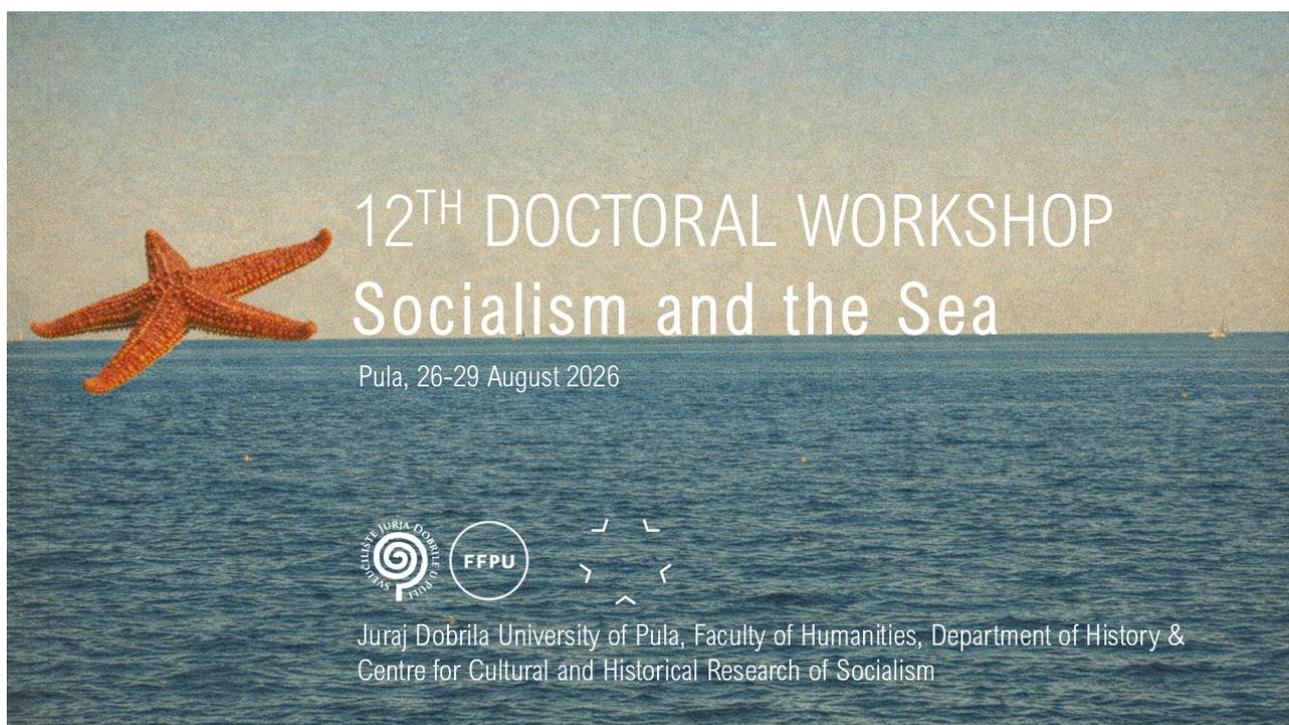


NEWSLETTER

CENTRE FOR CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH OF SOCIALISM
CENTAR ZA KULTUROLOŠKA I POVIJESNA ISTRAŽIVANJA SOCIJALIZMA

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12th Doctoral Workshop: Call for Papers



Oriented towards PhD students in history, as well as in other fields of the humanities and social sciences, this year's workshop will explore **the relationship between socialist systems and policies on the one hand and the sea and the seaside as stages of historical events and processes on the other**. Once secured by military power or political agreements, access to the coastline and to international waters offered opportunities for rapid economic development and became a source of national pride. Moreover, it opened new possibilities for cooperation and communication with foreign cultures and

counterparts, whether statesmen, sailors, merchants, or travellers. Within a country, workers were turned into tourists, traditional fishing developed into an industry, shipbuilders learned to construct ocean liners, and windmills were replaced by power plants and pipelines. In its various forms, modernisation transformed villages into towns and cities, and dusty roads into highways. While migration brought people together into new urban structures, rural areas and the nearby hinterland often remained abandoned and forgotten, though sometimes ecologically preserved. How did socialist

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH: Marko Miljković (pp. 9-11)

states, as well as socialist and communist parties and movements across Europe and elsewhere, deal with their maritime policies? Was the sea perceived primarily as a source of foreign threat or as a bridge to internationalism and solidarity? Ranging from its role as a dangerous divider in conflicts and disputes to a romantic setting enabling pleasure and encounters between like-minded people, the sea and its history reveal much about societies shaped along their shores. The workshop therefore invites contributions that examine coastal societies, maritime economies, littoral and land-locked perspectives, and various cultural and intellectual imaginaries of the sea in socialist discourse and practice.

