

The book deals with the political, military, and economic aspects of Soviet occupation in Austria, Hungary, and Romania in a comparative perspective. The documents come from Hungarian, Romanian and Russian archives. The editors argue that the nature of Soviet foreign policy has been misunderstood. Existing literature has revolved around the explanation of Soviet foreign policy from the perspective of when and why Stalin made the decision to introduce Bolshevik political systems in the Soviet sphere of influence. But as the book will show the Soviet conquest of East-Central Europe had an imperial dimension and allowed the Soviet Union to use the territory it occupied as military and economic space. The book will also focus on the human experience of Soviet occupation: atrocities, rape, plundering and deportations.

"This fascinating collection of declassified documents from Austria, Hungary, Romania, and Russia sheds valuable comparative light on Soviet military occupation policies in Central Europe during the final year of World War II and the first several years after. The editors have done a splendid job of introducing and annotating the documents, allowing readers to trace the similarities and differences of the Soviet occupation regimes in Austria, Hungary, and Romania. The book not only reveals the Soviet Union's underlying political, military, and economic goals and methods in these three countries, but also vividly brings out what the occupation was like for ordinary people, including the atrocities perpetrated by Soviet troops against civilians."

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ABOUT THE EDITORS

Csaba Békés, Cold War History Research Center, Budapest, Hungary

László Borhi, Indiana University, USA

Peter Ruggenthaler, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Research on War Consequences, Graz, Austria

Ottmar Traşcă, Institute of History in Cluj-Napoca, Romania

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AND AUSTRIA 1944/45–1948/49

EDITED BY CSABA BÉKÉS, LÁSZLÓ BORHI,
PETER RUGGENTHALER, OTTMAR TRĂŞCĂ

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CSABA BÉKÉS, LÁSZLÓ BORHI, PETER RUGGENTHALER,
and OTTMAR TRĂȘCĂ

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Translators

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and JULIJA SCHELLANDER



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Fax: +1-646-557-2416

E-mail: meszarosa@ceu.hu

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¹ Fedor I. Tolbukhin, marshal of the Soviet Union, was the commander-in-chief of the Third Ukrainian Front from 1944 on. He was regarded as the liberator of Sofia, Bucharest, Budapest, and Belgrade. From June 1945 until 1947, he was commander-in-chief of the Southern Group of the Soviet Army (in Romania and Bulgaria). Furthermore, in 1946–1947 he acted as the head of the Military Mission in Yugoslavia.