

Eminent Historian to Probe Collaboration, Resistance and Retribution in World War II

MAHWAH, N.J. –Dr. Istvan Deák, Seth Low Professor Emeritus at Columbia University, will discuss “Collaboration, Resistance and Retribution” on Monday, October 19 at 1 p.m. in the Alumni Lounges (SC156-57). The Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies will sponsor this event.

Dr. Deák will explore how the people and countries under German occupation, as well as Soviet, Italian, and other military rule faced innumerable moral and ethical dilemmas, such as whether to cooperate with their occupiers, try to survive the war without any political involvement or risk their lives by becoming resisters. Many chose all three, depending on particular conditions at the time.

Dr. Deák also will discuss the postwar aftermath: the purges of real or alleged war criminals and collaborators through various acts of violence, deportations and judicial proceedings at the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal as well as in thousands of local courts.

Although born in Hungary, Istvan Deák has spent most of his life in the United States. Having received his Ph.D. in Modern European History from Columbia University in 1964, he taught there until his retirement in 1997. He was the Director of the University's Institute on East Central Europe between 1968 and 1979.

His talk will be based on *Europe on Trial: The Story of Collaboration, Resistance, and Retribution during World War II*, which was published earlier this year. His publications include *Weimar Germany's Left-wing Intellectuals: A Political History of the "Weltbühne" and Its Circle*; *The Lawful Revolution: Louis Kossuth and the Hungarians, 1848-1849*, which received the Lionel Trilling Book Award of Columbia College and also appeared in German, Hungarian and Romanian; *Beyond Nationalism: A Social and Political History of the Habsburg Officer Corps, 1848-1918*, which received the Wayne S. Vucinich Book Prize of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, and also appeared in German, Hungarian and Italian; *Essays on Hitler's Europe*, which appeared in Hungarian; and (with Marina Cattaruzza) *Il processo di Norimberga tra storia e giustizia*.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as sixth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,008 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher

certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers six graduate programs as well as articulated programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.