

Records of the Central Intelligence Agency
**The Raymond E. Murphy Collection on
International Communism, 1917–1958**

Part 1: Eastern Europe

Trace Soviet foreign policy as executed on two levels: through the established procedures of international diplomacy and through Soviet provocateurs working with national Communist parties—spreading propaganda, sponsoring subversion, and engaging in political terrorism.

The Murphy Collection, put together by long-time State Department official Raymond E. Murphy, includes documents spanning the four decades between 1917 and 1958. Murphy was charged in the 1920s with studying the international Communist movement, its activities in the United States, and its subservience to Moscow. Former ambassador Loy Henderson described the collection as among the most useful in tracking Communist Party efforts to foment revolutionary activities and to penetrate Western governments, particularly the American government. The collection consists of documents from the State Department and other executive agencies, as well as CIA documents. There are reports, memoranda, correspondence, news clippings, and analyses. This collection has been declassified in full as of September 1999.

As Communist parties seized power over various war weary and politically weak European peoples, modifications of Communism were standard procedure. These modifications reflected local conditions and the practical needs of the men who made national revolutions. Always present, however, even if not clearly apparent, was the unrelenting Communist aim—belief in the class struggle under capitalism, violent revolution, establishment of party dictatorships, state control of the means of production and distribution and, ultimately world domination.

1920s. The Soviet Union carried on its foreign policy by improvising, adjusting, and learning by trial and error how to operate in a world of competing powers. Its record in international affairs was a mixture of important successes and important failures. Communist tactics of infiltration, legal and otherwise, were called for in all countries, but it became apparent that the overthrow of capitalism was at best a distant prospect. A temporary balance between capitalism and communism was established.

1930s. In this period, Soviet diplomacy focused on three goals: the establishment of diplomatic relations with capitalist countries, the conclusion of friendship pacts with neighboring countries, and the encouragement of undeveloped countries and colonies to revolt against West European economic and political controls.

1940s. During World War II, as the Red Army pushed Nazi armies out of Russia and across Eastern Europe, local Communist regimes sponsored by the Soviet Union were imposed on Poland, Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria. The former Nazi Germany was divided into occupation zones, ultimately resulting in the establishment of Communist control over East Germany and East Berlin. In 1946, Stalin declared that the world would never be safe from war so long as capitalism survived. This inaugurated the cold war period. In 1947, the Communist Information Bureau (COMINFORM) was created to coordinate coordinated the activities of the Communist Bloc under the supreme command of the USSR. Communist victory in Czechoslovakia and major threats in Greece and Turkey signaled the new aggressive policy.

1950s. Stalin's "forward" policy in Europe was being challenged by the Western security collective. Soviet military forces, along with war weary East European communist allies stared across the landscape at U.S. military forces and a collective security umbrella of western democracies. Stalin's death in 1953 brought an attempt by Kremlin leadership to eliminate the major liabilities of his foreign policy. Under Nikita Khrushchev, the theme of "peaceful coexistence" was revived.

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This interlude, however was sharply punctuated by recurring crises at home and abroad, as the Soviet Union added cultural and economic weapons to its offensive in many of the newly emerging countries worldwide.

Countries covered in the collection:

- Austria, 1945–1958
- Baltic, 1945
- Estonia, 1924–1951
- Finland, 1935–1957
- Germany, 1957–1958
- Latvia, 1939–1951
- Lithuania, 1937–1951
- Poland, 1930–1957
- Yugoslavia, 1945–1958

20 reels. ISBN 0-88692-597-5

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Source Note: National Archives, College Park, MD, Record Group 263, Records of the Central Intelligence Agency, Raymond E. Murphy Collection on International Communism, 1917-1958.

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