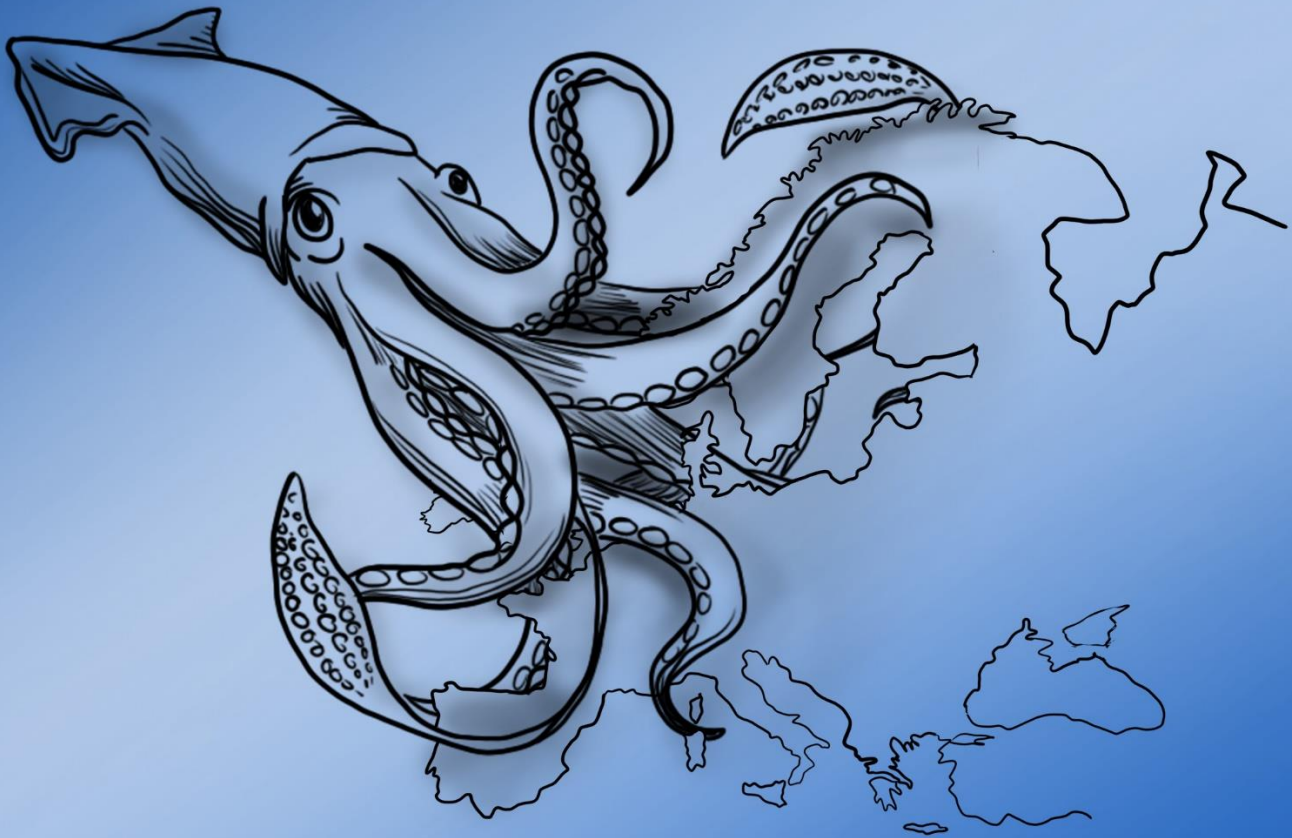


**Historia Europæana,
The Department of History at Masaryk University
and Moravian Matice (Matice moravská)**

invite you the 9th annual
International Postgraduate (Doctoral) Conference

**Rethinking 20th
Century Europe:
In Giant's Shade**



7th - 8th November 2022

**South Moravian Region conference hall,
Žerotínovo náměstí 449/3, Brno
(and, if necessary, also ONLINE)**

More information at: www.historiaeuropæana.eu

HISTORIA
EUROPEANA

MUNI Historický
ARTS ústav

M

jihomoravský kraj

The 9th annual *Rethinking 20th Century Europe* conference will take place on November 7th - 8th, 2021. This year's conference will discuss topics that might almost echo the themes of Old Testament.

