

The Memory of the Holocaust in Central Europe

Instructor: Pavel Barša

Course Description

The memory of the Holocaust in East-Central Europe is not about pious recollections of a past tragedy but rather about “who we are”. In other words, it is part of the politics of national identity of East-Central European countries.

With the help of a recent collection of essays that treat the cases of those nations the course offers a comparative survey of national memories of the Holocaust. The sample is narrowed to the post-communist countries which have entered the EU. The goal is to grasp both peculiarities of each case and commonalities which make them similar.

Requirements

Participation in class discussions, one oral presentation of readings and final written examination.

Program

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Michal Frankl, *The Sheep of Lidice: The Holocaust and the Construction of Czech National History*, in J.P.Himka and J. B. Michlic (eds.), *Bringing the Dark Past to Light. The Reception of the Holocaust in Postcommunist Europe*, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln and Lincoln, 2013, pp. 166-194.
- 3) Nina Paulovičová, “The ‘Unmasterable Past’? The Reception of the Holocaust in Postcommunist Slovakia”, *ibid.*, pp. 549-570.
- 4) Nina Paulovičová, “the ‘Unmasterable ...’”, *ibid.*, pp. 570-590.
- 5) Paul Hanebrink, “The Politics of Holocaust Memory [in Postcommunist Hungary]”, *ibid.*, pp. 261-291.
- 6) J. B. Michlic, M. Melchior, “The Memory of the Holocaust in Post-1989 Poland: Renewal – Its Accomplishments and Its Powerlessness”, *ibid.*, pp. 403-426.

- 7) J.B. Michlic, M. Melchior, “The Memory ...”, *ibid.*, pp. 426-450.
- 8) Peter Monteath, “Holocaust Remembrance in the German Democratic Republic – and Beyond”, *ibid.*, pp. 223-237.
- 9) Peter Monteath, “Holocaust ...”, *ibid.*, pp. 237-260.
- 10) Joseph Benatov, “Debating the Fate of Bulgarian Jews during World War II”, *ibid.*, pp. 108-131.
- 11) Felicia Waldman, Mihai Chioveanu, “Public Perceptions of the Holocaust in Postcommunist Romania”, *ibid.*, pp. 451-486.
- 12) Saulius Sužiedelis, Šarunas Liekis, “Conflicting Memories: The Reception of the Holocaust in Lithuania”, *ibid.*, pp. 319-351.
- 13) Mark Biondich, “Representations of the Holocaust and Historical Debates in Croatia since 1989”, *ibid.*, pp. 131-165.
- 14) Recapitulation