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Perestroika in Central Europe

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Weeks

Course requirements
Mid-term exam (20% of the grade), two book reports or one paper (40%) and a final exam (40%). Mid-term and final are take-home essays in which students are expected to demonstrate familiarity with readings assigned in the course.

Introduction to Poland
University of Kansas
History 101
Department of History
Fall 1991
Instructor: Dr. Anna M. Cienciala

Bibliography
Readings are most frequently assigned from the following:
N. Davies, Heart of Europe: A Short History of Poland (1984)
Chimen Abramsky, Maciej Jachimczyk and Anthony Polonsky, eds., The Jews in Poland (1986)
Xeroxed lecture notes and other materials are on reserve (3 copies for a class of 30)

Course outline

Weeks
1 Origins of the Polish state and medieval Poland. Piast and Jagiellonian Poland. Video: Phoenix I-II.
2 Decline and partitions of Poland. Video: Phoenix III
3 Discussion of Polish history to 1795; quiz No. 1 on same. The struggle for independence from 1795 to 1831, and from 1864 to 1905.
4 The struggle for independence from 1905 to 1914. Polish literature in the 19th century. Discussion of Polish history 1795-1914 and quiz No. 2 on same. Video: portions of Phoenix III.
5 The rebirth of Poland, 1914-18. Poland and the frontier with Germany; the Polish-Soviet war and the frontier with Soviet Russia.
7 The British guarantee to Poland and the coming of World War II. Video: Poland: A European Country.
8 German and Soviet occupations of Poland. The Polish question in World War II: 1939-43. Video: Struggles for Poland, No. 4.
9 The Polish question in World War II, 1943-45. Discussion: Poland 1914-45; quiz No. 3 on same. Video: Struggles for Poland, No. 5.
10 Poland 1944/45-1956. Gomulka’s Poland. Video: Struggles for Poland, Nos. 6 and 7.

Anna M. Cienciala

Perestroika in Central Europe
Butler University
Political Science 380
Department of Political Science
Fall 1990
Instructor: Dr. David S. Mason

Required textbooks
Joseph Rothschild, Return to Diversity: A Political History of East Central Europe since World War II (1989)

Required articles, indicated by an asterisk (*), are on reserve in the library.
Suggested readings
Since this course addresses an ongoing process in Central Europe, regular perusal of The New York Times or The Christian Science Monitor is strongly recommended. Other recommended readings are on reserve in the library.

Course outline and reading assignments

Weeks
1 THE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM
A. The revolutions of 1989
B. The Gorbachev evolution
C. The end of the Cold War
Read: The Collapse of Communism

2 THE ORIGINS OF THE SYSTEM
A. The establishment of communist rule
B. The communist political system
C. Centrally planned economies
D. Political dissent
Read: Rothschild, Return to Diversity, Chapters I-IV.

3 CHALLENGES TO THE SYSTEM
A. Yugoslavia 1948
B. Hungary 1956
C. Czechoslovakia 1968
D. Poland 1980
Read: Rothschild, Ch. V-VI.

4 THE IDEAS OF CHANGE
A. Economic reform and the market
B. Civil society and democratization
C. The idea of Central Europe

5 THE GORBACHEV CHALLENGE
A. The emergence of Gorbachev: system and personality
B. Perestroika
C. Glasnost
D. Democratization
E. New thinking in foreign policy
F. The erosion of the Brezhnev Doctrine

Second exam

6 THE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM IN EASTERN EUROPE
A. Poland: non-communist government
B. Hungary: the rift in the iron curtain
C. East Germany: the collapse of the Berlin Wall
D. Czechoslovakia: the velvet revolution
E. Romania: the fall of a dictator


ISSUES IN CHANGE: DOMESTIC
A. Social movements and revolutions
B. The process of democratization


C. Transition to a market economy
D. Maintaining social justice
E. Nationalism


9 ISSUES IN CHANGE: INTERNATIONAL
A. The promise and peril of a united Germany
B. The future of the European alliances
C. The end of the Cold War
D. The impact on the European communities and 1992

Read: C. Bertram, "The German Question"; J. Hoagland, "Europe's Destiny"; M. Bandy, "From Cold War toward Trusting Peace"; D. Clarke, "The New Security Environment".


10 THE FUTURE
A. USSR: the collapse of an empire?
B. Eastern Europe
C. The American response


Supplementary bibliographical information
A. Bibliographies
The American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies
B. Periodical Indexes
Social Science Index (journal articles)
Public Affairs Information Service Bulletin (journals, books, documents)
The New York Times Index
Monthly Catalog of U. S. Government Publications

Also see some of the computerized databases on the computer terminals in the Reference Room. Ask a reference librarian for help.

C. Yearbooks
Yearbook of International Communist Affairs (annual)
Political Handbook of the World
D. Translated Material from the Soviet and East European Media
Joint Publications Research Service, USSR Reports (series on "National Economy," "Military Affairs," Political and Sociological Affairs etc.) and East Europe

Soviet Review (current periodicals)
Current Digest of the Soviet Press (weekly; current periodicals)

E. Other Sources
Paul Shoup, The East European and Soviet Data Handbook
The Modern Encyclopedia of Russian and Soviet History
Soviet Studies (mostly politics and economics)
Slavic Review

Course Requirements
Two tests, a final exam, and a 10-15 page term paper. I will also occasionally ask you to do short, ungraded "homework" on issues or material that we will discuss the next class period. Your participation in class discussions will be graded both on frequency and evidence of familiarity with the assigned material. The final grade will be determined roughly as follows: two tests, 20% each; final, 30% paper; 20%; participation, 10%.

David S. Mason
is Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science at Butler University in Indianapolis. He has written extensively on politics in Poland, the Soviet Union and East Central Europe, and is the author of Public Opinion and Political Change in Poland (Cambridge University Press, 1985) and Revolution in East-Central Europe and World Politics (forthcoming from Westview Press in 1992). He is currently coordinating an international collaborative public opinion survey on popular perceptions of social justice in eleven countries in east and west Europe.

Corrections
In the April 1991 issue (Vol. XI, No. 2, p. 78, BOOKS section) we misprinted the zip code for the Southwest Polish Press. The correct address is as follows: 3308 Nairn Street, El Paso, Texas 79925.

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