

The CRCE Newsletter

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57 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QL Tel/fax: +44 (0) 20 7233 1050

email: crce@trident-net.co.uk website: www.crce.org.uk

Yegor Gaidar

19 March 1956 – 16 December 2009

The staff and trustees of the Centre for Research into Post-Communist Economies would like to express their sincere condolences on the death of Yegor Timurovich Gaidar. We have fond memories of our contacts with him over the years and of his unfailing wisdom and decency. We share the admiration of Russian friends and colleagues for Dr Gaidar's remarkable services to Russia in the most extreme and difficult circumstances.

Colloquium

“European Conscience and Communism” was the theme this year held again at Pension Zaplata near Kranj. We were delighted to welcome Andrei Illarianov, and very honoured that Dr Geza Jeszensky, Hungary's former Foreign Minister and Ambassador to Washington, took part. Among those taking part were, Andrzej Brzeski, John Moore, Bob Reilly, Silvana Malle and Philip Hanson. Oleg Manaev flew in from Belarus, and from Belgrade, Dragan Lakicevic and Miroslav Prokopijevic, and from Sofia, Krassen Stanchev. Fifteen nations were represented this year. Grateful thanks to the staff at Pension Zaplata and to Darja Okorn. (Reports p.2)

CRCE Lunchtime Talk:

Britain's Role in Iraq:

Implications for the 'New Europe' Allies

In July Richard North, co-author of *How the East Was Won: what Next for NATO* and

EU (CRCE), led this topical and important discussion at the CRCE.

Publications

The Rule of Law in the Market Economy

July 2009, £11.95: Contributors include Steve Pejovich on *Law, Informal Rules and Economic Performance*.

Credit card orders: info@juneypress.com
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Post-Communist Economies

2009 marks the 21st year of publication of CRCE's prestigious Journal.

June & September Issues are available

For a sample copy contact CRCE or:
www.tandf.co.uk/journals

Website

New Title to download:

The Problems for Post-Communist Countries in the Context of the European Union

Contributors include: Tim Congdon and Victoria Curzon-Price.

Visitors:

Miroslav Svircevic, an historian from Belgrade, visited CRCE when researching an article “Political Systems of the Western Balkan Countries during Transition”. We were able to provide information and assistance.

Silvana Malle flew from Verona twice this summer. The second time we met at a Chatham House seminar on Russia.

Tomek Mickiewicz and Lisl Biggs-Davison welcomed Elena Zhuravskaya on a short visit from Moscow in October.

Our Interns' Impressions of the Colloquium

Justina Seikyte writes: "The first session is Experiences of Accession to EU. It is the session I have been waiting for the most. I, as a Lithuanian, am really interested hearing about the experiences of the other new member states and finding out the opinions about them of the high-ranking academics in the field.

Dr. Prokopijevic is the first speaker. His arguments are very well-organised and give the broader view on the advantages and disadvantages of joining the EU. He sees accession to EU as a plausible phenomenon from the economic point of view. The new member states benefit from the larger market and the diminished barriers to operate in it. This, consequently, decreases political, economic and commercial risk and increases the competitive pressure in between the countries. However I am curious to hear about the disadvantages, which are often deliberately remaining non-discussed by some lecturers in my classes. Dr. Prokopijevic illustrates this issue by giving an example from his personal experience. He, as a well-known lecturer and academic in Europe, has been offered a pay in order to talk supportively about the EU. I have now realized that the question of democracy in EU lies not only in the clumsy decision-making process, but also in such undemocratic methods of PR as suppressing the alternative views. Dr. Prokopijevic later also talks about the loss of sovereignty - the price the member states have to pay for the economic benefits of the membership.

The second topic is Croatia about which Mr Schwarz gives a vivid picture of the country under authoritarian socialist regime of Tudjman and today's Croatia, which is the most prominent candidate to join the EU. However the relatively poor economic situation, which is obvious looking at increasing foreign and public debts as well as diminishing foreign investment, remaining high rates of corruption, debatable political decisions

like introducing linear taxation, situation with the war crimes and the troublesome relation with Slovenia over the border of Adriatic sea are likely to postpone Croatia's accession to EU.

Anna Parfjonova writes: "The topic of the second discussion concerned Russia's economic relations with Europe. Phil Hanson noted that because Russia is economically tied with Europe – in other words, Europe needs Russia as much as Russia needs Europe – it led many people to wrongly downplay the significance of the recent manipulative games evident in Russian security and energy policy. Andrei Illarianov presented us with the variety of examples confirming Phil's point. The Russian leadership has been attempting to monopolize energy routes from the Caspian Basin through Azerbaijan and Georgia for more than eight years (using Andrei's expression, "to tap a very narrow bottle neck of the huge bottle of energy resources"); the Russian-Georgian war last year was part of this grand energy plan of the Russian government. Andrei, however, was keen on making a distinction between the Russian leadership on the one hand and Russian people on the other, which he repeatedly emphasised throughout the colloquium, and I should say that I completely agree with him on this point."



Kranj, Slovenia

