

Spring 2026

Bogazici University

Ataturk Institute

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Ata 556 History of Eastern Europe

Course description:

Analysis of history and politics of Eastern Europa and Balkans. The goal of the course is to make the participants familiar with the historical roots of the current problems of East European and Balkan societies. The course will concentrate its focus on the history of the region until the end of the Cold War. It will cover subjects such as Origins of the East European and Balkan Backwardness; Emergence of the National Movements; East European and Balkan Politics in the Interwar Period; Economic and Social History of Cold War Eastern Europe and Balkans; Consumption and Daily Life in Cold War Eastern Europe and Balkans; Revolutions in Eastern Europe and Balkans; Religion in Post-Communist Society; Minorities, Ethnicity and Nationalism in Eastern Europe and Balkans; Current Trends in Eastern Europe and Balkans.

The basic requirements:

- 1)Required readings in this syllabus,
- 2) Regular attendance and participation in class discussions,
- 3)The students will write a research paper (10-15 single spaced pages) on a related topic.

Evaluation:

Grades will be weighted as follows:

Attendance and Participation in Class Discussions 15 %

Presentations 40 %

Research paper 45 %

1) Origins of Backwardness of Eastern Europe and Balkans

Dieter Segert, "Is There Really Something Like "Eastern Europe"? And If So, Why Do We Need Area Studies of It?" *Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe*, 23:1(2015), pp. 81-96.

Robert Brenner, "Economic Backwardness in Eastern Europe in Light of Developments in the West," in: Daniel Chirot (ed.), *The Origins of Backwardness in Eastern Europe. Economics and Politics from the Middle Ages until the Early Twentieth Century* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989), pp. 15-52.

John R. Lampe, "Imperial Borderlands or Capitalist Periphery ? Redefining Balkan Backwardness, 1520-1914," in: Daniel Chirot (ed.), *The Origins of Backwardness in Eastern Europe. Economics and Politics from the Middle Ages until the Early Twentieth Century* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989), pp. 177-209.

2) Emergence of National Movements

Barbara Jelavich, *History of the Balkans. Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries. V.1* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994), pp. 171-234; 300-376.

Barbara Jelavich, *History of the Balkans. Twentieth Century. V.2* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994), pp. 51-134.

Aydın Babuna, "Nationalism and the Bosnian Muslims," *East European Quarterly*, Vol.33, No.2, pp. 195, 218.

3) East European and Balkan Politics in the Inter-War Period

Robert Bideleux, Ian Jeffries (eds.), *A History of Eastern Europe. Crisis and Change* (London: Routledge, 1998), pp. 405-516.

R.J. Crampton, *Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century and After* (London: Routledge, 1997), pp. 31-151

4) Social and Economic History of Cold War Eastern Europe and Balkans

Jan Gross, "War as Revolution," in Norman Naimark, Leonid Gibianskii (eds.), *The Establishment of Communist Regimes in Eastern Europe* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1997), pp 17-35.

Ivan T. Berend, *Central and Eastern Europe 1944-1993. Detour from the Periphery to the Periphery* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp. 182-253.

5) Consumption and Daily Life in Cold War Eastern Europe and Balkans

Pauline Bren, "Tuzex and the Hustler. Living it Up in Czechoslovakia," in Paulina Bren, Mary Neuburger(eds.), *Communism Unwrapped* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012), pp. 29-48.

Mary Neuburger, "The Taste of Smoke. Bulgartabak and the Manufacturing of Cigarettes and Satisfaction," in Paulina Bren, Mary Neuburger (eds.), *Communism Unwrapped* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012), pp. 91-115.

Patrick Hyder Patterson, *RiskyBusiness. What was Really Being Sold in the Department Stores of Socialist Eastern Europe?*" in Paulina Bren, Mary Neuburger (eds.), *Communism Unwrapped* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012), pp. 116-139.

Jill Massino, *From Black Caviar to Blackouts. Gender, Consumption, and Lifestyle in Ceșescu's Romania*," in Paulina Bren, Mary Neuburger (eds.), *Communism Unwrapped* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012), pp. 226-249.

Joanna Zalewska, Marcin Jewdokimow, "The Wall Unit: State policy and the Emergence of Fashion in People's Poland," *Journal of Consumer Culture* (2022), Vol. 22 (4), pp. 1032–1048.

Adriana Mihaela Soaita, "Overcrowding and 'underoccupancy' in Romania: a Case Study of Housing Inequality," *Environment and Planning*, vol.46 (2014), pp. 203–221.

6) Revolutions in Eastern Europe and Balkans

Ivan T. Berend, *Central and Eastern Europe 1944-1993. Detour from the Periphery to the Periphery* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp. 254-299.

