

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Valahian Journal of Historical Studies. Special Issue: **1917. The Beginning of a New Era**

The Bolshevik *coup* of 1917 can be regarded as both the apogee of social and political evolutions in Europe at the time and also the beginning of a new era of transformation which was going to dominate the 20th century. The accelerated progress of the industrial revolution created, as Karl Marx observed, an explosive revolutionary potential, in terms of economic progress (the accumulation of capitals and therefore the possibility to concentrate massive investments in industry, transportation and technological knowledge) but also in terms of social structure (the emergence of the proletariat, trade-unionism and Socialism aiming to transform the social and political hierarchies in industrial societies). The advances of science and secularism encouraged the positivist belief that progress was inevitable but also peaceful in its nature.¹ The First World War shattered these beliefs in the European society but only to give rise, apart from intellectual experimentation, to an alternative project of modernization, much more aggressive: the Bolshevik endeavor for a global revolution of Marxist inspiration which claimed to radically reform social relations and mobilize resources for development, fetishizing industrialization and technology.² The dream of a better tomorrow attracted many idealists and quickly spread worldwide, threatening the existing establishment and building its own ideological legitimacy.³ The giant leap towards a better future that Communism pretended to accomplish generated a different axiological view of society and history marked by a cynical disregard for the humanism which dominated Western cultures since the Renaissance. In the name of the global revolution, its advocates claimed, all efforts and sacrifices were considered necessary and revolution defined its own morality which led to a real “age of social catastrophe” in Europe and beyond.⁴ This alternative code of values intrinsic to the global revolution justified mass-murder on a scale previously unseen in Europe, created its own political and institutional culture, transformed patterns of social and economic networking and, after the Second World War, extended beyond Russia’s borders as an ideologically-based empire which challenged liberal capitalism, constitutional democracy and, last but not least, the United States in particular, in a long and perilous Cold War “for the soul of mankind.”⁵ European historiography today still debates the controversial matter of the emergence of the interwar extreme-right as a reaction against the spread of Bolshevism.⁶ The rise of “false Neros” across Europe also finds its roots in the experience of war and the contemplation of a future defined through a radical turn from the past. Still, the imperial expansion of Communism changed societies, borders, institutions and also the intellectual history of the 20th century. It is the aim of the current issue of *Valahian Journal of Historical Studies* to explore, exactly one century later, the causes and consequences of the transformations brought about by the year 1917, in a revisionist perspective, on all levels of historical analysis: political, ideological, economic, social and

¹ Michael Howard, Wm. Roger Louis, *The Oxford History of the Twentieth Century* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002)

² Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War. Third World Interventionism and the Making of Our Time* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006): 40-44

³ Silvio Pons, *The Global Revolution. A History of International Communism 1917-1991* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014)

⁴ Robert Gellately, *Lenin, Stalin and Hitler: the Age of Social Catastrophe* (New York: Knopf, 2007)

⁵ Melvyn P. Leffler, *For the Soul of Mankind: The United States, the Soviet Union, and the Cold War* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2007)

⁶ François Furet, Ernst Nolte, *Fascism and Communism* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2001)

cultural. We seek to redefine the role of 1917 in the “longue durée” by focusing on evolutions at both global and local level, by considering both empirical and theoretical approaches in an interdisciplinary framework.

Articles on the following topics are encouraged:

- evaluation of Communist experiences in the framework of modernization theories;
- critical studies on totalitarianism and post-totalitarianism;
- changes in the outside world: political and ideological reactions within liberal democracies, the role of the “engaged spectator” in combating political religions, replicas from Liberalism and Christian-Democracy;
- comparative studies in the political culture of Communism, institutional mechanisms of Communist regimes and the role of ideology in international affairs;
- transformations in arts and culture generated both by the utopian allegiance to new ideals and search for new forms of expressions but also by the struggle to maintain freedom of conscience under ideological imperatives;
- the expansion of Communism in East Central Europe but also its role and influence in the Third World, the fluctuating relation between Communism and the anti-imperialist struggle for liberation, similarities of rhetoric and political discourse;
- industrialization under Communist regimes with its economic and social consequences in the framework of developmental studies;
- mass repression under Communist regimes, the role of the political police and the changing dynamics of propaganda campaigns and ideological education;
- social changes under Communism, human costs of rapid industrialization and urbanization, dissolution of patriarchal societies and the everyday rites of the “New Man”.

Publication Norms

- The paper must be unpublished work;
- The paper must contain the author or authors’ full names, Institution they belong to and their e-mails;
- The paper must be submitted in the official languages of the publication: English, French, German and Italian; they must contain a title, a short abstract written in English, five to ten key words as well as a ten row bio note about the author(s);
- The maximum length for the articles is 20 pages, with a single space interlining;
- The contributions must be sent in word format;
- The documents must be sent in Garamond Font size 11;
- Footnotes must be put automatically in Garamond Font size 9;
- Images illustrating the text must be sent as .jpg or .tiff files; the author assumes responsibility for the right to publish the images;
- The journal’s editorial board reserves the right that upon the review by the referents to publish or reject any of the received papers and to suggest any of the collaborators changes that may be considered as necessary.
- Footnotes must respect the Turabian and Chicago styles citation; see: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Please send your contribution to: cezar_stanciu2003@yahoo.com

Deadline for submitting articles: 1 October 2017

For further details, visit: www.vjhs.ro