

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum, FRSC

Born in Bratislava, Slovakia on 6 August 1942, Stanislav Kirschbaum, who immigrated to Canada in 1949, was schooled in Geneva, Switzerland, Montreal and Toronto before beginning his university studies in 1959. He attended the University of Ottawa where he obtained his Bachelor of Social Sciences degree in 1964 with the mention *cum laude*. He was awarded the Cornellier Trophy for academic and athletic achievement in the Faculty of Social Sciences and the gold medal at graduation and as well as the Gagné Trophy for his contribution to athletics at the university. At the University of Toronto, he earned a Master of Arts degree in 1966 and a Diploma in Russian and East European Studies in 1968. He was also a Junior Fellow of Massey College in 1965-66. With a French Government Scholarship awarded in 1966, and a Canada Council Scholarship in 1968, he successfully earned a doctorate with the “mention ‘très bien’” in 1970 at the Université de Paris, Fondation nationale des sciences politiques, with a thesis entitled “Le stalinisme et la Tchécoslovaquie” under the supervision of Professor Hélène Carrère d’Encausse (today Secrétaire perpétuel of the Académie française).

In 1969 he began his academic career at Queen’s University, transferring to York University, Glendon College in 1970. For many years in the Department of Political Science and now in the Department of International Studies of which he is chairman, he teaches courses on Central and Eastern Europe, nationalism, security, diplomacy, and Canadian defence and foreign policy in both English and French, primarily in the latter. He is also fluent in Slovak and German and has working knowledge of Czech, Russian, and Spanish. He has also taught as a visiting professor at the Université de Montréal, Université Laval, and Trnavská univerzita in Trnava, Slovakia.

He is a prolific writer on Communist, post-Communist politics, especially Slovak politics and international relations. With his book *A History of Slovakia. The Struggle for Survival*, published by St. Martin’s Press in New York in 1995 with a second edition in 2005, he is the author of the first ever history of Slovakia in a non-Slovak language. Likewise his *Historical Dictionary of Slovakia*, published in 1999 with a second edition in 2007, marks a first for that subject in a Western language. His scholarly output includes the publication of 13 additional books on Central Europe and security, 85 scholarly articles on Slovak politics and international relations, 119 papers and over 65 public lectures delivered in Canada, the United States, and Europe in various languages, 200 book reviews, and 224 radio and television appearances. He has contributed an entry on the Slovaks in the *The Canadian Encyclopedia*. In 1994 he was made a Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques by the government of France and in 1995 he was awarded the Commemorative Medal by Matica slovenska in Slovakia for his book *A History of Slovakia*. From 1980 to 2010 he was Secretary of the International Council for Central and East European Studies and since 1995 he is Co-Président of the Association France-Canada d’études stratégiques. In 2002 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. In 2008 he received the University of Trnava Medal for his academic contribution to the university. He is listed in the *Canadian Who’s Who*.

He is married and the father of 3 daughters and enjoys theatre, opera, swimming, and tennis.