

The Comintern and the Western Communist parties

The Communist International (Comintern) was formed in Moscow in 1919. From its establishment to its dissolution in 1943, it led a transnational political action and formed a specific worldwide network of devoted communist cadres. This course examines the relations of the Western communist parties with the Comintern. The goal is to understand the way national Communist parties interact with the supranational authority of the Communist International. Topics include the center-periphery debate; the process of Bolshevisation; the Popular Front; the Spanish Civil War; the transition from Comintern to Cominform and the foreign policy of the Soviet Union from 1932 until 1939.

List of lectures :

1. The Comintern: Introduction (15 October, 14.40-16.10)
2. The Italian Communist Party: The problem of fascism (15 October, 16.25-17.55)
3. The French Communist Party: The Popular Front (17 October, 16.25-17.55)
4. The Spanish civil war: the role of Comintern (17 October, 18.10 – 19.40)
5. The Greek Communist Party: 1924-1949 (21 October, 9.00 – 10.30)
6. The Comintern and the Great Terror (21 October, 10.45-12.15)
7. The education of the cadres: KYNMZ and KYTV (22 October, 14.40 – 16.10)
8. From Munich to the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact: Comintern's stance (22 October, 16.25 – 17.55)
9. Exam (24 October, 16.25-17.55)

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 Cominterians", 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) William J. Chase, "Enemies within the Gates? The Comintern and the Stalinist Repression, 1934-1939". New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2001.
- 14) Александр Ватлин, Второй Конгресс Коминтерна: Точка отсчета истории мирового коммунизма. Москва : РОССПЭН, 2018.