

Karakas Family Alliance for the Advancement of Hellenic Studies,
Center for International Studies, University of Missouri-St. Louis presents

A BALKAN TRILOGY

A three lecture series that explores diachronically a broad set of issues ranging from identity politics to international relations and failed states - issues that confront Americans today both domestically and in the sphere of international relations.

featuring **Dr. Petar Milich**

4 NOV 09

Byzantium and the Slavs: Who are the Modern Slavs?

Who are the modern Balkan Slavs? Were they around as long as the Greeks or the Germans, or are they recent arrivals on the Balkan stage? What happened to some of the indigenous populations of the northern Balkans, the Dacians and Thracians? Did the Slavs commit ethnic cleansing writ-large? This lecture reexamines this question in light of recent scholarship.

2 DEC 09

The Fall of Rome: Enduring Myths and Underlying Realities

When and how did the Roman Empire fall? Why should a contemporary audience even care about this question in the first place? Some of the parallels between Rome in Late Antiquity and America today are quite striking and worthy of discussion. This lecture will examine the collapse of imperial authority in the West during the Fifth Century after Christ. It will focus on the flawed political decisions that hastened the demise in the first place. It is a cautionary tale that we are no more immune from the vicissitudes of empire than the Romans were in their time.

20 JAN 10

Kosovo Showdown: How the United States and Russia almost came to blows over the Balkans

The wars of Yugoslav secession were proxy struggles waged by great powers for geostrategic clout and influence over a vital region astride Europe and Central Asia. This lecture examines the lethal shadow-play between Germany, Russia, and the United States over the Balkans in the post-Cold War space. The tragedy for US-Russia relations is that the Clinton administration chose confrontation with Moscow over rapprochement. The 1990s thus witnessed a gradual escalation of tensions between Moscow and Washington that continued unabated until 1999 when, for the first time since the Cuban missile crisis, the two powers went eyeball-to-eyeball over an airport in the capital of Kosovo, Pristina.



PETAR MILICH received his doctorate in Byzantine and Modern Balkan history from Ohio State. He is a Harvard Dumbarton Oaks Prize Fellow, Harvard Dumbarton Oaks Bulgarian Exchange Fellow, and Fulbright Yugoslav Fellow. He is an independent scholar who teaches courses on Byzantine and Balkan history in University College at Washington University. He also teaches courses in international studies centered on Eastern Europe, Russia, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. He is writing a book about US-Russian relations in the post-Cold War space that focuses on the wars of Yugoslav secession.

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM
Century Room C
Millennium Student Center, 3rd Floor
University of Missouri-St. Louis

Visiting UM-St. Louis Monday - Friday requires a PARKING PERMIT. To request your FREE permit and/or a campus map, and register, visit our website <cfis-umsl.com> and click on REGISTER, or call 314-516-7299.