The expected four keynote speakers include both guests and hosts: Ruža Fotiadis (Humboldt University of Berlin), Iva Kosmos (University of Zagreb), Anita Buhin (Nova University Lisbon) and Igor Duda (University of Pula).

So far, the Workshop has focused on various topics in contemporary history, the history of socialist Yugoslavia and wider European context: The History of Everyday Life in Socialist Yugoslavia (2015); Yugoslav Socialism: Similarities and Exceptionalities (2016); A New Man for the Socialist Society (2017); Yugoslavia and the Global 1968: Contexts, Perspectives, Echoes (2018); Industrial Societies of Late Socialism: European Comparisons (2019); Cooperation, Exchange and Solidarity in Europe 1945-1990 (2020); Microhistories of Socialism (2021); Microhistories of Socialism and Postsocialism (2022); What Was Europe? Perception, Division and Integration, 1940s-2010s (2023); Why Socialism Matters? Approaches to Research of the Political Idea and the Historical Period

(2024); Systems of Governance (2025). The themes were often connected to the research projects at CKPIS or with the cooperation network around the Chair for South-East European History at the Humboldt University of Berlin. Over the past years, the Workshop has received an excellent response, with PhD students and lecturers coming from various universities and other institutions (Basel, Belgrade, Berlin, Bielefeld, Birmingham, Bochum, Bodø, Bologna, Bratislava, Bremen, Budapest, Cologne, Córdoba, Cork, Duisburg-Essen, Durham, Florence, Frankfurt, Genoa, Ghent, Giessen, Glasgow, Graz, Halle, Hamburg, Iași, Konstanz, Koper, Lisbon, Ljubljana, Mainz, Manchester, Montreal, Munich, Naples, North Carolina - Chapel Hill, Nottingham, Oxford, Paris, Potsdam, Prague, Princeton, Regensburg, Rome, San Diego, Sarajevo, Skopje, Sofia, Split, Tübingen, Turku, Vienna, Warsaw, Warwick, Zadar, Zagreb and Pula). Information on past workshops is available on our website.

Our objective is to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and ideas among PhD students, as well as foster participation in stimulating discussions. We aim to enhance networking and collaboration among young researchers and identify emerging research trends, particularly at the doctoral level.

Please, submit the online application form by 15 May 2026. The form includes the abstract (max. 200 words) and a short biographical note (max. 200 words). Acceptance notification will follow by the end of May. By 10 July the elected applicants are expected to send a short paper (max. 1,800 words), based on their dissertation or another research. The workshop language is English. Based on the paper, each presentation should last up to 15

minutes and will be followed by an immediate discussion. A certificate will be issued to PhD students confirming their participation and the value of 2 ECTS credits.

Participants are expected to arrive by late afternoon of Wednesday, August 26, when the workshop starts. The programme ends by noon on Saturday.

The participation fee is 130€. Payment information will follow after the selection process. As organisers, we will be able to cover

accommodation (three nights, single rooms at the new student dorm in the city centre), a meal per day and coffee breaks. The participants should organise their travel to Pula and cover its cost, hopefully with the support of their universities or other sources.

[The online application form and all information are available on the website.](#)

We are looking forward to your applications!

Organising Committee

Tin Celner on Petrova Gora



On 23 March, CKPIS hosted a lecture by Tin Celner, a PhD student at the University of Zagreb and an external associate of our Centre. His topic was the Petrova Gora memorial complex as one of the key symbols of the anti-fascist struggle in Croatia. The lecture focused on the Second World War events in the area, memorialisation practices within the local community and in the broader context of socialist ideology, activities at the complex in the 1980s, as well as the devastation that followed. Read more about the topic in the latest issue of *History in Flux*.

