



## CALL FOR PAPERS

### From Helsinki to Gorbachev, 1975-1985: The Globalization of the Bipolar Confrontation

#### PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The conference seeks to challenge existing interpretations of the last phase of the Cold War by presenting the result of new research in the field and by introducing new interpretative paradigms. In particular, the conference is designed to work towards a new narrative of the last decade of the Cold War that accounts for the fact that several critical new aspects and factors emerged during that time that changed the nature of the international system. The conference will also try to trace the roots of the contemporary international system to the developments of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Structurally, the conference seeks to overcome the often exaggerated division in analysis of the period between the Carter and Reagan administrations by highlighting elements of continuity between the two presidencies and within the whole period in general.

At the heart of the conference is the effort to gain greater understanding for the fundamental shift from a bipolar confrontation to a truly global one, the impact of the new industrial revolution in the field of technological innovation, and the return of the US to a position of global leadership—and the interconnections between all three developments.

The conference will center around the following questions:

- 1) How did the US manage to recover from their temporary setback and regain the leadership of the Western bloc?
- 2) How did Western Europe manage this evolution of the transatlantic relationship?
- 3) How did the Soviet Union and China, faced with these and other new challenges, react to the situation?
- 4) How did this overall transformation affect the rest of the World?

The conference will be organized in five different sessions, for an overall length of two days and a half.

**First Session** – The Aftermath of Helsinki (The US, Western Europe, and the Transformation of the Bipolar Challenge)

Possible themes to be addressed:

- The US Offensive. Reagan, Carter and the Bipolar Confrontation
- The US, NATO and Western Europe. Military and Strategic Issues
- Old and New Forms of European Integration. The Reprise of European Integration in the late 1970s and Early 1980s, Mrs. Thatcher's Battle for a "More Liberal Europe", the revitalization of the WEU
- Alternatives that Never Were: Birth and Rapid Decline of Eurocommunism; Dilemmas of Social-Democracies; The Rebirth of Pacifist Movements

**Second Session** – The Reactions of the Soviet Union and of the Warsaw Pact

- The Soviet Military Response and the Crisis of the Euromissiles
- The parabolic rise and decline of Soviet military adventures in Africa and Asia
- Soviet reactions to the new human rights challenge and to the growth of dissident movements
- The Warsaw Pact. Crises in Poland and the Vatican's Ostpolitik; the strange case of Romania.
- The problem of security at the borders of the Empire: Iran and Afghanistan

**Third Session** – From the Extension of the Conflict to the Soviet Decline (the idea being to broaden our focus to such areas as Latin America and the Middle East)

- Deng's revolution in China and its international repercussions
- The regional consequences of the Camp David agreements
- Global and regional consequences of the Iran-Iraq War
- Latin American Tensions
- The Anomaly of the Falklands War

**Fourth Session** – Technological Revolution, Security, and Economic Globalization

- The US and the new technological challenge (SDI and more)
- The Western European reactions
- The Soviet Union
- The emergence of a new North-South confrontation?
- What roles for international institutions and organizations

**Fifth Session – Round Table.** Final Considerations and New Research Perspectives. Towards the End of the Cold War: Winners and Losers

**ORGANIZATION**

The conference will take in Florence from 27 to 29 April 2006. It is jointly organized by the **Machiavelli Center for Cold War Studies** and the **Cold War International History Project**.

The deadline for submission of a proposal is October 15, 2005. Papers should be submitted by March 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 for dissemination to all participants. The final invitation to the conference will be contingent on the timely submission of papers. Scholars who intend to receive comments on their first drafts should submit their papers by January 1, 2006. Please submit proposals via e-mail to:

Prof. Ennio Di Nolfo ([dinolfo@unifi.it](mailto:dinolfo@unifi.it))  
Director, Machiavelli Center for Cold War Studies

A copy of the proposal should also be addressed to the Conference staff:

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