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## HISTORY 428 EASTERN EUROPE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

MWF 11:00-11:50, 175 Lillis

**Course description:** This course is intended to provide an intensive introduction to the history of Eastern Europe in the twentieth century. The course has no prerequisites, and assumes no specific knowledge of Eastern Europe, but does presuppose some familiarity with European history. Themes for the quarter include the territorial settlements after World War I and the emergence of the new states; national minorities and nationalism; economic development in Eastern Europe; Soviet and Nazi occupation; the communist takeovers; Stalinism and destalinization in Eastern Europe; intellectual responses to communism; civil society in the Soviet bloc; the collapse of communism; the Yugoslav wars; Eastern Europe and the European Union.

**Format:** Lecture and discussion.

**Grades** will be based on:

Map quiz, 5%; midterm, 20%; final exam, 30%; first paper 20%, second paper, 25%.  
Participation is also expected; active, thoughtful participation may raise your grade one notch.

Books available at bookstore:

Edward D. Wynot, Jr., *Caldron of Conflict: Eastern Europe, 1918-1945*  
Mark Pittaway, *Eastern Europe, 1939-2000*  
Gale Stokes, *The Walls Came Tumbling Down*

All other required readings are posted on Blackboard.

### TOPICS:

**Week 1. The legacy of World War I.** Reading: *Caldron of Conflict*, 1-27; Raymond Pearson, "A New Europe," from his *National Minorities in Eastern Europe* (Blackboard); map of interwar Eastern Europe; Joseph Rothschild, "Hungary" (pp. 137-201 from his *East-Central Europe Between the Two World Wars*. Blackboard).

Mon., Jan. 5 Introduction: themes, fissures, and constraints in interwar Eastern Europe

Wed., Jan. 7 Nationalism and war in the Balkans, 1912-1918; postwar settlements and ethnic minorities. Discuss *Caldron of Conflict*, 1-27; Pearson, "A New Europe."

Fri., Jan. 9 Political turmoil in a defeated state: Hungary. Discuss Rothschild, "Hungary."

**Week 2. Politics, economy, and culture in the 1920s-30s .** Reading: *Caldron of Conflict*, 28-56; Hugh Seton-Watson, *Eastern Europe Between the Wars, 1918-1941*, pp. 75-122 ("The Peasantry"); Béla Bartók, "On the significance of folk music."

Mon., Jan. 12 A defeated state in the southeast: Bulgaria. Prepare Wynot. **Map quiz.**

Wed., Jan. 14 Land reform, economic development, and the Great Depression. Reading: Hugh Seton-Watson, "The Peasantry."

Fri., Jan. 16 High art and folk art in interwar Eastern Europe. Discuss Bartok, "On the significance of folk music."

**Week 3. Political turmoil in the 1930s.** Reading: Wynot, 56-80; Eugen Weber, "Romania"; Ezra Mendelsohn, "Interwar Poland: Good for the Jews or Bad for the Jews?"

Mon., Jan. 19 **No class: Martin Luther King Day**

Wed., Jan. 21 Ethnic minorities, fascism, and anti-semitism. Discuss Weber, "Romania."

Fri., Jan. 23 Interwar Poland. Lecture, plus discussion of Mendelsohn, "Interwar Poland: Good for the Jews or Bad for the Jews?"

**Week 4. War and Holocaust.** Readings: Wynot, 81-93; Jan T. Gross, "Neighbors," from *The New Yorker* (March 12, 2001); Emanuel Ringelblum, *Polish-Jewish Relations during the Second World War*, pp. 190-248; Kazimierz Wyka, "The Excluded Economy" from Janine Wedel, *The Unplanned Society*.

Mon., Jan. 26 German occupation, collaboration, and genocide in Poland. Discuss Gross, "Neighbors" and Ringelblum, "Polish-Jewish Relations."

Wed., Jan. 28 The Polish resistance and the Polish experience of German occupation. Discuss Wyka, "The Excluded Economy"; Wynot, 81-87.

