

24. Berliner Colloquium zur Zeitgeschichte

**Sino-Soviet Relations and the Global Cold War**

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*Questionnaire*

**Session 1: The Sino-Soviet Alliance**

**Speaker: Elizabeth McGuire (California State University)**

**Chair: Bernd Greiner (Hamburg Institute for Social Research)**

What prompted the alliance from the perspectives of both the Soviet Union and China? What caused the split? What might we learn from new and broader approaches to Sino-Soviet relations that take us well beyond the concerns of high-level leaders? Did Russia and China share historic similarities and dilemmas (social structure, agrarian society, endurance of dynasties, challenge of the West and its power) that contributed to the making of the alliance? Did China's frustration with the Soviet Union and the experience of bloc collaboration influence the development of its domestic campaigns, such as the Great Leap Forward and even the later Cultural Revolution? What did China "learn from the Soviet Union"? How important was the relationship to the course of Soviet domestic and foreign policy? Was China ever successful in its efforts to appeal to the East European bloc states in its challenge to the Soviet Union?

**Session 2: The Global South**

**Speaker: Jeremy S. Friedman (Harvard University)**

**Chair: Lorenz Lüthi (McGill University)**

What happened to the Third World, the "spirit of Bandung," and the Nonaligned Movement? What was the impact of the three-way competition between the United States, the Soviet Union, and China for influence in the Third World? Were Third World states and their leaders able to use the superpower rivalries to

further their own interests? Did China's opposition to the Soviet Union broaden the possibilities for Third World leaders and movements? Was there some accuracy to Chinese claims about Soviet "revisionism" in the conduct of its foreign policy, both toward the West and toward the new "national-liberation movements" and "newly liberated" states of the decolonizing world? How ambitious was the Soviet Union in the global Cold War? Did the Soviets place missiles in Cuba in part in response to Chinese criticism of Soviet foreign policy? Did the Sino-Soviet rivalry contribute to the accelerating militarization of the conflict in Vietnam? Did presumably subordinate states within the socialist world, such as the DDR, pursue their own agendas, and what were they?

**Session 3: The Sino-American Strategic Realignment**

**Speaker: Yafeng Xia (Long Island University)**

**Chair: Daniel Leese (Freiburg University)**

To what extent did the deteriorating and volatile Sino-Soviet relationship of the 1960s inspire the surprising Sino-American reconciliation of the 1970s? How serious were the Sino-Soviet border conflicts of the 1960s? How did political figures and publics in both the U.S. and China justify and understand the momentous transformation of their policies? How important were the Chinese efforts to normalize relations with West Europeans such as the French? How significant were the intelligence and military dimensions to the U.S.-Chinese relationship, and what were their implications for the evolution of the global Cold War? To what extent were the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc states aware of the economic challenges posed by the new US-PRC relationship? To what extent, if any, were Americans aware of the possible consequences?

**Session 4: The Global Assembly System and its Consequences**

**Speaker:** Lorenz Lüthi (McGill University)  
and Oscar Sanchez-Sibony (University of Hongkong)  
**Chair:** Sören Urbansky (Munich University)

How did China's experience with both the socialist world and the Third World shape the emergence of its state-sponsored export-oriented model of development? Was this an unlikely alliance between the Chinese Communist Party and international corporations and capital? What were the consequences of this arrangement? What new hierarchies of development have emerged in the contemporary global-assembly system? Did the Soviet Union and Russia ever make an effort to imitate the Chinese approach to development? How significant and effective are the new forms of cooperation across Eurasia that have emerged from the 1990s? Has the Russian-Chinese relationship become a surprising reversal of the former "Great Friendship," with the contemporary Russian Federation unprepared to participate in the new global-assembly system, and instead serving largely as a supplier of oil and natural gas to an increasingly influential China?

*Suggested Readings*

- William C. Kirby, China's Internationalization in the Early People's Republic: Dreams of a Socialist World Economy, in: *China Quarterly*. 188 (2006): 870-90
- David C. Engerman, The Second World's Third World, in: *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History*. 12 (2011), 1: 183-211
- Chen Jian, China's changing policies toward the Third World and the end of the Global War, in: Artemy M. Kalinovskym Sergey Radchenko (eds.), *The End of the Cold War and the Third World. New perspectives on regional conflict*, London/New York 2011: 101-21
- Patrick Neveling, Export Processing Zones, Special Economic Zones and the Long March of Capitalist Development Policies during the Cold War, in: Leslie James, Elisabeth Leaks (eds.), *Decolonization and the Cold War: Negotiating Independence*, London 2015: 63-84
- Gilbert Rozman, Strategic Thinking about the Russian Far East: A Resurgent Russia Eyes Its Future in Northeast Asia, in: *Problems of Communism*. 55 (2008), 1: 36-48