

Чой ЧЭТТЕРДЖИ
В ОРБИТЕ РЕВОЛЮЦИИ: ВСЕМИРНОЕ
ЗНАЧЕНИЕ 1917 ГОДА

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THE WIDER ARC OF REVOLUTION: THE GLOBAL
IMPACT OF 1917

Обзор конференции «В орбите революции: всемирное значение 1917 года», состоявшейся в Центре русских, восточноевропейских и евразийских исследований Техасского университета (г. Остин) 27–28 октября 2017 г. с участием Шейлы Фицпатрик и Лизы Киршенбаум.

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The international conference, *The Wider Arc of Revolution: The Global Impact of 1917*, commemorating the centenary of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, was held on 27–28 October, 2017, under the auspices of the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at University of Texas, Austin. The event featured presentations by twenty-three renowned scholars from Europe, Asia, and the United States, and was organized by Dr. Mary Neuberger (University of Texas, Austin), Dr. Julia Mickenberg (University of Texas, Austin), Dr. Choi Chatterjee (California State University, Los Angeles), Dr. Steven Marks (Clemson University), and Dr. Steve Sabol (University of North Carolina-Charlotte). The conference featured two keynote speakers: Dr. Sheila Fitzpatrick (Emerita Professor of History, University of Chicago), and Dr. Lisa Kirschenbaum (Professor of History, West Chester University). The conference was composed of six panels that convened over the course of two days. A majority of the essays that were presented at the conference will be published in two edited volumes entitled, *The Global Impact of Russia's 1917 Revolutions: The Wider Arc of Revolution* (Slavica Press of Indiana University). These volumes will form a part of the larger twenty-three volu-

me transnational project, *Russia's Great War and Revolution*, https://slavica.indiana.edu/series/Russia_Great_War_Seriesrussiasgreatwar.org

Many of the participants such as Dr. Ali Igen, Dr. Elizabeth Mcguire, Dr. Steven Marks, Dr. Sandra Pujals, Dr. Steve Sabol, Dr. Erik van Ree, Dr. Hari Vasudevan, Dr. Robert Weinberg and Dr. Glennys Young were initially trained in modern Russian History, and have subsequently developed expertise in the history of other areas of the world such as Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Dr. Jurgen Buchenau, Dr. Sandra McGee Deutsch, Dr. Sabine Hake, Dr. Daniel Kowalsky, Dr. Julia Mickenberg, Dr. Kristen Mulready-Stone, Dr. Rianne Subijanto, Dr. Michael Silvestri, Dr. Andrea Scott, Dr. Rianne Subianto, and Dr. Jeffrey Wasserstrom on the other hand, approached the centenary of the Russian Revolution of 1917 from the perspective of areas of specialization in the history of Mexico, Argentina, Germany, Spain, the United States, Ireland, Mexico, Indonesia and China. The wide geographical range, the deep subject matter expertise in various parts of the world, and the methodological diversity present at the conference contributed to exciting conversations about the Bolshevik Revolution and the many ways that it was received, consumed, understood, misunderstood, and appropriated in various parts of the globe. Since the inception of the Cold War, Russian history has been traditionally studied as a geographical and imaginative space in need of military and ideological containment. Our conference marked a significant departure from this tradition as it set a new transnational and trans-imperial research agenda for Slavic Studies in the twenty-first century.

In many ways, as Dr. Hari Vasudevan remarked, the new scholarship presented at the conference marked a return to the global project of 1917 at the moment of its inception. The Bolsheviks had imagined the October Revolution to be a seminal event in world history, and from the very beginning it carried universal aspirations and symbolism. By linking anti-capitalist worker movements in Europe and the United States to the anti-imperial and postcolonial movements in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, Lenin created a global imaginary that was capacious enough to transcend the many ethnic, national, racial, economic, cultural and social markers that divide the world. The dream of radical equality in a transnational horizontal space has threatened the integrity of the hierarchical nation-state since 1917, and even today we witness the tension between the two political formations. Even as the ideals of radical equality and freedom faltered in the Soviet Union itself, and were slowly suppressed in other communist areas of the world, the voices of October still have the power to conjure up visions of a more just future.

