

**Department of History and Culture
Faculty of Humanities and Languages
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi**

Invites you to a lecture

By

Madhavan K. Palat

On

The Interesting Ideas of Eric Hobsbawm

28 February, 2013 (Thursday) 12:15 PM

Venue: Seminar Room, Department of History and Culture, JMI

Prof. Rizwan Qaiser, Department of History and Culture will chair the session

Abstract:

Eric Hobsbawm's modern world originated in the big bang of the eighteenth century, and it was extinguished in an implosion almost exactly two centuries later. To him these two hundred years were defined by the project of the Enlightenment which imagined a world that was equally good for all of humanity and not for just some part of it. More than revolution, the Enlightenment drove this world onward until it seems to have exhausted itself by the end of the twentieth century; the Marxist Hobsbawm is inspired more by the Enlightenment than by one of its consequences, the millenarian dream of revolution. Deriving from the Enlightenment, the conjoined industrial and French revolutions, known as the Dual Revolution in his work, generated all subsequent events. The industrial revolution assumed both capitalist and socialist forms, and the political revolution inaugurated by the French species spawned a series of bourgeois and socialist revolutions, attempts at revolution of both types, and revolutions against revolution, or counter-revolutions. This paper will discuss Hobsbawm's magnificent *oeuvre* that celebrates this universe bounded by the two revolutionary waves of the late eighteenth and the late twentieth centuries; but it is a celebration that broods on its dark side as much as on its stupendous achievements.

About the Speaker

Prof. Madhavan K. Palat, is an acclaimed historian of Russian and European History. Currently, he is the Editor, Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund, New Delhi. In 1974, Madhavan K Palat joined the faculty of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India, where, in 1989, he was appointed Professor of Russian and European History at the Centre for Historical Studies, a position he held until his voluntary retirement from the university in 2004. He was also Dean, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University (2003–04). Madhavan K. Palat has published widely on pre-Revolutionary 19th century Russia, conservative ideology, nationalism and current affairs. He has been a National Fellow at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla and fellow at the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata Prof. Plat is also a Member, Executive Council, Association of Indian Labour Historians, New Delhi, Council of the Association of Russian Philosophy, Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow, Russia and an associate member, University of Chicago Centre for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies (CEERES) University of Chicago.