On the very first glance, the topic of this year's conference – *In Giant's Shade/In Shadow of Giant* – invites associations related to the common Judeo-Christian foundation of the European civilization. Ultimately, the battle of David and Goliath is, as a symbol of unequal odds and perseverance of the underdog, an image that has been guiding and inspiring us for centuries. A giant can be dealt with in many ways – he can be fought, but his shade can also provide cover. Alternatively, he can be reasoned with for mutually beneficial conditions, as can be observed in nature. For example, there are the oxpeckers – small birds that live off parasites on the bodies of rhinos and other big mammals of Africa. This year, we want to dedicate our conference to all different ways of asymmetrical coexistence. A hegemon, in role of the proverbial giant, can come in all shapes and sizes – a regional or global power, a dominating social or political force or a trend of ideas that sets the tone of a certain group. Thus, we can talk about a wide array of questions, from colonization and strategies of resistance or coping of the colonized territories, to issues of collaboration with elements of an occupation regime that an individual internally disagrees with. The debate can take us from the approaches of small countries in the bipolar world of the second half of 20th century to the problems of everyday trade-offs in an environment where individuals submit themselves to the others' idea of a general direction for a given collective. However, we should not forget about the primary association that we mentioned in the very beginning – stubborn resistance (or resolution to resist) against a greater and stronger foe is, in the end, an idea that doubtlessly resounds in the entire society these days. We will gladly include submissions analysing different forms of asymmetry of power or social structures and, above all, the ways the minor party attempts to change its situation, to attune to it or – however paradoxical it might sound – to profit from it.

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

1. day 7. November 2022

9:00-10:00 Attendance

10:00-10:30 Opening ceremony

Mgr. Ondřej Varad'a, *Historia Europæana*, z. s.
doc. Mgr. Tomáš Malý, Ph.D., Department Head, Department of History,
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University
prof. PhDr. Jiří Hanuš, Ph.D., Vice-rector for Personnel and Academic
Affairs, Masaryk University

10:30-
12:00 Panel A

Czechoslovakia and Europe in the 20th Century (in Czech)

10:30 Mgr. Dana Vedra

Department of History
Faculty of Arts
Masaryk University

Nazi Germanization policy in Central Europe

The paper focuses on the Nazi settlement policy in Central Europe during the years of World War II, with a focus on the displacement of inhabitants due to the creation or expansion of military training groups in occupied Czechoslovakia and Poland, many of these relocations took place and played a key role in the Nazi policy of Germanization.

In addition to the state of existing research on the subject, the paper will focus on delineating the basic contours of these plans, which were presented by the occupiers themselves primarily as military needs of the Reich. In fact, it was one of the few Germanization plans implemented, the main process of which was to take place after the victorious war. The paper will also attempt to compare the situation in neighbouring countries and thus arrive at new directions in which further research can be directed. The forced internal migration of the Czech and Polish ethnic groups and the subsequent post-war displacement of the German population from the area of Central and Central Eastern Europe had a major impact on the shape of Europe in the second half of the 20th century and its effects can still be encountered today. We can also use this analogy to observe how seemingly marginal migration processes can trigger large population migration in the dicta of a great giant, in this case the Nazi eagle.

10:50 PhDr. Patrik Beňuš

Department of History
Slovak Academy of
Sciences

Years 1938-1945 and their impact on agriculture in Slovakia

The dynamics of 1938, in the context of increasing geopolitical tension, brought about significant changes into the entire economic sector in the territory of the inter-war Czech Republic, which, after March 1939, also dominated the subsequent production in the agricultural sector in the territory of Slovakia. With the adoption of the protection agreement with the secret protocol of 23 March 1939, Slovakia began to integrate into the large-scale economy of Germany, which had been active in the agricultural sector throughout the existence of the Slovak Folk's Republic. The purpose of the contribution is to examine the impact of German economic policy on the agricultural sector in Slovakia.