Attila Agh, *Emerging Democracies in East Central Europe and the Balkans* (Cheltenham: Studies of Communism in Transition, 1998), pp 113-140; 165-186.

7) Political Culture, Political Parties and Elections in Post-Communist Eastern Europe and Balkans

George Schöpflin, *Politics in Eastern Europe 1945-1992* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1993), pp. 5-37.

Frances Millard, *Elections, Parties, and Representation in Post- Communist Europe* (New York: Palgrave, 2004), pp. 18-46.

Dorota Szelewa, "Recurring ideas: Searching for the Roots of Right-Wing Populism in Eastern Europe," *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, Vol. 23 (6) (2020), pp. 989–997

Anastasiya Astapova, Onoriu Colăcel, Corneliu Pintilescu, and Tamás Scheibner, "Eastern Europe in the Global Traffic of Conspiracy Theories," In: Anastasiya Astapova, Onoriu

Colacel, Corneliu Pintilescu, Tamás Scheibner (eds.) *Conspiracy Theories in Eastern Europe. Tropes and Trends* (London: Routledge, 2022), pp. 1-15.

Jessie Barton Hronešová, "The Uses of Victimhood as a Hegemonic Metanarrative in Eastern Europe," *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, (2022), pp. 1-17.

8) Religion in Post-Communist Society

Paula Franklin Lytle, "Religion and Politics in Eastern Europe," in: Sabrina P. Ramet (ed.), *Eastern Europe. Politics, Culture, and Society since 1939* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998), pp. 304-324.

Ina Merdjanova, "Religious Liberty, New Religious Movements and Traditional Christian Churches in Eastern Europe," *Religion, State & Society*, 29:4 (2001), pp. 265-304.

Katarzyna Górak-Sosnowska, "Muslims in Europe: Different Communities, One Discourse? Adding the Central and Eastern European perspective," In: Katarzyna Górak-Sosnowska (ed.) *Muslims in Poland and Eastern Europe. Widening the European Discourse on Islam* (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2011), pp. 12-25.

Peter Balogh, "Clashing Geopolitical Self-Images ? The Strange Co-existence of Christian Bulwark and Eurasianism (Turanism) in Hungary," *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 63:6, (2022), pp. 726-752.

Anna Grzymala-Busse, *Thy will be done? Religious Nationalism and Its Effects in East Central Europe, East European Politics and Societies and Cultures*, Vol. 29, 2 (2015), pp. 338-351.

9) Minorities, Ethnicity and Nationalism in Eastern Europe and Balkans

John Coakly, "National Identity and the Kohn dichotomy," *Nationalities Papers*, Vol. 46, No. 2, (2018), pp. 252-271.

Aydın Babuna, "Bosnian Muslims during the Cold War," in Philip E. Muehlenbeck (ed.), *Religion and the Cold War. A Global Perspective* (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 2012), pp. 182-205.

Ognen Vangelov, "The Primordialisation of Ethnic Nationalism in Macedonia," *Europe-Asia Studies*, Vol.71, No .2, March 2019, pp. 203-224.

Evgenia Ivanova, *Islam, State and Society in Bulgaria: New Freedoms, Old Attitudes?* *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*, Vol.19, No.1 (2017), pp. 35-52.

Anna Batta, *The Russian Minorities in the Former Soviet Republics. Secession, Integration, and Homeland* (Routledge: London, 2021), pp. 60-100.

Damian Strycharz, "Dominant Narratives, External Shocks, and the Russian Annexation of Crimea," *Problems of Post-Communism*, 69:2 (2022), pp. 133-144.

10) Current Trends in Eastern Europe and Balkans

Jan Zielonka & Jacques Rupnik, "From Revolution to Counter-Revolution: Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe 30 Years On," *Europe-Asia Studies*, 2020, vol.72, No.6, pp. 1073-1099.

Dejan Jović, "Post-Yugoslav States Thirty Years after 1991: Unfinished Businesses of a Fivefold Transition," *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*, 24:2 (2022), pp. 193-222.

Andrea Petö, "The Illiberal Memory Politics in Hungary," *Journal of Genocide Research*, Vol.24, No.2 (2022), pp. 241-249.

Liridon Lika, "The Meaning of the Western Balkans Concept for the EU: Genuine Inclusion or Polite Exclusion?" *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies* (2023), pp. 1-16

Paweł Surowiec & Václav Štětko, "Introduction: Media and Illiberal Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe," *East European Politics*, 36:1 (2020), pp. 1-8

Ivan Kalmar, "The East is Just Like the West, Only More So: Islamophobia and Populism in Eastern Germany and the East of the European Union," *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, 2019, pp.1-12.