Cold War Research Group Lecture and Workshop Series Cold War in the Third World

11-13/12/2017

About CWRG

Cold War Research Group (CWRG) was established in January 2017 as a part of the Institute for the Study of Strategic Regions that is a Charles university platform for an excellent transdisciplinary research. CWRG explores the role of Czechoslovakia and other former Eastern Bloc countries in the Cold War with the special emphasis on Czechoslovak activities in the "Third World". It works with the newest trends and approaches in the Cold War history research using primary sources from recently opened archives.

Research Activities

In the past two decades, new approaches have emerged in Cold War research, which have chosen a different viewpoint on this conflict of over 40 years, whose impacts still have significant influence on the character and development of our modern world. The earlier developed international history, transnational history or global history was joined especially by the New Cold War History, which in its methods uses documents from former Eastern Bloc and other socialist countries. With these documents, some aspects of the Cold War conflict are being re-assessed and re-interpreted. This makes it very different from the older approaches that portrayed the Cold War almost exclusively through the lens of the bipolar relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union, in which the other actors did not play a significant part.

The CWRG is based on the above-mentioned trends in current research of the Cold War and focuses on different level of relations between the socialist countries and their foreign policy in a global perspective of the Cold War (special emphasis will be on Czechoslovakia and its activities in the "Third World"). The research group will continue its cooperation with foreign research centres, especially with the Cold War International History Project (CWIHP) at the Wilson Center in the United States and Russian State University for the Humanities (RGGU). The aim of the research activity will be the preparation of grant projects, which would help further expand the group's activities (organizing workshops and conferences) and develop international cooperation.

Guarantor

Tomas Sniegon (Lund University)

Head of the Group Jan Koura (Charles University)

Post-doc members

Jiří Hudeček (Charles University) Stanislav Tumis (Charles University) Ondřej Vojtěchovský (Charles University)

Doctoral students

Ondřej Crhák (Charles University) Kathleen Geaney (Charles University) Boris Mosković (Charles University) Mikuláš Pešta (Charles University)

Associate Members

Jan Kuklík (Charles University) Slavomír Michálek (Slovak Academy of Sciences) Martin Slobodník (Comenius University in Bratislava) Vít Smetana (Czech Academy of Sciences)

Foreign Collaborators

Frank Gerits (Utrecht University) Mark Kramer (Harvard University) Casey Panarese (New Mexico State University) Olga Pavlenko (Russian State University for the Humanities) Daniela Richterova (University of Warwick) Natalia Telepneva (University of Warwick) Robert A. Waters (Ohio Northern University)

More info about CWRG: bit.ly/2ii8mX2

Czechoslovakia and the End of Portuguese Empire in Africa, 1961–1975

Natalia Telepneva (University of Warwick)



Czechoslovakia and the End of Portuguese Empire in Africa, 1961–1975

This lecture focuses on the role of Czechoslovakia during the anti-colonial campaigns in Portuguese Africa – Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau – between 1961 and 1975. Natalia Telepneva explains why Czechoslovakia became the first country to support the anti-colonial movements in Portuguese Africa in 1961, the role of secret intelligence, relations with the Soviet Union, and the consequences of 1968 for Czechoslovak international engagement. Telepneva's talk will also emphasise the role of Czechoslovak agency in the Cold War in Africa.

Natalia Telepneva is a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Warwick. She received her PhD at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). She is currently working on the manuscript, "Cold War Liberation: The Soviet Union and the End of the Portuguese Empire in Africa, 1961-1976", which explores the role of the Warsaw Pact countries in the anti-colonial campaigns in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau, based on newly available archival documents from Russia and Eastern Europe and interviews with key protagonists. Her recent publications broadly cover the history of Soviet and Czechoslovak engagement in Africa during the Cold War.

Venue: Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Nam. Jana Palacha 2, room 209 **Date:** December 11, 2017, 5:30 PM

JFK's and LBJ's Efforts to Transform the Anticolonial Project in Africa (1960–1966) Frank Gerits (Utrecht University)

12/12/2017

JFK's and LBJ's Efforts to Transform the Anticolonial Project in Africa (1960–1966)

President John F. Kennedy is often cast as a supporter of African nationalism. In the most recent books, Kennedy and his aides emerge as people who were perceptive enough to distinguish communism from nationalism but lacked the sensitivity to acknowledge the adverse effects of the modernisation they promoted. New research, however, reveals that Kennedy's commitment to modernisation theory included a profound concern about psychological changes that would be unleashed by the modernization project itself. The United States Information Agency (USIA) therefore played an important role in managing the modernisation process. Not only Kennedy, but also LBJ saw anticolonial nationalism as first and foremost an emotional and psychological problem. The LBJ White House expanded upon Kennedy's approach by committing to persuading Africans of the need for regional integration as a means to deal with the negative side effects of nationalism and modernization.

