

**BOOK LAUNCH**

PROF. GYÖRGY SCHÖPFLIN:

# A CONTESTED EUROPE

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DANUBE  
INSTITUTE

Helena  
History  
Press 

The symposium is organised on the occasion of the release of the English edition of the last major work emanating from the pen of one of the most distinguished political scientists dealing with matters related to Central and Eastern Europe in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. This English edition was in galleys when he passed away in November of 2021.



# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

György Schöpflin ( 24 November 1939- 19 November 2021) was a Hungarian politician who served as a member of the European Parliament (MEP) from Hungary. He was a member Fidesz, back then part of the European People's Party. He was a member of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs. He was a substitute member of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and member of Reconciliation of European Histories Group.

Formerly Jean Monnet Professor of Politics at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London, he published extensively on questions of nationhood, identity and political power.

# A CONTESTED EUROPE

It's a well-worn cliché that every policy has costs, not just benefits, as well as unintended consequences. The eastward enlargement of the European Union in 2004 is a case very much in point. Fifteen years on there is a greater or lesser dissatisfaction both in Brussels and in the new member states that joined.

This book explores the whys and wherefores from an unusual and original perspective. The author, György Schöpflin, worked for nearly three decades as an academic at the London School of Economics and at the University of London, then as a member of European Parliament for a decade and a half. By and large, academics seldom have the chance of seeing how theory operates in the real world, what politics is like at the coal-face. The book reflects both dimensions and is indispensable for anyone who wants to know how political theory works in practice.

# SPEAKERS



## JOHN O'SULLIVAN

### **President of the Danube Institute**

John O'Sullivan is the president of Danube Institute, editor-at-large of National Review, and international editor of Australia's Quadrant. He is the author of *The President, the Pope and the Prime Minister: Three Who Changed the World*. He has served in the past as an associate editor of the London Times, editorial and op-ed editor for Canada's National Post, and special adviser to Margaret Thatcher.



# ZSOLT NÉMETH

## **Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Hungarian parliament**

Zsolt Németh is a founding member of Fidesz and has been a member of the Hungarian Parliament since the first free and democratic elections in 1990. Since 2014, he has been the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Hungarian National Assembly and deputy floor leader of the Fidesz Parliamentary Group. He is Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly to the Council of Europe (PACE), where he chairs the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, is Vice Chair of the European Conservatives Group, and leads the Hungarian delegation. Since 2014 he has been a member of NATO Parliamentary Assembly and chairs the USA–Hungary Interparliamentary Friendship Group. He was Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1998 to 2002, and again between 2010-2014. From 2002 to 2010, he was the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr Németh studied political science at the Oxford University St. Anthony's College as a visiting student between 1988-89. He earned his M.A. in Economics and Sociology at the Karl Marx (Corvinus) University of Economic Sciences at Budapest in 1987. He is married with three children. On 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022, he was elected to Parliament from the national list for his 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive term.



## PÁL CSÁKY

**Former Slovak member of EU Parliament, former Deputy Prime Minister and head of the Hungarian Minority Party in Slovakia**

Minister Pál Csáky is a Slovak politician. He served as the Parliamentary Group Leader Bratislava, from 1990-98.

From 1998-2006, he was the Deputy Prime Minister in Bratislava. In 2007 he was elected president of the Party of the Hungarian Coalition.

He was party chairman from 2006-2010. He was elected as a Member of the European Parliament and served there from 2014-2019.



## FERENC HÖRCHER

**Political philosopher, historian of political thought and philosopher of art**

Ferenc Hörcher (1964) is a political philosopher, historian of political thought and philosopher of art. He studied in Budapest (Hungary), Oxford (UK) and Brussels/Leuven (Belgium). He is director of the Research Institute of Politics and Government and senior researcher at the Institute of Philosophy of the Hungarian Academy of Science. He was visiting professor at the Jagiellonian University, Kraków (Poland) and the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca (Kolozsvár, Romania). He researched in Vienna (Austria), Göttingen (Germany), Wassenaar (Holland), Cambridge (UK), Edinburgh (UK) and at Notre Dame University (USA). His research interests include: conservatism and liberalism, the history of early modern political thought, classical Hungarian political thought, early modern and contemporary philosophy of art.



# GYULA KODOLÁNYI

## **Kossuth Prize-winning writer, literary translator, and university professor**

Gyula Kodolányi is a writer, translator, Americanist, editor-in-chief of *Magyar Szemle* (since 1991) and *Hungarian Review* (since 2010).

