

## **The Comintern: Institutions and people**

After October 1917, the overwhelming majority of the Bolshevik leadership was awaiting the spread of war across Europe, hoping that the Russian revolution would gain a significant share of the globe. The Communist International had set specific political objectives which, at the beginning, intended to extend the revolution. Soviet Russia implemented a methodology of secret actions outside its borders, in order to achieve this goal. Thus, the organiser of this covert collective effort was not the traditional secret services, such as the Cheka, but, instead, the Comintern whose Executive Committee (ECCI) considered itself as the "General Staff of the world revolution". In this course, we will present the main institutions of the Comintern and its major organisers, focusing on a series of peripheral cadres who, by their absolute devotion to the Soviet cause, largely contributed to the prominence of the Comintern's politics in Europe.

### **List of lectures:**

1. The organisational structure of the Comintern: From the Executive Committee of the Communist International to its secret operations. (17.10. 10.45-12.15. A 419)
2. The Case of Georgi Dimitrov: From his secret operations in Germany to the leadership of the Comintern. (19.10. 18.00 – 19.30. E 530)
3. Palmiro Togliatti: From the Comintern's apparatus to the Spanish civil war. (23.10. 09.00 – 10.30)
4. Maurice Thorez: The Stalinisation of the French communist party and its aftermath. (23.10. 10.45 – 12.15. A 419)
5. Josip Broz Tito: From his devotion to the Comintern's politics to the Stalin-Tito split. (24.10. 10.45 – 12.15. A 419)
6. Nicos Zachariadis and his legacy: From the fight against Ioannis Metaxas to his suicide. (26.10. 18.00 – 19.30 E 530)
7. The "Great Terror" within the Comintern (Open lecture). (29.10. 16.30 – 18.00. A 419)
8. Exam. (30.10. 9.00 – 12.30. A 419)

### **Bibliography:**

- 1) Aino Kuusinen, "Before and After Stalin: A personal account of Soviet Russia from the 1920s to the 1960s", London: Joseph, 1974.
- 2) Brigitte Studer, "The Transnational World of the Cominternians", London: Macmillan, 2008.
- 3) Charles R. Shrader, "[The withered vine: logistics and the communist insurgency in Greece, 1945-1949](#)", London: Praeger, 1999.

- 4) Daniel Kowalsky, "Stalin and the Spanish Civil War". New York: Columbia University Press, 2008.
- 5) E.H. Carr, "Wilight of the Comintern, 1930-1935". New York: Pantheon Books, 1982.
- 6) Elena Agarossi, Victor Zaslavsky, "Stalin and Togliatti: Italy and the Origins of the Cold War", Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2011.
- 7) Jeremy Agnew, Kevin McDermott, "The Comintern, A history of international communism from Lenin to Stalin", London: MacMillan, 1996.
- 8) Mikhail Narisky, Jürgen Rojahn (Dir), "Centre and Periphery, The History of the Comintern in the light of New Documents", Amsterdam: International Institute of Social History, 1996.
- 9) Milorad M. Drachkovitch, Branko Lazitch (Dir), "The Comintern: Historical Highlights", New York: Praeger, 1966.
- 10) [N. LaPorte](#) (Ed), [K. Morgan](#) (Ed), [M. Worley](#) (Ed), "Bolshevism, Stalinism and the Comintern: Perspectives on Stalinization, 1917-53", New York: MacMillan, 2008.
- 11) [Tim Rees](#), [Timothy Rees](#) (Ed), [Andrew Thorpe](#) (Ed), "International Communism and the Communist International, 1919-43", Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1999.
- 12) Tom Kemp, "Stalinism in France: The first twenty years of the French Communist Party", London: New Park, 1984.
- 13) Victor Serge, "Memoirs of a Revolutionary, 1901-1941", London: Oxford University Press: 1963.
- 14) William J. Chase, "Enemies within the Gates? The Comintern and the Stalinist Repression, 1934-1939", New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2001.

