

## VOC Hosts Annual Captive Nations Summit

Each year, the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (VOC) marks Captive Nations Week in fulfillment of the 1959 congressional resolution adopted during the Eisenhower administration to show solidarity with nations subjugated by communism and totalitarianism.

As NATO concluded its July meeting in Washington, D.C., focusing on Russia's war in Ukraine, Western security, and defense spending, VOC hosted our annual Captive Nations Summit. This year, global leaders gathered to discuss the persistent impact of communist regimes, the toll of communism on humanity, the future of European security, and how the free world can combat totalitarianism. Throughout the summit, VOC experts and scholars shed light on why honoring Captive Nations Week remains crucial.

**"Dictators cannot be re-educated, dictators cannot be appeased, dictators can only be fought."**

—Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, 2020 Belarusian presidential opposition candidate

### VOC's Dr. Eric Patterson in *Providence*:

"The expression 'captive nations' may seem melodramatic at first hearing. But, when one considers the tens of millions of human beings who are literally in captivity under brutal governments—Cubans, Chinese Uyghurs, Venezuelans, Belarussians, and others—the term 'captive' is clear and apt."

### VOC's Milda Mataciunaite-Boyce:

"As war rages in Ukraine, the specter of a new era of captive nations looms across Europe's frontline. This fear is something I knew all too well growing up under Soviet control in occupied Lithuania. My homeland's oppression and march for independence is also why I know that we must continue to stand with the people of Ukraine—before it is too late... During the Singing Revolution I witnessed the strength of my people, and I learned the real price of freedom... I learned that I couldn't possibly take for granted my wonderful country which had so little, yet so much to offer, despite communism."



VOC President & CEO Dr. Eric Patterson interviewed Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, 2020 Belarusian presidential opposition candidate.



Panel I: From Captive Nations to a United Alliance featuring Amb. Paula J. Dobriansky, Ph.D., Jan Havránek, Amb. Aldona Woś, M.D., and moderated by The Hon. Bruce Weinrod.



Panel II: Free Ukraine – Breaking the Kremlin's Legacy of Oppression featuring Amb. William B. Taylor, Marcus Särgelepp, Sandis Šraders, and moderated by David Keene.



# VOC Educates Students and Trains Teachers



VOC's Ken Pope trained teachers at the 2024 CATO Sphere Summit on how to use VOC's curricular resources in their classrooms.

This year to date, VOC has educated over 1,000 students and trained 135 teachers on the history and horrors of communism. This October, we will publish the fourth edition of our advanced middle school and high school curriculum, *Communism: Its History, Its Ideology, and Its Legacy*, written by Dr. Paul Kengor and Dr. Lee Edwards. In conjunction with the new physical curriculum, VOC offers an online curriculum that consists of nine advanced modules and is an ever growing resource for advanced high school and college students.

We are also finalizing a number of co-curricular products which are appropriate for students 4th grade and older and will be published in the last quarter of this year, including *Ten Great Speeches Against Communism* and *Learning Liberty through Freedom Movements*.



Hertog Fellows from Skidmore College with VOC Academic Council Member Dr. Flag Taylor and VOC's Dr. Eric Patterson.



Students from the Young Conservative Leadership Institute.



Students from the DeJoy-Woś Family Foundation Scholarship.



# VOC Convenes 10th Annual China Forum

On September 24-25, the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation held its 10th annual China Forum convening scholars, international affairs experts, and policymakers for a series of hard-hitting discussions about the increasingly aggressive nature of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and key issues in US-China relations. This year's China Forum was attended by an in-person and virtual audience of over 10,000 people who heard from the world's leading experts on China, including the Chair and Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on China.



*Rep. James Moolenaar (R-MI), Chairman, and Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) of the House Select Committee on China joined the China Forum to present their assessment of US-China relations.*

Day two of the China Forum opened with a conversation with Rep. John Moolenaar, chairman of the House Select Committee on China and Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, ranking member of the committee, who outlined their bipartisan vision of how the United States can push back against an increasingly aggressive China. Dr. David Shambaugh delivered the keynote address on the instability of the CCP and the importance of accurately informing Chinese citizens on their nation's illicit activities.

**“Preserving the memory and history [of China]—real memory and history—is the most important thing that those of us outside of Communist countries can do.”**

**—Dr. David Shambaugh, Georgetown University**



Dr. David Shambaugh delivered the keynote address, bringing his years of scholarly research and expertise to a much-needed discussion of the inner-workings of the CCP.



Panelists discussed human rights and diplomacy, exploring strategies to hold Beijing accountable in international systems.



# VOC Museum Opens Venezuela Exhibition

The Victims of Communism Museum's new exhibit *Venezuela: The Deadly Toll of Socialism* brings into focus the people suffering under Maduro's regime, sharing the stories of victims and their families. Visitors can see inside El Helicoide, the nation's largest torture prison, through a moving VR experience. Surrounding the exhibit is a collection of seven paintings by Venezuelan artist CamdelaFu, each of which spotlights a different atrocity carried out by the nation's government.



VOC Trustee Amb. Trujillo speaks at the launch event of the new Victims of Communism Museum Venezuela gallery.



Visitors witness the deadly toll of socialism in Venezuela.

In the wake of Venezuela's rigged election on July 28th of this year, visitors are encouraged to reflect on the privileges of democracy and the struggle of those still fighting for them.

VOC had the honor of opening this temporary exhibit on Thursday, September 19th, with a panel discussion between VOC Senior Fellow David Smolansky, Génesis Dávila of Defiende Venezuela, Rodrigo Diamanti of Un Mundo Sin Mordaza, and Dr. Evan Ellis, CSIS Senior Associate and research professor at the U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute. The panelists investigated the potential catalysts for a collapse of the Maduro regime and offered insights into how both Venezuelan and American activists can support the rebuilding effort, providing a hopeful yet grounded perspective on an otherwise bleak situation. Venezuelan violinist Dr. Marjory Serrano concluded the evening with compelling renditions of traditional Venezuelan folk songs, reminding visitors of the country's persistent beauty and culture in the face of political repression.

## Thank You to Our Supporters!

Our work is made possible by the generosity of our donors who value our mission. We are grateful for your support, which enables us to educate the next generation about the detriments of communism.

*We especially recognize the following members of our Victims of Communism Museum Remembrance Society who have given a leadership gift in the past quarter.*

### Flames of Liberty

Edith Lauer

### Voices for Freedom

Dale Bottoms & John Frank Ciesielka

Doug & Heather Hayden

Henry & Peggy Miyares

For more information about the VOC Museum Remembrance Society and to join, visit [victimsofcommunism.org/remembrance-society](https://victimsofcommunism.org/remembrance-society).