

# EMPIRE OF FRIENDS

*Soviet Power and Socialist Internationalism  
in Cold War Czechoslovakia*



**TUES. JAN 28  
12 PM  
48 PROF ROW**

*LIGHT LUNCH PROVIDED*

The familiar story of Soviet power in Cold War Eastern Europe focuses on political repression and military force. But in *Empire of Friends*, Rachel Applebaum shows how the Soviet Union simultaneously promoted a policy of transnational friendship with its Eastern Bloc satellites to create a cohesive socialist world. This friendship project resulted in a new type of imperial control based on cross-border contacts between ordinary citizens.

In a new and fascinating story of cultural diplomacy, interpersonal relations, and the trade of consumer-goods, Applebaum tracks the rise and fall of the friendship project in Czechoslovakia, as the country evolved after World War II from the Soviet Union's most loyal satellite to its most rebellious.

Faculty Book Talk  
**Rachel Applebaum**  
(History)