11:10 Mgr. Ondřej Varad'a

Department of History
Faculty of Arts
Masaryk University

"Pardon Me, Father President, For Writing You Like This": Letters From Members of The Czechoslovak Legion to The President

The article presents letters addressed to the President of the First Czechoslovak Republic (or his office) by the ex-members of the Czechoslovak Legion. These letters, often pleading for the "supreme" intervention or aid, were delegated towards the Office for the Czechoslovak Legion at the Ministry of National Defence, an institution responsible for Legions' affairs during the time, and are still found in its archival funds. The paper aims to analyse these letters as an independent genre, as well as to identify their typical characteristics and observe the development of this phenomenon during the First Czechoslovak Republic. Secondly, it will use the

letters to illustrate the effort of a specific group to achieve its self-perceived claims facing global events and often even existential threat as an example of an asymmetric status and power dynamics.

11:30-12:00 **Discussion**

12:00-

12:45

Lunch (catering)

12:45- **Panel B**

14:15

Power Dynamics in 20th Century Europe (in English)

12:45 **MA Kajetan Stobiecki**

Herder Institute for
Historical Research on
East-Central Europe

Becoming a minority – Germans in Pilsen after 1897 and their perception of group security

In March 1897 Czech candidates won the election to the Pilsen city council, for the first time in history also taking over the first curia – the richest and most influential electorate. Local Germans, after centuries of dominating the city's life, were suddenly left without political representation. Later this year the Badeni-crisis escalated in open anti-German and anti-Jewish violence. The German community, although still strong in terms of wealth, social standing, and cultural initiatives, clearly found itself in position of a threatened minority. In my paper I would like to examine the effect this power shift had on its identity and security perception.

13:05 **Dr. Nataša Henig Mišičič**
PhD.

Institute of
Contemporary History
Ljubljana

The challenges of the Savings Bank of Drava Banovina during the Great Depression in the 1930s

The study of the problems of everyday trade-offs taken by the Savings Bank of Drava Banovina, Ljubljana, while managing crises on different levels during the 1930s reveals the emergence of public distrust towards financial institutions. The savings bank mainly dealt with the pressure from depositors, while the general panic was influenced by a lack of solid information about bank portfolio values and the macroeconomic situation. The measures taken by the state and National Bank were indeed insufficient and ineffective, which worsened the relationship between the savings bank and its customers.

13:25 **MA Anna Grutza**

Central European
University

Quo Vadis Socialism in Mieczysław Rakowski's Polityka? Political Journalism in the Shadows of the Soviet Union, China and Gomułka

In this paper, I will introduce Mieczysław Rakowski, editor of Polityka, and his memoirs that are today archived by the Hoover Institution Archives at Stanford University, in order to analyze Rakowski's thoughts on political journalism and revisionism in early Cold War Poland. Zooming-in to his notes and reflections on the right path to communism, I aim to work out how journalism within the communist block offered a space of pluralism and opinion shaping/making despite the official dogma of party unity across communist countries in the late 1950s to 1960s. What particular role did journalists play within the communist power struggles?

I am interested thereby in the tactics of comparison Rakowski used to carve out a sphere for criticism against radical political lines that called back Stalinist times. My analysis shall unfold around a double juxtaposition: On the one hand, Poland's relative liberties in the shadows of China and the Soviet Union, on the other, Rakowski's political writing and activism in the shadow of Władysław Gomułka political leadership in Poland.

13:45-14:15 **Discussion**

14:15-

14:30

Coffee break

14:30-
16:30

Panel C

Beyond the Horizon: European Policies Overseas (in English)

14:30
Mohamed Mohamady

Philipps-Universität
Marburg

Egypt in the Soviet Strategy, 1952-1970

As a matter of fact, there was no clear-cut Soviet global scheme for world domination - despite the populist propaganda - but the motives behind the Soviet strategy towards the world were only to protect the borders of the Soviet Union from a possible invasion. The power struggle at the Soviet Union, the problem of Germany and the lack of independent countries in the Third World played a role in the absence of a clear Soviet strategy towards the Third World countries until 1955, when the Czech arms deal was concluded. Although the Soviet Union had been placing Egypt in the centre of its attention since the Bolshevik revolution, it was considered an important base for the British Empire, the Soviet Union preferred to avoid confrontation with Britain, and to focus its attention on Syria.

