More than 58,000 Americans (and millions of Vietnamese) lost their lives in the Vietnam War: Could the conflict have ended years earlier, with a far smaller toll? New evidence from long-hidden communist sources shows that the United States (and Lyndon Johnson in particular) missed a chance to open direct peace discussions with North Vietnam in late 1966, long before the Paris accords that eventually ended U.S. involvement in the fighting. Based on more than a decade of research, using interviews and archives in more than a dozen countries, a new book cracks one of the Vietnam War's--and Cold War's--great unresolved mysteries.

James G. Hershberg is associate professor of history and international affairs at GWU; director emeritus of the Cold War International History Project at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; and author of the just-published Marigold: The Lost Chance for Peace in Vietnam (Stanford University Press/Wilson Center Press, 2012), James B. Conant: Harvard to Hiroshima and the Making of the Nuclear Age (Knopf, 1993), and other works on Cold War and nuclear history.

Wednesday, January 18, 2012
12:00-2:00 p.m.
1957 E Street, NW
Lindner Family Commons, Room 602

Please RSVP at http://tinyurl.com/marigoldgwu

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