

THE HUNDRED-YEAR LEGACY OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION AND THE WORLD TODAY: How the Revolution Divided, Unified, and Shaped a Continent



April 3-5, 2017

**Hosted by
the Kennan Institute**



האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



**Wilson
Center**

POLIN
MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY
OF POLISH JEWS



A Joint Conference by the Kennan Institute,
Leonid Nevzlin Research Center for Russian and East European Jewry
at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem,
and the POLIN Museum of Jewish History

April 3-5, 2017, Washington, DC

*Hosted by the Kennan Institute,
The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars*

AGENDA

ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT THE WILSON CENTER
www.RussianRevolutionCentennial.org

April 3, Monday: WELCOME AND OPENING DISCUSSION

16:30–17:00 Participants arrive at the Wilson Center: registration and coffee - 5th Floor

17:00–17:30 Welcoming Remarks - 5th Floor Conference Room

This is the first in a series of conferences planned for 2017 that seeks to integrate separate strands of the historical narrative of the 1917 Revolution and its aftermath. The three events will take place in Washington, Warsaw and Jerusalem and will look at the Revolution and its impact from different perspectives. At this opening panel, we will discuss the vision for the project.

Moderator: Izabella Tabarovsky, Kennan Institute

Speakers: William Pomeranz, Kennan Institute

Jonathan Dekel-Chen, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel

Dariusz Stola, Polin Museum of Jewish History, Warsaw, Poland

17:30-18:00 Opening reception – 5th Floor Landing

18:00–20:00 DINNER and DISCUSSION: The Future of U.S.-Russian Relations -
6th Floor, Dining Room

Moderator: Matt Rojansky, Kennan Institute

Discussants: Amb. William Courtney (ret), Adjunct Senior Fellow, Executive Director, RAND Business Leaders Forum; former special assistant to the President for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia; Ambassador to Georgia and Kazakhstan

Jeff Edmonds, former Acting Senior Director for Russia on the National Security Council

Michael Kimmage, Professor of History, Catholic University of America; former member of Policy Planning Staff at the Office of the Secretary, Department of State

Angela Stent, Director of the Center for Eurasian, Russian & East European Studies, Georgetown University; former National Intelligence Officer for Russia and Eurasia at the National Intelligence Council

Amb. Ken Yalowitz (ret), Director, Conflict Resolution M.A. Program, Georgetown University; former Ambassador to Georgia and Belarus

April 4, Tuesday: Private Sessions – 6th Floor, Boardroom

BREAKFAST: Individually at hotel

Coffee, tea, and pastry available on-site

10.00–11:30 Roundtable 1: The Russian Revolution and the Short Twentieth Century

The Russian Revolution precipitated two essential developments of the twentieth century: the rise of the nation-state and the assertion of social rights over more standard political rights. Several outposts of the former Russian empire—Poland, Finland, the Baltic states—achieved independence in the immediate aftermath of the 1917 revolution. The Soviet Union sought to diffuse the national question among its own ethnic minorities but ultimately served as the incubator for another 12 nations. The Bolshevik victory further transformed a political revolution into a social revolution, thereby advancing a social agenda that challenged the traditional economic order around the globe. This roundtable will address how the Russian Revolution set the terms of the short twentieth century, and how the Soviet Union’s handling of the national and the social question ultimately unraveled.

Moderator: William Pomeranz, Kennan Institute

Kick-off Speaker: Jack Goldstone, George Mason University

Discussants: Gennady Estraiikh, New York University

Andrea Graziosi, National Agency for the Evaluation of University and Research, Rome, Italy

Ivan Kurilla, European University at Saint Petersburg, St. Petersburg, Russia

11.30–12.00 COFFEE BREAK

12.00–13.30 Roundtable 2: Modernization and the Movement of People: How the Revolution Transformed the National and Urban Landscape

The Russian Revolution contributed to a process of economic, social, and cultural modernization and urbanization that would be mirrored across Eastern Europe and eventually across the globe. Identity issues of belonging, of multiple identities, or identity politics, of migration, immigration, and refugees, that arose around 1917 remain issues of intense current interest. What lessons can 1917 teach us about today's discourse on integration and modernization in Europe, the United States, and beyond?

