



28.10.04

**THE SENSE OF HISTORY:  
USES AND ABUSES OF THE PAST  
Potsdam, 3-4 December 2004**

**OUTLINE AGENDA**

**Friday 3 December**

17.15: Tea  
Welcome: Lord Weidenfeld

18.00-20.00: Session I: POWER AND THE PAST: HISTORY AND POLITICS

Opening Remarks  
Co-Chairs Professor Niall Ferguson and Professor Peter Baldwin

Introductory comments: Professor Sir John Elliott

Subjects for Discussion:

- *Historical myth: how politicians use and misuse the past*
- *Historical amnesia: the dangers of society without memory*
- *Shared history for the future: truth and reconciliation*

20.30: DINNER: Professor Bronislaw Geremek  
Professor Sir Michael Howard

**Saturday 4 December**

09.00: Session II: EVIDENCE AND EDUCATION: TEACHING  
USABLE HISTORY

Subjects for Discussion:

- *Curriculum Wars: what history should be taught?*
- *Is history declining as a subject in secondary education?*
- *Is specialisation killing history? Or is history being killed by special interest groups?*
- *The impact of television and new technology on the study and teaching of history*

10.45: Coffee Break

11.15: Session III: MINING THE PAST FOR PROFIT: BUSINESS, THE MILITARY AND THE MEDIA

Subjects for Discussion:

- *How useful is history to non-historians? What is history's 'value-added'?*
- *Does history offer only anecdote rather than lessons or experience?*
- *Which professions make best use of the past? Is it only generals who fight the last war?*
- *How well can journalists deliver 'instant history'?*

13.00: Buffet lunch and envoi

1430: DEPARTURE