Gerhard A. Ritter is Professor Emeritus at the University of Munich and a recipient of the Großes Bundesverdienstkreuz. He has written numerous books on the social and political history of modern Germany, including major studies on the labor movement and the rise of the welfare state. His recent books Wir sind das Volk! Wir sind ein Volks Geschichte der deutschen Einigung (2009) and The Price of German Unity: Reunification and the Crisis of the Welfare State (2011) explore the social policy consequences of the unification process in Germany.

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**PROGRAM**

6:00 PM  RECEPTION

6:30 PM  LECTURE  Gerhard A. Ritter, University of Munich

**PHOTO CREDIT:** Steelworkers protest in front of the headquarters of the Treuhandanstalt, the department responsible for privatizing formerly state-run businesses from the former GDR, December 19, 1990, Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-1990-1219-006 / Photographer: Klaus Franke