

Historia Europeana

together with

the Department of History at Masaryk University

and with

Moravian Matice (Matice moravská)

invites you to

the International Postgraduate (Doctoral) Conference

Rethinking 20th Century Europe

In the Grip of Propaganda

which will take place on

25th – 26th November 2024 in Brno

Masaryk University, Building K2

Komenského náměstí 220/2

More information at: www.historiaeuropeana.eu

Supported by:



The 11th annual *Rethinking 20th Century Europe* conference will take place on November 25th – 26th, 2024. This year's conference will focus on a topic that is perhaps more interwoven with the history of 20th (and, eventually, 21st) century than any other.

There were very few occasions in modern history that would permit us to claim that historiography was not in the grip of propaganda. Since the national revolutions of 1848 at the latest, there was a pressure in the majority of European countries to interpret history so that one's own nation would emerge as the most civilized, heroic, progressive and virtuous. First World War had unleashed the militaristic potential of these ideas in order to motivate the troops and civilians alike towards an almost total mobilisation against the enemy often depicted as an inhumane mass. The interwar rise of nation states with many ethnic minorities had witnessed many cases of multiple narrative lines within a single society. These constructs, often intense and violent, have shown their true nature in the countless tragedies of the second global conflict in Europe and beyond. Subsequently, the post-war bilateral world has given a free hand to the growth of two directly contradictory depictions of both distant and recent past. Not even the end of the Cold War had brought the so very anticipated "End of the History" – even today, propaganda dictates the likeness of conflicts, both diplomatic and military.

However, predominantly since the mid-20th century, propaganda has also been analysed as a social phenomenon. Rapid development of mass media has opened up the way for an unprecedented reach and possibilities of communication, which has transformed the form and goals of propagandistic activity. With the development of radio, television and later the internet, we have seen disinformation and hybrid threats, but also countless examples of these tools being used for education, upheaving of democratic values, informing the public and preventing catastrophes.

At this year's 11th instalment of our conference, we would like to focus on historical events and narratives that used to be (or indeed still are) **in the grip of propaganda**. The topic can be approached in different ways – by analysing particular types of communication, their real effects or their long-term development and transformations in time. We can also trace specific themes or "schools of thought" of propagandistic narratives. The influence of propaganda on historiography as such comes up as a natural topic as well, both in distant and recent past. We can also draw attention to the presence of propagandistic interpretations in the collective consciousness of the general public and their influence on both historical and contemporary political events. Particular depictions of lapses of the enemy in sharp contrast to virtues and distinctions of one's own people can serve as a very effective illustration of a

carefully constructed contemporary sentiment. On the other hand, we can also look at the development of mass media communication and the use of opportunities it offers for constructive purposes. A natural question then arises – is all propaganda purely negative?

Various approaches and theoretical concepts can be used to approach the above stated matters – we certainly do not shy away from interdisciplinarity. We expect the contributing articles to focus on wider ideas, as well as to particular topics and events. However, the desired outcome should be to point out the international significance of the topic or wider context and comparison, rather than a narrowed-down study of specific or regional phenomena. We put emphasis on the general context, aiming to interpret the causes, purposes and the consequent effect of the studied events. The time span of our focus is between the early 20th century and the fall of the Eastern Bloc.

Schedule

Preliminary planned programme of the 1st day of the conference

09:00 – 10:00	Presentation of participants
10:00 – 10:30	Opening ceremony
10:30 – 13:20	Panel Session A
13:20 – 14:00	Coffee break
14:00 – 18:00	Panel Session B
18:30 – 00:00	Wine & Dine

Preliminary planned programme of the 2nd day of the conference

09:00 – 12:45	Panel Session C
12:45 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 16:15	Panel Session D
16:20 – 16:30	Closing ceremony

Application process and guidelines

Application Form

- **Application deadline: 10th November 2024**
- Application form is to be filled in at following link: <https://forms.gle/Vs2RaaqkhYtt6L5f6>. By filling out the application the applicant agrees with the collecting, storage and processing of personal data in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of April 27th, 2016.

Conference Fee

- **Conference fee: CZK 500 (EUR 20)**
- **Payment deadline: 18th November 2024**
- **Please do not pay the conference fee until you receive confirmation that your application has been accepted.**
- Account number: (CZ): 2200367834/2010 (CZK)
- Acc. number: (SK): 2200367834/8330 (EUR) IBAN: SK08 8330 0000 0022 0036 7834
- Variable code: **will be specified after your application has been accepted.**
- **Please do NOT forget to include your name in the payment transfer details!**

Submissions

- **Submission deadline: 31st January 2024**
- The conference should serve as a place for dialogue and exchanging academic experience. Therefore, it is important to limit your presentation to **15 minutes** and ensure that it is clear and comprehensible.
- The conference languages are Czech, Slovak and English. We kindly ask all participants to prepare well-arranged PowerPoint slides in English to accompany their presentation.
- The length of your submission, which may become a part of a forthcoming monograph, should be max. **35 standard pages** (70 000 characters including footnotes, abstract, keywords and bibliography). Guidelines for editing contributions (referencing, citation norms etc.) can be found [HERE](#).
- Each submission must adhere to the principles of academic text (methodology, a list of sources and literature must be included).
- Please send your submission to historia.europeana@phil.muni.cz. The subject of your e-mail should go like: "title of your paper + your name". Example: Czech Emigration + Martin Denis.
- The designed outcome of the conference is an article in [Studia Historica Brunensia](#), a peer-reviewed periodical.
- The organizers reserve the right to reject submissions which do not meet the set criteria. All submissions will be reviewed before publishing.

Contact details

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