



Eötvös Loránd
Tudományegyetem

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Convenor: Ulrich Schlie, Andrassy University

in association with

Miklos Lojko, ELTE, Budapest

Thomas Weber, University of Aberdeen

The Promise of a New Europe: The Paris Peace Treaties of 1919-20 and the International Order in the Interwar Years

Andrassy University, Budapest 23-24 May 2018

The legacy of the First World War and the post-war order continues to be as contested today as it was when the guns finally fell silent in 1918. For many, the war was “the great seminal catastrophe of the 20th century”, as the American diplomat George F. Kennan put it. For others, the conflict offered a chance to throw off the yoke of foreign domination. The famous Russian poet Anna Akhmatova declared that the twentieth century only truly began in 1914, whereas British novelist H.G. Wells called the conflict “the war to end all wars”.

In the course of this conference, renowned scholars and thinkers from ten states will offer a reappraisal of the peace treaties devised in the suburbs of Paris in 1919, which, to U.S. President Woodrow Wilson’s mind, were meant “to make the world safe for democracy”. In retrospect, these peace settlements created only a fragile order, constantly challenged by crises of parliamentary government, emerging dictatorships and territorial disputes. At a time of momentous change in and beyond Europe, the conference aims to re-examine the political dynamics of the interwar era in order to identify history’s lessons on how a new Europe might be built and a sustainable international order achieved.

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Wednesday, May 23rd

16.30	Registration	
17.00	Opening “Building a new Europe in the 21 st century: What lessons can political leaders draw from the interwar years?”	Christian Schmidt, Fmr. Federal Minister, Member of the German Bundestag, Fürth Werner Weidenfeld, Professor of Political Science, Director CAP, Munich Kurt Hager, Federal Ministry for the Interior of the Republic of Austria Moderator: Ulrich Schlie Andrássy University, Budapest

Followed by a reception hosted by H.E. Volkmar Wenzel, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Hungary*

Thursday, May 24th

Section 1 (09.30 – 12.30)

The First Cracks in the Peace System: New constellations	Chair: Ulrich Schlie
The outbreak of the War of Ideologies: Liberal democracy vs. leftist and right-wing collectivism	Gustavo Corni, University of Trento
Skating into the Abyss: The struggle between the revolutionary spirit of 1776 and the reformist spirit of 1783 in the establishment of a new international order	Thomas Weber, University of Aberdeen
Conquering Peace: Attempting to establish a new global security architecture after the First World War	Stella Ghervas, Newcastle University
Uncertain beginnings in Danubian Central Europe: Embedding the new states system in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland 1919-1927	Miklos Lojko, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest
Discussion	

Lunch Break (12.30 – 13.30), buffet lunch served in Andrassy Hall

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Section 2 (13.30 – 16.00)

International Constellations and Change in the States System: The European World of States during the Interwar Years

Chair: Miklos Lojko

Revisionism and the limits of diplomacy:

Hungary under Horthy's Regency between the two world wars

Georg Kastner,
Andrássy University Budapest

Transylvania 1918-1940:

At the crossroads of empire, nation state and ethnicity

Marcela Sălăgean,
Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj
Napoca

Poland:

The rebirth of a state and its consequences in interwar Europe

Maciej Górny,
Polish Academy of Sciences,
Warsaw

The Culture of Victory vs. the culture of defeat in Greater Romania

Constantin Iordachi,
Central European University,
Budapest

The Kingdom of Yugoslavia during the peace conference and its aftermath

Dragan Bakić,
Serbian Academy of Sciences
and Arts, Belgrade

Discussion

Coffee break (16.00 – 16.30)

Section 3 (16.30 – 18.30)

The crisis of democracy: The rise of dictatorships and the path to a new war

Chair: Thomas Weber

Making the world safe for democracy?

The United States and the international order in the 1920s

James D. Bindenagel,
University of Bonn

The "Berlin-Rome Axis":

Two-fold revisionism in the 1930s

Ulrich Schlie,
Andrássy University, Budapest

France's eastern and western alliances and the European security system during the 1930s

Paul Gradwohl,
University of Lorraine, Nancy

Peacemaking through retrenchment to Appeasement:

British foreign policy during the interwar years. A reappraisal.

Gaynor Johnson,
University of Kent, Canterbury

Discussion

Followed by a reception given by H.E. Elisabeth Ellison-Kramer, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria in Austria*



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Please note:

Location: Andrassy University, Salle des Glaces, Pollack Mihály tér 3, 1088.

Registration: by 18th May via the [registration form](#)

Simultaneous translation will be provided in German, English and Hungarian.

The proceedings of the conference will be published in a conference volume.

For questions regarding content, please contact Ulrich Schlie (ulrich.schlie@andrassyuni.hu), Thomas Weber (t.weber@abdn.ac.uk) or Miklos Lojko (lojko.miklos@btk.elte.hu). For organisational enquiries, please contact Zsuzsanna Tormássy at the Andrassy University (zsuzsanna.tormassy@andrassyuni.hu).



This conference is made possible by the generous support of and cooperation with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Embassy of the Republic of Austria, the Embassy of Romania, the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia, the Austrian Cultural Forum, the Polish Cultural Institute, the Institut français and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

* Invitations to the receptions hosted by Ambassador Wenzel and Ambassador Ellison-Kramer will be issued separately by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Embassy of the Republic of Austria respectively.