Moderator: Rajan Menon, City College of New York

Kick-off Speaker: Jonathan Dekel-Chen, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel

Discussants: Stephen Crowley, Oberlin College

Mark von Hagen, Arizona State University

Eric Lohr, American University

13.30–15.00 LUNCH – 6th Floor, Dining Room

15.00–16.30 Roundtable 3: Remembering the Russian Revolution

The Russian Revolution began one of the most radical social experiments that had ever been attempted, triggering the onset of state-sponsored secularism and the decline of religion; assimilation, emigration, and acculturation for ethnic minorities; mass repressions; and genocides. Historical narratives and the historical memory of these events are colliding among different ethnic groups in today's Eastern and Central Europe, shifting between confrontation and reconciliation attempts. How does the preservation and representation of national or collective memories reflect this tension?

- Moderator:** William Pomeranz, Kennan Institute
- Kick-off Speaker:** Georgiy Kasianov, Institute of the History of Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences, Ukraine
- Discussants:** Michael Kimmage, Catholic University of America
 Harriet Murav, University of Illinois
 Peter Rollberg, George Washington University
 Nina Tumarkin, Wellesley College
- 16.30-17.00** Wrap-Up Discussion
- 17:00–17:30** RECEPTION – 6th Floor, Dining Room
- 17:30–19:00** WELCOMING REMARKS AND CONCERT: “The Songs They Carried - 6th Floor, Auditorium

Introductory Remarks: Yaron Gamburg, Minister of Public Diplomacy, Israeli Embassy to the United States

The Russian revolution unleashed waves of migration that continued throughout the twentieth century, with emigrants reaching such faraway places as New York, Paris, Buenos Aires, Palestine, Israel, and Harbin. Beside their suitcases, the emigrants carried with them their favorite songs. As they settled into their new homelands, they adapted their songs to new environments, creating unique musical and linguistic blends. This program, performed in Russian, Yiddish, English, and Hebrew, will take you on a musical journey that is certain to move, inspire, and uplift you.

- Performers:** Hazzan Natasha Hirschhorn (vocals and keyboard)
 Hazzan Dr. Ramón Tasat (vocals and keyboard),
 Eugenia Chester (flute)
 Sally McLain (violin)
 Artyom Starchenko (bayan)

19.00–19.30 RECEPTION WITH PERFORMERS – 6th Floor, Dining Room

DINNER: Individual arrangements

April 5, Wednesday: PUBLIC SESSIONS – 6th Floor, Auditorium

9:30–11:00 Public Panel 1: Why Study the Russian Revolution Today?

The Russian Revolution played a critical role in defining the twentieth century in the processes it launched, the entities it created, and the reactions it inspired. The legacy of the Russian Revolution is still evident among the diverse populations of the European continent and farther afield. What did the Russian Revolution mean for the geographic space referred to as Eastern and Central Europe and the dispersal of their respective populations around the world?

Moderator: Matthew Rojansky, Kennan Institute

Discussants: Zvi Gitelman, University of Michigan

Ivan Kurilla, European University at Saint Petersburg, St. Petersburg, Russia

Serhii Plokhii, Harvard University

Dariusz Stola, POLIN Museum, Warsaw, Poland

11:00–11:15 COFFEE BREAK

11:15–12:45 Public Panel 2: The Russian Revolution and the Roots of Today's Globalized World

Imperialism, capitalism, communism, and cosmopolitanism were all issues that preoccupied the leading thinkers and actors of that period. The situation remains much the same today, even as globalism is becoming increasingly unpopular among some communities. What can we learn about globalization from the 1917 narration and prophecies?

Moderator: Audrey Altstadt, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Discussants: Leon Aron, American Enterprise Institute

Andrea Graziosi, National Agency for the Evaluation of University and Research, Rome, Italy

Will Pomeranz, Kennan Institute

Elizabeth Wood, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

13:00–14:30 CONCLUDING LUNCH – 6th Floor, Wilson Center Cafeteria



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