



2012-13 Princeton Global Scholar

Adam Michnik

Adam Michnik is one of the most influential and original political thinkers in post-war Eastern Europe. A trained historian, essayist, former dissident, public intellectual, he is editor-in-chief of Poland's largest newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza*.

A legendary figure of the Polish anti-communist opposition, Michnik played a crucial role during the Polish Round Table Talks as an adviser to Lech Wałęsa's informal Coordination Committee, which resulted in the communists conceding to call elections that were subsequently won by Solidarity. In the elections to the Contract Sejm on 4 June 1989 he became a Member of Parliament from Lech Wałęsa's Solidarity Citizens' Committee electoral register, as a candidate for the city of Bytom.

He is a laureate of many international awards and honors, including a Knight of the Legion of Honour and European of the Year, the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award, and most recently the Goethe Medal.

As one of the crucial thinkers and participants in the process of transition to democratic politics following the 1989 revolution, Michnik has written extensively on the communist era. Three books of his numerous writings are standard reading in the analysis of Eastern Europe, human rights, and the challenges of regime transitions. A fourth volume of his essays, *In Search of Lost Meaning* was recently published by the California University Press.

He has taught university level courses both in Poland and in the United States, visiting several times as a guest professor at the New School and as a visiting professor at Princeton (2005/2006).

Michnik's return to Princeton as a Global Scholar offers the Princeton community an invaluable experience to learn from a participant and original observer, as well as thoughtful analyst of the 1989 revolution. He will jointly teach a course on "Central Europe in the XXth Century: History, Politics, and Culture," focusing on the communist era and transition to democratic politics. In addition, he will feature in events hosted by the European Politics and Society Program and the Woodrow Wilson School of Policy and International Affairs. During his visit at Princeton he will also offer a public lecture on the Future of the European Union.