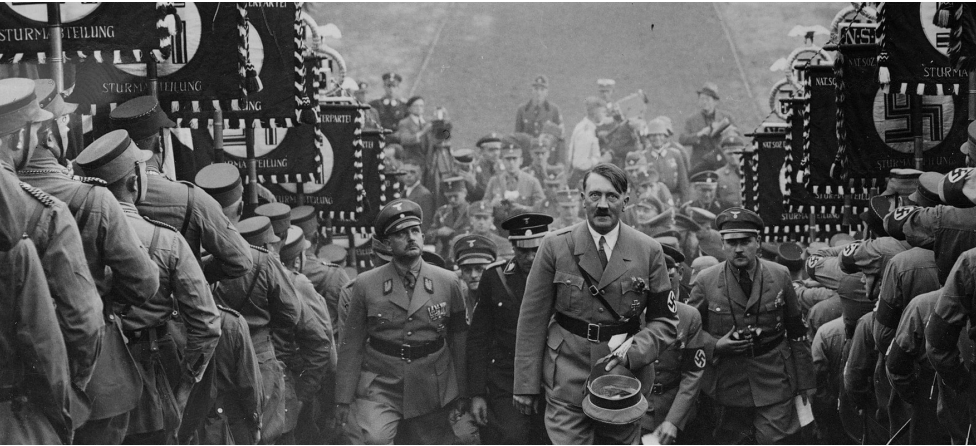


Björklunden Seminars

"Vacation with a purpose"

JULY 21-26, 2024 AT BJÖRKLUNDEN



Instructor



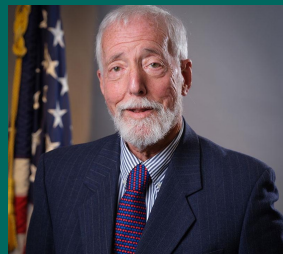
Jerald Podair

Podair is a professor of history emeritus and the Robert S. French Professor of American Studies at Lawrence University, where he specializes in 20th-century United States history.

He is the author, co-author or co-editor of seven books, including *The Routledge History of the Twentieth-Century United States* and two books about civil rights in America, *The Strike That Changed New York: Blacks, Whites, and the Ocean Hill-Brownsville Crisis* and *Bayard Rustin: American Dreamer*.

He is the recipient of the Allan Nevins Prize, awarded by the Society of American Historians for "literary distinction in the writing of history," and the first two-time winner of Lawrence's Award for Excellence in Scholarship. He is currently writing *Promised Lands: A History of the American People in the Twentieth Century*, a comprehensive history of the American century written for a general audience, to be published by Princeton University Press.

Instructor



Jon Greenwald

After graduation from Princeton and Harvard Law School, Greenwald served 30 years in the U.S. Foreign Service, mainly in Europe, including East Berlin as the Wall fell and ending with the U.S. Mission to the European Union.

He taught diplomacy and foreign policy at Lawrence University as the Scarff Professor, 1998-1999, coordinated foreign policy for Bill Bradley's presidential campaign (2000), then served as vice president of the International Crisis Group, the Brussels-based conflict prevention organization for 17 years. He has taught frequently at Björklunden, most recently in 2022 on the Weimar Republic.

He leads a project to bring youths from conflict zones -- beginning with Israelis and Palestinians -- to study together at top U.S. and other prep schools. He is also the author of *Berlin Witness: An American Diplomat's Chronicle of East Germany's Revolution*.

Hitler's War: The Battle for Democracy, 1939-1945

Course Description

On September 1, 1939, emboldened by an alliance of convenience with the Soviet Union and contemptuous of the resolve of Western democracies, Adolf Hitler ordered his troops to invade Poland. Thus began the Second World War, which Hitler envisioned as simultaneously a campaign for territory and to make Germany the globe's pre-eminent power, as well as a racial struggle.

Despite doing battle with most of the world – 53 countries declared war on Nazi Germany – Hitler came agonizingly close to victory. How did he mobilize German society to such a monumental undertaking? How did Hitler's war state function? And how did the world's democracies, notably the United States and Great Britain, mobilize their own resources and with the great assistance of Stalin's Soviet Union turn back this existential threat?

The war marked the defining conflict between totalitarian fascism and representative democracy - and fascism almost won. How this nearly came to pass is the subject of this seminar, along with the lessons Hitler's War offers as we struggle with the dilemmas of and threats to our own democratic institutions today.



[Register Here>>](#)