

COUNTRY SQUIRES PRESENTATION FOR OCTOBER 10, 2019

Communist Europe: A Personal Experience

Speaker: Larry Harper

Starting in Hungary in 1989, the countries under control of the former Soviet Union began to gain their independence and with it the need for economic development. As a consultant focused on global marketing and economic development, Larry would work with the former communist countries to help them adapt to a free market economy. It began with a call from a trade union in Poland in March, 1992. Cities such as Prague, Berlin, St. Petersburg, Tallinn and Riga were beginning to evolve from under the yoke of communism. Larry will relate some of his experiences in Eastern Europe, working in an environment transitioning from communism and repression to capitalism and a struggling democracy. The sudden change left a population still living in the past but needing to cope with huge adjustments. Larry will talk about the changes he witnessed, including what KGB headquarters looked like after it was abandoned, and life in Eastern Europe with the remnants of a communist system.

As owner of Ballantrae International, Ltd, a management consulting firm focused on exporting, economic development and strategic planning, Larry Harper spent significant time in the late 1980's and 90's assisting governments and private businesses in the Baltics and Eastern Europe. He was awarded the Export Achievement Certificate by the U.S. Senate and U.S. Department of Commerce.