

Political Science 126AB
Winter 2013

Professor Ellen Comisso
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SSB 377

POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

This course compares alternative political and economic orders as they operated and operate in the small states of Central and Eastern Europe. Two books and a packet of readings are required for the course. The books are:

--Lonnie Johnson, *Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends*, 3rd edition

--Richard Rose, *Understanding Post-Communist Transformation: A Bottom up Approach*

Both the books and the packet can be purchased at the University Bookstore. Be sure to get the **third** edition of the Johnson book, otherwise you'll be reading the wrong pages! They will also be on reserve at the Geisel Library; some, but probably not all, readings may be available on electronic reserves. Required readings not included in the course reader can be downloaded from the class web site:

<http://www.polisci.ucsd.edu/ps126ab/>

Requirements: Students will be required to write a total of about 18 pages in this course, consisting of a take-home midterm and final exam. Topics will be distributed in class or posted on the web site. Papers must be turned in through *turnitin.com*.

Evaluation: The final grade will be a weighted average of the grades on the papers, adjusted for class participation. Failure to participate in class is not penalized, but active participation is rewarded. Asking questions, by the way, "counts" as participation. Please note that you will not be able to answer the paper questions adequately based solely on the reading, so it is a good idea to plan on attending the class and taking notes as well.

Professor Comisso's office hours will be on Tuesday from 2:00-3:30 pm. You can also reach her by phone (4-3180) and e-mail (ecomisso@ucsd.edu).

[An overview of the course is contained in a review essay by Comisso and Gutierrez. The article, entitled "Eastern or Central Europe: Exploring a Distinct Regional Identity," can be found on-line: <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/13q5f145> .]

READING ASSIGNMENTS
(W =available on class web page)

I. Eastern Europe Before 1945

- A. What is Eastern Europe?
--Judy Batt, "Introduction: Defining Central and Eastern Europe"
--Milan Kundera, "The Tragedy of Central Europe"
--*Economist*, "Wrong Labelling" (W)
- B. Economic development, national movements, and Socialism(s)
--Ivan Berend, *Decade of Crisis*, "The Peculiar Pattern of Central East European Societies" and "The Ideologies of Revolts and Revolutions" (W)
--Peter Sugar, "Nationalism in Eastern Europe"
--Ellen Comisso, "Empires as Prisons of Nations v. Empires as Political Opportunity Structures" (W)
--Lonnie Johnson, *Central Europe*, Ch. 7, pp. 124-35; Ch. 8, pp. 143-51 1;
--Karl Marx, "The Communist Manifesto"
--Friedrich Engels, "Revolution: Peaceful or Violent?"
--Vladimir Lenin, "The Proletarian Party" and "The State and Revolution"
- C. Wars and interludes
--Johnson, *Central Europe*, Chapter 9, pp. 180-6; Chapter 10, pp. 202-11
--Ivan Berend, *Decades of Crisis*, Chapter 9 ("Economic Nationalism and its Consequences"), pp.234-44; Chapter 10 ("The Great Depression"), pp. 249-53; Chapter 11 ("From the Great Depression...to...Autarky"), pp. 273-8. (W)

II. Socialism: Politics and Economics

- A. The introduction of Leninism: historic break or continuity?
--Scott Parrish, "The Marshall Plan, Soviet American Relations, and the Division of Europe" (optional-W)
--Johnson, *Central Europe*, Ch. 11, 12 (pp. 211-275)
- B. The socialist economy
--Johnson, *Central Europe*, Ch. 12, pp. 236-45 (above IIA)
--Alan Brown and Egon Neuberger, "Basic Features of a Centrally Planned Economy"
--Joseph Berliner, "Management Incentives and Decision-Making" (optional) (W)
--Janos Kornai, "The Reproduction of Shortage," and "Hard and Soft Budget Constraints"

--Richard Rose, *Understanding Post-Communist Transformations*, Chaps. 2, 3, 6

C. Problems of the Planned Economy

- Dahl and Lindblom, "Hierarchy: Control by Leaders"
- Kornai, "Shortages" (above, IIB), "Efficiency and the Principles of Socialist Ethics"
- Ludwig von Mises, "Economic Calculation in Socialism"

D. Economic reform in Socialism

- Johnson, *Central Europe*, pp. 245-58 (above, IIA)
- Ellen Comisso and Paul Marer, "The economics and politics of reform in Hungary" (W)
- E. Neuberger and W. Duffy, "Yugoslavia" (optional)(W)
- Ellen Comisso, "Market Failures and Market Socialism" (optional, W)
- Kornai, "Efficiency and Ethics" (above, IIC)
- von Mises, "Economic calculation" (above IIC)

E. The Socialist Political Order

- Katherine Verdery, "What was Socialism and why did it fail?"
- Lenin, "The Proletarian Party" "State and Revolution"(above)
- Barbara Jelavich, from *History of the Balkans*, "The Communist governments, 1950-80," pp. 336-363; (W)
- Johnson, *Central Europe*, Ch. 12, (above IIA)

F. 1989: The Great Political Landslide

- Johnson, *Central Europe*, Ch. 12, pp. 258-74; Ch. 13, pp. 275-84

III. Transition: Politics and Economics

A. The New Political Order

- Johnson, *Central Europe*, Chapter 13, pp. 284-3316
- Richard Rose, *Post-Communist Transformations*, Chaps. 14-17
- Mark Howard, "The Weakness of Post communist Societies" (W)
- Kenneth Jowitt, "The Leninist Legacy" (W) (optional)
- Barbara Geddes. "A Comparative Perspective on the Leninist Legacy" (W) (optional)

B. From Socialism to Capitalism?

- EBRD, "The politics of economic reform" (optional)
- Rose, *Post-Communist Transformation*, Chaps. 5, 8
- Johnson, *Central Europe*, Chapter 13, pp. 316-24

--Janos Kornai, "The Great Transformation of Central and Eastern Europe: Success and Disappointments," *Economics of Transition* 14 (2), 2006: 207-44 (W)

--*The Economist* (2009), "Eastern Europe's Economic Woes: Down in the dumps" (W)

--Terry Cox, "Changing Societies, Class and Inequality in Central and Eastern Europe" (W)

C. The International Dimension

--Jacques Rupnik, "Eastern Europe: The International Context" (W)

--Stephen Larrabee, "Danger and Opportunbity in Eastern Europe" (W)

--Rose, *Post-Communist Transformations*, Chaps. 19, 20

--Johnson, *Central Europe*, Chapter 12, pp. 289-97; Epilogue, pp. 324-33

D. Success?

--Ellen Comisso and Matthew Murphy, "Has the East Become the West or Vice Versa?"