



University of Zagreb Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences – Department of History

University of Ljubljana Faculty of Arts – Department of History

**International Conference**

# The Tito-Stalin Split 70 Years After

**Zagreb and Goli otok**

## 28-30 June 2018

Organizing Committee:

**PhD Bojan Balkovec**

Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana

**PhD Stefano Bianchini**

University of Bologna

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**Foreword**

The announcement of the Information Bureau Resolution of 28 June 1948 initiated the break between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, which would quickly turn into one of the most important events of the early phase of the Cold War. It was the first major conflict in the theretofore-monolithic international communist movement and it remained a permanent reference for communist parties that wanted to become ideologically and politically emancipated from Moscow. For socialist Yugoslavia, it remained the most important, defining, event of its history. One of the outcomes of the break in this aspect was the specific development of Yugoslavia, which remained communist, but was able to articulate its own path both in the internal and foreign policy stage. This led to the creation of the Non-Aligned Movement, an organization bringing together states independent of the Western or the Eastern Bloc. This is the main reason why Yugoslavia and its leader Josip Broz Tito became an important factor in Cold War international relations. The Break of 1948 also initiated a series of processes in the internal Yugoslav ideological, economic and social spheres. During the conflict (1948-1956) Yugoslav secret police (UDBA), motivated by fear of an internal coup and an outside military intervention, carried out a wave of arrests of real and alleged Stalin supporters („ibeovci)“ who mostly ended up in camps (Goli otok, Sveti Grgur) and prisons where they were exposed to physical and psychological abuse and severe physical labor. In addition, the separation from Moscow initiated reforms of the system, organization of the state and Party, primarily focusing on limited political, economic and administrative decentralization and liberalization. The efforts to become emancipated from Soviet and homegrown Stalinism spurred various processes in social, cultural, artistic and other forms of Yugoslav life.

The aim of the conference is to bring together scientists whose ideas and work contribute to new interpretations of the different aspects of the Tito-Stalin conflict.

## Day 1

**Krležin Gvozd, Zagreb**

## June 28th 2018

**21:00** Conference opening

Tvrko Jakovina

Božo Repe

The opening event will include archival material screening (excerpts from Walter Neugebauer‘s *Big meeting* animated movie and various historical magazines) selected and edited by Tvrtko Jakovina and by courtesy of the *Croatian State Archives*. Screening will be followed by a literature reading piece (various pieces of Miroslav Krleža and Secret Speech of Nikita Khrushchev) performed by Luka Dragić.

## Day 2

## June 29th, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb

**9.00-9.10:** Opening remarks

### First session

**9.10-9.25: Mark Kramer** (Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard

University), *Stalin and the Soviet-Yugoslav Split*

**9.25-9.40: Peter Ruggenthaler** (University of Graz), *The Concept of Neutrality in Stalin´s*

*Foreign Policy, 1945-53*

**9.40-9.55: Petar Dragišić** (Institute of Contemporary History of Serbia), *Walking a Tightrope: Tito's Regional Ambitions and the Cominform Resolution*

**9.55-10.10: Ivo Goldstein** (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of

Zagreb),  *The Tito-Stalin Split 1948 as a Pesonal Conflict*

**10.10-10.35:** Discussion

### Second session

**10.35-10.50: Božo Repe** (Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana), *How Slovenia Became the*

*Westernmost Part of the Eastern World at the Time of the Cominform*

**10.50-11.05: Stefano Bianchini** (University of Bologna), *The Tito-Stalin Split, the Italian Left and the Fascination of the anti-Stalinist Communism*

**11.05-11.20: Janine-Marie Calic** (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München), *Tito, the Policy of Active Coexistence and the German Question (1968-1975)*

**11.20-11.35: Andrey Edemskiy** (Slavic Studies Institute/Russian Academy of Sciences),

*Soviet Information Policy During Soviet-Yugoslav Conflict and Normalization: Between Propaganda and Objective Briefing (1948-1958)*

**11.35-12.00:** Discussion

**12.05-12.20:** Coffee break

**Third session**

### 12.20-12.35: Christian Axboe Nielsen (Aarhus University), *The Office of State Security*

#### (SDS) and Surveillance of Cominform Supporters After Goli Otok

**12.35-12.50: Bojan Balkovec** (Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana), *Party Cells Support*

*Measures Against Hebrang and Žujović*

**12.50-13.05: Aleš Gabrič** (Institute of Contemporary History, Ljubljana), *Cominform*

*Supporters in Slovenia*

**13.05-13.20: Darja Kerec** (Faculty of Education, University of Ljubljana), *The* *Role of*

*Russia and the Soviet Union in the History of Prekmurje*

**13.20-13.45:** Discussion

**13.45-15.00:** Lunch break

### Fourth session

**15.00-15.15: Boris Stamenić**, *Humour, Mockery And Visual Representation in the Context of*

*the Tito-Stalin Split*

**15.15-15.30: Dragomir Bondžić** (Institute of Contemporary History, Belgrade), *Repercussions of the Tito-Stalin Split 1948 on Belgrade University*

**15.30-15.45: Klaus Buchenau** (University of Regensburg), *Brotherhood in Crisis: The Orthodox Serb-Russian Network Before, During and After the Tito-Stalin Split*

**15.45-16.10:** Discussion

### Fifth session

**16.10-16.25: John P. Kraljic** (Croatian Academy of America), *Yugoslav-American*

*Communities and the Tito-Stalin Break*

**16.25-16.40: Ondřej Vojtěchovský** (Charles University, Prague), *Narratives on the Titoist Repressions in the Circles of Yugoslav Cominformist Exile (in Czechoslovakia)*

**16.40-16.55: David Tompkins** **(**Carleton College, USA), *Imagining Yugoslavia in Warsaw and East Berlin in the Early Cold War: The Tito-Stalin Split and Its Effects on Polish and East German Society*

**16.55-17.10: Péter Vukman** **(**University of Szeged),*The History of Yugoslav Cominformist*

*Emigrants in Hungary (1948–1953)*

**17.10-17.40: Maximilian Graf** (European University Institute – History and Civilization,

Florence), *Upside-Down: Bilateral and Transnational Relations Between Austria and Yugoslavia Before and After 1948*

#### and

**Karlo Ružičić-Kessler** *(Free University of Bozen-Bolzano)*, *The Tito-Stalin*

*Split and its Effects on Communist Party Relations: A Case Study*

**17.40-18.10:** Discussion

### Sixth session

**18.10-18.25: Tvrtko Jakovina** (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of

Zagreb), *Against the Betrayal of Tito's Gang. Tour of Hajduk Soccer Team in Australia and their Fight against the Cominform Supporters in 1949*

**18.25-18.40: Martin Previšić** (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb), *The 1948 Split and the New Round of Factional Battles within the Communist Party of Yugoslavia: Parallel Biographies and Histories*

### Conference closing

## Day 3

### June 30th, Goli otok

Visit to Goli otok & Guided tour