There was a firm belief expressed by official Soviet publications, that the 1952 coup d'etat was staged by the CIA as part of its struggle for influence against Britain in Egypt. The Soviet officials believed that Nasser and his companions were merely reactionary nationalists, but there was the "Seduction" to put the Soviet horse at the backyard of NATO and Baghdad Pact.

Nasser was a constant source of anxiety for the Soviet Union, and that was partially due to what it saw as recklessness that could lead to a nuclear conflict between the two superpowers. The Soviet Union also agreed with Britain that Arab nationalism was a danger. Hence, the Soviet Union worked against Egypt, and to subjugate it.

14:50
Adam Mordzak

Doctoral School of
Humanities
University of Lodz

British policy towards Japan in the shadow of the outbreak of World War II

Relations between Britain and Japan, allies in the World War I, deteriorated significantly in the 30s when Tokyo undertook a rapid expansion, which London perceived as a direct threat to its own possessions in the Far East. In the summer of 1939, relations were extremely tense. A major change in the situation occurred with the signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and the outbreak of World War II. These events completely remodeled the existing system of alliances. The aim of this paper is to investigate what impact they had on British policy towards Japan.

15:10
Dolly Afoumba

Philipps-Universität
Marburg

Colonisation by money between theory and case study: Introduction of British colonial rule in Kenya

The analysis of Money as a tool of colonisation has gained better scientific consideration in recent years, due to the current international debate on the CFA Franc, the latest colonial currency still in official use as legal tender in 15 former French colonies in Africa.

In this contribution, I intend to study this special function of the unit of exchange in the case of Great Britain in East Africa (Kenya) from the 1900s to the introduction of the British Shilling (1922). I plan to discuss theories and approaches on the issue of economic and specifically monetary colonisation. This is a very important subject, especially today looking at the changes imposed to the world economy through different crises. This historical reminder is therefore important because it shows on a theoretical level how currency influences the power relationships between states, and then concretely refers to historical facts through the example of British colonisation in East Africa. I also plan to highlight the fight of the local community against British colonial changes in their territory, since they were already in a very advanced stage of economic development when Britain arrived. Kenya was the receiving territory for Asians and Europeans through the Indian Ocean.

Inhabited by powerful local traders with economic centres scattered over a large part of the territory, the country was one the most attractive site for exchange in Africa. Kenyans traded with Chinese, Arabs, Indians, and European merchants. When British arrived, they had ambitions beyond trade and quickly realised that whoever controls the currency controls the territory. I propose a theoretical analysis of the concept of colonisation through money (I) and investigate the case of Great Britain in Kenya: the struggle for supremacy and the reaction of the local community (II).

15:30 **Julie Afoumba**
University of Douala

The media during the francophone African independence movements.

The second half of the 20th century was a period of great resistance in Africa, leading to the independence of the former European colonies. This was also the period during which the UN placed these territories under the trusteeship of foreign powers in the aftermath of the Second World War, granting them enormous political authority. Even if the role of Western administrations was no longer basically directed towards colonialism, but rather confined to accompanying African nations described as barbarians, it took a great deal of resistance and bloody wars to achieve the freedom of self-government.

Several studies have highlighted the media's impact and effect in times of conflict. The media can play either a positive or a negative role during conflict. Its influence is positive or neutral when it provides objective information, allowing people to think and act knowledgeably.

In other cases, precisely in conflicts involving democratic claims or asymmetric wars, the media are either manipulated and controlled by a dominant force, or are used to promote the struggle for freedom of a weak or oppressed community. In the case of the struggle for independence in African territories, the colonial authorities owned most of the media and used them to influence local opinion and fight nationalist movements. This was the case in Cameroon, for example, when the French colonial government launched anti-nationalist propaganda and labelled anti-colonial fighters as communists. But through the creation of so-called free media and the support of media owned by supporters of decolonisation, these movements were able to resist colonial pressures.

