

# Die "5er-Jahre" (1945, 1955, 1975, 1995): Zäsuren der österreichischen Zeitgeschichte

## The "5s" (1945, 1955, 1975, 1995): Caesuras in Austrian contemporary history

Monday, 7.4.2025  
9:00-17:30 Uhr  
Festsaal  
Meerscheinschlössl  
Mozartgasse 3  
8010 Graz

The year 2025 marks an extraordinary anniversary in Austria's contemporary history: 80 years since the end of the Second World War, 70 years of neutrality, 50 years of the CSCE Final Act and 30 years of EU accession. These key moments shape not only collective memory and national identity, but also Austria's role in Europe and the world.

The conference „The ‚5s‘ (1945, 1955, 1975, 1995: Caesuras in Austrian Contemporary History" sheds light on these anniversaries on the basis of the latest research in contemporary history. The focus is on the interaction between national developments and international dynamics: From the end of the Second World War and the post-war order, through the Cold War and the CSCE process, to European integration. The resonance of the "5s" for the present will also be examined: What lessons can be drawn from historical experience for current challenges? Which narratives and traditions continue to shape Austria's political and social identity?

At the conference, leading experts will provide insights into the latest scholarly findings and reflect on the significance of the "5s" as turning points in contemporary Austrian history.

This international conference is organised by the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Research on Consequences of War in cooperation with the Department of History at the University of Graz.

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**09:00-09:15**

## **Begrüßung und Einleitung**

Barbara Stelzl-Marx (Ludwig Boltzmann  
Institut für Kriegsfolgenforschung,  
BIK/Universität Graz)

Peter Ruggenthaler (BIK)

**09:15-09:45**

## **Eröffnungsvortrag**

### **„Zäsuren der europäischen Zeitgeschichte“**

Andreas Wirsching (Direktor des Instituts für  
Zeitgeschichte (IfZ) München – Berlin)

**09:45-11:00**

## **1945: 80 Jahre Kriegsende**

Chair: Stefan Karner (BIK)

“Roter Stern über Graz”

Barbara Stelzl-Marx (BIK/Universität Graz)

“Österreichischer Widerstand im Exil”

Florian Traussnig/Robert Lackner (BIK)

“Niemandland zwischen Krieg und Frieden”

Kurt Bauer (BIK)

**11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break**

**11:30-12:45**

## **1955: 70 Years of Austrian Neutrality**

Chair: Sergey Radchenko (John Hopkins  
School of Advanced International Studies,  
Bologna)

“Balancing Between East and West”

Peter Ruggenthaler (BIK)

“Austria as Economic Bridge between East  
and West”

Walter Iber/Christoph Huber (University of  
Graz/BIK)

“Battlefield of Intelligence Services”

Dieter Bacher (BIK/University of Graz)

“The USSR and Cold War Neutrality and  
Nonalignment in Europe”

Mark Kramer (Davis Center for Russian and  
Eurasian Studies, Harvard University)

**12:45-14:00 Lunch break**

**14:00-15:15**

## **1975: 50 Years CSCE Final Act**

Chair: Svetlana Savranskaya (National  
Security Archives, George Washington  
University)

“Austria as a Bridge Builder?”

Anna Graf-Steiner (BIK)

“Human Rights, the Helsinki Process, and  
the Soviet Bloc”

Nadia Boyadjieva (Balkan Studies Institute  
at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences;  
Harvard University)

“The Vienna CSCE Follow-Up Meeting”

Hermann Wentker (IfZ, Berlin)

“The Vienna CSCE Follow-Up Meeting”

Jussi Hanhimäki (Graduate Institute of  
International and Development Studies,  
Geneva) - tbc

**15:15-15:45**

## **Coffee break**

**15:45-17:00**

## **1995: 30 Years Austria in the EU**

Chair: Erwin A. Schmidl (LVAK Vienna)

“Austria’s EU Accession”

Maximilian Graf (Austrian State Archive)

“The Long Road to Brussels”

Franz Cede

“The International Situation in Post-Cold  
War Europe”

Svetlana Savranskaya (National Security  
Archives, George Washington University)

“Austria as a (Failed) Model for Ukraine”

Tom Blanton (National Security Archives,  
George Washington University)

“Lost Hopes: Russia in the 1990s”

Vladislav Zubok (London School of  
Economics and Political Science) - tbc

**17:00-17:30: Concluding Remarks**

Afterwards: Reception

**Registration:** [XXX](#)

**Konferenzsprachen/**

**Conference languages:** Deutsch, English