Centar za kulturološka i povijesna istraživanja socijalizma poziva vas na predavanje

ponedjeljak, 23. ožujka 2026.
17.00 sati
Filozofski fakultet
Negrijeva 6, Pula
dv. 219 (1. kat, lijevo krilo)



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LOOK FOR CKPIS.UNIPU.HR ON FACEBOOK





CONFERENCES AND CFP

Student Mobilities and Migration Regimes since 1900, Potsdam, 17-19 March 2027

The conference seeks to bridge the gap between histories of student mobility and histories of migration to better understand how students have resisted, collaborated or negotiated with hardening border regimes at a global level since 1900. There is an increasingly rich historiography on the topic of student mobility, focusing on national and transnational case studies, and the roles of student activists and universities within broader processes of colonisation, decolonisation and regional integration. At the same time, reflexive migration studies have recently developed sophisticated new research on migrant perspectives, border practices, knowledge production and the de-essentialisation of migration categories, but have rarely paid attention to mobile students, despite their significance, numerically, theoretically and politically, as a lens through which to re-examine broader histories of mobility. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 29 May 2026

Science, Dissent, and Activism: How Non-State Actors Challenged the Cold War Order, Prague, 7-8 September 2026

This conference seeks to advance an analytically grounded discussion of how non-state actors used science, expertise, and moral authority to challenge Cold War logics of sovereignty, security, and ideological loyalty. Particular emphasis will be placed on the interplay between knowledge production and political agency across different institutional settings, including conferences, committees, universities and research institutes, expert networks, and non-governmental organizations. A central point of reference is the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs and related initiatives, understood not only as a peace movement but as laboratories of non-state diplomacy, epistemic authority, and Cold War governance. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 19 April 2026

The Future of Yesterday - Visions, Concepts, Scenarios and Germanspeaking Communities in Central and Southeastern Europe, Munich, 22-23 October 2026

The conference adopts an interdisciplinary approach to historical projections of the future formulated by German-speaking communities in Central and Southeastern Europe across various eras. Visions, concepts, and scenarios are treated as historical sources that offer insight into political positioning, cultural self-identification, key actors, networks, and social negotiation processes. The objective is to analyze alternative projections of the future from the past and to reflect on their significance for our understanding of the present. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 31 May 2026

The History of Rights, Equality and Difference(s) from a Gender Perspective, Naples, 16-18 September 2026

While gender equality has been formally recognized as a universal human rights principle, its meanings, applications, and limits have varied across historical, cultural, political, and geographical contexts. Historically, gender has played a central role in defining who could claim rights, on what grounds, and with what limitations. At the same time, claims based on gender difference have functioned both as instruments of emancipation and as mechanisms of exclusion. Using a gender perspective, this Graduate Conference seeks contributions that critically examine how gendered notions of equality and difference have been debated, redefined and experienced in different contexts and by different subjects at a local, national and transnational level, and how they changed in history, since the early modern period and until the 21st century. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 April 2026

Summer School in Critical Theory and Praxis: Literature and Society, Cres, 5-12 July 2026

The Summer School in Critical Theory and Praxis: Literature and Society is a seven-day intensive programme held on the island of Cres, Croatia. It brings together scholars, students, researchers, artists, educators, activists, cultural workers, and policymakers for interdisciplinary exchange through lectures, workshops, and cultural events. The programme connects theoretical inquiry with literary and artistic practice, addressing pressing social and political issues while exploring creative and innovative responses. Thirty participants and around fifteen lecturers and workshop leaders will spend six working days engaging with this year's theme: the relationship between literature and politics. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 April 2026

The Lasting Presence of the Past: How Trauma Lives on Across Generations?, Iași, 23-25 September 2026

This memory studies conference examines processes of transmission, transgenerational trauma, the different forms and the responses they generate, as well as the absences and silences surrounding these transmissions in different political, cultural and social contexts and through various media. Particular emphasis will be placed on Central and Eastern Europe viewed from a comparative perspective with other regions of the world. By bringing together scholars from diverse disciplines, the conference will critically engage not only with the continuing presence of the past but also with the reappropriation of past traumas, the binary and hegemonic discourse surrounding traumatic histories, the silencing of trauma narratives and the emergence of alternative histories. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 3 May 2026



PUBLICATIONS

Čarna Brković, *Realigning Humanitarianism in the Balkans: From Cold War Politics to Neoliberal Ethics* (Indiana University Press, Bloomington 2026)

During the Cold War, humanitarianism became the focus of intense debates among intellectuals, politicians, and diplomats from capitalist, socialist, and nonaligned countries about the boundaries between the political and nonpolitical. However, with the fall of socialism near the end of the twentieth century, these discussions over what humanitarianism is, what it could be, and what it ought to be were largely forgotten. The book examines how the fall of socialism changed humanitarianism in the Balkan region, beginning with the work of the Yugoslav Red Cross within the Non-Aligned Movement in the 1970s and continuing with the work in Montenegro by local organizations in a refugee camp between 2000 and 2018. ([Read more](#))

