Peace Research Institute Frankfurt
Leibniz-Institut für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung

BERLINER KOLLEG
KALTER KRIEG
BERLIN CENTER
FOR COLD WAR STUDIES

SUSTAINING INTERNATIONAL ORDER IN TIMES OF CRISIS

TODAY'S LESSONS FROM THE COLD WAR

25 JANUARY – 27 JANUARY 2027
at Schleswig-Holstein's Representation in Berlin
In den Ministergärten 8
10117 Berlin, Germany

Please register online: **Registration**
Further information on the **conference webpage**

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has dramatically changed the European security situation. Key elements of the Cold War such as nuclear threats and 'hybrid' attacks are back. They affect not only Europe but also contribute to the emergence of a new international order shaped by geopolitical rivalries. While those changes have been addressed as a 'New Cold War' by some, others see rather a return to pre-1914 great power competition and imperialism.

This international conference gathers historical knowledge from a contemporary perspective to explore how the experiences of the Cold War can contribute to understanding and navigating current geopolitical tensions. Can insights from Cold War Studies as well as Peace and Conflict Studies inform policy makers to find solutions to solve or at least to reduce ongoing conflict? How can societies become resilient in times of external aggression? International scholars from both historical and political science exchange their perspectives at common panels on three key areas of past and current threats.

The conference also discusses results from the project *How Does the Past Matter? The Russian War of Aggression and the Cold War* (PATTERN), funded by the Leibniz Association and jointly conducted by the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) and the Berlin Center for Cold War Studies of the Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History.

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Monday, 25 January 2027

6:00 p.m. — Arrival and Registration

6:30 p.m. — Welcome and Introductory Remarks
Dr. Stefan Kroll (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt – PRIF)

6:45 p.m. — Keynote: Revival of the Heritage of the Cold War in Present-Day Russia
Prof. Dr. Angelika Nußberger (Academy for European Human Rights Protection, University of Cologne)

8:15 p.m. — Reception

Tuesday, 26 January 2027

10:15 a.m. — Panel I: Nuclear Threats and Their Management: Present Challenges and Lessons of the Cold War
Chair: *Dr. Tim Geiger (Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History)*

- Russia's Nuclear Coercion in the War on Ukraine
  Dr. Polina Sinovets (Odesa Center for Nonproliferation, Odesa I.I. Mechnikov National University)
- The Current Crisis of the Euro-Atlantic Security Architecture in Historical Perspective: What Lessons Can Be Drawn from the Second Berlin Crisis (1958–1963)?
  Dr. Frédéric Gloriant (Interdisciplinary Center for Strategic Studies, ENS Paris)
- 'Sufficient, Dispersed, Forward, or Extended – How Would You Like Your Deterrence Cooked, Please?' France's New Nuclear Doctrine and Strategic Stability in Europe
  Dr. Sascha Hach (Helmut Schmidt University/University of the Federal Armed Forces Hamburg)

12:00 p.m. — Light Lunch

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1:00 p.m. **Panel II: Hybrid Threats from Human Intelligence to Cyber Conflict**
Chair: *Dr. Adrian Hänni (Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History)*

Hybrid Conflict from the Cold War to the Present: Reducing Conflict Then and Now
Dr. Bodo Mrozek (Berlin Center for Cold War Studies, Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History)

Strategic Culture of Russian Intelligence Services – from the Cold War to Putin's Russia
Dr. Elena Grossfeld (King's Centre for the Study of Intelligence, King's College London)

Russian Online Influence Operations in Europe: Actors, Tactics and Targets
Julia Smirnova (Center for Monitoring, Analysis and Strategy – CeMAS)

2:45 p.m. **Break**

3:00 p.m. **Panel III: Managing Great Powers in Eras of Geopolitical Rivalry**
Chair: *Prof. Dr. Hermann Wentker (Berlin Center for Cold War Studies, Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History, retired)*

Divided between East and West? African Responses to the Cold War and Current Russian Interventions
Dr. Mikhail Polianskii (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt – PRIF) & Dr. Christian Methfessel (Berlin Center for Cold War Studies, Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History)

The Moderate Middle: The Suharto Regime and Indonesia's Engagement with the NIEO, 1973–1984
Prof. Dr. Bradley Simpson (University of Connecticut)

From Great Power Competition to Great Power Bargaining? Southeast Asia's Coping Strategies
Dr. Huong Le Thu (International Crisis Group)

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6:00 p.m.

Public Evening Event (in German): Europe in a New Cold War? A Dialogue Between Diplomacy and Academia

The public evening event will bring politics and academia into dialogue on the challenge of hybrid threats in the Baltic Sea region, exploring current developments and considering how lessons from the Cold War can inform national and European responses.

Organised jointly with Schleswig-Holstein's Representation in Berlin, the event is open to both conference participants and the wider public.

Video Welcome Address
Dr. Johann Wadephul (German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs)

Welcome Remarks
Sandra Gerken (Plenipotentiary of the State of Schleswig-Holstein to the Federal Government)

Introduction
Dr. Agnes Bresselau von Bressensdorf (Berlin Center for Cold War Studies, Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History)

Panel Discussion
Dr. Thomas Wegener Friis (Center for Cold War Studies, University of Southern Denmark)

Dr. Emily Haber (Former German Ambassador to the United States)

Prof. Dr. Ursula Schröder (Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy – IFSH, University of Hamburg)

Dr. Veronika Wand-Danielson (Swedish Ambassador to Germany; tbc)

Please note: The event will be held in German. Separate **registration is required for the conference and the public evening event**. Participants wishing to attend both must register for each event separately.

Registration for the public evening event: **Register here.**

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Wednesday, 27 January 2027

10:15 a.m.

Panel IV: Preparing for Upcoming Threats: Learning from the Present for the Future

The round table discussion with international experts from leading think tanks evaluates possible outcomes of current conflicts and asks about future threats. What can we learn to build resilient societies? How can we prevent future escalation? Thus, in terms of an applied approach: How can we learn from the present for the future?

Panelists
Chair: *Dr. Bodo Mrozek (Berlin Center for Cold War Studies, Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History)*

Sarah Brockmeier-Large (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt – PRIF)

Prof. Dr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl (European Space Agency – ESA; tbc)

Prof. Dr. Bart Schuurman (Leiden University)

Martha Turnbull (European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats – Hybrid CoE)

12:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks
Dr. Agnes Bresselau von Bressensdorf (Berlin Center for Cold War Studies, Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History) & Dr. Stefan Kroll (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt – PRIF)

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