



# COLD WAR EASTERN EUROPE

## Life behind the Iron Curtain

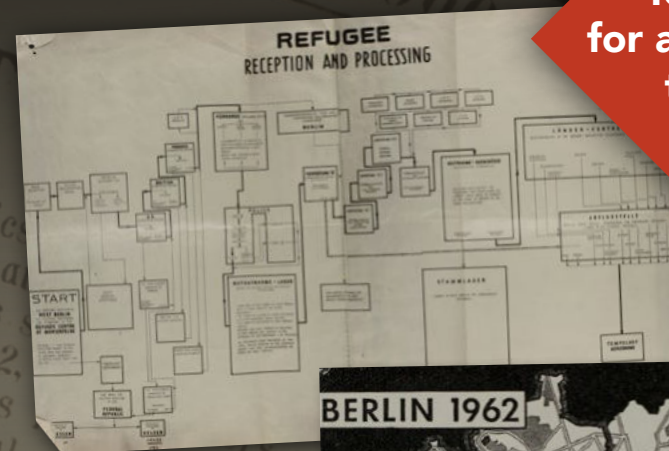
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"Cold War Eastern Europe is a truly indispensable resource for students and academics alike studying the history of Eastern Europe, Communism and the Cold War. Due to the high quality of British diplomatic reporting, the collection will immensely enhance comparative research of the Soviet Bloc countries' history."

Csaba Békés, Research Chair, Centre for Social Sciences, Institute for Political Science, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest.



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A digital resource



# At a Glance

During the Cold War, The U.K Foreign Office and their embassies and consulates throughout Eastern Europe were interested in **every aspect of political, economic, cultural, social and dissident life behind the 'Iron Curtain'**. Reports covered a hugely diverse range of issues, from state leadership to protest movements; agricultural output to international trade agreements; scientific progress to minority populations; religion to sporting events; and state run media to popular culture.

**Cold War Eastern Europe, Module I: 1953–1960** provides access to over six thousand primary source files from the political departments of the U.K Foreign Office. Commencing in 1953, the year of Stalin's death, this resource provides a comprehensive, English-language history of post-Stalinist Eastern Europe covering every country in Eastern Europe. Enabling comparative study of trends across Eastern Europe, or in-depth analysis of individual countries.

**Cold War Eastern Europe, Module II: 1961–1966** covers a series of events that altered the trajectory of the Cold War, including: the construction of the Berlin Wall; the Cuban Missile crisis; the rise of Leonid Brezhnev and the removal of Nikita Khrushchev as the head of the Soviet Union; the enactment of drastic reforms to the Soviet Union's economy; and a deepening of ideological differences between China and the Soviet Union that culminated in the Sino-Soviet split.

This modular collection is available on one platform and users with access to both modules are able to search and browse across all metadata fields. Built to facilitate both teaching and research with advanced search functionality, *Cold War Eastern Europe*, will be of **interest to teachers, researchers and students of international relations, politics, resistance and human rights, history and cultural studies**.



## Key events in Module I

- Balkan Pact (1953)
- Death of Stalin
- East German Uprising (1953)
- The arrest, trial and execution of Lavrentiy Beria
- Foundation of the Warsaw Pact
- Geneva Summit (1955)
- Shooting down of El Al Flight 402 over Bulgaria
- 20th Party Congress of Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Nikita Khrushchev's 'Secret Speech'
- Poznan Revolt
- Hungarian Revolution
- Polish October
- Imre Nagy's execution
- Berlin crisis
- Nikita Khrushchev's visit to the USA
- Sino-Soviet split
- U2 spy-plane incident

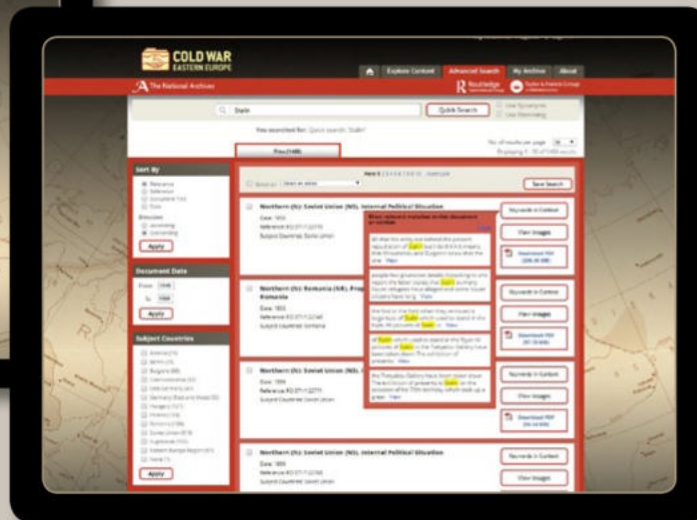


## Key events in Module II

- Yuri Gagarin's space flight
- Construction of the Berlin Wall
- Standoff at Checkpoint Charlie between American and Soviet tanks
- Soviet detonation of the Tsar Bomba
- Arrest of Oleg Pen'kovskii
- John F. Kennedy's "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech
- Signature of the Partial Test Ban Treaty
- Leonid Brezhnev replaces Nikita Khrushchev as General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union
- Decentralisation of Soviet economy
- Vietnam War
- Sino-Soviet split