Eleonora Naxidou, Yura Konstantinova (eds.), *Balkan Perspectives of Europe: Between East and West* (Routledge, 2026)

Through the lens of the Balkan nations, this volume makes a valuable and significant contribution to the fields of European and Southeast European studies by reconsidering the East/West dichotomy – both in terms of the Orient–Occident divide and the Eastern–Western Europe binary. The book focuses on concepts of Europe as articulated in the Balkans from the nineteenth century to the present – an area that remains largely underexplored, despite extensive research on national identity and the construction of the Other. The authors address this scholarly gap through meticulous bibliographic research, drawing on both published and unpublished sources in Balkan languages. A key strength of the collection is its inclusion of contributors from the Balkans as well as from wider European and American academic contexts, enabling a nuanced and comprehensive examination of the subject through internal and external perspectives. ([Read more](#))

Olga Supek, *A hundred years of bread and wine* (Institut za etnologiju i folkloristiku, Zagreb 2026)

E-knjiga *A hundred years of bread and wine: The culture, history and economy of a Croatian village* Olge Supek njezina je doktorska disertacija obranjena 1982. godine na Sveučilištu Michigan u Ann Arboru u Sjedinjenim Američkim Državama. Originalnom tekstu na engleskom jeziku autorica je dodala Predgovor u kojem je dala kontekst nastanka studije i njezine objave danas. Studija se bavi transformacijom tradicijske seljačke kulture u kontekstu ondašnje Socijalističke Republike Hrvatske od 1950-ih do 1970-ih godina, a temelji se na terenskom radu koji je autorica obavila u više navrata između 1977. i 1980. godine u sjeverozapadnoj Hrvatskoj, na lokalitetu za koji u originalnom radu koristi pseudonim „Vinogorje“, a koji je u Predgovoru identificirala kao Goricu Svetojansku. ([Read more](#))

Florian Bieber, *Hvar in the Modern Age: Identity and Change in Southeast Europe* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2026)

Florian Bieber traces the history of the island of Hvar during the 19th and 20th centuries. Bieber uses Hvar as a novel lens to tell a larger story about modernity, changing states and identity, tourism and the transnational entanglements of the Adriatic Sea and the region of southeast Europe. The book shows how ordinary people dealt with the challenges of the rise of nations, as well as transnational connections such migration and tourism and the changing of empires and states. Based on a wealth of archival materials from Croatia, Serbia, Hungary, Austria, the UK and the USA, *Hvar in the Modern Age* also reveals the complexities of the history of the Habsburg Monarchy and Yugoslavia from a bottom-up perspective and the realities and challenges of island life in southeast Europe during the modern period. ([Read more](#))

Luka Pejić (ed.), *Društva i bolesti: odgovori na zdravstvene krize u modernoj i suvremenoj povijesti* (Filozofski fakultet u Osijeku, Osijek 2025)

Zbornik kroz šesnaest članaka obrađuje višestruke utjecaje epidemija i pandemija na društvene odnose i političke prakse u Hrvatskoj i svijetu u razdoblju od 18. stoljeća do našeg vremena. Publikacija je rezultat istoimenog jednogodišnjeg projekta te znanstvenog skupa koji je u travnju 2023. godine održan na Filozofskom fakultetu u Osijeku. Autorice i autori objavljenih radova navedena pitanja obrađuju iz različitih perspektiva, analizirajući odabrane probleme u većini slučajeva kao povjesničari, ali i kao filozofi, lingvisti i pedagozi. U središtu zanimanja njihovih članaka nalaze se složene implikacije različitih zdravstvenih kriza izazvanih, primjerice, pojavom kuge, epidemijom boginja, širenjem španjolske gripe, sifilisa ili koronavirusa. ([Read more](#))

**POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS****Two postdoctoral positions within the ProletGard ERC Starting Grant project, Kassák Foundation, Budapest, Hungary**

This five-year ERC-funded research project examines how avant-garde art contributed to the formation of a workers' movement counterculture in East Central Europe and beyond. This project argues that East Central European socialist, including avant-garde periodicals, groups, and figures were instrumental both in shaping the avant-garde and the local branches of transnational workers' movements. Applicants with a background in one or more of the following interdisciplinary fields of study are invited to apply: labor history, media history, gender history, literary history, or art history. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 1 May 2026

