

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Oskar Halecki Institute in Canada is pleased to announce the third lecture in its prestigious biennial series. The 3rd Oskar Halecki Memorial Lecture 2018 entitled ***Should the Poles be proud to be Poles?*** will be given by **Bernard Margueritte**, known French journalist, and correspondent in Warsaw, Poland and scholar (Harvard University, University of South Carolina, Catholic University of Lublin). This public lecture organized under Patronage of His Excellency Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, Dr. Andrzej Kurnicki, will take place on **Friday, October 5, 2018, 7:00 p.m. in Amphitheatre G1124, Saint Paul University, 223 Main Street, Ottawa.**

Poland is one of the historic European nations and its history spans over 1050 years. A brilliant Polish historian of the last century, Professor Oskar Halecki was the founder of the term Central-Eastern Europe, His contribution to the history of Western civilization includes studies of this region and portrays Poland as not less “European” as the Western Europe. Poland is playing a major role in shaping of this important region of Europe now. This lecture will cover aspects of modern Poland and its nation’s identity. With tremendous changes in the last century including Solidarity movement which helped to overthrow totalitarian domination of communism regime and the modern teaching of now Saint John Paul II – the prospects are very special for this region and Poland itself. The history and political-cultural tradition of Poland offer great lessons for the rest of the West including Canada. It also raises an important question: ***Should the Poles be proud to be Poles?***

Bernard Margueritte is renown French journalist, and for decades the French press correspondent in Warsaw, Poland (*Le Figaro, Le Monde and Le Monde diplomatique* and also for *Radio Canada*). He was the first Western journalist to bring to the world news about the 1968 student protests in Warsaw and also about the birth of the Solidarity movement in the shipyard of Gdansk. His knowledge of the Central-Eastern European affairs is very unique. Born in Paris in 1938 In a family with a Socialist father and a Christian-Democratic mother. He graduated from the known Lycée Lakanal, and then in 1962 from the Sorbonne University, where he studied Latin, Ancient Greek and French literature. He got fascinated with Central and Eastern Europe and applied to be a French Press correspondent in Warsaw, Poland. He worked for *Le Figaro, le Monde, Radio Europe 1, Radio Suisse Romande, La Cinq, Ouest-France*, and also *Radio Canada*. He is President of the International Communications Forum and Fellow of Caux Round Table. He was expelled from Poland in 1971-1975 and continued to work as the correspondent of *Le Monde* in Vienna, Austria. He was a visiting professor, teaching about Central-Eastern European Affairs at the University of Southern Carolina (1977). He was Fellow at the Russian Research Center (1975-1977 and 1990) and at the renamed Davis Center for Russian Studies in 1993 and a Fellow and Researcher at Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard University (1994-1995). He is the author of three books and

more than 3,000 articles in various leading world newspapers and journals. He married in 1967 a Polish architect Joanna Giecewicz (Professor at the Warsaw University of Technology) and they have two children, Eryk (French military officer and pilot) and Joanna (just received her PhD from the University of Maryland, USA).

The Oskar Halecki Institute in Canada is a Canadian, federally incorporated, non-profit and volunteer organization. Founded in 2014 in Ottawa. It continues the work of the Polish-Canadian scientific circles since early 60-ties. It organizes meetings, public lectures, concerts, poetry readings and other public events in three languages (English, French and Polish) on Polish-Canadian and Central-European history and culture. Its prestigious lecture series has already gained excellent reputation and it continues the former Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences series (speakers included **Rev. Dr. Michael Heller**, 2008 Templeton Award, **Dr. John Lenczowski**, The Institute of World Politics, **Professor Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski**, University College, London, England). The Oskar Halecki Memorial Lecture Series included lectures by **Professor Andrzej Nowak**, Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland, and **Professor Ewa Thompson**, Rice University, Houston, TX, USA.

Please join us for the 3rd Oskar Halecki Memorial Lecture by Bernard Margueritte.

Refreshments after lecture and discussion - courtesy of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland.

The invitation poster is included.

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