

## Nationalism & Socialism in east central Europe

HIST 302-03 ~ MWF 10:30-11:20 ~ UNIV 301

*It is a terrible mistake to be a small country in the middle of Europe. – István Deák*

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Office Hours: Monday 12-2pm, or by appointment



Monument to the Hungarian Republic of Councils (1919), completed in 1969. It stood by the Lenin statue by the Budapest City Park (*Városliget*) until the 1993 creation of the Statue (Memento) Park outside of the city.

The lands between Germany and Russia have been a laboratory for political ideas in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond. From the collapse of empires following World War One to the most recent expansion of the European Union, domestic and transnational forces have fostered political and social experimentation with nationalism and socialism, along with fascism, communism, populism and democracy. The catastrophic and transformative power of war on society is crucial to understanding the creation of both the interwar nation-state system based on the premise of national self-determination, and the post-World War Two communist regimes based on Soviet-style socialism. We will pay special attention to the weaknesses of the interwar and postwar regimes, strategies of survival, modernization, and dissent using a variety of primary and secondary sources, including novels, film and music.

### Required Texts:

- Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent: Europe's twentieth century*
- Gale Stokes, ed., *From Stalinism to Pluralism: A Documentary History of Eastern Europe Since 1945*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition
- Arnošt Lustig, *Dita Saxova*

• ALL OTHER READINGS POSTED ON BLACKBOARD

**Attendance:**

Attendance at all class sessions is mandatory. Arrive on time. An attendance sheet will be passed around to sign at the beginning of class. More than 4 absences will result in a grade penalty (1/2 of a letter grade) for each subsequent unexcused absence. Unexcused means undocumented by doctor's note, or other valid form of documentation. If there is an occasion where you must leave early, notify me before class starts and sit near an exit. Be courteous. Do not disrupt the professor or your fellow students. The use of electronic devices is not permitted during class time without my expressed permission.

**Participation:**

You are expected to come to class having completed the requirements for the session, ready to participate. This will be especially important on Fridays, when we have discussion. **(15% of final grade)**

**Exams:**

There will be a midterm and final exam, each covering material from one-half of the semester. The exams will consist of identification and essay questions. You will receive a study guide one week in advance of each exam. The exams are not cumulative. You will be allowed the opportunity to take one and only one make-up exam in the case of a documented emergency. **(midterm 20%, final 25% of final grade)**

**Map Test:**

There will be a map test as we begin exploring the interwar period. You are expected to know the geography of east central Europe. You will label the map and answer questions about changing borders. You will find a powerpoint file "20cECEmaps" on the blackboard site for this course. **(10% of final grade)**

**The Dita Saxova Project:**

The class will be broken into five groups to discuss how the novel *Dita Saxova* deals with major postwar themes for young Jewish survivors like immigration, personal relationships, politics, etc. Each group will present one of the themes; each individual will present a topic within that group's theme. You will write a 2-3 page paper on your topic. You will present in groups, but the paper is yours alone. **(10% of final grade)**

**Issues in east central European History Paper:**

You will write a short (5-7 page) paper on an approved topic. Paper topics must be turned in Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> in class, and are due Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. The papers must be typed using 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with a one-inch margin all around using proper footnote citations. You will find a citation guideline in the pdf file "citation guide" on the blackboard site for this course. **(20% of final grade)**

**Wednesday Evening Film Screenings:**

This course is accompanied by a set of 3 films to be shown Wednesday evenings at 8pm location TBA dates indicated in the syllabus. Attendance is voluntary, but you really should not miss any of the films if you haven't already seen as they are excellent and will add to your understanding of the region. There will be an attendance sheet. Feel free to bring friends from outside the class. Films to be screened include: *The Shop on Main Street (Obchod na Korze)*, *Love (Szerelem)*, and *Man of Marble (Człowiek z Marmuru)*.

**Spacibo Trip:**

We will take a trip to the local Russian/east central European store for a tasting at an agreed time and date. More details and organizing in class.

**Important Notes:**

- **Cheating / Plagiarism:** Plagiarism refers to the reproduction of another's words or ideas without proper attribution. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses, and will result in a failing grade and notification of the Dean of Students Office. Don't do it.
- **Course evaluations:** During the 15<sup>th</sup> week of classes, you will receive an official email from evaluation administrators with a link to the evaluation site. You will have two weeks to complete the evaluation.