This contribution proposes to focus on the first decade of the second half of the 20th century. It offers to look at the information war between the French metropolises and the colonies or the nationalist movements in the colonies during the fights for independences(I). I also intend to study the most decisive media expansion, especially in Cameroon that supported the resistance process and led to the independences (II).

15:50-16:30 **Discussion**

16:30-

16:35

Closing remarks of the first day (invitation for the evening)

18:00-

00:00

Wine and Dine (Supper and a social evening)

2. day 8. November 2022

9:00-9:05 Opening of the 2. day

9:05-11:05 Panel D Dilemma of Power and Spirit (in Czech)

9:05
Mgr. Adam Strašák
Department of History
Faculty of Arts
Masaryk University

The Czechoslovak State as a giant protecting churches?

Czechoslovakia between World Wars was a tolerant state. Nevertheless, Czechoslovakia adopted the Austrian Criminal Code from 1852 which protected religion and churches against insults. The author raises several question: How did the state punish criticism of the catholic church? What kind of criticism was punished and what was tolerated? How the state protected itself against criticism of catholic priests? How the state protected the Czechoslovak church? The main source are going to be records of the Regional court in Uherské Hradiště from years 1920-1930.

9:25
Mgr. Jan Ševčík
Department of History
Faculty of Arts
Masaryk University

Occultists in the Reich, Against the Reich and With the Reich

The article dissects the situation of Czechoslovak occultists during the existence of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. In the first part, it will map out the influence of German and Austrian occultism on the founding of NSDAP and also the relation between the Nazi party and the occult. The second part will concern Czechoslovak occultism. Here, the article will briefly introduce modern history of the occult in Czechoslovakia, as well as lay out the character and composition of the Czechoslovak occult scene in 1930s, eventually concentrating the critical years 1938 and 1939. The third part will analyze the Czechoslovak occult during the Nazi occupation. It will describe the Reich-wide anti-occultist repressions of 1941, also known as „Aktion Hess“, as well as discuss the involvement of the occultists with the resistance or their collaboration with the Reich. The article will include examples of latest archival findings about the topic.

9:45
Mgr. Petra Černá
Department of History
Faculty of Arts
Masaryk University

Serving the Church and the State? Alfred Fuchs Trying to Concord Two Currents

During the First Czechoslovak Republic, Alfred Fuchs – a journalist by trade – stood, by his own words, between two currents. As a Catholic, he had an affinity for the political right. However at the same time, his opinions aligned with those of the so-called Castle Group and he also worked for the state press. His division between the two colliding parties becomes the most evident in his contemplations on linking his political opinions and religious beliefs. The paper analyses Fuchs' advocacy for democracy from his position of a Catholic intellectual and his endeavour to concord the two conflicting currents.

10:05
Mgr. Jakub Marša
Department of History
Faculty of Arts
Masaryk University

Image of the Soviet Union in the Environment of the Czechoslovak Church after February 1948

The paper offers a look into the church environment in Czechoslovakia after February 1948. The first part deals with the way in which the Soviet Union was portrayed in the official press of the Czechoslovak Church after February 1948. The Soviet Union represented an ideal model for many European Communist regimes of the Eastern Bloc. Here, the paper presents the dominant themes associated with the Soviet Union in public space. The second part reflects upon the level of response to the presented discourse among priests and believers of the Czechoslovak Church in Brno. In this way, the paper connects research from the position of the center with the local history of everyday life. The topic is bounded by the years 1948–1960, i.e. a timeline that allows to take into account the possible changes in the image of the Soviet Union during the dynamic