Frank Gerits is currently a Lecturer in the history of international relations at Utrecht University and a research fellow at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa. He was a postdoctoral fellow at New York University (2015), a National Research Foundation Innovation Postdoctoral Fellow of the International Studies Group at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa (2016) and a Lecturer in Conflict Studies at the University of Amsterdam (2017). He is also an editor for history, politics, IR and social science at the European Journal of American Studies.

Venue: Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Nam. Jana Palacha 2, room 209 **Date:** December 12, 2017, 5:30 PM

Reconsidering the Cold War: New Approaches, Methodologies and Theories

International Workshop

13/12/2017

Reconsidering the Cold War: New Approaches, Methodologies and Theories

The Unexpected Turn in International History: Multi-centrism and the Ambivalent Place of the Postco-Ionial Archive in Rethinking the International History of the 20th century

Frank Gerits (Utrecht University)

Since 2000, transnational and international history have defined the cutting edge of historical research. Particularly innovative was the introduction of the multi-centric approach and the increased use of postcolonial archives. The multi-centric approach seeks to write history from multiple national vantage points. Simultaneously, the increased access to archives has produced great insight in how a first generation of nationalist leaders in former colonies approached international relations. Seventeen years later this presentation will discuss the limits of multi-centrism and the colonial archives while also debating the unexpected rise to prominence of international legal history. It will be argued that international history today is characterized by a division between genealogists and historical problem solvers.

Czechoslovak Archives and the History of Postcolonial Africa: Opportunities and Challenges

Natalia Telepneva (University of Warwick)

This paper looks at some of the trends in the historiography of the Cold War, such as the application of Tony Smith's 'pericentric theory' to the study of state socialist East-Central Europe, to research that deals with non-state actors and institutions, including projects on agents of 'socialist internationalism' and their contribution in the establishment of post-1945 order. In view of these trends, this paper looks at the opportunities and challenges of using the Czechoslovak archives in exploring post-colonial history of Africa, specifically the international diplomacy of postcolonial elites, clandestine contacts, and the absence of the Soviets in the Czechoslovak records.

Cultural Turn in International History: Opportunity for Reassessment of US Diplomacy behind the Iron Curtain?

Jan Koura (Charles University)

Traditional schools have been understood the Cold War as a bipolar conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union, highlighting methods of diplomatic history based on study of government documents. After the cultural turn in social, economic and political history, traditional diplomatic historians were forced into a more expansive definition of their discipline and questioned traditional reliance on government archives as the principal source. Existing works on US-Czechoslovak relations after the Second World War exclusively rely on traditional methods of diplomatic history. This paper examines how 'cultural turn' in international history opened the way for a reassessment of US diplomacy towards Czechoslovakia during the Cold War. **Frank Gerits** is currently a Lecturer in the history of international relations at Utrecht University and a research fellow at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa. He was a postdoctoral fellow at New York University (2015), a National Research Foundation Innovation Postdoctoral Fellow of the International Studies Group at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa (2016) and a Lecturer in Conflict Studies at the University of Amsterdam (2017). He is also an editor for history, politics, IR and social science at the European Journal of American Studies.

Natalia Telepneva is a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Warwick. She received her PhD at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). She is currently working on the manuscript, "Cold War Liberation: The Soviet Union and the End of the Portuguese Empire in Africa, 1961-1976", which explores the role of the Warsaw Pact countries in the anti-colonial campaigns in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau, based on newly available archival documents from Russia and Eastern Europe and interviews with key protagonists. Her recent publications broadly cover the history of Soviet and Czechoslovak engagement in Africa during the Cold War.

Jan Koura is a Lecturer at the Institute of World History, Faculty of Arts, Charles University and a head of the Cold War Study Group (Institute for the Study of Strategic Regions, Charles University). He has been a Fulbright-Masaryk Scholar at George Washington University and a Visiting Scholar at University of St Andrews. He is author of a monograph Zápas o východní Středomoří. Zahraniční politika Spojených států amerických vůči Řecku a Turecku v letech 1945–1953 [Struggle over the Eastern Mediterranean. US Foreign Policy towards Greece and Turkey 1945–1953, Prague 2013] and author of numerous articles and book chapters on the Cold War history.

Venue: Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Nam. Jana Palacha 2, room 203, **Date:** December 13, 2017, 5:30 PM.

Advance registration required on https://goo.gl/forms/432alcE8VI3Tar8A3



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