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The Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture is a research center at the University of Virginia that investigates the logic and meaning of contemporary cultural change and its implications for our understanding of the human person and the ordering of public life.

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Democracies, Dictatorships, and Intellectuals

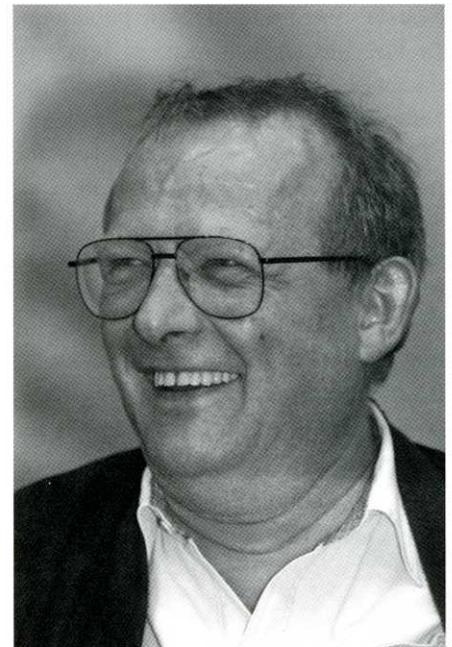
Adam Michnik to deliver Labrosse-Levinson Lectures

Apart from concerns about international terrorism, it is tempting to be sanguine about the emergence of liberal democratic states around the world. The last half century has seen a remarkable spread of democracy to every region of the world. Yet totalitarian governments and dictatorships remain. They, and in many countries the shadows still cast by fallen regimes, merit our close and sustained consideration.

For this reason, the Institute has invited Polish activist, historian, and journalist Adam Michnik to deliver the fourth annual Labrosse-Levinson Lectures on the subject of *Democracies, Dictatorships, and Intellectuals*. Mr. Michnik will speak from deep experience, having seen the oppression of dictatorship and the possibilities of democracy as a leading intellectual under both types of regime.

The public lectures, to be held in the Dome Room of the Rotunda at the University of Virginia, will be Wednesday, November 8, Thursday, November 9, and Friday, November 10, all at 1:00 p.m. The first lecture is entitled "Religion and Totalitarian Challenges," the second, "An Intellectual in the World of Dictatorship," and the third, "Democracy: Between Relativism and Absolutism."

Michnik was co-founder of KOR (Committee for the Defense of Workers), the organization of dissident intellectuals in Poland that paved the way for the Solidarity trade union in the late 1970s. Later, he was a prominent Solidarity



Adam Michnik

member and participant in the Round Table Talks that eventuated in the end of Communist rule in Poland. In 1989, he was elected to Poland's first non-communist parliament.

Michnik is the author of several books, including *The Shadows of the Forgotten Ancestors* (1975), *Such Other Times: Concerning Compromise* (1985), and *The Church and the Left* (1993). His most famous work, *Letters from Prison* (1985), is a collection of essays written during his frequent imprisonments

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