



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contacts:

Lisa Porter, Asst. Dir., Communications
434.243.4096; lporter@virginia.edu

Kim Curtis, Communications Assistant
434.243.2985; kcurtis@virginia.edu

***Constructing the Monolith*, by Marc J. Selverstone,
Published by Harvard University Press**

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., March 12, 2009 – *Constructing the Monolith: The United States, Great Britain, and International Communism, 1945–1950*, by Marc J. Selverstone of the University of Virginia’s Miller Center of Public Affairs, has been published by Harvard University Press. Selverstone will present *Constructing the Monolith* at a Virginia Festival of the Book Event at the Miller Center on Friday, March 20 at 10:00 a.m. More information is online at www.millercenter.org.

As the Cold War took shape during the late 1940s, policymakers in the United States and Great Britain tended to see communism around the world as a “monolithic” conspiratorial movement. The image of a “communist monolith” distilled the messy realities of international relations into a neat, comprehensible formula: all communists, regardless of native land or political program, were essentially tools of the Kremlin. Marc J. Selverstone recreates the manner in which the idea of the “monolith” emerged on both sides of the Atlantic. While the United States in particular embraced this black-and-white doctrine, it also greatly influenced Great Britain’s perception of communism, casting the Kremlin as one more in a long line of threats to freedom. This illuminating and important book not only explains the Cold War mindset that determined global policy for much of the 20th century, but examines how the effort to define a foreign threat can shape the ways a nation meets that threat.

“A powerful and insightful book about a curiously neglected topic,” said Jeremi Suri, Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. “Selverstone offers a compelling account of how dominant perceptions form during a period of crisis and how policymakers come to understand the ‘other.’ His analysis is most insightful in its emphasis on the interplay of ideology and circumstance. The prose is clear and sharp, making for a book that will appeal to experts and non-experts alike. This is a major contribution to international history.”

U.Va. Associate Professor Marc J. Selverstone joined the Miller Center’s

Presidential Recordings Program (PRP) in 2000. He is the author of *The Kennedy Withdrawal: Camelot and the American Commitment to Vietnam* (Harvard, forthcoming). His work at the Miller Center focuses on the recordings of Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, with a special emphasis on their foreign policy, particularly involving Vietnam.

Constructing the Monolith: The United States, Great Britain, and International Communism, 1945 – 1950

By Marc J. Selverstone

Harvard University Press, 2009; \$49.95

Virginia Festival of the Book Event:

Marc J. Selverstone and James Goldgeier: *America in Transition: Between War and... War*

Friday, March 20, 10:00 a.m.

Miller Center of Public Affairs

University of Virginia

2201 Old Ivy Road

Charlottesville VA 22904

www.millercenter.org

Founded in 1975, the Miller Center of Public Affairs is a leading nonpartisan public policy institution that aims to fulfill Jefferson's public service mission by serving as a national meeting place for engaged citizens, scholars, students, media representatives, and government officials to research, reflect, and report on issues of national importance to the governance of the United States, with special attention to the central role and history of the presidency.

#####