THE BALKANS AND CAUCASUS
Parallel processes on the opposite sides of the Black Sea.
Past, present, and prospects.

An international symposium

New Europe College – Institute for Advanced Study, Bucharest
12-13 April 2010

Monday, April 12

9:30 Opening, welcome address
Professor Andrei Pleșu, Rector of the New Europe College

10:00 – 11:30 Plenary session:

Parallels and Intersections. “Outsiders” and “Insiders”:
the Great Powers and the Black Sea Area

Moderator: Taline TER MINASSIAN

Keith HITCHINS, Professor of History, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA:
Shared Challenges: The Principality of Wallachia and the Kingdom of Georgia at the Threshold of the Modern Age (1774-1812)

Constantinos PREVELAKIS, Researcher, Centre National de l’Enseignement à Distance, Paris:
Allied Projects for an Eastern Front and the Illusion of an Oriental Commonwealth. The Eve of World War II (1938-1940) as a Case Study for the Geopolitics of the Balkan and the Caucasus

Ozan ARSLAN, Lecturer, Department of International Relations and the European Union, Izmir University of Economics, Turkey:
Turkish Foreign Policy’s Historical Perspectives Towards the Northern Balkans and Transcaucasus Areas: A Comparison of the Late Ottoman and Republican Approaches in the Wider Black Sea Region

Discussions

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break

12:00 – 13:40 Parallel sessions

Shadows of the Past and Spiritual Cross-currents, I

Moderator: Ivan BILIARSKY

Dmitrii SIDOROV, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, California State University, Long Beach, USA:

The Challenges of the 21st Century

Moderator: Dmitry SHLAPENTOKH

Gianluca PASTORI, Professor Faculty of Political Science, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan:
Russian Geopolitical Imagining of a pan-Orthodox Empire: Translatio Imperii, Third Romes, and Post-Byzantine Space

Roland CLARK, PhD Candidate, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh USA: 
*Regional Cooperation According to Interwar Romanian Nationalists*

Yuri STOYANOV, Department of the Near and Middle East, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London; Senior Associate Fellow, The Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem: 
*The Formation of Sectarian Identities in the Religious Interchange between the Balkans and Caucasus and Their Role in Contemporary Religio-Political Processes*

Discussions

Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea. The Balkans, the Caucasus, and European Energy Security

Emmanuel KARAGIANNIS, Assistant Professor of Russian and post-Soviet Politics, Department of International and European Studies, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece: 
*The U.S.-Russian Competition in the Caucasus Region*

Vugar BAYRAMOV, Chairman, Centre for Economic and Social Development, Baku, Azerbaijan: 
*Do Rich Energy Sources Assure Sustainable Development for the Caucasus Region?*

Arolda ELBASANI, Chair, International Relations Department, European University, Tirana; Research Fellow, Free University, Berlin: 
*Politics of Enlargement in the Western Balkans: Extensive Conditionality and Weak Incentives?*

Discussions

13:40 – 15:00 Lunch

15:00 – 16:30 Parallel sessions continued

**Shadows of the Past and Spiritual Cross-currents, II**

Moderator: Ovidiu CRISTEA

Ivan BILIARSKY, Senior Researcher, Institute of History, Sofia; Associate Professor, Free University of Varna, Bulgaria: 
*Davidic Kingship in the Periphery of the Empire (A Case Study on a Possible Impact of a Caucasian Tradition on a Bulgarian Mediaeval Text)*

Arsen HAKOBYAN, Researcher, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences, Yerevan; Assistant professor and Chair, Department of History,

Conflict Zones

Moderator: Thede KAHL

Hanna SHELEST, Senior Researcher, National Institute for Strategic Studies. Odessa Branch, Ukraine: 
*Comparative Analysis of the Independence Proclamation and Recognition of Kosovo and South Ossetia/Abkhazia*

Marieta KUMPILOVA, PhD Candidate, Leipzig University: 
*Double Diaspora: Circassians from Kosovo in the Russian Federation*
Gavar State University, Armenia:  
*The Orthodox – Chalcedonian Armenians, From Caucasus to the Balkans: Outlines of the History and Identity*

Mariam CHKHARTISHVILI, Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Director of the Institute of History of Georgia & Sopio KADAGISHVILI, BA Student, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University:  
*Perception of Ethnicity in Medieval Georgia and at the Time of Georgian National Consolidation*

Dmitry SHLAPENTOKH, Associate Professor, Indiana University, USA:  
*The Evolution of the Chechen Resistance*

