

## LAUDATIO

### At the award of the title of Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Oradea to Professor Richard SAKWA

The Senate of the University of Oradea, at its meeting of September 26, 2019 decided to award the title of Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Oradea to Professor Richard Sakwa, from the University of Kent (UK) based on the decision 82/23.07/2019 of the Council of the Faculty of History, International Relations, Political Science and Communication Sciences, at the proposal of the Department of International Relations and European Studies.

The unanimous decision of the Senate of the University of Oradea was based on the appreciation of the scientific and didactic activity of Professor Richard Sakwa and the prospects of collaboration with the University of Oradea and especially with the Department of International Relations and European Studies.

The Senate decision was brought to Professor Richard Sakwa's attention by address from October the 17<sup>th</sup>, establishing November the 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 10.00 AM for the public award ceremony.

Professor Richard Sakwa is one of the most outstanding political scientists in the world, specialized in the post-Soviet space, Russian and European politics. Since 1987, he has lectured at the University of Kent, Canterbury (UK), at the Department of Politics and International Relations, where he is a permanent and invaluable member of the academic board of the University. He finished his doctoral studies at the University of Birmingham (UK), successfully defending his thesis entitled *The Communist Party and War Communism in Moscow, 1918-1921* in 1984. Besides being an alumnus of the University of Birmingham, where he had also finished his master studies at the Centre for Russian and East European Studies (CREES), he was awarded a BA (Hons) Degree in History at the London Schools of Economics and Political Science (UK). Moreover, Mr. Sakwa was the Head of School of Politics and International Relations, in the 1 August 2010 - 31 July 2014 period, and Head of Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Kent, in the 1 August 2001-31 July 2007 period, giving evidence not only of prolific teaching skills, but also of excellent organizational competence.

The introduction of a new BA in European Politics, running from October 1998 and of a new MA course called 'European Politics and Democracy Studies' from October 1996 could also be enumerated amongst professor Sakwa's directorial achievements.

He has been a visiting professor at the University of Essex (UK), University of California, Santa Cruz, (United States), at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences



Sociales (EHESS), Paris (France), and at the the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (formerly of Lille 2).

Professor Sakwa is a member of various associations and organizations, such as:

- International Laboratory on World Order Studies and the New Regionalism, Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs, National Research University-Higher School of Economics, where he is a Senior Research Fellow and co-director;
- Faculty of Political Science, Moscow State University, where he was awarded the title of Honorary Professor;
- Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, where he holds the title of Associate Fellow of the Russia and Eurasia Programme;
- Since 2002, he has been a Programme Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences (FACSS);
- Since 1998 he has been an Honorary Senior Research Fellow of the Centre for Russian, European and Eurasian Studies (CREES), University of Birmingham etc.

As a result of his excellent scientific, teaching and editorial work, professor Sakwa is the noble holder of various academic awards, distinctions and prizes, varying from honorary professorships (Moscow University), senior and associate fellowships (Senior Research Fellow and co-director of the International Laboratory on World Order Studies and the New Regionalism, Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs, National Research University - Higher School of Economics; Associate Fellow of the Russia and Eurasia Programme at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House etc.) to distinguished chairmanship (Chair of the Advisory Board of the Eurasian Political Studies Network (EPSN) etc).

He is a member of numerous scientific groups and editorial boards of journals:

- Review Panel of the Finnish Academy of Sciences
- Founding Series Editor for the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES) publications
- East European Politics
- Siberian Historical Research
- eJournal Politics and Governance,
- Russian Academic Journal (Moscow)
- Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Society book series (Stuttgart)
- Perspectives on European Politics and Societies
- Review of Central and East European Law
- Europe-Asia Studies (Glasgow)
- Russia and Eurasia Programme of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (London)

He has been involved as coordinator or expert in numerous European projects, of which we mention:

1. Principal Investigator, for the following project: 'Eurasian Political Studies Network: Developing comparative studies of regime transformations in multicultural societies and state and nation building processes in the post-soviet region'.(2004-2007) - University of Kent at Canterbury - United Kingdom (lead) with universities from Armenia, Belarus, Czech Republik, France, Kyrkystan, Kazakstan, Lithuania, Russia and Ukrain.
2. Co-investigator on the project 'Modernizing the Russian North: Politics and Practice', 2011-2013. Coordinated by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs.

