



Schweizerische Korea-Vereinigung

Association Suisse-Corée

Swiss-Korea Association

INVITATION

The Swiss-Korea Association is pleased to invite you to an exciting and special

History Talk with Prof. Dr. David Cheng Chang

Director, Global China Center, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)

«*The Hijacked War – Chinese Prisoners of War (POWs) in the Korean War and the Swiss Involvement*»

When: Wednesday, July 1, 2026, 18:30 – 20:00

Where: Kaserne Bern, Papiermühlestrasse 15

Program: Welcome & Introduction
Urs Gerber, MG ret., President SKA

Presentation

Prof. Dr. David Cheng Chang

Q & A with Prof. Chang

Apero



Access to the venue from Bern Main Station or Zytglogge:



Take tram No 9 towards Guisanplatz, stop at Breitenrein

Short walk (5') from tram stop to event venue

Registration: As seating is limited, we encourage early registration. Please register by 20 June via: kontakt@korea-vereinigung.ch or the contact form on our [website](http://www.korea-vereinigung.ch).

We are looking forward to welcoming you at the History Talk.

www.korea-vereinigung.ch



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About the History Talk

When wars are discussed, attention usually centers on so-called decisive battles and on ultimate victory or defeat. Strategic blunders, serious misjudgments, and deeply flawed decisions are often pushed aside and lost in the fog of history. The Korean War is no exception.

How did what appeared to be a minor issue derail ceasefire negotiations and prolong the war, leading to the deaths of many thousands of soldiers and civilians and to massive destruction? How did a military stalemate turn into an intense moral and ideological crusade that ultimately blocked rapprochement between the United States and China for two decades? How were prisoners of war used as pawns in the Cold War confrontation between the US and China - sidelining the interests of both Koreas?

Drawing on meticulous archival research and in-depth interviews with former prisoners of war, historian Chang, a leading expert in the field, brings this neglected history back to light. He presents a gripping and powerful Cold War story of unexamined, impulsive decisions at the highest political levels, alongside the brutal realities of everyday life in POW camps. The outcome produced mostly losers, one unexpected winner and enormous human costs - and, often forgotten, Switzerland and the Federal Council as well as the Geneva-based *International Committee of the Red Cross* (ICRC) played a role in this story as well. Does this dramatic history still hold lessons for today, at a time when the rules of international law seem to be fading?

Prof. Dr. David Cheng Chang received his PhD in Modern Chinese History from the University of California, San Diego, and his master's degree in East Asian Studies from Stanford University. He has been teaching history at HKUST since 2012 and has, among other topics, published and lectured widely on the subject.