Assistant Professor (Croatia) / POSTDOC 4 (Croatia) in ERC project 'Re-thinking Queer Kinship: LGBTIQ* Families in Central and Eastern Europe (QUERSHIP)', Warsaw University

QUEERSHIP is a pioneering five-year research project (2026–2030) funded by the ERC, dedicated to studying the everyday lives, kinship practices, and support networks of LGBTIQ* families in Central and Eastern Europe. The project offers a novel theoretical and methodological approach to queer kinship that moves beyond the Anglo-American perspective dominant in queer studies. The research covers four countries: Poland, Czech Republic, Croatia, and Hungary, regions with diverse yet still limited legal and social recognition of LGBTIQ* families. The project analyzes how LGBTIQ* families build, practice, and display their relationships under dynamic and often hostile cultural and institutional norms. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 12 April 2026

ERC Mentoring Initiative: Call for Applications, The Institute for Human Sciences (IWM Vienna)

The Institute for Human Sciences (IWM Vienna), together with the Polish Academy of Sciences and generously supported by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, has established a mentoring initiative for applicants for European Research Council (ERC) Starting and Consolidator Grants in the humanities and social sciences from Central, Eastern, and South-Eastern Europe. This mentoring initiative is addressed in particular to researchers in the areas of history, anthropology, political science, sociology, science, and technology studies, as well as cultural and literary studies aiming to submit in 2027 – 2028. Internationally established scholars, who have served as members of ERC evaluation panels, or who have held ERC grants themselves will act as mentors during a workshop. The aim is to give a small group of mentees individualized advice regarding the development of their projects' academic content through intensive discussion with each other and with the mentors. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 May 2026



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INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

by Tina Filipović

Marko Miljković is a research associate at the Institute of Economic Sciences in Belgrade
[\(read more\)](#)



Marko Miljković

*We speak with Marko Miljković about his recently published book, *Titova atomska bomba: Jugoslavenski nuklearni program 1948-1970* (Tito's Atomic Bomb: The Yugoslav Nuclear Programme, 1948-1970) (*Srednja Europa*), which is expected to be published in English soon. Over the course of his research, Miljković has moved from the history of automobilism to nuclear history. He has been our guest in Pula on several occasions, including the last *Socialism on the Bench*, where he spoke about NAM's nuclear technical cooperation, their achievements and limitations.*

What did the idea of possessing an atomic bomb represent for Yugoslavia given the country's modest capacities?

Even today, 'only' nine countries possess nuclear weapons, making it a highly restricted

club (USA, Russia, Great Britain, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel, and North Korea). During the Cold War, acquiring this capability would have bolstered Yugoslavia's strategic independence, increasing its influence both globally and within the Non-Aligned Movement. While Tito did achieve high international standing, Yugoslavia's influence faded after his leadership ended. Symbolically, a nuclear program would have served as definitive proof of the country's industrial and scientific modernization. Furthermore, it can be argued, though speculatively, that possessing even a limited nuclear arsenal might have prevented Yugoslavia's violent collapse. Ultimately, the drive for nuclear status in general involves a mix of security, foreign and internal policy, and national prestige, factors that remain central to analyzing any country's motive for embarking on such a complex and sensitive journey, including the most contemporary case of Iran.

Where and under what conditions was nuclear research conducted?

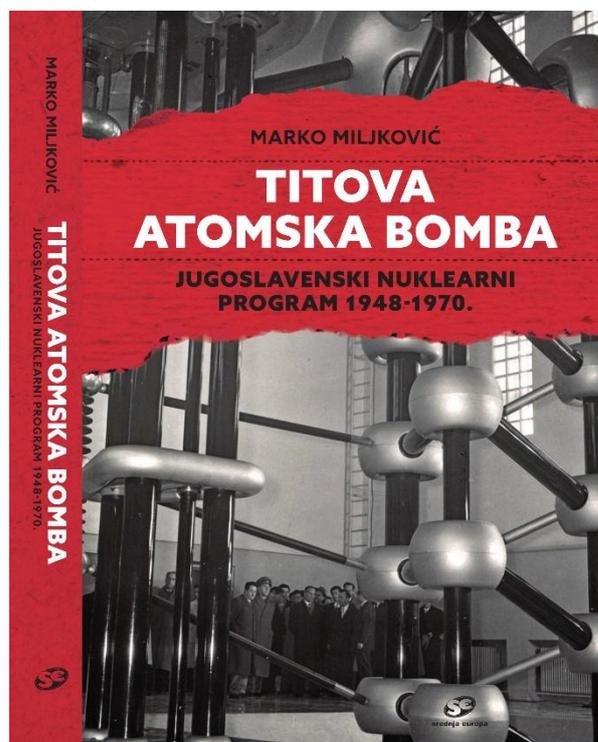
In the early days, there was really nothing but a handful of scientists, people like Pavle Savić, Ivan Supek, and Anton Peterlin. They came from different backgrounds and with different ideas for the country's budding nuclear program. Somewhat surprisingly, the Yugoslav command economy of the late 1940s and early 1950s proved to be quite capable; it successfully brought them all on board and

