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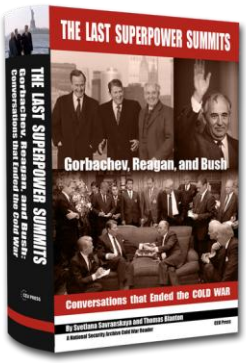
The Last Superpower Summits: Gorbachev, Reagan, and Bush – Conversations that Ended the Cold War

with

Svetlana Savranskaya & Thomas Blanton



The Last Superpower Summits: Gorbachev, Reagan, and Bush: Conversations that Ended the Cold War publishes for the first time in print virtually every word the American and Soviet leaders said to each other in their historic summits from 1985 to 1991. Obtained by the authors through the Freedom of Information Act in the United States, from the Gorbachev Foundation and the State Archive of the Russian Federation in Moscow, and from the personal donation of Anatoly Chernyaev, these previously Top Secret transcripts, combined with declassified preparatory and after-action documents from both sides, create a unique interactive record of these highest-level talks. The conversations fueled a process of learning on both sides, as the authors argue in contextual essays on each summit and detailed headnotes on each document. Geneva 1985 and Reykjavik 1986 reduced Moscow's sense of threat and unleashed Reagan's inner abolitionist. Malta 1989 and Washington 1990 helped dampen any superpower sparks that might have flown in a time of revolutionary change in Eastern Europe. By the end, the superpowers had built a kind of partnership, but one that missed major opportunities to make the world safer, and to integrate Russia in Europe.

Svetlana Savranskaya is director of Russia programs and **Thomas Blanton** is executive director at the National Security Archive (George Washington University). They won the 2011 Link-Kuehl Prize from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations for their book *"Masterpieces of History": The Peaceful End of the Cold War in Europe, 1989* (CEU Press), and have co-authored more than three dozen electronic briefing books on Cold War summits, dissidents, flashpoints, and legacies (see http://nsarchive.gwu.edu). Dr. Savranskaya graduated from Moscow State University and earned her Ph.D. at Emory University; Dr. Blanton is a graduate of Harvard University and won the 2004 Emmy Award for individual achievement in news and documentary research.

Tuesday, April 11, 2017
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm, Voesar Conference Room
1957 E St. NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP at http://go.gwu.edu/superpowers

This event is on the record.

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