HISTORY

The Cold War: an historical perspective
Edward Towne MA MSt PGCE

Study morning: Saturday 27 April, 10am – 1pm
Location: University of Kent Medway, Chatham Maritime
Course fee: £17.50

We will study the Cold War’s 1917 origins, and follow its course through key dates, hostilities, crises, an arms race and intensive espionage activity, through to 1989 when the Berlin Wall came down. We will then consider why the Cold War came to an end, and who bears most responsibility for this outcome.

This Study Morning will examine the origins, course and end of the Cold War from 1917 through to 1989 when the Berlin Wall came down: from the hostility between Soviet Russia and the West; the post-1945 emergence of communist and anti-communist blocs enmeshed in crises such as Korea, Berlin and Cuba; the persistence of an arms race (especially nuclear rivalry), and, intensive espionage activity.

We will examine how crisis followed crisis, underpinned by a nuclear arms race and the deployment of spies by both sides. Two military alliances faced each other: NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Hostility increased at times of crisis: the Korean War (1950-53), the construction of the Berlin Wall (1961) and the Cuba Missile Crisis of 1962. Soviet intervention in Hungary (1956), Czechoslovakia (1968) and Afghanistan (1979) raised tension, as did US action in Vietnam from 1964 to 1975. The nuclear stand-off intensified with the deployment of a new generation of missiles and increased espionage, occasionally culminating in spy swaps. The Middle East was an almost continuous source of international conflict.

We will review Gorbachev’s accession to power in 1985 and Republican regimes in the USA under Reagan and George Bush (Senior) which provided opportunities for détente, dialogue and the mutual reduction of atomic weapons. At the Malta summit in 1989 both sides hailed the end of the Cold War.

In conclusion, we will consider why the Cold War came to an end, and who bears most responsibility for this outcome.

Additional information
This study morning is suitable for those with no prior knowledge of the subject.

About the tutor
Edward Towne graduated in European Studies from the University of East Anglia, and later achieved a PGCE from Cambridge, an MA in Early Modern English History from the University of London, and MSt in Twentieth Century British History from the University of Oxford. His professional career was spent teaching History in state and independent Secondary Schools, finally as Head of the History Department. Currently, Edward lectures independently to adults in a variety of organisations, and acts as a reviewer and tour leader on historical topics.
General information, terms & conditions

How to book a place on this course
These courses are usually very popular and you are advised to apply as soon as possible. Places cannot be held without payment of the course fee.

- Online Booking is preferred. Please visit www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge
- By post to us at the address below, using the paper application form available from our website. Alternatively please contact us on 01732 352316 if you require an application form to be posted to you.

Please note that you will not receive an acknowledgment of your paper application; your payment will usually be processed when the course becomes financially viable, otherwise we will notify you of cancellation approximately seven days prior to the course.

An online course booking or paper application affirms acceptance of our Terms & Conditions.

Medway Campus, Chatham
- The course will be taught at the Medway campus in Chatham.
- You will receive details about which building and room on the campus will be used for the seminar approximately one week before the seminar date.
- Unfortunately we are not able to provide any refreshments, but you are welcome to take a drink with you.
- Parking. For directions to the Medway campus please visit: www.kent.ac.uk/locations/medway/directions.html We recommend you use the Drill Hall car park for courses on Saturdays.

Mailing List and data protection
Those attending our courses are automatically added to our database. This information is not released to outside organisations. Please write to us if you do not wish your details to be kept on our database.

Course cancellation
As these short courses are self-financing, each course can only proceed if there are sufficient enrolments. Therefore, if a course is cancelled due to insufficient enrolments we aim to notify applicants approximately one week before the course start date; if there is no suitable alternative course, we will refund the appropriate course fee in full. The University of Kent reserves the right to cancel a course for this or any other reason in which case the relevant course fee will be refunded in full.

If you find it necessary to cancel your place on a course, please let us know as soon as possible. Refund requests, including the reason, should be made by email or in writing to us at the address below. We reserve the right to retain all or part of the course fee if you request a refund after 14 days of your online booking being made or paper application being received. Discretionary, partial refunds may be made, after the deduction of an administrative handling fee as follows:

- a course fee of up to and including £42 will incur an administrative handling fee of £10.00
- a course fee of £43 and over will incur an administrative handling fee of £12.50.

The University reserves the right to:

a) exclude any student if the student’s presence is making it difficult for the class to function properly
b) cancel or amend the length of any course if the circumstances so warrant.

Neither the University of Kent, nor its staff, can be held responsible for any damage, loss or injury, however sustained, suffered by participants attending courses. Insurance is the student’s responsibility.

Please contact us if you have any queries or would like to register your email address to receive our course information updates. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

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