**Disclaimer:** In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted on Blackboard once the course resumes or can be obtained by contacting the professor via email.

**Week One:****Into the Laboratory**

M, 8/20: Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent*, "Preface", pp. ix-xvi  
 • "The Changing Map of Europe" – centropa clip

W, 8/22: Ivan Berend, "The Peculiar Pattern of Central and Eastern European Societies" *Decades of Crisis* (1998)

F, 8/24: Daniel Unowsky, "Staging Habsburg Patriotism" from *Constructing Nationalities in East Central Europe* (2005)

**Week Two:****Test of War**

M, 8/27: Aviel Roshwald, "Straining the Imperial Molds, 1914-1918" from *Ethnic Nationalism and the Fall of Empires* (2001)

W, 8/29: Alon Rachamimov, "In Search of the 'Good and Loyal Prisoner': Austro-Hungarian Censorship and the POWs" from his *POWs and the Great War* (2002)

F, 8/31: Péter Hanák, "Vox Populi: Intercepted Letters in the First World War" *The Garden and the Workshop* (1998)

**Week Three:****End of Empires**

M, 9/3: LABOR DAY – NO CLASS

W, 9/5: Aviel Roshwald, "Defining the Boundaries of the Nation, 1918-1923" from *Ethnic Nationalism and the Fall of Empires* (2001)

F, 9/7: *Dark Continent*, pp. 3-26, 41-51

**Week Four:****Nations, States, Minorities**

M, 9/10: MAP TEST

- Joseph Rothschild, "The Interwar Background" from *Return to Diversity: A Political History of East Central Europe Since WWII* (1989)
- Bradley Abrams, "Eastern Europe Between the Wars: A Schema of Political Developments"

W, 9/12: *Dark Continent*, pp. 51-68

F, 9/14: • Joseph Roth, "Eastern European Jews in the West" from *The Wandering Jews* (English translation 2011)

- Mária Kovács, "The Ambiguities of External Minority Protection: The Hungarian *Numerus Clausus* Debate" *EEJA*, vol.36, no.1, June 2006

- Week Five:                   The Liberal Order's Collapse**  
 M, 9/17: *Sunshine* (2000) - Monarchy & Interwar scenes  
 W, 9/19: *Dark Continent*, pp. 27-40  
 F, 9/21: Ivan Berend, "Populism and Right-Wing Radicalism in Central and Eastern Europe" *Decades of Crisis* (1998)
- Week Six:                    The Nazi Order**  
 M, 9/24: *Dark Continent*, pp. 69-75, 138-158  
 W, 9/26: *Terezin: A Town Marked By Tragedy* documentary film  
       • Ludmila Chládková, *The Terezín Ghetto*  
       \*FILM: The Shop on Main Street (*Obchod na Korze*) 8PM location TBA  
 F, 9/28: István Deák, "A Fatal Compromise? The Debate Over Collaboration and Resistance in Hungary" *The Politics of Retribution in Europe* (2000)
- Week Seven:                Demographic Revolution**  
 M, 10/1: *Dark Continent*, pp. 158-181  
       • Timothy Snyder, "The Nazi Death Factories" *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin* (2010)  
 W, 10/3: Peter Gatrell, "Trajectories of Population Displacement in the Aftermaths of Two World Wars" from Jessica Reinish and Elizabeth White, eds., *The Disentanglement of Populations: Migration, Expulsion, and Displacement in Post-War Europe, 1944-9* (2011)  
 F, 10/5:                    MIDTERM EXAM
- Week Eight:                Postwar**  
 M, 10/8:                   OCTOBER BREAK – NO CLASS  
 W, 10/10: Jan Gross, "Social Consequences of War: Preliminaries to the Study of Imposition of Communist Regimes in East Central Europe," *EEPS*, vol.3, no.2, Spring 1989  
       • *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, pp. 13-32  
 F, 10/12:                 DITA SAXOVA DISCUSSION
- Week Nine:                 Stalinism**  
 M, 10/15: *Dark Continent*, pp.245-249, 250-272  
 W, 10/17: *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, pp. 57-77  
 F, 10/19: Czesław Miłosz, "Ketman" in *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, pp. 51-56

