





 Deutsches
 Historisches Institut
 Warschau

 Niemiecki
 Instytut Historyczny
 w Warszawie

Temporality and Statehood

A workshop on the historical politics of
emerging states in Central and Eastern Europe

Warsaw, 19–21 March 2018

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A workshop on the politics of history of emerging states in
Central and Eastern Europe

Modern states are defined by the relationship between a clearly bounded territory, its population and a legitimised form of power. In legal terms, statehood additionally requires formal recognition through other states. The emergence of new nation states in Central and Eastern Europe in the direct aftermath of the First World War shows a pattern of temporal statehood on the edge of emergence and failure. Dozens of states were declared while territorial outlines were not yet finalized, monopolies of power not established, international recognition still beyond reach. The attempt to create political facts while taking mutual legal recognition for granted in a moment of turmoil was not successful in numerous cases; however, in others, such as in the case of the Baltic States, Poland and Czechoslovakia, it was. This workshop examines to what extent temporal arguments played a role for emerging polities and their claims for independent statehood.

The participants of the workshop will investigate this historical configuration in two steps: 1) An analysis of different cases will focus on various strategies of temporal reasoning. This might include the question of how non-recognised states attempted to legitimise their claims for independent statehood. Furthermore, we are interested in historical narratives around hidden or proto-statehood that are used to legitimise statehood and make predictions about the emerging

state's future prospect. In addition to these internal attempts to legitimise the emergence of statehood, we aim to integrate external perceptions into the debate, i.e. how enemies of the new states put forward arguments of temporal ambiguity to characterise the new states as „seasonal states“ that were bound to disappear as quickly as they had emerged. Thus, the workshop will also examine the effect this constant assessment of the viability of states had on the emerging political sciences. 2) The workshop employs a twofold approach towards the practice of comparing the various markers of statehood. Over the course of the 20th century it was used as a historical argument to refer to already existing states, but it was also used to explain why these states were not eligible for de facto or de jure recognition. In addition to this attempt to historicise the comparison as a diachronic tool, we try to adopt it ourselves by comparing the situation after the First World War with the situation of non-recognised states in the aftermath of the Cold War. We include examples of non-recognised states, the emergence of which was part of the long-term process of the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Does this comparison facilitate a historical contextualisation of the declaration of statehood as a political and geopolitical technique, which is still at the core of a large share of conflicts in the earlier 21st century in the region, e.g. in the form of the creation of „People's Republics“ in the East of Ukraine?

Organizers: Felix Ackermann, German Historical Institute Warsaw; Daria Isachenko, European University Viadrina, Institute of European Studies, Frankfurt (Oder); Klaus Richter, University of Birmingham, Department of Culture and History; Stephan Stach, Institute of Contemporary History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague

Monday, 19 March 2017

Individual arrival

7 pm, *Welcome dinner*

Tuesday 20 March 2017

9.15 am, *German Historical Institute (GHI) Warsaw, ballroom*

Felix Ackermann, short welcome & technical issues

9.30 am

The Long-Term Impact of Brest-Litovsk

Introduction & moderation: **Stephan Stach**, Prague

Borislav Chernev, Exeter: Brest-Litovsk and the Making of Post-War Europe

Diana Siebert, Siegen: Map-Making and the Territorialisation of Statehood in Polesia and Belarus

Comments: **Maciej Górny**, Warsaw, **Andrei Chernavievich**, Vilnius / Hrodna

12.30 am, *Lunch break*

2 pm, *GHI, conference room*

Competing Modes of Statehood

Introduction & moderation: **Felix Ackermann**, Warsaw

Per Rudling, Singapore: Competing State-Building Projects and Their Historical Agenda in Post-WWI Belarus

Gennadii Korolov, Kyiv: The Ukrainian Revolution 1917–21 and the Concepts of "Second World" and "Historical Argument"

Comments: **Łukasz Adamski**, Warsaw, **Christhardt Henschel**, Warsaw, tbc

5 pm *Coffee break*

6 pm *Lelewel debate (in German and Polish), GHI, conference room*

100 Years of Temporality

Non-recognised states in the Aftermath of WWI and the Cold War

Maciej Górny (Warsaw), **Daria Isachenko** (Frankfurt/Oder), **Klaus Richter** (Birmingham), **Per Rudling** (Singapore); moderation: Felix Ackermann (Warsaw)

8 pm, *GHI, ballroom, Reception*

Wednesday, 21 March

9.15 am, GHI, ball room

Temporal dimensions of statehood

Introduction & moderation: **Daria Isachenko** (Frankfurt/Oder)

Nutsa Batiashvili, Oxford: Delayed Statehood: Time, Nation and Narration in Georgia

Klaus Richter, Birmingham: State Viability and Historical Constructs as Legitimation for State Building in the Baltics, 1917–1922

Mikhail Minakov, Frankfurt (Oder): Historical Argumentation and Political Myths among Separatist Supporters Living in South-Eastern Ukraine (2014–16)

Comment: **Aliaksei Liastouski**, Minsk / Polatsk, **Dimitri Titarenko**, Kryvoy Rog, Donetsk

12 am

Final discussion

Was the experiment to compare the aftermath of WWI and the collapse of the Soviet Union successful? To what extent is temporality a useful dimension for the analysis of emerging statehood? What did we miss during the discussions?

1 pm, Lunch & exhibition *The Future Will Be Different. Visions and Practices of Social Modernisation after 1918. Zachęta* National Gallery of Art

Venue

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Accommodation

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The hotel is located about 10 minutes' walking from the GHI.



Public transport

Warsaw has a well-functioning system of buses, trains and trams. Please check www.ztm.waw.pl or maps.google.com for details.

Taxi

If you arrive at the airport, use only registered cabs such as Sawa Taxi, Merc Taxi and Radio MTP Taxi. Please keep in mind that GHI can cover the taxi costs only if you arrive during the night.

Travel costs

Please fill in the form provided during the workshop and send it back via airmail to the GHI, together with bills and original boarding tickets. GHI will reimburse you within a few days after receiving the documents.