Although, rather versatile and always novatory during his decade long research, his main fields of interest could be grouped around 5 main themes, namely:

- Problems of European and global order
- International politics and the second Cold War
- Political development in Russia
- Nature of postcommunism
- Global challenges facing the former communist countries

These themes are reflected in 11 books, the latest of them *Russia's Futures, Polity*, 2019 - dozens of articles, which complement this laudatio.

### **Books**

- Sakwa, R. (2017). *Russia Against the Rest: The Post-Cold War Crisis of World Order*. [Online]. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Sakwa, R. (2016). *Frontline Ukraine: Crisis in the Borderlands*. [Online]. London and New York: I. B. Tauris
- Sakwa, R. (2014). *Putin Redux: Power and Contradiction in Contemporary Russia*. Routledge.
- Sakwa, R. (2014). *Putin and the Oligarch: The Khodorkovsky - Yukos Affair*. I. B. Tauris.
- Sakwa, R. (2010). *The Crisis of Russian Democracy: The Dual State, Factionalism and the Medvedev Succession*. [Online]. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Sakwa, R. (2009). *The Quality of Freedom: Putin, Khodorkovsky and the Yukos Affair*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Sakwa, R. (2008). *Russian Politics and Society 4th Revised Edition*. London & New York: Routledge.
- Sakwa, R. (2008). *Putin: Russia's Choice*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Sakwa, R. (2004). *Putin: Russia's Choice*. Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.
- Sakwa, R. (2003). *Contextualising Secession: Normative Studies in a Comparative Perspective*. Coppieters, B. and Sakwa, R. eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

### **And scientific articles:**

- Sakwa, R. (2019). Russian Neo-Revisionism. *Russian Politics* [Online] 4:1-21. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1163/2451-8921-00401001>.
- Sakwa, R. (2018). One Europe or None? Monism, Involution and Relations with Russia. *Europe-Asia Studies* [Online] 70:1656-1667. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09668136.2018.1543762?>.
- Sakwa, R. (2018). The End of the Revolution: Mimetic Theory, Axiological Violence, and the Possibility of Dialogical Transcendence. *Telos* [Online] 2018:35-66. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3817/1218185035>.
- Sakwa, R. (2017). The Ukraine Syndrome and Europe: Between Norms and Space. *The Soviet and Post-Soviet Review* [Online] 44:9-31. Available at: <http://doi.org/10.1163/18763324-04401003>.
- Sakwa, R. (2017). Europe and the political: from axiological monism to pluralistic dialogism. *East European Politics* [Online] 33:406-425. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/21599165.2017.1326099>.
- Sakwa, R. (2016). Back to the Wall: Myths and Mistakes that Once Again Divide Europe. *Russian Politics* [Online] 1:1-26. Available at: <http://doi.org/10.1163/24518921-00101001>.