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## THEMES

Themes across all modules include:

- Border Security and Migration
- Dissent, Resistance, and Human Rights
- Domestic Politics
- Economics and Trade
- Embassy and Consulate Administration
- Industry and Agriculture
- International Relations
- Key Events
- Media and Culture
- Military
- Populations and Social Policy
- Religion
- Science and Technology
- Second World War Aftermath
- Secret Intelligence and Espionage
- Sport, Leisure and Tourism
- Youth and Education

## COUNTRIES

Countries and Regions covered across all modules include:

- Albania
- Bulgaria
- Czechoslovakia
- East Germany and Berlin
- Hungary
- Poland
- Romania
- Soviet Union
- Yugoslavia

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- Aids development of scholarly research skills in analysing primary sources

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- Essays written by the Editorial Board which contextualise the primary source material and highlight key themes, topics and events.
- Timeline of key events
- Key People glossary
- A 'Communist States Fact File' providing glossaries of state names, governing parties, and key organisations
- A 'Foreign Office Fact File' providing a guide to the Foreign Office's departmental structure and embassy network

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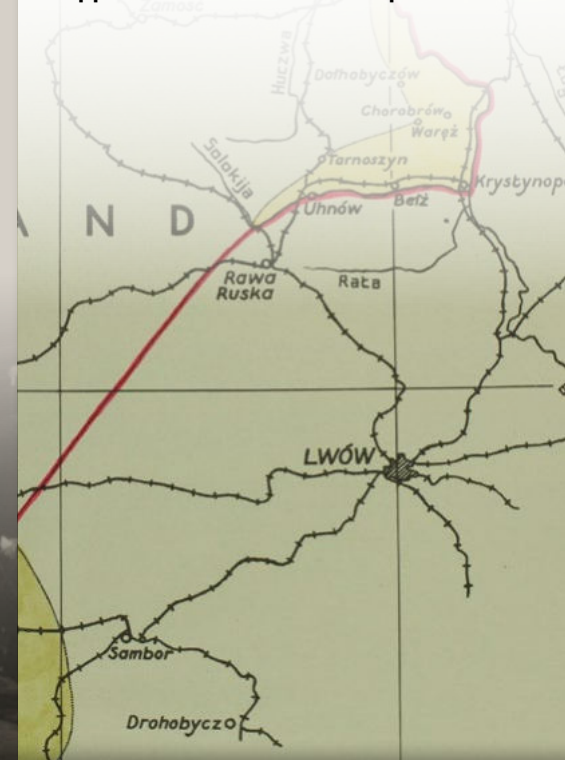
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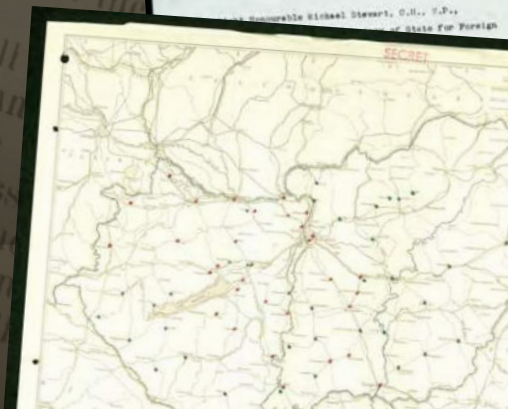
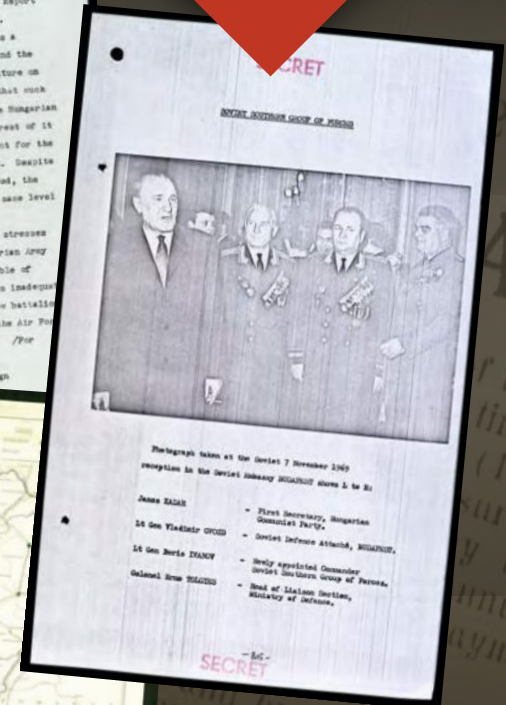
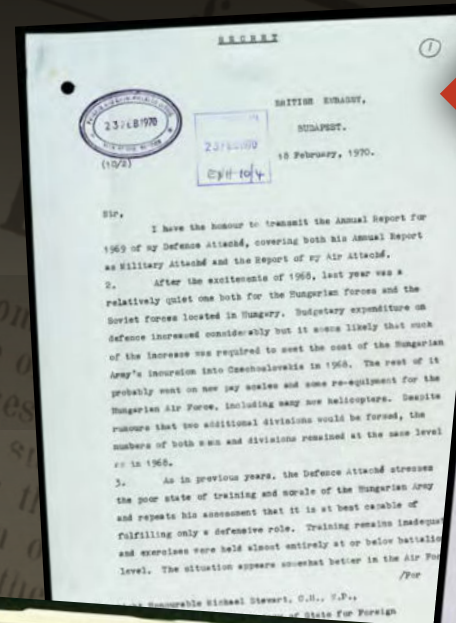
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## Module III: 1967-1975

