Lenard J. Cohen is a co-founder of the School for International Studies at Simon Fraser University, and since 2009 Professor Emeritus. His interests include comparative political development with a special emphasis on the East European, Balkan and Eurasian regions. His research and teaching have focused on issues relating to political democratization, state-building and nation-building, and the challenges facing post-conflict environments and failing states. His earlier research concentrated on political transition and the dissolution of state structures in Southeastern Europe (see Broken Bonds: Yugoslavia’s Disintegration and Balkan Politics in Transition, 1993, 1995; and Serpent in the Bosom: The Rise and Fall of Slobodan Milosevic, 2000, 2002). Thereafter he worked on matters relating to security, economic integration, terrorism, and foreign policy (see his co-edited volume, NATO and European Security: Alliance Politics from the End of the Cold War to the Age of Terrorism, 2003). Most recently he has focused on issues in security, governance and state building in the Balkans.

Professor Cohen completed his Bachelor’s and Master’s work at the University of Illinois and received his PhD from Columbia University. He worked as a political scientist at SFU from 1974 until his retirement in 2009. In a 35-year period, Professor Cohen has engaged in extensive fieldwork in Eastern Europe and has served as a consultant for both the Canadian and American governments.

Additional Selected Publications

State Collapse in Southeastern Europe: New Perspectives on Yugoslavia’s Disintegration, co-edited with Jasna Dragovic-Soso (Purdue University Press, 2007).


Canada and the Soviet Elite Mindset: A Case of ‘New Political Thinking’ (Toronto: Center for Russian and European Studies, University of Toronto, 1989).


*Communist Systems in Comparative Perspective* (co-editor) (New York: Doubleday Anchor, 1974).