- Sakwa, R. (2015). The Death of Europe? Continental Fates after Ukraine. *International Affairs* [Online] 91:553-579. Available at: <http://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2346.12281>.
- Sakwa, R. (2013). The Cold Peace: Russo-Western Relations as a Mimetic Cold War. *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* [Online] 26:203-224. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09557571.2012.710584>.
- Sakwa, R. (2010). The Dual State in Russia. *Post-Soviet Affairs* [Online] 26:185-206. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2747/1060-586X.26.3.185>.
- Sakwa, R. (2008). Upravlyaemaya preemstvennost ('Managed Succession'). *Vlast*:128-139.
- Sakwa, R. (2008). Russian Political Culture through the Eyes of Vladislav Surkov: Guest Editor's Introduction. *Russian Politics and Law* [Online] 46:3-7. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2753/RUP1061-1940460500>.
- Sakwa, R. (2008). Poddanye ili grazhdane: prepyatstviya na puti osushchestvleniya suverennykh konstitutsionnykh prav v sovremennoi Rossii ('Subjects or Citizens: Obstacles to the Achievement of Constitutional Rights in Contemporary Russia'). *Konstitutsionnyi Vestnik* 1:104-115.
- Sakwa, R. (2008). Putin: Character and Consequences. *Europe-Asia Studies* [Online] 60:879-897. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09668130802161132>.
- Sakwa, R. (2008). Constitutionalism and Accountability in Contemporary Russia: The Problem of Displaced Sovereignty. *Law in Eastern Europe* 58:1-21.
- Sakwa, R. (2008). 'Podotchetnost', konstitutsionalizma i nekotorye modeli vlasti v postkommunisticheskoi Rossii ('Accountability, Constitutionalism and Some Models of Power in Post-Communist Russia'). *Sravnitel'noe Konstitutsionnoe Obozrenie (Comparative Constitutional Review)*:1-17.
- Sakwa, R. (2008). Liberalism and Neo-Patrimonialism in Post-Communist Russia. *Law in Eastern Europe* 59:181-200.
- Sakwa, R. (2008). Two camps? - The struggle to understand contemporary Russia. *Comparative Politics* 40:481.
- Sakwa, R. (2008). Putin's leadership: Character and consequences. *Europe-Asia Studies* [Online] 60:879-897. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09668130802161132>.
- Sakwa, R. (2008). Putin and the oligarchs. *New Political Economy* [Online] 13:185-191. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13563460802018513>.
- Sakwa, R. (2008). 'New Cold War' or twenty years' crisis? Russia and international politics. *International Affairs* [Online] 84:241-267. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2346.2008.00702.x>.
- Sakwa, R. (2007). 'Suverintet i demokratiya: Konstruktsii i protivorechiya' ('Sovereignty and Democracy: Constructions and Contradictions'). *Sravnitel'noe Konstitutsionnoe Obozrenie (Comparative Constitutional Review)*:117-123.
- Sakwa, R. (2006). From Revolution To Krizis: The Transcending Revolutions of 1989-
- Sakwa, R. (2005). 'Perestroika and the Challenge for Democracy in Russia'. *Demokratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization* 13:255-276.
- Sakwa, R. (2005). The 2003-2004 Russian elections and prospects for democracy. *Europe-Asia Studies* [Online] 57:369-398. Available at:
- Sakwa, R. (1999). Postcommunist studies: once again through the looking glass (darkly)?. *Review of International Studies*[Online] 25:709-719. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0260210599007093>.

- Sakwa, R. and Webber, M. (1999). The Commonwealth of Independent States, 1991-1998: Stagnation and survival. *Europe-Asia Studies* [Online] 51:379-415. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09668139998912>.
- Sakwa, R. (1996). The struggle for the constitution in Russia and the triumph of ethical individualism. *Studies in East European Thought* [Online] 48:115-157. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/BF02585161>.
- Sakwa, R. (1995). Subjectivity, Politics and Order in Russian Political Evolution. *Slavic Review* 54:943-964.

Consequently, without diverging in biographical or catalogue examples of the works, the Senate of the University of Oradea concludes by expressing its firm belief that the award of the high degree of Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Oradea, to Mr. Richard Sakwa, is not only a profound gesture of appreciation for one of the names of international reference in the field of International Relations and especially those in our immediate vicinity, but at the same time it is also an opportunity for the group of teachers and students from the Department of International Relations and European Studies to have potential collaborations with first-class personalities from all around the world. At the same time, for the University of Oradea, the award of this title to Mr. Richard Sakwa represents an honour to count among its members one of the most influential representatives of the academic environment from the United Kingdom.

Oradea, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019  
The Senate of University of Oradea