In 1960, he attended the Mechanical Engineering Faculty of the Budapest University of Technology, and between 1961 and 1966, he participated in the English department of the ELTE-BTK. He completed five semesters of the Hungarian major.

From 1966 to 1970, he was an English editor at Corvina Kiadó, participating in the translation of modern Hungarian poetry into English.

From 1970 to 1985, he taught English and American literature as a teaching assistant at the English Institute of ELTE-BTK. Between 1985 and 1989, he studied modern literature as an assistant professor at the Department of Comparative and World Literature of ELTE-BTK. In 1989, he co-founded the American department of ELTE.

His first book of poems was published in 1981, and his first book of essays in 1999. He has more than ten books to date.

Since 1970, he has been a translator and editor of text collections and works by American and British authors (William Carlos Williams, Henry Adams, Lewis Mumford, etc.).

From 1978 to 1988, he participated in opposition movements, including the Danube Movement. In 1988, he was a founding member of the MDF. In 1990-94, he was the titular Prime Minister's State Secretary in the first democratic government and the Prime Minister's foreign policy advisor.

1991-2004 member of the Hungarian Motion Picture Foundation's national board of trustees, 1992-1996 Vice-President of the Hungarian Television Foundation (Duna TV), 1996-97 board member. From 1998-2002, he was the editor-in-chief and artistic director of the weekly cultural program *Színkép* on TV2, Bp. From 2001-2005, he was an advisor to the President of the Republic. Since 2016, he has been a permanent member of the Hungarian Writers' Association.



## FERENC MISZLIVETZ

**Director, iASK, full professor, University of Pannonia Kőszeg Campus**

Ferenc Mislivetz is the founder and director of the Institute of Advanced Studies Kőszeg (iASK), a Jean Monnet professor and full professor at the University of Pannonia. He is a scientific advisor at the Centre for Social Sciences, Institute for Political Science, at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He elaborated the project on creative cities and sustainable regions embedded in the KRAFT Centre at iASK. His research interests include democracy, civil society, Central-European and European Studies, globalization and sustainability. He has taught and conducted research at various universities in Europe and the United States, including recently at the University of Bologna, and Columbia University in New York. Since 2012 he has served as the president of the Social Sciences unit of the Hungarian UNESCO Committee and holds a UNESCO Chair in Cultural Heritage and Sustainability in Kőszeg.

He has received numerous awards, including the Knight's Cross of the Hungarian Republic (2005) and



the Cross of the Hungarian Order of Civic Merit (2021).

His major works include *Illusions and Realities: The Metamorphosis of Civil Society in a New European Space*; *Central Europe ante Portas*; *The European Construction*; and *Reframing Europe's Future: Challenges and Failures of the European Construction*.

# HELENA HISTORY PRESS LLC

## **MISSION STATEMENT AND HISTORY**

Helena History Press LLC was founded in 2012. A privately funded publishing house, based in the United States, the firm was established to showcase scholarship about and from Central and East Europe in English. The founders felt that scholarship about the region was underrepresented in the Anglophone world and by establishing an independent publishing house with strong ties to established but also emerging scholars could, in a modest way, make a contribution to the larger world of English language scholarship about Central and East Europe.

In this, our tenth year, Helena History Press published a fascinating historical account of the Béla Bartók archives titled *A Thorn in the Rosebush*, written by Carl Leafstedt, professor and eminent musicologist. We have also released the two-volume account of a significant conference on anti-Semitism in Hungary hosted and organized in June of 2021 by Jeffrey Kaplan of the Danube Institute and his team.

Following these works, in the fall of 2022 we are releasing the last book written by professor of political science and member of European Parliament György Schöpflin titled *A Contested Europe*.

We also have chosen to re-issue three out of print books that are classics of scholarship published originally by East European Monographs so that they

become accessible to scholars of Hungarian history. The first, released in early 2022 is Thomas Sakmyster's distinguished biography of Admiral Horthy, *Admiral on Horseback*. Upcoming will be Balázs Ablonczy's biography of Pal Teleki, followed by Ignac Romsics' biography of István Bethlen.

Also upcoming is political scientist András Ludányi's memoir – an eagerly awaited English edition of his well received autobiography, already released in Hungarian.

