

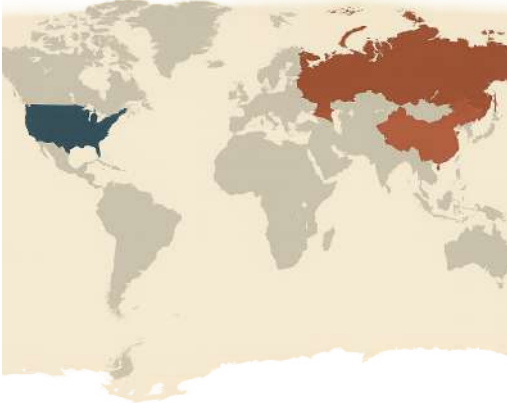
International Workshop

The New Cold War? Continuities and Changes in Global Power Rivalries

,Charles University, Faculty of Arts, Voršilská 1, Praha 1, room 408
November 26th, 2025, 11 a.m.

In recent years, the term “*New Cold War*” has appeared with increasing frequency in academic and public debates to describe the current state of relations among the United States, Russia, and China. Many observers argue that today’s geopolitical tensions and growing mistrust echo the bipolar conflict of the latter half of the twentieth century. Yet important questions remain:

NEW COLD WAR



how valid is this analogy, and can it truly help us make sense of the present international order?

This workshop will examine both historical and contemporary dimensions of great-power rivalry. Participants will consider the extent to which Cold War dynamics are reflected in present-day interactions between the Western countries, Russia, and China, and where such historical comparisons break down. The aim is to connect historical insight with the analysis of current international politics and to provide a more nuanced understanding of what the notion of a “*New Cold War*” entails.

Discussants

Simon Miles (Duke University)

"Power and Prudence: Military History Lessons from the Cold War"

How does one learn military lessons from a war that never took place? From the mid-1940s to the very beginning of the 1990s, in the Cold War’s principal Eurasian theatre, a “hot war” between the superpowers never left the planners’ and procurers’ desks and the “long peace” held between the United States, the Soviet Union, and their respective allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Warsaw Pact. Today, in an era of renewed geopolitical rivalries, the Cold War and its military history nevertheless have much to teach policymakers. The Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact may be things of the past, but they have much to teach US policymakers as they face the challenges of the future.

Simon Miles is associate professor in the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University. He is the author of *Engaging the Evil Empire: Washington, Moscow, and the Beginning of the End of the Cold War*, published by Cornell University Press in October 2020; of articles in *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, *Diplomatic History*, *International Security*, the *Journal of Cold War Studies*,

and *Slavic Review*; and commentary in a wide range of international outlets. Simon's current project, *On Guard for Peace and Socialism*, is an international history of the Warsaw Pact, forthcoming from Princeton University Press.

Sergey Radchenko (Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies)

"Another Cold War? The usefulness of bad historical analogies."

This presentation will discuss in what ways our present predicament is similar to, or different from the Cold War experience. It will consider the underlying dynamics of the Cold War, including great power competition and ideology in relation to the current international situation, and highlight the limited usefulness of historical analogies. But to say that their usefulness is limited is not to say that such analogies are completely useless. One of the purposes of the presentation will be to show that, in fact, there are certain commonalities between the Cold War and the current situation that call for similar political responses. We ignore these commonalities at our peril.

Sergey Radchenko is the Wilson E. Schmidt Distinguished Professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. He is a leading historian of the Cold War, nuclear history, and Russian and Chinese foreign policy. He has held fellowships at the Woodrow Wilson Center and East China Normal University. His books include *To Run the World: The Kremlin's Cold War Bid for Global Power* (Cambridge UP, 2024), *Two Suns in the Heavens* (Stanford UP, 2009), and *Unwanted Visionaries* (Oxford UP, 2014). A native of Sakhalin Island, Russia, he earned his PhD at the LSE and previously worked in Mongolia, China, and Wales.



Co-funded by
the European Union



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supported by the European Regional Development Fund project 'Beyond Security: Role of Conflict in Resilience-Building' (reg. no.: CZ.02.01.01/00/22_008/0004595)