gave these three nuclear pioneers control over the new nuclear institutes in Vinča, Zagreb, and Ljubljana. By the end of the 1950s, the teams they created were achieving results comparable to much more developed nations. However, the political leadership barely understood the complexities of such a massive scientific project. They were fixated on tangible, 'prestige' results, things like reactors, accelerators, and eventually a bomb, often ignoring the theoretical foundation, which is arguably even more critical. It really boils down to the fact that you cannot put a theory in an official report or cut a red ribbon over it. This created a constant friction between the scientists and the decision-makers, which ended up undermining their best work and delaying any real material success.

How successful were Yugoslav scientists in keeping pace with their socialist counterparts involved in similar programmes? On the other hand, from whom did they mostly learn?

Soon after the Tito-Stalin split of 1948, much like in other spheres, the Yugoslav nuclear scientists turned to cooperation with the West. The first contacts were established with Sweden and Norway, which was politically convenient, considering that these were neutral countries, but the main partner soon became the United States. There is a fascinating episode from the late 1950s, when Yugoslav scientists finally visited the Soviet Union again, nearly a decade after ties had been cut. Accustomed to the Western practices, their reports reveal a complete disappointment with the treatment they received

in the Soviet scientific institutes, but also with the way these institutions operated. Some of them reported that their notebooks were confiscated, only to be sent back through the Yugoslav Embassy in Moscow months later, stitched with a thread and wax-sealed. It was a level of paranoia they had not even seen back home in Yugoslavia, where the secret police already monitored their work quite closely. On the other hand, Yugoslav scientists were in a unique position to receive training in both the Soviet Union and the United States, countries that were often competing to offer them more.



Given that the plans to develop nuclear weapons were kept strictly secret, were there nevertheless any criticisms among dissenting political circles? What kind of consensus existed on this issue within the Yugoslav leadership?

It's important to emphasize that the Yugoslav nuclear program was not only secret; it

functioned as an extended arm of the secret police (UDB). Both were led by Aleksandar Ranković, a setup very similar to Lavrentiy Beria's control over the Soviet atomic bomb project. Paradoxically, my research shows that Ranković was actually the one providing financial and political cover for some of the most hard-headed scientists. For instance, Stevan Dedijer, the director at Vinča in the early 1950s, decades later admitted he respected Ranković mostly because he saved him many times from 'bureaucratic scorpions.' However, by the late 1950s, the leadership's desperation for tangible results drove the three "founding fathers", Savić, Supek, and Peterlin, to leave the program within a very short window. Public dissent was mostly hushed up, although Supek remained a notable exception through his work with the anti-nuclear Yugoslav Pugwash Group, established in 1963 within JAZU in Zagreb. In a way, the authorities treated scientific dissent much like they treated rock'n'roll: they allowed it to exist as a "social safety valve" which helped Yugoslavia appear more democratic than other socialist states.

What led to the abandonment of the nuclear programme and what happened afterwards to the accumulated knowledge, facilities, and developed technologies?

Yugoslavia's desperate push for the bomb was initially sparked by an existential threat from the Soviets in the early 1950s. While that tension dissipated after Stalin's death in 1953, a new fear quickly took its place - the potential nuclearization of West Germany (FRG),

whether through their own program or NATO sharing.



"Re-writing the Constitutional History of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty" project at the 2022 NPT Review Conference

The logic was straightforward: if West Germany went nuclear, it would set off a massive arms race across both military blocs. Yugoslavia would have been left isolated and vulnerable, surrounded by nuclear-armed neighbors, but without its own nuclear deterrent and with limited capacities to develop it quickly. Ultimately, the only solution was to support global initiatives like the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The treaty provided the guarantee that West Germany would remain non-nuclear. Once that threat was seemingly neutralized, the Yugoslav weapons program was essentially disbanded. The most significant lasting legacy of the country's nuclear program is the Krško nuclear power plant, which stands as the practical, peaceful monument to all of those decades of material and human investments.

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