Fri., Jan. 30 World War II as civil war in Yugoslavia (lecture). Prepare Wynot, 91-93. **First paper due in class.**

**Week 5. World War II, cont.** Pearson, "War and the Minorities"; Wynot, 93-112.

Mon., Feb. 2 War, Holocaust, and Porajmos: review. Discuss Pearson, "War and the Minorities" and Wynot.

Wed., Feb. 4 **Midterm exam**

Fri., Feb. 6 Special class period: 2-hour film by Vojtech Jasny, *All My Good Countrymen*. First hour is as normal. We will then move into Lillis 185 to watch the remainder of the film. Students unable to stay will be expected to watch it at the library by Monday.

**Week 6. The communist takeovers.** Readings: Pittaway, *Eastern Europe 1939-2000*, 1-61; Bradley F. Abrams, "The Second World War and the East European Revolution," from *East European Politics and Societies*, vol. 16, no. 3 (2002): 623-64; *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, 43-77 (Stalinism documents).

Mon., Feb. 9 Discuss film.

Wed., Feb. 11 War and revolution: discuss Abrams.

Fri., Feb. 13 Stalinist repression and political culture. Discuss Stalinism documents and Pittaway.

**Week 7. Stalinism.** Readings: Pittaway, 62-108, 133-154; *From Stalinism to Pluralism* 81-93 (Hungarian Revolution documents) 57-65 and 94-105 (Tito documents) (Blackboard).

Mon., Feb. 16 Stalin's death, the "New Course," and the uprisings of 1953 and 1956. Discuss Hungarian Revolution documents and Pittaway, 62-85.

Wed., Feb. 18 Socialist economies and society in the 1950s-60s. Discuss Pittaway, 86-108.

Fri., Feb. 20 Yugoslavia in the Tito era: from Stalinism to federalism (lecture and discussion; prepare Tito documents and also read Pittaway, 133-154).

**Week 8.** Reading: Pittaway, 109-131; *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, 122-36 (Prague Spring documents - Blackboard); Vaclav Havel, "The Power of the Powerless," (Blackboard) (from his *Open Letters* 125-214); Slavenka Drakulic, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*, pp 21-32, 82-92, 179-89 (Blackboard).

Mon., Feb. 23 Prague Spring: cultural revolution, controlled liberalization, intervention (lecture and discussion; prepare Prague Spring documents).

Wed., Feb. 25 The philosophy of dissent. Discuss Havel, "The Power of the Powerless"

Fri., Feb. 27 Remaking the private sphere. Discuss Pittaway, 109-131; Drakulic essays.

**Week 9. From Solidarity to the revolutions of 1989.** Readings: Pittaway, 155-99; Stokes, *The Walls Came Tumbling Down*, 3-134; *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, 204-14 (Solidarity documents); 225-48 and 257-64 (1980s documents).

Mon., Mar. 2 Socialism in decay: stalled economies. Lecture and discussion; prepare Pittaway, 155-76. **Second paper due in class.**

Wed., Mar. 4 Solidarity. Lecture and discussion, with film clip from Andrzej Wajda's *Man of Iron*; prepare Stokes, *Walls Came Tumbling*, 3-45 and Solidarity documents.

Fri., Mar. 6 Towards revolution: Poland, Hungary, and the USSR in the 1980s. Discuss Stokes, *Walls Came Tumbling*, 46-134, and 1980s documents (Blackboard).

**Week 10. Brave new world.** Readings: Stokes, *Walls Came Tumbling*, 135-260 and *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, 273-88 (Yugoslavia documents) (Blackboard); Pittaway, 201-226.

Mon., Mar. 9 1989: Year of revolution. Discuss Stokes, *Walls Came Tumbling*, 135-217; Pittaway, 177-99.

Wed., Mar. 11 The breakup of Yugoslavia and the wars of succession (discuss Stokes, *Walls Came Tumbling*, 218-52)

Fri., Mar. 13 Eastern Europe today. Reading: Stokes, *Walls Came Tumbling*, 253-60; Pittaway, 201-226.

**Final exam: Monday, Mar. 16, at 10:15.** Bring two exam booklets.

SAMPLE ONLY