Erik van Ree, in his presentation, captured the millenarian excitement of the observers who witnessed the “Ten Days that Shook the World,” and Daniel Kowalsky spoke about the heroic attempts to re-create a Spanish October during the Spanish Civil War, even as Stalin imposed authoritarian centralization on the unruly Spanish cadres. Sabine Hake explored the impact of Socialist Realism on proletarian literature in Germany during the inter-war period. Sandra McGee Deutsch analyzed the emergence of feminist solidarity in Argentinian communism through the idiom of universal maternalism, while Julia Mickenberg argued that American Progressives were deeply intrigued by the rights and achievements of Soviet women during the inter-war period. Ali Igmen and Sandra Pujals contended with the responses of individuals to the Russian Revolution in Turkey and the Americas. Igmen analyzed the tortured vision of the famous Turkish poet, Nazim Hikmet, who was seduced by Soviet modernity even while he was appalled by Stalinist authoritarianism, and Pujals traced the transformation of Jaime Nevaes through various guises: from an agent of the Comintern to a Chicano labor leader in the American Southwest. Jürgen Buchenau analyzed the impact of the Bolshevik revolution on moderating the radical thrust of Mexican politics, and Andrea Scott traced the influence of Russian directors and Soviet socialist realism on early Mexican cinema. Elizabeth McGuire spoke to the extraordinary impact of Russian literature and fictional Russian women on the Chinese revolutionary imagination, and Kristen Mulready-Stone demonstrated the deep impact of 1917 on youth movements in China during the early part of the twentieth century. Jeffrey Wasserstrom gave a nuanced overview of the ways in which the Chinese Communist Party drew important lessons from the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 in order to maintain its own grasp on power.

Exploring the push and pull of global population waves created by 1917, Robert Weinberg presented the politics of American Jewish migration to the promised homeland of Birobidzhan, while Glennys Young recounted the impact of Russian out-migration to the West Coast of the United States in the aftermath of 1917. Steve Sabol dissected the uneasy transition from the rhetoric of anti-Germanism in the United States during the First World to the anti-Bolshevism of the Red Scare of 1919–1920. Steven Marks, Michael Silvestri, Rianne Subijanto and Hari Vasudevan took an unorthodox approach to the Russian Revolution and the colonial question in Europe, Asia, and Africa and looked at the ways in which the periphery shaped the revolutionary center. While Marks argued that that the system of apartheid was created in South Africa to prevent the revolutionary coalition of white and black proletarians, Silvestri showed that Irish nationalists celebrated the Russian Revolution, believing that it would hurt the

British cause during World War I. Vasudevan traced the contributions of Indian revolutionaries to the formulation of Soviet theses on national liberation movements, while Subijanto showed that rather than replicating the Leninist model of the vanguard of the proletariat, the Indonesian Communist Party created an unprecedented revolutionary ferment across the archipelago by mobilizing democratic assemblies that were both anti-colonial and anti-capitalist.

In her keynote address, Dr. Sheila Fitzpatrick considered the many achievements of the Soviet Union that included the creation of the welfare state, discourses of anti-colonial and anti-racial thinking, socialist feminism, and the rights of labor. However, Fitzpatrick also noted that most contemporary Anglo-American commentators seem to regard the Soviet system to be a failure on account of its inept economic policies and its massive use of violence on civilian populations. Dr. Kirschenbaum, in her keynote address, laid out a nuanced research agenda on how to reframe Slavic Studies using a global and world history approach. Through a consideration of transnational actors such as Mikhail Borodin, she linked the local, the national, and the global in a seamless continuum. Further, by embedding ideology and politics in the frame of intimate everyday life, Kirschenbaum presented a rigorous methodology that promises to revitalize our interest in Soviet history.