Why Gorbachev Failed and Deng Xiaoping Succeeded?
The Comparison of Soviet and Chinese Transformations

The speaker explores the origins of Soviet and Chinese reforms in comparative perspective and in international context. Ultimately, the reformist aspirations in both countries pulled them towards the US-led global capitalist system, not towards each other. The talk focuses on the key policy choices by Deng Xiaoping and Mikhail Gorbachev, which made possible China’s rise and triggered the Soviet Union’s collapse. Vladislav Zubok is Professor of International History at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

With comments from Barry Naughton, Sokwanlok Chair of Chinese International Affairs at the School of Global Policy and Strategy.