



ЦЕНТЪР ЗА ОБУЧЕНИЕ – БАИ

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Basic Information:

Course Title: Balkans and the Cold War

Lecturer: Professor Nadia Boyadjieva, Ph.D. in History (Modern and Contemporary World History (Balkan History), Doctor of Sciences in Law (International Law & International Relations)

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Total Teaching Hours: 30 hours lecture course, 20 credits

Annotation (up to 150 words)

This course examines the role of the Balkans in the international system from the Second World War to the end of the Cold War. Special attention is given to the influence of external powers on both sides of the “Iron Curtain,” as well as to key events such as the collapse of the Soviet Union, the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, and the violent breakup of Yugoslavia, which led to a series of conflicts in the region.

The course covers the place and significance of countries such as Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Romania, Albania, and Yugoslavia at a time when Europe was divided by the Cold War, as well as the policies of major world powers toward the region. It explores political, economic, diplomatic, military-strategic, and cultural dimensions of the confrontation, along with the impact of global crises on the Balkans. Particular emphasis is placed on the use of diverse historiographical and archival sources, including declassified materials made available after 1989.

Course content (brief description by topics or modules)

Topic / Module 1: The role of the Balkans in the bipolar international system during the Cold War.

Topic / Module 2: The influence of external powers on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

Topic / Module 3: The Balkans as a geopolitical and cultural boundary between East and West.

Topic / Module 4: The position of individual Balkan states within the global conflict.

Topic / Module 5: The policies of the great powers toward the Balkans (1945–1989).

Topic / Module 6: Political and diplomatic aspects of the Cold War in the region.

Topic / Module 7: Military-strategic dimensions of confrontation in the Balkans.

Topic / Module 8: Economic and cultural processes in the Cold War context.

Topic / Module 9: The collapse of the Eastern Bloc and its regional consequences.

Topic / Module 10: The breakup of Yugoslavia and the Balkan wars of the 1990s.

Teaching and assessment methods

Hybrid form of learning

Written form of assessment

Competencies acquired as a result of training (3–5 points)



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- In-depth understanding of the Balkans' role in international relations during the Cold War.
- Ability to analyze political, diplomatic, and military-strategic processes in the region.
- Capacity for critical use of historiographical and archival sources.
- Ability to interpret the impact of global conflicts on regional developments.

Literature:

Boyadjieva, Nadia. The USSR and Yugoslavia's Policy of Nonalignment, 1955–1980. (Chapter 16). – The Soviet Union and Cold War Neutrality and Nonalignment in Europe. Ed. M. Kramer; A. Makko and P. Ruggenthaler. The Harvard Cold War Studies Book Series. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2021, pp. 356-375.

Boyadjieva, N. Bulgaria, CSCE, and West German Ostpolitik. (Chapter 19) – In: West German Ostpolitik, the Soviet Union, and East-West Détente in Europe. Michael Borchard, Stefan Karner, Peter Ruggenthaler, Hanns Jürgen Küsters (Anthology Editors). The Harvard Cold War Studies Book Series, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2026, pp. 417 – 433.....

The Balkans in the Cold War (Ed. by Rajak, Svetozar et al). London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017

Boyadjieva, N. Sasht I konfliktat v Bosna i Hercegovina (1989–1995). [USA and the Conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina] Sofia: Daniela Ubenova publishers, 2000 (in Bulgarian, summary in English)

Boyadjieva, N. Nationalism, Ethnic Tensions, and the Violent Break-Up of Yugoslavia in the 1990s. – In: " Knowledge, Science, Technologies, Innovations “. Scientific Conference Proceedings, Veliko Tarnovo”. 4/2023, pp. 186-197. Available at: <https://www.cceol.com/search/article-detail?id=1270606>

Boyadjieva, N. Political Upheavals and Regime Change in Bulgaria, 1985-1989. – In: " Knowledge, Science, Technologies, Innovations “. Scientific Conference Proceedings, Veliko Tarnovo, 2023, 4/2023, pp. 610-619. Available at: <https://www.cceol.com/search/article-detail?id=1270691>

Boyadjieva, N. "NATO Peacekeeping and Balkan Security". – In: " Knowledge, Science, Technologies, Innovations “. Scientific Conference Proceedings, Veliko Tarnovo, 2024, 1, 2024, pp. 703-718. Available at: <https://www.cceol.com/search/article-detail?id=1271528>

Hayden, Robert. Blueprints for a House Divided: The Constitutional Logic of the Yugoslav Conflicts. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1999.

Iatrides, John O. Revolution or Self-Defense? Communist Goals, Strategy, and Tactics in the Greek Civil War', Journal of Cold War Studies, Vol. 7, No. 3, 2005.

Ingrao, C. & T. A. Emmert (Eds.) Confronting the Yugoslav Controversies: A Scholars' Initiative Washington DC: USIP & Purdue University Press, 2012

Kramer, Mark. 'Stalin, Soviet Policy, and the Establishment of a Communist Bloc in Eastern Europe, 1941-1949,' in Mark Kramer and Vít Smetana, eds., Imposing, Maintaining, and Tearing Open the Iron Curtain: East-Central Europe and the Cold War, 1945-1990. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2013.

Kramer, M. "Stalin, the Split with Yugoslavia, and Soviet-East European Efforts to Reassert Control, 1948-53," in Svetozar Rajak et al., eds., The Balkans in the Cold War. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017, pp. 29-53.

Kramer. M. The Fate of the Soviet Bloc's Military Alliance Reform, Adaptation, and Collapse of the Warsaw Pact, 1985–1991. Cambridge University Press, 2025

Kraus, Michael, Anna M. Cienciala, Margaret K. Gnoinska, Douglas Selvage, Molly Pucci, Erik Kulavig, Constantine Pleshakov, A. Ross Johnson, Mark Kramer, Vít Smetana; The Cold War and East-Central Europe, 1945–1989. Journal of Cold War Studies 2017; 19 (2): 158–214.



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Haug, Hilde, *Creating a Socialist Yugoslavia: Tito, Communist Leadership and the National Question*. International Library of Twentieth Century History, Vol. 24. London: I. B. Tauris, 2012.

Lampe, John R. and Ulf Brunnbauer, eds. *The Routledge Handbook of Balkan and Southeast European History*. London: Routledge, 2021

Nikiforov, V. et al., eds., *Yugoslaviya v XX veke: Ocherki politicheskoi istorii* (Moscow: Indrik, 2011), in Russian.

Marantzidis, Nikos; *The Greek Civil War (1944–1949) and the International Communist System*. *Journal of Cold War Studies* 2013; 15 (4): 25–54.....

Mastny, Vojtech. *The New History of Cold War Alliances*. *Journal of Cold War Studies* 2002; 4 (2), 55–84

Malcolm, Noel, *Kosovo: A Short History*, New York: New York University Press, 1998.

Perović, Jeronim; *The Tito-Stalin Split: A Reassessment in Light of New Evidence*. *Journal of Cold War Studies* 2007; 9 (2): 32–63.....

Volokitina, T. V. et al., eds., *Sovetskii faktor v Vostochnoi Evrope, 1944-1953: Dokumenty*, 2 vols., Vol. 1: 1944-1948 and Vol. 2: 1949-1953 (Moskva: ROSSPEN, 1999 and 2002) in Russian.

Additional information. Lists of recommended reading (in addition to required reading) will be provided to students as the course progresses.

The course can be held in English.