

# The CRCE Newsletter

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## **CRCE News**

Congratulations to Philip Hanson, who was at Buckingham Palace when the Queen invested him with his OBE. Phil's honour reflects his significant contribution to academic excellence in the UK, and in the field of Soviet and Russian studies. The CRCE is fortunate indeed to have Phil as a highly-regarded trustee and adviser. An interview with Phil can be found at:

<http://www.redbrickpaper.co.uk/2011/06/professors-honoured-with-obes/>



Philip Hanson OBE & Eve Hanson at the Palace, 2011

Thanks to Phil for the photograph. It is ten years since Ljubo Sirc's investiture, and I can't resist publishing the photograph I took then (LB-D).

## **New Publications**

*Islam and the West* by Robert R. Reilly

CRCE Occasional Paper No 15. Price: £10

This is the transcript of Bob Reilly's riveting talk at the 2010 colloquium 'Demographics and Migration in Europe, East & West.' Other papers from the event: <http://www.crce.org.uk/publications/>

The CRCE has published another Briefing Paper entitled: *After 20 Years of Status Quo: The Failure of Gradualism in Slovenia's Post-Socialist Transition*. The author, Rok Spruk, is a young Slovene studying at Utrecht University. Thanks to Annie Beadle who did a splendid job of editing.

Both are available from the office and website.

## **Post-Communist Economies**

The CRCE's distinguished journal marks its 24<sup>th</sup> year in 2012. The partnership with Taylor & Francis/Routledge has been most successful. Sincere thanks to Roger Clarke, who has been editor from the first. We know how much the authors appreciate his work. 2011!

Finally, a big thank you to everyone at Taylor & Francis, our publishers, who produce such a beautiful journal. Available online at: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/carfax/14631377.html>.



Sue, Nadia & Ljubo Sirc CBE, & cousin Darja Okorn, 2001

### ***'From Aid to Enterprise:’ an Acton Conference***

Tomasz Mickiewicz and Lisl Biggs-Davison attended the Acton Institute’s superb London conference: ‘From Aid to Enterprise: Economic Liberty and Solutions to Poverty.’ For more about Acton, visit: [www.acton.org](http://www.acton.org).

Our good friend Lord Griffiths spoke on freedom of the individual in the market economy. He said ‘Freedom in the market economy enables people to take risks, to innovate and invent. Private ownership is essential for enterprise. The developing world suffers from lack of property rights. Catholic belief, and in Ancient Israel, supports rule of law and property rights.’

An outstanding presentation was given by Herman Chinery-Hesse, of SOFTtribe Ghana. He demonstrated that entrepreneurship can develop in the most difficult of circumstances. Do find out more about this inspiring man on the internet.

*‘Technology is the only way for Africa to get rich. We don't have proper infrastructure and we can't compete in manufacturing. But if you put me behind a PC and tell me to write software for a Chinese customer, then I can compete brain for brain with anyone trying to do the same thing in the US.’* - From the BBC World Service website.

### ***Silvana Malle***

Congratulations to Silvana Malle, who in October was appointed Professor Emeritus at the University of Verona.



Silvana’s last appointment was as Director of the Centre for East-West Studies and European Integration and Professor of Economic Policy at the University of Verona. She was previously Head of the Non-Member Economies Division at the OECD Economics Department, where she directed and supervised economic analysis and surveys of Central and Eastern European countries, Russian Federation, Brazil, Chile, and China. While she initially focused on transition economies, drafting reports

for the Secretariat and contributing to the forecasting rounds for the preparation of the OECD Economic Outlook, she later increasingly developed research and cross-country analysis on emerging market economies in Asia and South America.

### ***Visitors***

CRCE welcomed many friends in December: Ziga Andoljsek from Slovenia's Catholic Institute, who attended our Autumn Colloquium, in Slovenia. He was also given a whirlwind tour of other think tanks: including IEA, Adam Smith Institute, Civitas and Taxpayers' Alliance. He went home with many books for the Institute.

Natasha Srdoc and Joel Anand Samy were in London to discuss the troubled Croatian elections with some leading journalists (at the FT and WSJ) and politicians, and the CRCE. More available at: <http://charlescrawford.biz/NORX84354271>.

Russia also had electoral problems, as illustrated by the enormous number of people protesting about election fraud. Elena Zhuravskaya who was in London saw the protest in Trafalgar Square.

Phil Hanson and Lisl Biggs-Davison attended a Chatham House seminar, "Belarus under Pressure: The Potential for Change." Our friend and colleague Oleg Manaev was one of a main speakers, and flew in from Minsk for the event.

### ***Václav Havel***

All at the CRCE send condolences, to our friends in the Czech Republic, on the death of former President Havel. His successor Václav Klaus described Havel as "a symbol of the modern Czech state. "His personality, reputation and efforts fundamentally helped the Czech Republic to join the community of free and democratic states." He will be much missed.

### ***Estonia Little Country That Could***

We are delighted that IME in Bulgaria is translating Mart Laar's excellent book, and in London, the Taxpayers' Alliance is using it for research on flat tax. This CRCE title is still available from the office. Special price £10.



Lady Thatcher attended the book launch in 2002. She is pictured with Mart Laar at the CRCE event.

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