

CAMBRIDGE HISTORY FORUM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SATURDAY 19th MARCH 2011
10.00—13.00
SELWYN COLLEGE

WINNERS AND LOSERS IN HISTORY

- 10.00 Coffee
- 10.30 Professor Andrew Pettegree, University of St Andrews: *The Reformation: Profit and Loss*
- 11.45 Professor Edward Acton, University of East Anglia: *Who won the twentieth century in Europe: the Left or the Right?*

We very much regret that, for this year only, we are unable to offer lunch to members

Prices

One Lecture	£2.00 (payable on the door)
Both Lectures & Coffee	£5.00 (payable on the door)

www.cambridgehistoryforum.co.uk

CAMBRIDGE HISTORY FORUM

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

19th MARCH 2011

AT

SELWYN COLLEGE

**“WINNERS AND LOSERS
IN HISTORY”**

10.00 – 10.30 Arrivals and coffee. The Conference will take place in the Diamond, Cripps Court, Selwyn College.

10.30 – 11.40 **Professor Andrew Pettegree, University of St Andrews**

The Reformation – profit and loss

The Reformation was one of the defining events in European history. It led to a vast transfer of property from one church to another and from churches to lay owners. It caused many thousands of deaths, and much cruelty. Most of all it forced all church hierarchies, and many individual Christians, to examine the quality of their religious lives. Many chose to abandon existing allegiances, and the newly formed or reformed congregations that resulted played a crucial part in the reshaping of European society, and the European settlement of other continents. Here we ask, through all the turbulence, heartache and suffering, who benefited from this process? Were the reformed churches of the 16th and 17th centuries in any spiritual sense an improvement on the undivided western Christendom of the Middle Ages?

*Andrew Pettegree is Professor of Modern History at the University of St Andrews and the author of a number of books on the Reformation and European society: **The Early Reformation in Europe** (1992); **Marian Protestantism: Six Studies** (1995, 1996); **The Reformation World** (2000); **Europe in the Sixteenth Century** (2002); **Reformation and the Culture of Persuasion** (2005). He is the founding director of the St Andrews Reformation Studies Institute and series editor of the **St Andrews Studies in Reformation History**.*

11.45 – 12.55 **Professor Edward Acton, University of East Anglia**

Who won the twentieth century in Europe – the Left or the Right?

This lecture takes an overview of the twentieth century in Europe. It examines which is a more plausible summary of the pattern change: a victory for the European Left or the European Right? It establishes a framework to summarise the aspirations of the two sides and thus to answer the question posed in the title.

The lecture then examines the issues at stake, taking in turn the political, international, social, cultural, religious and economic dimensions of the ground over which Left and Right competed. It provides an overview of key changes in each of these dimensions. This uncovers a striking tension between conventional assumptions about the broad pattern of the century and historical reality. The analysis then turns to the explanation for the record being misread so widely. Part of the answer is seen to lie in the language of political debate; part in the political fortunes and prominence of the two sides during the century. But central to the explanation advanced is the massive impact of the Soviet Union – its image, its impact, its fate.

*Edward Acton is the first of Lord Acton's descendants to follow in his footsteps as an historian. He specialises in modern Russian and Soviet history, his best-known books being: **Alexander Herzen and the role of the Intellectual Revolutionary** (1979); **Rethinking the Russian Revolution** (1990); **Russia: The Tsarist and Soviet Legacy** (1995); and **The Soviet Union: A Documentary History** (2 vols, 2005, 2007). He was born and brought up in Zimbabwe, studied history at the University of York and took his doctorate at Cambridge. He worked at the Bank of England before taking up a lectureship at Liverpool and, later, a Senior Lectureship at Manchester. In 1991 he was appointed to the Chair of Modern European History at UEA. He served as Dean of the School of History and Pro-Vice-Chancellor before his appointment as Vice-Chancellor in 2009.*

13.00 **Departure.**

CAMBRIDGE HISTORY FORUM

President: Dr David Smith, Selwyn College, Cambridge, CB3 9DQ,

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Alexander Courtney, Perse Upper School
Mary Dicken (Treasurer), Senior Examiner, OCR
Giles Fullard, Hinchingsbrooke School
Stuart Jack, Perse Girls
Nicolas Kinloch, Netherhall School
Dr Sean Lang, Anglia Ruskin University
Dr Alan Metters (Conference Secretary), Retired College Lecturer
Julia Payne, Perse Girls
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Dr John Pollard, Trinity Hall, Cambridge
Chris Wilkins (Mailing Secretary), Hills Road VIth Form College