

Lecture 6: Post-communism & the break-up of multinational states

8. 11. 2005

The communist bloc in Central-Eastern Europe experienced massive changes in the 1980s. In 1985 Mikhail Gorbachev was voted new head of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, a year later for the first time speaking of *perestrojka* (restructuring) and *glasnost* (openness). The Polish reformers' movement *Solidarność* was given the green light and one by one the former Soviet satellite states were urged to restructure.

The end of the 1980s brought the end of the Cold War and the collapse of communism in Central-Eastern Europe. The barbed wires symbolising the closed East/West borders were torn down. After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the subsequent collapse of the Soviet Union, the world changed. What used to be known as the 'communist bloc' or simply 'East' was not a monolithic counterpart to the 'West' any longer. Communists were ousted from their monopolistic positions of power, while social, economic and political restructuring began to take place.

Next lecture will be on 22 November:

Post-communist construction of new states & the concept of 'nationalising' nationalism; case-study: the break-up of Yugoslavia and 'ethnic cleansing'

Readings:

From *Xenophobia and Post-Socialism* (Pajnik, 2002): Maria Marczevska-Rytko 'The problem of xenophobia in the context of populism and European enlargement' (pp. 73-78)

Magaš, Branka (1993): *The Destruction of Yugoslavia: Tracking the Break-up 1980-92*. Verso, London. (parts for review)

Ramet, Sabrina Petra (1996): *Balkan Babel: The Disintegration of Yugoslavia from the Death of Tito to Ethnic War*. Westview Press, UK. (parts for review)

If you have not read it yet, read also:

Holmes, Leslie (1997): *Post-communism: An Introduction*. Polity Press, Cambridge (parts for review)

Frentzel-Zagorska, Janina (ed.) (1993): *From a One-Party State to Democracy: Transition in Eastern Europe*. Rodopi, Amsterdam (parts for review)

From *Xenophobia and Post-Socialism* (Pajnik, 2002) Tonči Kuzmanić 'Post-socialism, racism and the reinvention of politics' (pp. 17-25)