

Timothy Garton Ash (1955) – British historian, professor at St. Anthony's College at the Oxford University, expert on Central and Eastern Europe, especially Poland and Germany. He publishes regularly in the British newspaper "The Guardian" as well as in "New York Review of Books". One of the most influential experts in the area of Central Europe in the world, laureate of numerous awards (among others Somerset Maugham Award 1984 for *The Polish revolution...*). Selection of his books published in Poland: *Polish revolution: Solidarity* (1989), *We the People: The Revolution of '89 witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin and Prague* (1990), *The Germanness of the DDR* (1999), *Free World* (2005), *The File: A Personal History* (2006). Re-edition of the two first books with the title *Jesień wasza, wiosna nasza* [Your Autumn, Our Spring] inaugurates the historical series published by Krytyka Polityczna.

Agnieszka Graff (1970) – Assistant Professor in the American Studies Center at the University of Warsaw, where she lectures on American literature and culture. She is also a lecturer at the Gender Studies Programme at the University of Warsaw. She is a graduate of Amherst College (U.S.), Oxford University and the School of Social Sciences at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The author of two books *Świat bez kobiet. Płeć w polskim życiu publicznym* (World Without Women. Gender in Polish Public Life, 2001) and *Rykoszetem. Rzecz o płci, seksualności i narodzie* (Stray Bullets. Essays on Gender, Sexuality and the Nation, 2008) as well as many articles about feminist thought, gender in popular culture and the women's movement in the U.S. and Poland. She received a Fulbright Fellowship (2004/2005) within the programme for the New Century Scholars "Towards Equality. The Global Empowerment of Women". She cooperates with the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in Poland and is a member of "Krytyka Polityczna" (Political Critique).

Bernard Guetta (1951) – French journalist, expert on international politics, laureate of the Albert Londres Prize in 1981, as a student of the secondary school of Henry IV he witnessed the events of 1968 and there he started his political activities (in support of the reforms of the education system). 1971 he started his work in "Le Nouvel Observateur" where he published numerous interviews with the French left-wing activists and human rights activists. Since 1979 he worked as the foreign correspondent of "Le Monde", first in Vienna and after that (since 1980) in Poland (Warsaw and Gdańsk). In the eighties he was the foreign correspondent of "Le Monde" in Washington and Moscow. Since 1991 he worked as a commentator at France Inter, chief editor of "L'Expansion" and „Nouvel Observateur" (until 1999). Author of the book *Pologne* (1982).

Jan Macháček (1965) - journalist and musician. Currently he is working as a commentator for the daily newspaper 'Hospodarske noviny'. He also serves as a board member of Transparency International in the Czech Republic. Previously, he lectured on politics and the economics of transformation at the Anglo American college in Prague. During communism in the 1980s, Macháček was involved in underground culture and samizdat publishing. He was a member of the famous underground music band *The Plastic People of the Universe* as a guitar player and later joined the band *Garage*. In the 1980s, he signed Charter 77 and was involved in various opposition activities. He studied at the Prague School of Economics in the first half of the 1980s, but due to political reasons did not finish his studies. After the revolution in 1989, Macháček brought together people from underground publishing to create the first independent media outlet in the country, the weekly *Respekt*. Additionally, Macháček has also been a fellow of the National Forum Foundation in Washington and the William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan.

Jerzy Osiatyński (1941) – Polish political scientist and economist, professor in the Institute of Economic Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), head of the Central Planning Office in the government of Tadeusz Mazowiecki, finance minister in the government of Hanna Suchocka, 1989-2001 Member of Parliament on behalf of Komitet Obywatelski, Unia Demokratyczna and Unia Wolności. Since 1980 connected with "Solidarność". Expert on economy and public finances, adviser on macroeconomics in many countries in the period of transformation, consultant of UNDP. Author of numerous textbooks (among others *Finanse publiczne. Ekonomia i polityka* [Public finances. Economy and Politics]), he also edited the anthology by Michał Kalecki.

Rita Pawlowski (1941) – was born in 1941 in Pomerania into a farming family, went to school in Mecklenburg and worked in a printing shop. In 1962 she started a multi-year journalism course in Leipzig. She had a son in 1964. Starting in 1977 she began working in various positions for the Women's Association of East Germany, ending in 1989 as press spokesperson for the DFD federal board. After 1990 she worked for several years in women's archives in Wiesbaden and Berlin, was unemployed several times and retired in 2001. She resides in Berlin.

Aleksander Smolar (1940) – political scientist, graduate of the Warsaw University (Faculty of Political Economy), student of prof. Włodzimierz Brus, active member of March '68, which was the reason to expel him from the university. Between 1971 and 1989 he was in exile, where he worked as the editor of "Aneks", the most important, next to Parisian "Kultura", Polish magazine published independently in the West. After the first non-communist government had been set up in 1989, he became the political adviser to the Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki and after that the foreign policy adviser to the Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka. For many years he was the President of the Stefan Batory Foundation. Aleksander Smolar is one of the most influential intellectuals of the liberal period of the 3rd Republic; he works as senior researcher at the French CNRS; in the nineties together with prof. Marcin Król he edited the series of books *Demokracja. Filozofia i praktyka* [*Democracy. Philosophy and Praxis*].

Timothy Snyder (1969) – American historian, professor at Yale University, expert in the area of Central and Eastern Europe, especially focused on the formation of national identities in Central and Eastern Europe in the context of national liberation processes and social emancipation. Currently he is a permanent fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna. Author of a book on Polish Eastern policy *Sketches From a Secret War: A Polish Artist's Mission to Liberate Soviet Ukraine* as well as of the monumental history of Eastern Europe *Reconstruction of Nations: Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, 1569-1999*. Krytyka Polityczna will soon publish the Polish translation of his dissertation: *Nationalism, Marxism, and Modern Central Europe: A Biography of Kazimierz Kelles-Krauz*.

Magdalena Vášáryová (1948) - founder and first director of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA); Ambassador of the Czechoslovakia in Austria and and Ambassador of the Slovak republic to Poland; former Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, currently Member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic (SDKU-DS). She is founder and Head of the Board of NGO – "Via Cultura" and Head of the Women's organization of SDKU-DS. She wrote five books, two dedicated to behaviour and protocol, *Polnočný sused* – memoirs from Poland and the latest – *Head of the state*. She is active conference participant and often writes in the newspapers.

Reinhard Weißhuhn (1951) – architect, cofounder of the Initiative Frieden und Menschenrechte (Initiative Peace and Human Rights (IFM)), from 1973 to 1978 he worked as an urban planner in Berlin, from 1978 until 1984 as documentalist at the Bauakademie der DDR (Construction Academy of the GDR), and from 1985 till 1989 as architect for the Diakonisches Werk.

Since 1975 he got involved into oppositional circles and tried to achieve public activity in cultural work and residential areas. He translated oppositional Hungarian literature for West German publishers and took part in the formation of the IFM in 1985. Since 1987 Weißhuhn acted as author and co-editor of different illegal publications. At the beginning of the 90s he was representative of the IFM at the Central Round Table, in the period from 1990 to 1991 board member of IFM and until the end of 1990 its spokesman. In 1990 he became an associate of Bündnis 90/Grüne and since 1991 he is member of its parliamentary group.