

## Call for Papers

### *Jahrbuch für Historische Kommunismusforschung 2019*

#### Communism beyond Eurocentrism

Only more recently have relations between ‚really existing socialism‘ and the so-called ‚Third World‘ been given greater attention. It was, therefore, necessary to critically historicise this enduring Eurocentrism. It was not only in the analysis of communism that Eurocentrism prevailed; it also characterised central aspects of communist ideology and the practice of communist movements and, more widely, political parties since the nineteenth century.

For this issue of the *Jahrbuch für Historische Kommunismusforschung* (JHK), which carries the central theme ‚Communism beyond Eurocentrism‘ the editors and members of the advisory board have been able to work in partnership with the Global and European Studies Institute (GESI) at the University of Leipzig. The *JHK* wants to approach the subject with contribution in three areas, which are based on newer sources as well as broad overviews addressing the current state of research:

##### **1. Problematising theory: the non-industrial world and colonialism**

How, since the founding fathers of communism in the nineteenth century, do communist theoreticians approach the world beyond Europe?

##### **2. ‚Really Existing Socialism‘ and the ‚Third World‘**

Which experiences of ‚really existing‘ socialist society derived from their contacts and interrelations with the world beyond Europe between 1917 and 1989/91?

##### **3. Alternatives to ‚Really Existing Socialism‘ on the Soviet Model**

The transfer of the geographical focus of socialist and/or communist regimes and societal models to Asia and Central America, and their resonance in sub-saharan Africa before and after 1991.

Much of the world analysis and programme of ‚really existing socialism‘, as well as the research, is reduced to Eurocentrism, just as the global Cold War was largely reduced to aspects of power

politics (Odd Arne Westad 2008) – and the historical writing of communism has long followed this path. However, more recently there has been greater interest in global interconnectedness, which has raised the question of an independent ‘red globalisation’ (Oscar Sanchez-Sibony 2014) – even if this has been answered in the negative from the perspective of economic history. The reasons for this change in approach are many. On the one hand, research into communism has followed a general trend towards transnational and global questions. On the other hand, contrary to the fixation on the central place of the Soviet Union it is striking that communist parties after 1989/91 could retain power and – in the case of China – could successfully adapt to new international economic and political conditions. Whether this was a question of alternative models of communism or represented an adjustment and adaptation to the liberal-market model is vociferously debated; the reason for this is that the answer is tied up with strategic options for the future.

The 2019 issue of JHK aims to connect research into communism more strongly with the directions offered by global history. *The Handbook of the History of Communism*, which was recently published by Oxford University Press, offers a good overview of the state of international discussion and debate and can, as such, provide a point of departure.

Please submit your proposal for *JHK 2019* by **23 January 2017** in the form of a short summary (2,000 characters) sent to the editor. This should illustrate the contours of your topic, its sources and methodology, as well as providing information on your main areas of research.

The *JHK* carries essays, biographical sketches, contribution to the ‘Forum’ section, reports from the archives and assorted other contributions. As a general rule, they should not exceed a limit of 25-40,000 characters (including spaces and footnotes). Only in individual cases translation from other languages can be arranged by the editors. Unfortunately a commission cannot be paid for articles. The *JHK 2019* will appear in print in the March of that year. Articles submitted go through a peer-review process and, if accepted, will be proof-read. For this reason, articles must be received by 8 January 2018, unless otherwise agreed.

For further information about the *JHK*: [www.bundesstiftung-aufarbeitung.de/jahrbuch](http://www.bundesstiftung-aufarbeitung.de/jahrbuch)

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