Soviet state. How did they end up contributing to an objective they did not pursue and why were those who wanted the preservation of the Union unable to prevent the collapse of the common state?  <b>Moderator: Stephen Holmes</b> <b>Introduction: Stephen Hanson</b>
15:30 – 16:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>



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16:00 – 17:15	<b>Session II Continuation</b>
17:30	<b>Shuttle vans</b> depart from IWM to Hotel Steigenberger, Herrengasse 10, 1010 Wien
20:00	<b>Dinner</b> Restaurant Vestibül im Burgtheater, Dr. Karl Lueger-Ring 2, 1010 Wien

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9:00 – 10:30	<b>Session III Europe's Disintegration Moment</b>  What is at the heart of the current European crisis? Is this a systemic crisis? Oxford political scientist Jan Zielonka has recently outlined three likely scenarios for the EU's disintegration: uncontrolled collapse; a decisive jump forward that produces a big step back; and benign neglect that brings disintegration in disguise. How likely is each of these scenarios?  <b>Moderator: tbc</b> <b>Introduction: Pierre Hassner</b>
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:00 – 13:00	<b>Session 3 Continuation</b>
13:00 – 14:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
14:00 – 16:00	<b>Session IV The EU Crisis in the Context of Soviet experience. Some practical lessons.</b>  Comparing the Soviet experience from two decades ago with the crisis that the EU faces today is a tricky exercise. The EU is not the Soviet Union and even useful comparisons have their limits. But what can European policy makers learn if they read closely the Soviet experience?  <b>Moderator: tbc</b> <b>Introduction: Robert Cooper</b>
16:00 – 16:15	<b>Coffee Break</b>
16:15 – 17:00	<b>Session V Wrap-Up and Outlook</b>
	<b>End of Conference</b>

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