Life behind the Iron Curtain

This collection of over 3,400 files, sourced from The National Archives series FCO 28 and FCO 33, provides a unique insight into the key events of the Cold War that took place between 1967 and 1975 in Eastern Europe.

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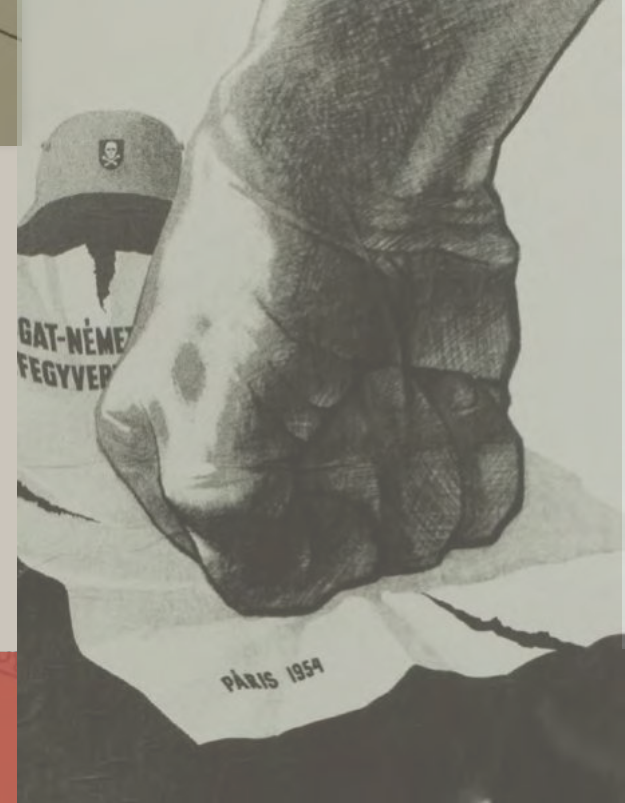


# At a Glance

The closing years of the 1960s saw attempted reforms and social change in Eastern Bloc members Czechoslovakia (Prague Spring) and Poland (1968 crisis and protests of 1970). This was followed by re-instatement of the Soviet model through suppression from security forces and military intervention by the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact members.

The period of “Détente” from 1967 through the 1970s saw the steady easing of tensions between the East and West, as well as growing co-operation in the Four Power Agreements on Berlin and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, culminating in Richard Nixon’s visit to Moscow in 1975.

Module III provides in-depth reporting on and analyses of these events, as well as the continued economic stagnation of the Eastern Bloc countries.



## Key events in Module III

- Sino-Soviet border conflict
- Vietnam War
- Summit between Lyndon B. Johnson and Aleksei Kosygin in Glassboro, New Jersey
- Harold Wilson's visit to Moscow
- Prague Spring
- 1968 Polish Political Crisis
- Warsaw Pact Invasion of Czechoslovakia
- Strategic Arms Limitation Talks
- Polish protests of December 1970
- Croatian Spring
- Four-Power Agreement on Berlin
- Richard Nixon's visit to the Soviet Union and Poland
- Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe
- Western Recognition of East Germany
- Richard Nixon's visit to Moscow
- Harold Wilson and James Callaghan's visit to Moscow
- Helsinki Accords



## File Series

- **FCO 28 (Foreign Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Northern Department and East European and Soviet Department)** contains the files detailing UK political and economic relations with the Soviet Union and the Baltic States, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Albania and Yugoslavia.
- **FCO 33 (Foreign Office: Western Department and Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Western European Department)** contains files of the Western Department of the Foreign Office relevant to UK relations with East Germany between January 1967 and October 1968, and the Western European Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office dealing with East Germany from 1968 onwards.

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