Transnational Themes: Defining the Field

What is transnational history? What are its theoretical foundations? Why study transnational history? What are the frameworks in which it has been studied? What are some of the potential ways it can be studied in the future? What language base does one need to study transnational history?

General Theory


Institutional


Regions

Kasianov, Georgiy and Philipp Ther, eds., *A Laboratory of Transnational History: Ukraine and Recent Ukrainian Historiography*. CEU Press, 2009.

Nationalism

What role did forces such as the legacy of the French Revolution, the Napoleonic era, or the industrial revolution have in fostering it? What are nationalism's cultural, political, and economic origins? Why have the problems of nationalism been especially acute in Central and East-Central Europe? Can a transnational approach to nationalism further complicate and/or elucidate the subject in general?
...in East-Central Europe? How? What are the pitfalls?

General Theory


East-Central Europe


Transnational Themes: Migration and Diaspora

Why study migration and diaspora? What sort of source base must one use to study migration and diaspora? How does this differ from other types of transnational history? Why did migrants travel to the places in which they traveled? How have diasporas affected the politics, economies, and cultures of their original homelands?

Movement


Migration Case Studies


Diaspora Case Studies
East-Central Europe and the World in the Twentieth-Century

Empire into Nation-State. Part I: Nationality, Belonging, and Political Radicalization: 1900-1939

What caused the demise of the Austro-Hungarian, Russian, and Ottoman empires? What changed in politics, economics, and cultures with the onset of post-WWI nation-states? What remained the same? What caused the rise of authoritarian regimes?

Roshwald, Aviel, Ethnic Nationalism and the Fall of Empires: Central Europe, the Middle East, and Russia: 1914-23. Routledge, 2001.

WWII: Occupation and Genocide

What were the causes of WWII? What are the roots of Nazi racial policies? Why were the Jews the primary focus of Nazi policy and propaganda? Why did the Nazis view the Slavs seen as an “inferior” people? Why did “ordinary” Germans and their allies to support Nazi policies? Why did many Eastern Europeans scapegoat the Jews among them?


WWII: Survival and Resistance

What tactics did persecuted minorities use to survive and resist Nazi persecution? How and why did some people survive extermination while others did not? What affects has the legacy of Nazi rule left
on Central and East-Central Europe?


**WWII: Retribution**

How and why were German minorities purged from East-Central Europe after WWII? How were Nazi collaborators treated in post-WWII Europe? How did the Soviets and Western allies handle the situation of post-WWII Europe?


**The Return of Empire: 1945-1989**

How and why were Western and Eastern European spheres of influence created in the wake of WWII? Why did Western European nations attempt to recreate their imperial influence after WWII? Why did most of these attempts fail? Why were the Soviets and Americans successful in creating a bipolar world order after WWII? What remained of the Jewish heritage in Europe after WWII? How did the creation of a divided Europe after WWII affect the different nationalities of Europe?


**Empire into Nation-State, Part II: 1989 and Beyond**

**Historiographical Origins**

How and why did Soviet control of Eastern Europe collapse? What has caused the rise of nationalism in the newly independent nation-states? How did the end of the Iron Curtain change the way Europe was viewed spatially, geographically, and demographically?

Ost, David., *Solidarity and the Politics of Anti-Politics: Opposition and Reform in Poland Since*

**The Revolutions of 1989**

What were similarities/differences between the revolutions throughout the Eastern Bloc? Were the revolutions due mostly grass-roots movements or the workings of disaffected elites?


**Aftermath**

What continuities remanded after the collapse? How did the notion of civil society change with the changing of political regimes? How were the revolutions viewed in the immediate aftermath of the 1990s? Do we have more historical perspective now that more time has passed? How has the Generation of ’89 approached the revolutions in terms of memory?

_Daedalus_, Eastern Europe...Central Europe...Europe, Vol. 119, No. 1, Winter 1990.