

## History of Communism in Europe

Periodicity: Yearbook

Edited by the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile  
Aim and Scope: History of Communism in Europe (HCE) presents itself as a journal open to all academic inquiries, which are sensitive to the moral sobriety, conceptual complexity, and methodological sophistication required by any sustained research on totalitarianism. The scholarly investigations of the 20th century must remain an interdisciplinary enterprise, in which raw data and refined concepts help us understand the subtle dynamics of any given phenomenon. History is polyphonic and so the writing of it must be. It is never easy to pinpoint the causal relationship between distinct events, or the agency of different ideas. Historians talk about chronologies, philosophers study the ideological mutations of the Communist doctrinal monism, sociologists and anthropologists look at everyday life (such as the interaction between majority and minority groups). Some are interested in overarching narratives, while others enrich our knowledge of the past with case-studies. The study of Communism calls for a subtle “fusion of horizons”: on the one hand, there is the interpreter, with his or her subjective background, prejudices, and intellectual proclivities. On the other hand, a whole historical age looms at large over the object found under scholarly scrutiny.

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**First issue: HCE 1 (2010) - Politics of Memory in Post-communist Europe**

Mihail Neamțu: Studying Communism in Eastern Europe: Moral Clarity, Conceptual Diversity, and Interdisciplinary Methodology [download]

### I. Miscellanea

Vladimir Tismăneanu: Coming to Terms with a Traumatic Past: Reflections on Democracy, Atonement, and Memory

Paul Hollander: Political Pilgrimages: Their Meaning, Aftermath, and Linkages

Brendan Purcell: Alexander Solzhenitsyn's Overcoming Personal, Political and Historical Amnesia Through Literary-Aesthetic Anamnesis

Jean-Claude Polet: Histoire, Mémoire et Eschatologie

John Ely: Re-Membering Romania: A Ghost Story

### II. Memory in museums and memorials

Radostina Sharenkova: Forget-Me(-Not): Visitors and Museum Presentations about Communism before 1989

Simina Bădică: The Black Hole Paradigm. Exhibiting Communism in Post-Communist Romania

### III. Artistic portrayals of memory

Masumi Kameda: Collective Memory of Communism in Croatia since 1994: Comparative Analysis of Contemporary Arts and National Narratives

Oana Popescu-Sandu: "Something Nice to Remember". Silence and Memory Between Generations in Two Gulag Films

Caterina Preda: Looking at the Past Through an Artistic Lens: Art of Memorialization

IV. Remembering Communism in Central and Eastern Europe  
Ina Dimitrova: How We Raised a Monster: Constructing the Image of Socialism During the Post-Socialist Period in Bulgaria

Sergiu Gherghina: Attitudes towards the Communist Past in Five Central and Eastern European Countries

Anastas Vangeli: Facing the Yugoslav Communist Past in Contemporary Macedonia: Tales of Continuity, Nostalgia and Victimization

Lori Amy: Re-Membering in Transition: The Trans-national Stakes of Violence and Denial in Post-Communist Albania

Peter Ulrich Weiss: Revolution without revolutionaries? On the debate about the nature of the upheaval in 1989-90 in the GDR and its protagonists as seen in the context of its 20th anniversary

Meike Wulf: Politics of History in Estonia: Changing Memory Regimes 1987-2009

### V. Reviews

Simon Sebag Montefiore, *Le jeune Staline* (Tefan Bosomitu).

Vlad Georgescu, *Politics and History. The Case of Romanian Communists (1944-1977)* (Cristina Roman)

Ralph Darlington, *Syndicalism and the Transition to Communism. An International Comparative Analysis* (Dan Drăghia)

Maria Bucur, *Heroes and Victims: Remembering War in Twentieth-Century Romania* (Andrei Muraru).

Orlando Figes, *Les chuchoteurs: Vivre et survivre sous Staline* (Mia Jinga)

## CALL FOR PAPERS FOR 2011

### Avatars of Intellectuals under Communism

#### History of Communism in Europe, new series, vol. II/2011

The forthcoming issue of *History of Communism in Europe* will focus on the Avatars of Intellectuals under Communism. The very relationship between intellectuals and the totalitarian State is of outstanding importance for anyone willing to understand the fate of academia and culture under Communism. The circulation of ideas in the public space and its subsequent shaping of the political and social bodies depended upon the aforementioned interaction. The Communist states witnessed very diverse reactions towards the ideological monopoly of the Party: outspoken resistance, quiet refusal, forced exile, passive collaboration, vocal support, and many other intermediary approaches.

The next issue of the HCE welcomes original contributions on this topic. Ideally, the authors should address the role of the intelligentsia from a comparative viewpoint. The editors encourage young scholars, in particular, to assess the recent historical, cultural, and political findings within the former Soviet Bloc: Romania, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Poland, former GDR or various states of the former USSR or Yugoslavia. Equally, we welcome any contribution that describes the attitude of Western intelligentsia towards the birth, the growth, and the historical decay of the Communist utopia.

Senior scholars, researchers and PhD students are invited to submit their proposals on one of the following topics:

1. Intellectuals and the Communist Party: doctrinaires, utopian revolutionaries, critiques, and dissident thinkers.

2. Dissidence vs. collaboration. Case-studies and overarching narratives about the relationship between intellectuals and the Party nomenclatura and the Secret Police. In particular, we welcome discussions prompted by the recent archival revelations (responses formulated under pressure in terms of personal voice, voluntary betrayal, blind loyalty, etc)
3. Eastern European intellectuals and the civil society. How was the 1989 event prefigured by the cultural circles of Poland, Hungary, Russia, and Czech Republic? Which were the first nuclei of civil society under communism and how did the Eastern European intellectuals coined the concept of civil society along their pursuits of an alternative political praxis?
4. The alternative culture vs. official culture under Communism (this may also include reference to recordings and archival documents about the activities of various literary and artistic bodies).
5. The phenomenon of samizdat. The grassroots strategies eluding state-imposed censorship on intellectual products.
6. Readings of Western intellectuals in relation to Communist utopia. How did various philosophers, writers, and journalists justify the works of the authoritarian and totalitarian States behind the Iron Curtain?
7. Fellow travelers in Communist countries. Stories about organized trips to Soviet Union and other communist countries, presented to Western guests as morally neutral, if not benevolent societies (subsequent topics in epistemology: the construal of the Other, the culture of Self-Hatred, etc).
8. Media and intellectuals under communism. This may include references to powerful alternative media vehicles (i.e. Radio Free Europe), but also to the widespread phenomenon of sponsored journalism. Reading the past after 1989 through intellectual lenses (recollections, m?moires, diaries, personal archives).

The contributors are kindly asked to write abstracts that do not exceed 500 words. Deadline: May 1st, 2011.

You may submit your proposals at: [office@iiccr.ro](mailto:office@iiccr.ro).

Selected authors will be notified by May 15th. The deadline for the final draft of the paper is June 15th, 2011.