



3/24

4 PM

STUDENT UNION MEMORIAL
CENTER COPPER ROOM

RESCUE MISSION: CONFLICTS OVER THE RE-CIVILIZATION OF EUROPE AFTER 1945



DR. PAUL BETTS

ST. ANTHONY'S COLLEGE,
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

SPONSORED BY



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL
& BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

History



COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

German Studies



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

School of Government
& Public Policy

This talk will revisit the history of European reconstruction after 1945 from a different angle, namely the debate about the mission and meaning of remaking the defeated powers after the ceasefire.

Contrary to popular belief, the language of civilization did not die in 1945, but was widely summoned by a host of thinkers and activists to help make sense of Europe's new postwar condition beyond the nation-state and Cold division, and to reconsider Europe's relationship to its past and future, as well as to the rest of the world.

The crisis of civilization was invoked by a range of people in the name of renewal and reform, ranging from warmongers to peaceniks, traditionalists to liberal modernizers, scientists to humanitarian aid workers, Christian conservatives to communists, European imperialists to African anti-imperialists. In the last two decades, the old anxieties about Europe in peril have resurfaced from new political perspectives, and continue to shape contemporary discussions of Europe today.