Discussions

16:30 – 17:00  Coffee break

17:00 – 18:30  **Plenary session**

*Imperial Politics. The Historical Background*

Moderator: Keith HITCHINS

Taline TER MINASSIAN, Professeur des Universités, Institut National des Langues et des Civilisations Orientales, Paris, France:  
*The Balkans and Caucasus: Two Peripheries of Two Empires. An Overview of Different Comparative Historical Approaches*

Ovidiu CRISTEA, Senior Researcher and Deputy Director, “Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania:  
*The Quest for Maritime Supremacy in the Black Sea during the Later Middle Ages*

Julian BROOKS, PhD Candidate, Simon Fraser University, Canada:  
*Understanding Intervention: Imperial Thought and Establishing Order in Ottoman Macedonia*

Discussions  

Dinner
**Tuesday, April 13**

10:00 – 11:30  **Plenary session**

*Ethnic Identities and National Building in the Black Sea Region, I*

Moderator: Zaal KIKVIDZE

Thede KAHL, Senior Researcher and Head of Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria:
*Ethno-cultural Diversity in the Black Sea Area as an Objective for Research*

Ana DEVIC, Visiting Professor, Centre for Racism, Ethnicity and Nationalism, University of Glasgow, UK:
*Intellectuals and Nationalism in the Balkans and Caucasus: Forging the History of Socialism - 'Naturalizing' Nationalist Violence*

Ketevan KAKITELASHVILI, Associate Professor, Institute of Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities; UNESCO Chair in Intercultural Dialogue, Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia:
*Reconstruction of History and Nation Building in the Post-Cold War Era: South Caucasus and the Balkans*

Discussions

11:30 – 12:00  **Coffee break**

12:00 – 13:30  **Plenary session, continued**

*Ethnic Identities and National Building in the Black Sea Region, II*

Moderator: Yuri STOYANOV

Zaal KIKVIDZE, Professor, Department Chair, Department of General Linguistics, Akaki Tsereteli State University, Georgia:
*Script Shift and Splitting of Nations in the Caucasus, in the Balkans, and Elsewhere: the Russian/Soviet Experience*

Elena POKALOVA, Editor, *Eyes on the ICC*; Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science, Kent State University, USA:
*Ethno-Nationalism in the Post-Communist World: The Communist Inheritance?*

Ana DINESCU, Ph.D Candidate, Department of History, University of Bucharest, Romania: *The Balkans and Caucasus. The Limits of the Comparative Perspective. The Ethnic Minority Issue*

Discussions

13:30 – 15:00  **Lunch**
15:00 – 16:30  Plenary session

The Sea as Bridge and Border

Moderator: Mariam CHKHARTISHVILI

Constantin ARDELEANU, Lecturer, History Department, “Dunărea de Jos” University, Galați, Romania:
The Lower Danube, Circassia and the Commercial Dimensions of the British-Russian Diplomatic Rivalry in the Black Sea Basin (1836-37)

Zaal ANDRONIKASHVILI, Associate Professor, Ilya Chavchavadze University, Tbilisi, Georgia; Academic Researcher, Centre for Literary and Cultural Research (ZfL), Berlin:
“The Autochthone Order”

Markus BAUER, Journalistic and academic free-lance writer (Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Switzerland):
Land und Meer – Black Sea and Caucasus in German Culture

Discussions

16:30 – 17:00  Coffee break

17:00 – 19:00

Crossing Borders through Music and Drama

Moderator: Markus BAUER

Birgit KUCH, PhD Candidate, Institute for Theatre Studies, Leipzig University, Germany; Postgraduate Program "Critical Junctures of Globalization", Leipzig University, Germany:
Georgia on Stage: Tbilisi’s Theatres between Rose Revolution and August War

Katharina STADLER, PhD Candidate, Department of Musicology, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin; Research Fellow, Centre for the Study of Caucasus and Black Sea Region, University of Georgia: Black Sea Fire – Crossing Borders on the Musical Scale

Peter McMURRAY, Associate Curator, Milman Parry Collection of Oral Literature; Assistant Coordinator, Harvard Ethnomusicology Lab, Cambridge, MA USA:
Singers of Borderland Tales: A Comparative Study of Bosniak and Turkish Epic Song and the Performance of Identity

Victor A. STOICHIŢĂ, Post-doctoral Fellow, New Europe College, Bucharest & Estelle Amy de la BRETEQUE, PhD Candidate in Ethnomusicology, LESC-CREM CNRS, Paris, France:
Musics of the New Times – Romanian manele and Armenian rabiz as Icons of Post-communist Changes

Discussions, closing comments

Dinner