	<b>Grade scale</b>
<p><b>Week Ten:                    Reform?</b></p> <p>M, 10/22:            PAPER TOPICS DUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Dark Continent</i>, pp. 273-285</li> <li>• Charles Gati, "Moscow and Imre Nagy, 1953-1956" in <i>Hungary and the Soviet Bloc</i> (1986)</li> </ul> <p>W, 10/24: <i>From Stalinism to Pluralism</i>, pp.122-134</p> <p>*FILM: <i>Love (Szerelem)</i> 8pm location TBA</p> <p>F, 10/26: Leszek Kołakowski, "What is Socialism?"</p>	<p>100-98 = A+</p> <p>97-93 = A</p> <p>92-90 = A-</p> <p>89-88 = B+</p>
<p><b>Week Eleven:                Everyday Life</b></p> <p>M, 10/29: Slavenka Drakulić, "On Doing Laundry" and "Letter from the United States" in <i>How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed</i> (1993)</p> <p>W, 10/31: Katherine Verdery, "The 'Etatization' of Time in Ceaușescu's Romania" in <i>What Was Socialism and What Comes Next?</i> (1996)</p> <p>F, 11/2: Marzena Sowa, illustrated by Sylvain Savoia, translated by Anjali Singh, selections from <i>Marzi, A Memoir</i> (2009) – "everyday life" pdf</p>	<p>87-83 = B</p> <p>82-80 = B-</p> <p>79-78 = C+</p> <p>77-73 = C</p>
<p><b>Week Twelve:                Dissent</b></p> <p>M, 11/5: <i>Dark Continent</i>, pp. 361-376</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>From Stalinism to Pluralism</i>, pp. 175-199</li> </ul> <p>W, 11/7: <i>From Stalinism to Pluralism</i>, pp. 200-215</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timothy Garton Ash, "The Pope in Poland" from <i>The Uses of Adversity: Essays on the Fate of Central Europe</i> (1990)</li> </ul> <p>*FILM: <i>Man of Marble (Człowiek z Marmuru)</i> 8pm location TBA</p> <p>F, 11/9: Marzena Sowa, <i>Marzi</i> – "Solidarity" pdf</p>	<p>72-70 = C-</p> <p>69-68 = D+</p> <p>67-63 = D</p> <p>62-60 = D-</p> <p>59-0 = F</p>
<p><b>Week Thirteen:            1989</b></p> <p>M, 11/12: <i>Dark Continent</i>, pp. 376-389</p> <p>W, 11/14: Marzena Sowa, <i>Marzi</i> – "1989" pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>From Stalinism to Pluralism</i>, pp. 242-253</li> </ul> <p>F, 11/16:            NO CLASS</p>	
<p><b>Week Fourteen:            The Power of the Powerless</b></p> <p>M, 11/19: <i>From Stalinism to Pluralism</i>, pp. 156-174 – Human Rights</p> <p>W, 11/21 &amp; F, 11/23:    THANKSGIVING BREAK</p>	
<p><b>Week Fifteen:              What Was Socialism and What Comes Next?</b></p> <p>M, 11/26: <i>Dark Continent</i>, pp. 389-394</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slavenka Drakulić, "The Trivial is Political" in <i>How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed</i> (1993)</li> </ul>	

- Misha Glenny, "1992: Three Years On", chapter 9 of *The Rebirth of History: Eastern Europe in the Age of Democracy* (1989)

W, 11/28: S.L. Wisenberg, "The Children of Theresienstadt", from *Holocaust Girls: History, Memory, and Other Obsessions* (2002)

- Ruth Ellen Gruber "A Virtual Jewish World" CEU Jewish Studies Yearbook II
- Aaron Hamburger, selections from "Exile" from *The View from Stalin's Head* (2004)

F, 11/30: PAPERS DUE  
*Dark Continent*, pp. 395-403

**Week Sixteen:** In-class screening of *Katyn* & course wrap-up  
M, 12/3; W, 12/5; & F, 12/7

**FINAL EXAM TBA: Exam Week December 10-15<sup>th</sup>**