At the start of 1917 the Russians were ruled by the Romanov dynasty, which had recently celebrated its own tercentenary, and the Romanovs were in captivity or in hiding. A Provisional Government had collapsed, into power came the communists led by Lenin and Trotsky, who withdrew Russia from the war and proclaimed the inception of a great new phase in human history. Red revolution was said to be imminent across Europe and North America. Communists intended to make Russia into a model of what the working people could achieve for themselves. The rest of the world would surely soon join in the movement.

It proved much more difficult than they imagined. Civil wars and foreign military interventions put the entire former Russian Empire on the rack. The communists survived by ditching many of their early utopian ideals. They built up their party and a disciplined Red Army. Exploiting the advantages of propaganda, population and demographics, they defeated their enemies. They also founded the Communist International, whose agents traveled the globe to help with the establishment of communist parties.

This gruelling process of change and survival led to the creation of the USSR. Even though the advantages of propaganda, population and colonies. They intended to make Russia into a model of what the rest of the world would surely soon join in the movement.

FORCED March

8.00 – 9.00AM Breakfast
9.00 – 12.00PM RUSSIA, 1900–1939: Revolution and Afternoon Refreshments
12.00 – 2.00PM LENIN, TROTSKY, STALIN Professor Robert Service
2.00PM Optimal activities
3.00 – 4.00PM Afternoon Refreshments
4.00PM CULTURAL REVOLUTION Professor Christopher Read
5.00PM Closing Remarks
6.30PM Gala Banquet
THE END OF IMPERIAL RUSSIA Professor Geoffrey Hooking 10.45 – 11.15AM
11.15AM LENIN, TROTSKY, STALIN Professor Robert Service

THURSDAY 31ST MARCH
8.00 – 9.00AM Breakfast
9.00 – 12.00PM RUSSIA, 1900–1939: Revolution and Afternoon Refreshments
12.00 – 2.00PM LENIN, TROTSKY, STALIN Professor Robert Service
2.00PM Optimal activities
3.00 – 4.00PM Afternoon Refreshments
4.00PM CULTURAL REVOLUTION Professor Christopher Read
5.00PM Closing Remarks
6.30PM Gala Banquet

SUNDAY 3RD APRIL
8.00 – 9.00AM Breakfast
9.00 – 12.00PM RUSSIA, 1900–1939: Revolution and Afternoon Refreshments
12.00 – 2.00PM LENIN, TROTSKY, STALIN Professor Robert Service
2.00PM Optimal activities
3.00 – 4.00PM Afternoon Refreshments
4.00PM CULTURAL REVOLUTION Professor Christopher Read
5.00PM Closing Remarks
6.30PM Gala Banquet

HOW TO BOOK

The programme fee is £515 per person and the en suite supplement is £75 per room. This includes the full lecture programme, three nights’ accommodation, all meals, dinner, wine and refreshments as set out. Special offers are not expected.

Bookings can be made online or by phone. Full payment must be made at the time of booking. Online booking is available on the ‘Visitors and Conference’ section of our website.

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

ROBERT SERVICE is Emeritus Professor of Russian History at Oxford University and Senior Fellow of the Queen’s College. He has written several works on Russia’s history from the late nineteenth century to the present day. His Trotsky (2019) won the Duff Cooper prize. He is the author of Russia’s affairs since 1905. Russia Winter is scheduled for publication in October 2019.


DIANE KEOGHKER is Director and Professor of Russian and Soviet History at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London. She is the author of Messerschmitt and the 1977 Revolution (2016), The Habsburgs Ruling the World, 1916–1926 (2016), He is the author of a biography of Trotsky (2020) and has edited, amongst other books, Reinterpreting Revolutionary Russia (2006) and Late Imperial Russia: Problems and Prospects (2005).

MARTYN RADO is Manship Professor of Central European History at University College London’s School of Slavonic and East European Studies. His research books include studies on modern Hungarian and Romanian history, as well as on the history of the Habsburg Empire. He recently edited the OUP Very Short Introductions series on the Habsburgs. History: the World is due to be published by Penguin later this year.

CHRISFOPHER READ is Professor of Modern European History at the University of Warwick. He has written widely on Russian history and culture. His most recent books are Stalin: From Cossacks to Kremlin (2017), and War and Revolution in Russia: 1914–24 (2018).

JONATHAN SIMMLE is Senior Lecturer at Queen Mary, University of London. He authored Civil War in Russia. The Anti-Bolshevik Government of Admiral Kolchak, 1918–1920 (1956) and The ‘Russian’ Civil War. Ten Years that Shook the World, 1916–1926 (2016). He has edited a two-volume Historical Dictionary of the Russian Civil War (2015) and was a for a decade editor of the journal Revolutionary Russia.
