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Европейская исследовательская группа по истории Коминтерна, коммунизма и сталинизма

The International Newsletter of Historical Studies on Comintern, Communism and Stalinism

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Studien zur Geschichte der Komintern, des Kommunismus und des Stalinismus
Исследования по истории Коминтерна, коммунизма и сталинизма

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Introducing Newsletter

We have the pleasure to present you a new project, *The Newsletter of Historical Studies on Comintern, communism and stalinism*.

Some historians of the younger generation from Germany, France, Yugoslavia, Switzerland and the Soviet Union have taken this initiative.

Drawing from their experience with the work on international historical editions of documents and other basic scientific publications, they created a loose association - network for cooperation and common projects, the *European Work and Research-Group: International Historical Workshop on Communism and Stalinism*..

The starting point was the generally felt need for a better information and coordination, the internationally comparative research field on Comintern, communism and stalinism still being neglected. Up to now it was represented nearly exclusively in its unbearable form as legitimation and "power - science" for the official history writing of the parties of the so called countries of "real socialism". Times are, fortunately, changing. The certainly most important archives, firmly closed until now, are opening. With the opening of the former Soviet Party- and State - Archives the expectations on this already demanding research field are growing.

The Newsletter focusses on the history of international communism in a large sense and includes international socialist and communist and other international movements from the beginning of the XXth century up to the end of World war II. Within these broad topics special attention is payed to the history of Comintern, communist parties including especially the Russian and Soviet Communist Party. The Newsletter will particularly dedicate itself to the beginning process of uncovering the European past.

The Newsletter will bring original contributions in German, English and French.

The Newsletter does not intend to be another scientific review, but to bring basic information at a short notice. It wants to encourage the exchange of tips and topics and inform about the infrastructure, sources, litterature, undergoing or planned projects and trends in the international landscape of research and archives. At first, it was conceived as an instrument for bibliographical questions and other information of the *European Work- and Research Group - International Historical Workshop on Communism and Stalinism*..

As a bibliographical aid the Newsletter shall inform about new publications covering a certain period of the history of Comintern and Communist parties as far as they are relevant for the international relations. These bibliographies shall also cover the so-called "grey litterature" (unpublished papers, programmes of symposiums, catalogues, etc.). On the long term the setting up of a databank, which will be at the disposal of international research as an online databank, is planned.

It is not only in the East of Europe that a process of reassessment of history is starting which will - as concerns the scope of the Russian archives - take dimensions unknown up to now. This calls for international collaboration. In its modest dimensions, *The Newsletter* tries to offer an international forum where to publish original documents and plan editions. Furthermore, *The Newsletter* will bring information on new or up to now closed archives and international activities of the scientific community in this sense. It ist therefore grateful to be informed about the respective events.

The reports as workshops and papers are meant to give scholars the opportunity to discuss their work already at an early stage, even in a state of preliminary reflexions. This should be an incentive to a scientific cooperation over borders - an essential condition for an international historical research about communism and stalinism.

The Newsletter will appear thrice a year. Articles are to be send in - if possible - on the programm "word" for Apple Macintosh on floppy disk. All kind of material support (hardware, software, stamps, papers, etc.) is welcome.

The presentation will be more unified in the next editions. For Russian names the scientific transliteration is used. Only the best known names (such as Lenin, Stalin, Bucharin, Zinov'ev, Trockij) should be written in their commonly used spelling in French and English texts: Lénine, Staline, Boukharine, Zinoviev, Trotsky).

The next edition of *The Newsletter* plans to bring an actual report on the Moscow archives and on the initiatives taken for the conservation of the Comintern - Archives. It will also contain a bibliography of the pamphlets from the Twenties and Thirties in the Bibliothèque de Jules Humbert-Droz in La Chaux-de-Fonds, a complete bibliography on Comintern and the reassessment of history in the Soviet Union and Russia during the year 1990, the continuation and completion of Russian titles, research reports on several master's and doctoral thesis such as on the International Red Aid, the Swiss Communist Party, etc. The editorial date is the 1st of May 1992. All kind of propositions are - of course - welcome.

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