

Ceremony to confer
the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit
of the Federal Republic of Germany
on Professor Dr. Andrei Markovits
on Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Speech by Mr. Onno Hückmann, Consul General

Professor Markovits,

honored guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my tremendous privilege today to present to you,

Professor Markovits, on behalf of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. This accolade represents one of the most supreme distinctions the Federal Republic of Germany can confer upon individuals, whether German or foreign.

The President acknowledges the outstanding contribution you, Professor Markovits, have made in the study of the humanities and the social sciences,

in promoting a modern understanding of Germany and your engagement with the German-American and German-Jewish

friendships. Among all your work at universities, your many fellowships and scholarships, and your numerous publications, I now only have the time to name a few.

You were born in Timisoara, Romania, came to the US and became a US citizen in 1971. You received your Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University, to be followed with a Master of Business Administration, a Master in Political Science, a Master in Philosophy and a Doctorate in Political Science, all from this same prestigious university. After receiving your doctorate degree in 1976, you went to the Center for European Studies at Harvard University where you remained an active member and a Research Associate until 1999.

Professor Markovits, you were an Assistant Professor in the Department of Government at Wesleyan University from 1977 until 1983. From there you went to Boston University, the University of California at Santa Cruz and then finally to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 1999. You have been a visiting professor in Austria, Germany, Israel and Switzerland. You are currently hold not one, but two endowed chairs in two

separate departments at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor: an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and the Karl W. Deutsch Collegiate Professor of Comparative Politics and German Studies.

Your first book, "The Political Economy of West Germany: Modell Deutschland", was published in 1982 and your most recent book is entitled "Gaming the World: How Sports Are Reshaping Global Politics and Culture". Since from the beginning of your academic career, your research has been focused upon your undying interest in Germany and German culture.

Professor Markovits, you have published nineteen authored and co-authored books as well as edited and co-edited volumes. Your scholarly articles and review essays are almost too numerous to count, but nevertheless I would like to mention one journal in particular. You founded the quarterly journal *German Politics and Society* while at Harvard University in 1983. As you well know, this has since become the foremost scholarly journal on modern German politics in the US.

Your mentoring and support of German academics who come to the US to do research is unparalleled. You have shown this steadfast commitment to your fellow colleagues throughout your career and across the many institutions with which you have been affiliated.

Professor Markovits, your service to furthering the world's understanding of Germany is extraordinary. You have been a beacon for all things German not only in the American Midwest but throughout the US and across the globe. With your outstanding dedication as a scholar and a teacher, you have fostered the German-American friendship and understanding.

Professor Markovits, it is with the utmost admiration and gratitude that I now have the honor on behalf of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany to present to you the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit.

The deed of conferment, which I shall now present, reads as follows:...

Congratulations!