Most accounts of the end of the Cold War and German unification concentrate on the role of the United States and look at these events through the bipolar prism of Soviet-American relations. Frédéric Bozo, a professor in contemporary history and international relations at the Sorbonne, will discuss how France and its president, François Mitterrand, played a decisive role in these pivotal international events: the peaceful liberation of Eastern Europe from Soviet rule starting in 1988, the fall of the Berlin Wall and Germany’s return to unity and full sovereignty in 1989/90, the breakup of the USSR in 1991, and the shaping of a new European order. Professor Bozo’s research field is French foreign and security policy, transatlantic relations and Cold War history. In 2010-2011, he serves as a Fulbright Scholar and a Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C.