

The Cultural and Academic Relations between the Eastern Bloc Countries and the West during the Cold War Period

Soviet–Japanese Cultural and Scientific Ties during the Cold War

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The aim of this essay is to analyze the establishment and development of cultural relationships between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and Japan during the Cold War period. After World War II, the Soviet and Japanese people tried to overcome the political and social obstacles that arose as a result of World War II through cultural and academic exchange. For this development, Moscow's policy of peaceful coexistence under Khrushchev and the resumption of official diplomatic relations between the USSR and Japan in 1956 were of great importance. It created the basis to promote cultural and academic cooperation as well as mutual understanding between the citizens of both countries. This study evaluates not only relevant literature and publications, but also archival sources and documents.

Polish–German Musical Relations during the Cold War Era: The Role of Politics and Personal Contacts

Anna G. Piotrowska

This paper discusses cultural relations during the Cold War between the Polish People's Republic and two German states: the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), with a focus on the realm of music. It explores the similarities and differences between these contacts as conditioned by various political circumstances. The paper underlines the different trajectories of these contacts by looking at so-called serious and popular music, drawing on several illustrative examples. Furthermore, the role of private links in sustaining and developing these mutual relations is emphasized, since the paper argues that despite official attempts to normalize contact between Poland and the FRG and despite seemingly good relations between Poland and the GDR, musical collaborations were also developing due to private contacts and initiatives undertaken by individuals (musicians, journalists).

The Cultural Policy of the Soviet Union during the Cold War Period and the Ukrainian Question
Viktoriia Vitalievna Soloshenko

This essay explores the cultural development of the Ukrainian Soviet Republic in the framework of the Soviet Union's cultural policy during the Cold War, especially during the thaw under Khrushchev in the 1950s and 1960s. As one of the founding members of the Soviet Union in 1922, Ukraine initiated a number of important social transformations under the ruling of the Communist Party of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). During the Stalin era, Ukrainian national culture was severely suppressed. After de-Stalinization in 1956, many positive changes occurred in the cultural life of the USSR. Therefore, the main focus of this essay is the influence that this thaw period exerted on the development of Ukrainian national culture. It also clarifies the extent to which the revival of Ukrainian tradition was promoted, alongside the limits that the Moscow Soviet government maintained.

The Socialist Unity Party of Germany's Cultural Policy in the Field of Literature
Frank Riesner

In the German Democratic Republic (GDR), all areas of life were under the control of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED). Everyone had to do their part to build socialism. More reading was done in the GDR than anywhere else. The need for reading materials was not simply satisfied by the SED. It was also, like other areas of culture, used for propaganda purposes. The influence of the dictatorship can be shown very well in the field of literature. Thus, this essay proposes to study the cultural policy of the SED. It is precisely the restriction of the freedom of artists through various political measures in different epochs of GDR history that is of current importance again today, where freedoms are not only restricted in dictatorships, but also in democracies.