

# CULTURAL IDENTITIES AND DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE AND IN THE BALKANS

## The Eighth International Summer School for Democracy

Anglo-Serbian Society (Belgrade)

Date: September 1-14, 2005.

### The Background of the Idea

Location: Budva, Serbia and Montenegro

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The School was originally organised by the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Belgrade and the University of Westminster. This annual summer school has been held since 1998. A group of professors from the Faculty of Political Science (FPS), University of Belgrade led by Vukašin Pavlović, and The Centre for the Study of Democracy, University of Westminster, London (CSD), led by John Keane, established the *International Summer School for Democracy*, to be organised every year. The School was originally called *The Yugoslav-British Summer School for Democracy*, but was later re-named to *The International Summer School for Democracy*. Due to the repressive Bill on Education enacted during the reign of former Serbian president Slobodan Milošević, the School was placed under organisational control of the Anglo-Yugoslav Society and the Centre for the Study of Democracy, who have directed it since 1999.

This School was established after several years of successful academic co-operation between scholars from CSD and FPS. Results of the joint research project *The Suppressed Civil Society* (during 1994 and 1995), as well as joint meetings on *Civil Society, War and Peace* (London, February 1996), and *University, Society and Democracy* (Budva, March 1997) established that interest, willingness and capacities for joint efforts do exist to improve and develop co-operation in teaching and research processes in the field of political science with a special stress on problems of democracy and political and social changes. The *International Summer School for Democracy* is one of the most important forms of this co-operation.

### The Mission of the School

- To promote continuing education and to enhance teaching capacity in political science;
- To improve junior faculty skills in modern democratic theory;
- To create networks of young scholars, political and NGO activists in SEE dealing with democratic theory;
- To analyse conditions and possibilities for democratic social changes, especially in so-called transition societies;
- To develop and promote academic exchange between Western universities with Serbia and Montenegro and SEE.

### Participants and Lecturers

The main target group of participants are junior faculty, young political and NGO activists. The course lecturers (resource persons) are professors and associates from the Centre for the Study of Democracy and other British Universities, from the University of Belgrade, as well as professors from SEE, Western Europe, and the United States (particularly the University of Pittsburgh and Syracuse University).

### Objectives

- The strengthening of existing networks from previous schools and the creation of new networks of critically oriented, open-minded individuals from the field of social sciences endeavoring to contribute to the process of democratization in SEE both theoretically and practically.
- Dissemination of democratic theory among young political leaders, junior scholars and NGO activists in the region of SEE, thus facilitating the consolidation of democracies in the region.

## Topics

The International Summer School for Democracy in 2005 will be dedicated to the topics of Cultural Identities and their relations to democracy. During the first week the problems of identities (cultural, religious, national) in Europe as well as in the United States will be dealt with.

The second week will be more focused on the Balkans. Afternoon workshops will be dedicated to various models on how to deal with diversity and how to support diversity in the Balkans. The Opening address will be made by Michael Polt, Ambassador of the United States to Serbia and Montenegro.

## Lecturers

**Margaret Blunden** (Centre for the Study of Democracy, London)

**Christopher Coker** (London School for Economics)

**Chip Gagnon** (Ithaca University)

**Simon Joss** (Centre for the Study of Democracy, London)

**Amanda Machin** (Centre for the Study of Democracy, London)

**Vukašin Pavlović** (Faculty of Political Science, Belgrade)

**Vojislav Stanovčić** (Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts)

**Ivan Vejvoda** (Balkan Trust for Democracy)

**Eric Beckett Weaver** (Oxon)

**Slobodan Markovich** (Faculty of Political Science, Belgrade)

