

Public Lecture

RONALD REAGAN AND THE “EVIL EMPIRE” : DEMOCRACY PROMOTION AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY SINCE THE 1980s

by Dr. William Michael Schmidli

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The lecture will focus on democracy promotion in U.S. foreign relations during the 1980s.

Pressured by a unique combination of neoconservatives and liberal internationalists, democracy promotion increasingly influenced the Reagan Administration’s policy decisions. By the late 1980s, a distinctive form of U.S. democracy promotion—pursued through civil society or “low-intensity” military interventions and rooted in the free market imperatives of U.S.-led globalization—had emerged as a central pillar of U.S. foreign policy, with significant implications for post-Cold War international relations.

**Kaisa Library Auditorium (Fabianinkatu 30, 7th floor)
on Tuesday, March 28, at 17:00**

Welcome!



President Ronald Reagan speaking at the Finlandia Hall while visiting Finland in 1988.



William Michael Schmidli is a historian of U.S. foreign relations, human rights, and transnational advocacy networks from the Cold War to the present. He holds a doctorate from Cornell University. His first book, *The Fate of Freedom Elsewhere: Human Rights and U.S. Cold War Policy toward Argentina* (Cornell University Press, 2013) was listed as one of the three “Best Books of 2013 on the Western Hemisphere” by the journal *Foreign Affairs*. His current research focuses on democracy promotion in U.S. foreign relations during the 1980s.

Schmidli has received fellowships from the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton and the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies.



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