

Social Movements and the Change of Economic Elites in Europe after 1945

In post-Second World War Europe, the elimination of the remains of the National Socialist hegemony was an omnipresent question. For the Central Powers, the implementation lay in the hands of the Allied occupying forces. They organised the process of denazification and the establishment of a new economic order. In countries without military occupation, there was a deep gap between the new governmental forces and their former collaborators. In both cases, social movements which were formed by antifascists on the left of the political spectrum assumed the task of social reorganisation. Trade unionists were prominent amongst them. Their actions were directed against war criminals, war profiteers and former Nazi supporters. Moreover, in many cases, political activists did not only adopt anti-fascist but also anti-capitalist positions.

In our context, "social movement" is used as an analytical term. In the contemporary discussion, it was mostly absent (especially in the German-speaking countries) because of its use by the National Socialists (German: *die Bewegung* or *Volksbewegung*). In other countries such as France, the term was used as other movements had emerged during the war, for instance the *mouvement de liberation nationale* in 1940. The post-war movements formed spontaneously and were highly diverse. Their form of organisation were commissions and committees such as the *comités de liberation* and the *comités d'épuration* in France or the *Antifaschistische Kommissionen* in Germany. Special groups were factory committees or works councils that aimed at establishing the worker's power within the companies. Sometimes the seizure of power extended to the judicial sector when lay judges were appointed for the prosecution of collaborators. Many of these social movements envisioned a political order that went beyond the re-establishment of pre-war liberal-democratic regimes.

The conference will analyse these diverse European social movements by reference to their past, development and other important facts.

Thursday, November 8

14.30 Welcome programme

15.00 **Stefan Berger/Marcel Boldorf** (Bochum)
Introduction

Session 1: Germany

15.20 **Till Kössler** (Bochum)
Workers protest movements and the trade union politics in West Germany, 1945-1951

15.40 **Marcel Boldorf** (Bochum)
Social Movements and the change of business elites in East Germany

16.00 Discussion of session 1

16.30 Coffee break

Session 2: Western and Southern Europe

17.20 **Xavier Vigna** (Dijon)
France after 1945: When a left-wing government tried to control social movement

17.40 **Rik Hemmerijckx** (Sint-Amands)
Social movements and the change of economic elites: the Belgian case

18.00 Discussion of session 2

19.30 Conference dinner

Friday, November 9

Session 3: Eastern Europe

09.30 **Jaromír Balcar/Jaroslav Kucera** (Bremen/Prag)
Social movements within a "National Revolution": Czechoslovakia after 1945

09.50 **Tanja Penter** (Hamburg)
Rebuilding the Donbass. The impact of Nazi-Occupation on workers, engineers and the economic development of the post-war Soviet Union in late Stalinism

10:10 Discussion of session 3

10.40 Coffee break

Session 4: Northern Europe

11.00 **Niels Wium Olesen** (Aarhus)
Change or return to normalcy. The Danish transition from war to peace

11.20 **Harald Espeli** (Oslo)
Political radicalisation and social movements in liberated Norway (1945-1947)

11.40 Discussion of the two papers

12.30 Lunch break

Session 4 (continued): Northern Europe

14.30 **Niklas Jensen-Eriksen** (Helsinki)
Continuity and change: New social movements and traditional economic Elites in post-war Finland

14.50 **Lars Ekdahl** (Södertörn)
The Swedish labour movement and
post-war radicalisation

15.10 Discussion of Session 4

15.30 Short coffee break

Session 5: Non-occupied countries

15.50 **Marc Prat Sarbatés** (Barcelona)
Economic elites and labour movement under
surviving fascism: Spain in the 1940s

16.10 **Peter Ackers** (Loughborough)
Saving British social democracy? Hugh Clegg,
the Oxford School of academic Industrial
Relations and the 1965-68 Donovan
Commission on Trade Unions and
Employers Association

16.30 Discussion of Session 5

17.00 General discussion: European patterns of
post-war recovery

17.30 **Stefan Berger/Marcel Boldorf** (Bochum)
Final announcements



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By train: From Bochum central station please take under-
grounds no. 308 or 318 in direction Hattingen. Exit at sta-
tion "Engelbert-Brunnen/Bermudadreieck" or at station
"Schauspielhaus". You can as well walk via Ferdinand-
straße and Hermannshöhe to HGR in approximately 10
minutes walking time.

By car: Take the autobahn A 43 until the interchange
Bochum-Witten. From there, please take Universitäts-
straße in direction Bochum city centre. Turn onto Oskar-
Hoffmann-Straße and then onto Königsallee to get to the
House for the History of the Ruhr.

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