

Foreword

By Csaba Békés¹

This special issue of COJOURN publishes a selection of the papers presented at the 9th Annual Cold War History Research Center International Student Conference at Corvinus University of Budapest, held on June 4–5, 2018. The conference was organized in collaboration with the Institute of International Studies at Corvinus University of Budapest, the Institute for Political Science – Centre for Social Sciences at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and the European Institute, Columbia University, New York.

The Cold War History Research Center was established twenty years ago, in 1998, as the first scholarly institution founded as a non-profit organization in East Central Europe. The Center is specialized in historical research of the Cold War era, focusing on the former Soviet Bloc. The Center's English-language website (www.coldwar.hu) provides access to a great number of articles, documents, chronologies, bibliographies and other resources as the only institution of this kind in the former Soviet Bloc. It has become an indispensable resource for scholars and students interested in the history of the Cold War, Communism, Eastern Europe and the Soviet Bloc. Since 2009, the Center has been affiliated with the Institute of International Studies at Corvinus University of Budapest, and, beginning in 2017, also with the Centre for Social Sciences at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

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One of the Center's main projects has been the creation of an extensive English-language online Cold War historical chronology focusing on East-Central Europe: *The Chronology of the Soviet Bloc, 1945–1991*, the final parts of which were published in 2017. All of this is made possible thanks to the (unpaid) extensive internship project of the Center, launched in 2009. So far, the internationally renowned research activity of the Center has attracted more than 200 interns from Western and Eastern Europe, the United States, China, Ukraine, Turkey, Greece, etc.; altogether from 33 countries. In 2017, the Center also became an official internship partner of Oxford University.

Since 2010, the Center has also organized an annual two-day English language international student conference on the history of the Cold War, with the participation of BA, MA and PhD students. This annual forum provides a unique opportunity for students at different stages of their studies to present their findings on the Cold War in an international environment. *Students on the Cold War*, an edited volume containing 30 papers selected from the 144 presentations of the first seven conferences between 2010 and 2016 was published in 2017, and is available at:

http://www.coldwar.hu/main_pubs/Students_Cold_War.pdf

In the current special issue of COJOURN, we are publishing six articles out of the 31 presentations of this year's conference.

Stephen Westlake's article presents an exciting novel scholarly enterprise aiming at reaching out to a wider international audience. The *Speaking to the Soviets* podcast, a six-part audio documentary series explores the history of transnational broadcasting during the Cold War through an analysis of the Blinken Open Society Archives' Radio Liberty Russian Broadcast Collection at the Central European University in Budapest. The six cc. 25-minute episodes focus on key Cold War topics and events: The Death of Stalin; The Space Race; The Vietnam War; Human Rights and the Helsinki Accords; The Chernobyl Disaster; and the Collapse of the Soviet Union. Thanks to English translations provided by voice actors, for the first time, non-Russian-speaking listeners can gain a sense of exactly what was broadcast by Radio Liberty, in its Russian emissions from 1953 to 1995 on a range of different topics, as well as how RL presented information on a range of controversial issues.

Mariam Zibzibadze's paper examines the evolution of the portrayal of enemies of the Soviet Union in Soviet movies from the late 1940s to the 1960s, focusing on two main thematic frameworks: gender discourse and spy movies. Her main findings suggest

that the portrayal of Western characters and Western lifestyle through Soviet narratives often resulted in de-humanizing American women and de-masculinizing American men or glorifying Soviet spies as national heroes.

Gáspár Békés revisits the history of the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty signed in 1963 through the lens of Constructive Environmental Politics. He draws attention to the huge discrepancy between the well-recognized nature of the treaty as an early example of effective bilateral cooperation between the two superpowers in the realm of arms control, and the very limited recognition of the agreement in the field of environmental studies, even though it was the key treaty that solved the global environmental crisis of nuclear pollution by a rapid reduction of radioactive particles in the atmosphere. In conclusion, he suggests that the scientific community should revisit related environmental issues of the past from a truly multidisciplinary perspective and exploit the synergy of existing Cold War knowledge and modern environmentalist approaches.

Yana Kitaeva sheds light on the fact that in the Soviet Union Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian Samizdat publications were among the first to condemn the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan in 1979. The two open letters analyzed in the article illustrate how the Samizdat authors equated the Soviet military involvement in Afghanistan with the Soviet invasion and annexation of the Baltic States in 1940. Referring to the provision on peoples' right to self-determination in the Helsinki Final Act, signed by Moscow as well just four years earlier, in 1975, and applying a narrative of the Afghan conflict with reference to this, these publications were trying to garner support for the Baltic states' national independence.

Nino Gozalishvili analyzes the phenomenon of the "Jeans Generation," a group of youngsters in Soviet Georgia from the late 1970s, as a part of cultural memory in Georgian society, through the prism of theories of subcultures and countercultures. She argues that this group of youth, although lacking any apparent ideological motives, ought to be categorized as a youth subculture owing to the persistency and commonality of their visions on certain matters, especially regarding "America" and "the West."

Melek Aylin Özoflu provides an overview of the interdependence that emerged in Turkish–American relations in the post-World War 2 era and especially in the early Cold War period. She argues that the high level of Soviet threat stemming from Moscow's territorial claims on Turkey in 1945–46 resulted in a long-term alliance with the West, and in the US and Turkey sharing common ground in their foreign and security policies during the Cold War.