



# COLD WAR EASTERN EUROPE

**Routledge**  
Taylor & Francis Group

**The National Archives**

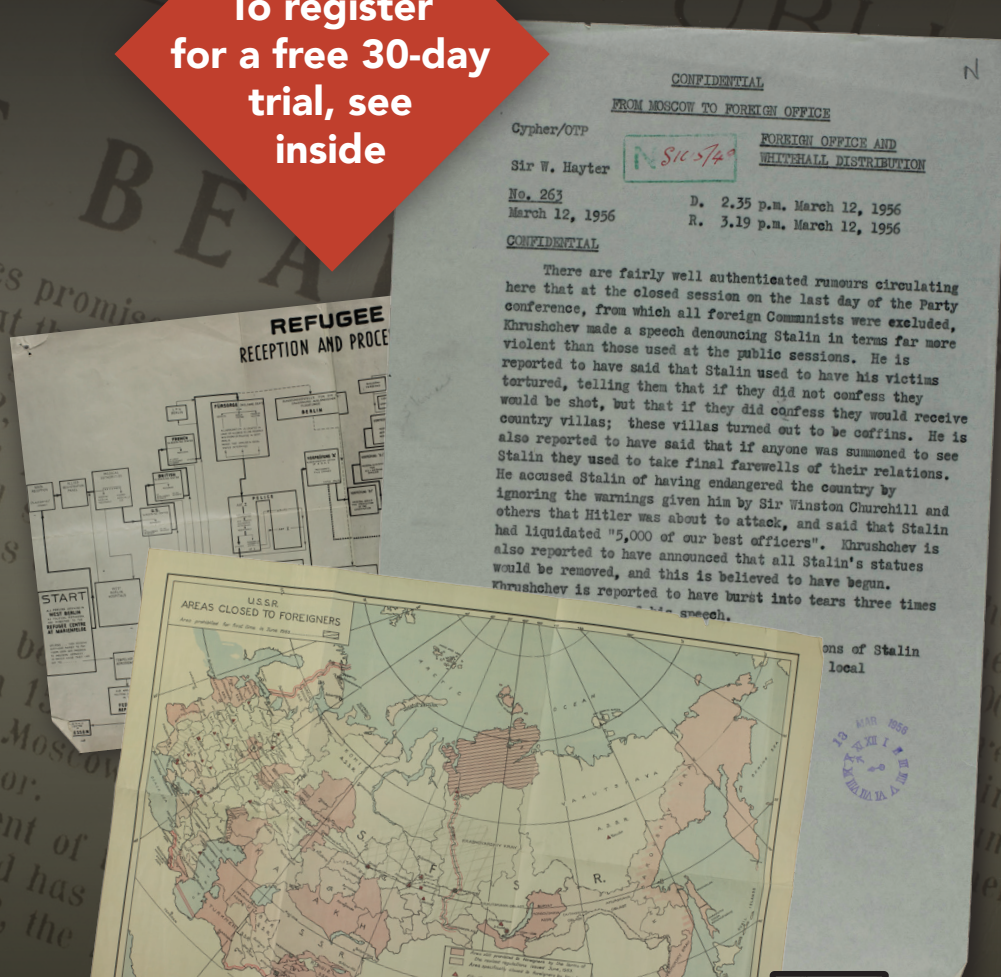
## Module I: 1953–1960

### Life behind the Iron Curtain

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inside

"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

*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.**

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.

Commencing in 1953, the year of Stalin's death, this new 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.

Built to facilitate both teaching and research with advanced search functionality, *Cold War Eastern Europe, Module I: 1953–1960* will be of **interest to teachers, researchers and students of international relations, politics, resistance and human rights, history and cultural studies.**



## COUNTRIES

*Cold War Eastern Europe, Module I: 1953–1960* provides in-depth coverage of the following countries:

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



## DOCUMENT TYPES

- Administrative Records
- Correspondence
- Financial Records
- Legal and Treaty Material
- Meeting Minutes
- Memoranda
- Miscellany
- Parliamentary and Official Government Material
- Press and Media
- Print Publications
- Reports
- Speeches and Public Statements
- Visual Media

## THEMES

- 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

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# MODULE I DESCRIPTION, HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY EVENTS

## DESCRIPTION

The 6,862 files (470,000 pages) in *Cold War Eastern Europe, Module I: 1953-1960* have been sourced entirely from *The National Archives, U.K.* series FO 371. This series contains the files of the Foreign Office's Political Departments responsible for reporting on all socialist states of Eastern Europe. Every file relevant to the region from 1953 to 1960 is included. The module also includes the full run of FO 371 Russia Committee files dating back to 1946, providing context to Britain's Soviet policy in the early Cold War.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Module I facilitates research and teaching on a vast array of subjects, which includes:

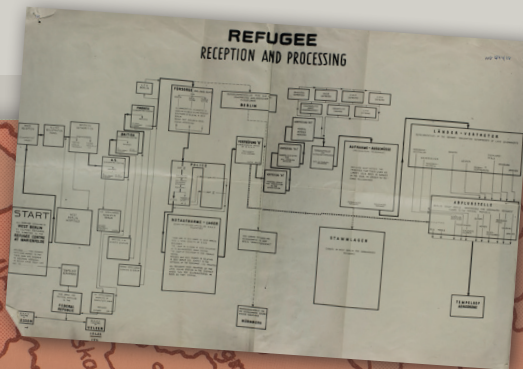
- The development of the U.K.'s diplomatic, trade and cultural relationships with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe
- Soviet and East European relations with countries around the world, including China and the USA
- Soviet projection of power in Eastern Europe
- Relations between East and West Germany, and records of Four Power talks on the potential reunification of Germany
- The status of Berlin and the evolving situation in the city
- Dissidence, protest movements, and revolts within the socialist states, and reports on regime responses
- Communist propaganda and counter-propaganda including speeches by leading party and state figures

- Industrial and agricultural policy, and the aims, progress and outcomes of economic plans
- Domestic social welfare policies and changing living standards
- The process of de-Stalinization and the end of the cult of personality
- Youth culture including youth movements, festivals, and education
- British reporting on Soviet scientific and technological progress, including nuclear technology and the space race

## KEY EVENTS

Key events covered in Module I include:

- 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



## EDITORIAL BOARD

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- Aids development of scholarly research skills in analysing primary sources

Also includes:

- Three essays written by the Editorial Board, covering the topics of the Hungarian Revolution; cultural exchange and diplomacy; and Soviet policy in Europe and the wider world after Stalin. By contextualising the primary source material and highlighting key themes, topics and events, these essays provide an ideal introduction for undergraduates to the files
- 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

## Contact Us

If you require further information about *Cold War Eastern Europe, Module I: 1953-1960* please get in touch. To find your local sales representative please visit:

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### Unsure who to contact?

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## COMING SOON

### Cold War Eastern Europe Module II

Spans 1961 to 1966 and provides access to U.K Foreign Office reporting on the building of the Berlin Wall, and in-depth coverage of developments in the region in the first years of the physical division of Germany, and the succession to Soviet power of Leonid Brezhnev.

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