

NATIONAL INSTITUTES PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES 2005

THE GREAT POWERS & POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION: From Versailles to 'Nation-Building Lite'

Dr Bruce Kent

Distinguished Visiting Fellow, National Europe Centre, ANU

Wednesday 16 March, 12.30–1.30pm

Visions Theatre, National Museum of Australia, Acton Peninsula

This lecture is free and open to the public. Light Refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to europe@anu.edu.au Enquiries: 6125 9896/6586/6650

THE LECTURE

This lecture surveys the chequered history of great power involvement in post-war reconstruction from the Treaty of Versailles to the present.

Dr Bruce Kent will outline how the policies of the victorious nations in 1919 set Europe on the road to the war of 1939-1945. He will also argue that even the more enlightened Marshall Plan, which primed the pump of the stalled Western European recovery in 1948, helped to trigger the Cold War because of its restricted scope. Dr Kent will also argue that recent 'nation-building' ventures that, unlike the Marshall Plan, are focused more on prosecuting the 'war on terror' than on coherent and balanced reconstruction, are jeopardising the stability and sustainable development of the regions involved.



THE LECTURER

Bruce Kent is a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the National Europe Centre at ANU. Dr Kent has held Visiting Fellowships at Stanford, the London School of Economics, Princeton and the School of Economics at ANU. He is currently working on a manuscript entitled *The Price of Peace*, which attributes the onset of the Cold War to an intractable East-West dispute over the financing of post-war reconstruction rather than a steadily escalating strategic/ideological confrontation.