To date, Helena History Press published the first comprehensive scholarly work on the non-radio aspects of the US funded National Committee for a Free Europe, (NCFE) or Free Europe Committee, *"The Inauguration of Organized Political Warfare"* edited by Katalin Kádár Lynn. Contributors to the compendium include scholars from Hungary, Czech Republic, Romania, Poland, Bulgaria and the USA. A volume on *21<sup>st</sup> Century Hungarian Language Survival in Transylvania* edited by Judith Késserű Némethy along with two very important scholarly works on the internal deportations within Hungary and Transylvania during the Stalinist era, *Stigmatized* by Kinga Széchenyi and *Comrade Baron* by Jaap Scholten. *Comrade Baron* was released as a trade publication and has been favorably reviewed in the Times Literary Supplement (London), the New Criterion (USA), Literary Review (UK), giving voice to the little known atrocities of the communist government of Romania against its Hungarian minority.

Three important works by scholars from outside of Hungary have been released Sławomir Łukasiewicz's volume titled *Third Europe: Polish Federalist Thought in the United States* and Joanna Wojdon's work on the history of the Polish American Congress, *White and Red Umbrella*. A biography of Tamas Masaryk written by distinguished historian Zdenek David of the Wilson Institute in Washington DC was also released.

Helena History Press is also focusing on publishing works of importance to Central European history that have never appeared in English. HHP feels it vital that major works that clarify the history of the recent past be made available to a larger readership. We translated the memoirs of General Vilmos Nagybaczoni Nagy, titled *The Fateful Years*. Nagy was one of the wartime ministers of defense of Hungary and the first Hungarian named "Of the Righteous" by Yad Vashem of Jerusalem. We also had translated by his son the historian Mario Fenyő the real time diary of Miksa Fenyő, the Hungarian publisher and intellectual (founding editor of Nyugat) who survived the ten month occupation of Hungary by Nazi Germany and the Hungarian Holocaust. From this period of 1944-1945 HHP

has already released the memoir of the Hungarian diplomat Antal Ullein Reviczky – “*German War – Russian Peace*” translated from the original French by his daughter Lovice Ullein Reviczky.

Helena History Press’ mission also includes commissioning books on important and controversial periods of Hungarian history. “*July 1944: Deportation of the Jews of Budapest Foiled*”, edited by the distinguished diplomat and historian Géza Jeszenszky is such a book. Under the thoughtful and scholarly guidance of Professor Jeszenszky, a compendium of essays by eminent scholars serves to shed light on this controversial period and the facts related to the much-debated Koszorus Action. In addition to the essays, the volume includes English translations of official diplomatic correspondence between the Third Reich and Hungary that provide insight into the conditions prevailing in Hungary and Central Europe in 1944.

A second volume on Hungary’s political transition leading to the Treaty of Trianon written by Géza Jeszenszky, is titled *Lost Prestige* in this work Sir Bryan Cartledge the distinguished historian and diplomat says that Prof. Jeszenszky has “crafted a gem of historical scholarship.”

We are grateful to our authors and our partners who understand the role an independent press can play in scholarship of our time and who provide us with the opportunity for collaboration. We are particularly appreciative of the support President John O’Sullivan and the Danube Institute have provided us in our efforts in the past few years.

**DR. KATALIN KÁDÁR LYNN PHD**

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# RECENT RELEASES:

## THE DANUBE INSTITUTE AND HELENA HISTORY PRESS

In June 2021, the Danube Institute hosted an international conference in Budapest, titled *Anti-Semitism in Hungary: Appearance and Reality*. The first volume of this eponymous set published by the Helena Historical Press which appeared earlier in 2022 covered the proceedings of that conference as well as detailed introductions to the topic supplemented by a set of academic studies focusing on the history of anti-Semitism in Hungary.

Volume one might be likened to a panoramic view of a vast, highly variegated forest that is the Hungarian Jewish community and how that community perceives anti-Semitism in Hungary on the one hand, and how they perceive not only Hungarian society as a whole but perhaps most viscerally, how they perceive themselves and the often conflicting currents within the Jewish community in Hungary.

This second volume by contrast takes the reader deeper into the forest for in depth interviews with the leaders of the key streams of Hungarian Judaism and the leaders of contemporary Jewish institutions currently active in the country.

Taken together, both volumes illustrate the aptness of the subtitle *Appearance and Reality*. Seen from the outside, from the EU and US, Hungary is portrayed as anti-Semitic dangerous place for Jews to live or visit. The reality, as seen from the perspective of Hungarian Jews, is perceived as the diametric opposite; Jews walk the streets safely, anti-Semitic violence is among the lowest in Europe, and under the Orbán government there is a zero tolerance policy for public expressions of anti-Semitism.

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