		1950s.
10:25-11:05	Discussion	
11:05-11:20		Coffee break
11:20-13:20	Panel E	Theory of Power? Ideas and Policy/Politics of the Power Discourse (in Czech)
11:20	Mgr. Et Mgr. David Mareček Department of History Faculty of Arts University of Hradec Králové	Policy of Middle Way: The American Response to Military Intervention in Poland and Hungary in 1956 In terms of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union, 1956 was a very complicated year. After a partial improvement in mutual relations after Stalin's death in 1953, this deterioration occurred mainly due to the military suppression of demonstrations in Poland and Hungary. These suppressions in so called „Soviet satellite nations“ took place within a few months, and their scale made these events a major theme for US foreign policy. This article will focus on the Eisenhower foreign policy approach to Eastern bloc following the events in Poznan and Budapest.
11:40	Klára Pinerová, Ph.D. Institute for Contemporary History	Unfinished Justice: the Role of Civil Society in the Rehabilitation Process During the 1960s, democratization and the creation of a civil society gradually took place in Czechoslovakia. As part of these tendencies, the political regime tried to deal with its own past, which culminated in the law on judicial rehabilitation in 1968. The aim of the paper is to analyze the possibilities of civil society to influence the course of rehabilitation and support the process of transitive justice. Attention will be focused primarily on the activities of two associations (Klub 231 /Club 231/ and Svaz protifašistických bojovníků /Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters - SPB/). In particular, SPB played an important role in the rehabilitation process as a social advocate and founder of rehabilitation counseling and commissions. Its role has not yet been sufficiently clarified.
12:00	Mgr. Jakub Švec, Ph.D. Department of Philosophy Faculty of Humanities University of Žilina	Why liberalism became the hegemon in political discourse from the point of view of political philosophy - analysis and criticism In this article, I have the ambition to clarify the causes and the consequences of the dominance of the ideology of liberalism in the contemporary world through the method of analysis, synthesis and comparison. Within the era which is full of misinterpretations and imprecise or misleading names of political reality, we consider this to be important to define the differences and similarities between the above-mentioned terms "liberalism", "political liberalism" and "liberal democracy, while we have the ambition to point out their mutual relationship and interconnectedness, which in ultimately led to the current leading position in political philosophy as well as political practice.
12:20	Mgr. et Mgr. Jaromír Dvořák Department of Czech History Faculty of Arts Charles University	Cross-cultural transfer as a tool of historical research It is obvious that cultural transfer shows great interdisciplinarity, and therefore its research must also go beyond the focus of one science. Cultural transfer can be observed on several levels. At the level of language, it is about accepting new terms or changing their meaning. At a higher level, one can consider the transfer of theoretical concepts, especially philosophical theories affecting the approach to the world and life. Thus, it is only a step to transfer of practices and behaviours. In research conceived in this way, it is possible to follow the emergence of the global world in its initial stages. At the same time, this method can show the relationship between the centre and the periphery, where cultural exchange proceeds unilaterally, but on many levels. This approach allows us to

see the transfer of emancipatory theories as well as socially and ecologically destructive theories, e.g. pure economic liberalism. For that reason, by changing the method, it is possible to deliver multi-layered conclusions without declaring epistemological objectivity.

12:40-13:20 **Discussion**

13:20 **Mgr. Michal Mako**
Historia Europeana,
z.S.

Closing remarks

Schedule change reserved

Conference Venue

South Moravian Region Conference Hall,
Žerotínovo náměstí 449/3



GPS: 49.1987458N, 16.6044292E

Important places associated with the conference:

<https://goo.gl/maps/WXXNCHnx7oejzkCV8>

Traffic Connection

The closest stop to the conference venue is **Česká** (tram lines n. **3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10**, trolleybus lines n. **32, 34, 36**)

All necessary information about traffic in Brno (schedules, network plans, tickets, emergency situations, current or planned diversions) can be found at: <https://www.idsjmk.cz/index>

Catering at the Conference

Conference fee covers refreshments during both days of the conference (cold cuts, fruits, vegetables, hot and cold drinks) and, on the first day of the conference (November 7th), a lunch at the conference venue and a dinner (at 18:00) at the restaurant U Lucerny (Veverí Street No. 20) nearby. Please do fill in the **online catering form** below, which will help us order the correct number of meals and catering of your preference.

Catering Form :

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdEpQMTQgIy8_tmK0TfZFU0MeDFVkyXrqblLL7GVRw45cvBsA/viewform?usp=sharing

Restaurant : <http://www.u-lucerny.cz/>

Contact Details

Webpage : <https://www.historiaeuropeana.eu/>

Email : historia.europeana@phil.muni.cz

Facebook Event : <https://www.facebook.com/events/5622454141141579>