

The CRCE Newsletter

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Colloquium in Slovenia

Our interns' impressions:

"The topics varied from such issues as immigration to the modern impact of religion on our world. The fact that the Colloquium's distinguished guests came from many different European countries and the USA meant that the conference provided numerous insights, points of view and professional knowledge from the regions concerned. Oana-Valentina Suci, from the Romanian Cultural Institute, gave a particularly interesting analysis of migration and ethnic problems in Romania. The topic came at a sensitive time of the European Union's conflict with France over Roma deportations.

I was very impressed with Bob Reilly's talk on Islam. Bob has an immense theological knowledge of Islam and was able to provide very interesting facts and analysis, which most of us had never heard about. It was an honour to meet Bob, who used to be a special adviser to President Ronald Reagan." - Stan Mickiewicz

"The conference was held in a the cosy and welcoming, family-run Pension Zaplata, which was situated against the backdrop of the magnificent Slovenian mountains: a perfect setting for an inspirational colloquium.

The topics were of great interest to me, and I extended my knowledge in my area of study. The programme consisted of topics about migration in Europe ethnic minorities and Islam and the West. All of these topics are very relevant and important in today's World politics. The discussions were very insightful and it was a great pleasure to listen to such intelligent opinions and debates. The participants of various backgrounds and experiences shared many of their personal views and thoughts, which added to the interest

What stood out for me personally was the session on Migration in Europe: Case studies of Bulgaria and Romania, led by Krassen Stanchev and Oana-Valentina Suci, and I learnt a great deal.



The island church of St. Mary on lake Bled

CRCE organised a very insightful excursion to Kranjska Gora — an absolutely breath taking Alpine experience. This enchanting, picturesque village nestled in the foothills of the magnificent Alps, a few miles from both the Italian and Austrian borders — a perfect example of the Slovenian countryside. We were also taken to beautiful Bled Lake with a church on an island in the middle of the lake — it was such a gem! The last day came round all too soon and I was sad, but it was brightened by our visit to the historically charming Ljubljana." - Anya Logvanova

Recently published

"Drowning the Tiger: The Failure of Hungarian Economic Reform 1989-2009" by Katharine Cornell Gorke, Director of the Westminister Institute, McLean, Virginia
<http://www.crce.org.uk/briefings/>

"The Fall of the Berlin Wall: Recollections"

Geza Jeszensky and Krassen Stanchev share their memories of the events 20 years ago.

<http://www.crce.org.uk/lessons/>

Mass of Reparation for Victims of Tito

Recently in a Buckinghamshire village an extraordinary event took place organized by Keith Miles of the CRCE Advisory Council. He writes,

“The Soul of England inspired a British Army General to say prayers for us today, inspired a Slovene priest in Boston USA to say a Mass at the same time, and this reparation mass to be mentioned in a mass at Žale, Ljubljana today. It has inspired prayers at Stična Monastery, special prayers to be said in Japan and Australia and South Africa and France, and prayers by the Chief Rabbi of Slovenia. It also inspired a local Member of Parliament and a Minister in the new government to express his regret, and inspired many messages. The great Englishman Lord Acton said: Truth is the only merit that gives dignity and worth to history”



Present were Nikolai Tolstoy, who has written so eloquently on these horrific events. Also, John Corsellis and Marcus Ferrar, authors of *Slovenia 1945*, and Charles Crawford who reported this occasion for Radio Free Europe:

“On October 29, in the very English village of Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire, an ecumenical Mass of Reparation was held to recall one of these episodes and to honour the memory of thousands of victims of it. The service was led by the Catholic bishop of Northampton, with Archbishop Metropolitan Stres from Ljubljana and the Anglican bishop of Buckingham. Slovenian Ambassador Iztok Jarc and former Slovenian Prime Minister Lojze Peterle were among the sizeable congregation.

No one from the British government attended. General Sir Richard Dannatt, former chief of the

General Staff and General Lord Guthrie, former

chief of the Defence Staff, both sent messages of support. This Mass recalled a ruinous moment in British military history in mid-1945: the British Army's forced repatriation to Slovenia of some 12,000 people who were then quickly murdered by Tito's communists. Keith Miles, chairman of the British Slovene Society, has worked for a long time to bring this calamity to wider public attention and to support those in Slovenia who are still trying to uncover the full facts about these and many other massacres from that period. Canon Timothy Russ delivered an unflinching sermon. He described the killings as "a massive disorder, a massive wickedness, a massive sadness." He placed this example of Marxist brutality in a wider European school of banal philosophical thought that denied any Christian or natural moral order and instead insisted that people had no intrinsic worth. The result had been the mass elimination of people who thought differently, or just were in the way.

After the Mass, I met Ivan Lavric and Valentin Mohar, two elderly men who themselves had narrowly escaped being sent back to Slovenia. Lavric told me how he lost eight of his cousins in the massacres.

Slovenian historian Joze Dezman was the first chairman of the Commission on Concealed Mass Graves in Slovenia. He told me that some 600 mass graves from this period have been discovered in different parts of Slovenia. The communists had had various options for disposing of so many bodies. Throwing them into carst rock crevasses, burying them in mining tunnels or antitank trenches, or digging large pits deep in the forests.

One particularly appalling killing site was the St. Barbara Tunnel near Huda Jama, where meticulous efforts to cover up the crime afterward were successful for over 60 years. The grim remains of hundreds of victims were uncovered only in 2008”.

Charles Crawford, a former British diplomat, served as ambassador in Sarajevo, Belgrade, and Warsaw. He writes about diplomatic issues at charlescrawford.biz. The views expressed in this commentary are his own and not necessarily those of RFE/RL

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http://www.rferl.org/content/Regret_Is_Not_Enough_In_Slovenian_Tragedy/2205847.html