



COLD WAR EASTERN EUROPE

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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

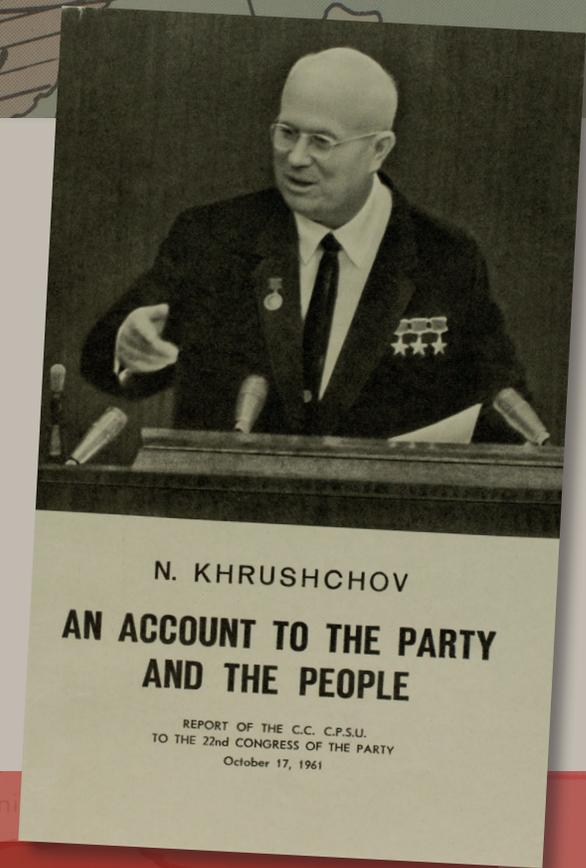
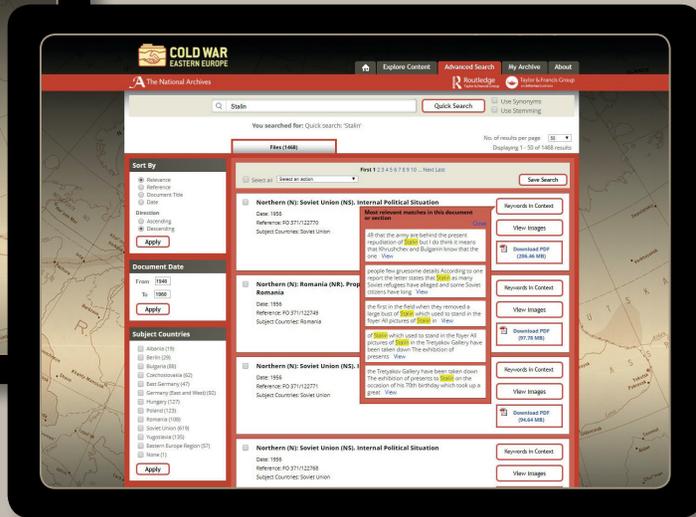
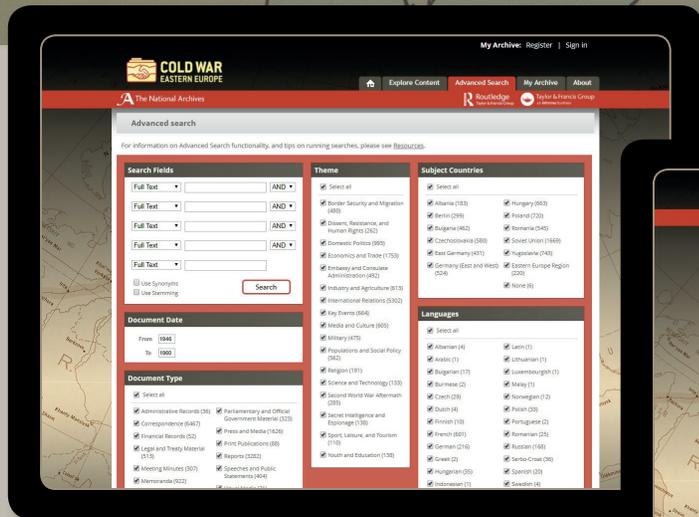
- Balkan Pact (1953)
- Death of Stalin
- East German Uprising (1953)
- The arrest, trial and execution of Lavrentiy Beria
- Foundation of the Warsaw Pact
- Geneva Summit (1955)
- Shooting down of El Al Flight 402 over Bulgaria
- 20th Party Congress of Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Nikita Khrushchev's '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
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- 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:

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- A 'Foreign Office Fact File' providing a guide to the Foreign Office's departmental structure and embassy network

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COMING SOON

Cold War Eastern Europe Module III

Spans 1967 to 1975, and provides access to U.K. Foreign & Commonwealth Office reporting on the Brezhnev era, from the Prague Spring to the Helsinki Accords that signaled a new phase in East-West relations.

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