



**HISTORY OF US MEDIA PARTICIPATION IN THE CRISIS OF
THE SOVIET STATE (1950-1991)**

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ABSTRACT	KEYWORDS
<p>The principal weapon of the cold war, which developed between the USA and the USSR after World War II and has grown in intensity over time, is the media, which is discussed in this article. It primarily discusses the early Western media's impact on the USSR, the Soviet press's response to such anti-communist ideas and their effects, as well as the factors that led to and contributed to the communist thought spreading throughout the entire Union.</p>	<p>Centar Europe, Voice of America, USSR, Communist Party, Soviet Union, Central Apparatus, Iron Curtain</p>

Introduction

As a result of the Second World War, communist ideology spread to Central and Eastern Europe. The communist regime of the USSR suddenly clashed with the government structure and policies of countries that had previously lived under fascism and anti-communist governments. As a result, the leaders of the Communist Party of the USSR faced many difficulties in controlling these countries and suppressing various ideological opinions. At the meeting of the Communist Party on August 31, 1945, the Soviet Communists came to the following conclusion in order to introduce communism in Central and Eastern Europe and rule under this system:

- 1) Should block all ideological (fascism) and anti-communist publications (all European daily media) except the Com.Party.
- 2) Stop the influence of Western mass media throughout Central and Eastern Europe.

The KGB began shutting down all media outlets as a first step to convert Eastern Europeans to communism. Censorship has been developed for all media to protect against ideological attacks.

After this meeting, the Communist Party took other so-called "practical" measures to ensure ideological unity with the USSR in Central and Eastern Europe.

However, the main goal of Soviet policy was to ensure the integrity of the occupied territories, and communism was seen as a means of this. Most of these practical measures were implemented in Central and Eastern Europe on the basis of the resolution of the Communist Party of the USSR meeting on August 31. Their main goal was to strengthen the border areas in every way, including to fight against the influence of the Americans and the British media. By the end of 1945, more than 1 billion rubles had been spent on equipment to stop or block radio and television waves. This can be seen from the decisions made at the regular meeting of the party held on December 25, 1945. It is explained that the reason for spending 1 billion rubles on such equipment is "the influence of the USA and [other] countries. The influence of Western mass media in Central and Eastern Europe is growing." Equipment for blocking and disabling radio and television waves was installed in the Belarusian Soviet Republic, Tito's Yugoslavia, as well as in many countries of Central and Eastern Europe, including the GDR. It was installed in other areas occupied by the Red Army. As Russian political analyst Yuria Sandrikina noted in 2012, "Until 1989, [on average] more than 300 specialists worked in blocking stations, and their salary was 50,000 rubles a year." So, personnel costs for censorship exceeded 15 million rubles per year. However, in January 1950, with the decision of the Communist Party and the advice of Stalin's Ideological Affairs Department, a decision was made that "all Soviet mass media should be instructed to intensify Soviet propaganda against the US and Western mass media.

"New stations were established to block non-communist mass media. Due to the growing influence of the Voice of America and radio broadcasts from Western Europe (Britain) in Central and Eastern Europe, the KGB took over these stations and constant modernization of equipment, major repairs were assigned. By assigning this task to the KGB, information went directly to the Soviet leadership. supported "special measures" to protect the secret. Every day in the USSR, the mass media used Soviet propaganda to influence the hearts and minds of their listeners and readers in order to prove the unlimited superiority of Communism. publishing and broadcasting Apart from this propaganda disseminated by the official media, all other international publications and media were filtered and censored before being allowed to circulate on the territory of the Soviet Union. Why did the Communist Party deputies spend so much of the budget on jamming and jamming devices, and so much human resources to prosecute people for using or distributing anti-Communist material? The main reason for this is clearly reflected in Article 70 of the Criminal Code of the USSR of 1922, which is simply expressed in the rule that "any ideological action against the communist idea is prohibited." By 1945, practical measures to ensure the integrity of the territories that came under the control of the party and to prevent internal and external "information attacks" were continued, and preparations for censorship were distinguished by a high level. These actions of the USSR did not go unnoticed by the West, where these actions were sharply condemned and criticized. This

was the period when Winston Churchill famously declared that "the iron curtain has fallen across the continent from Stettin on the Baltic to Trieste on the Adriatic."¹

This phrase can be seen as the starting point of the Cold War. It is no exaggeration to say that Churchill expressed an opinion about the application of Article 70 of the Criminal Code of the USSR (hereinafter: CC) in Eastern Europe. From 1946 to 1989, the Iron Curtain was the name of the border between Western Europe and the communist bloc in Eastern Europe. The Iron Curtain made it difficult for both people and ideas to travel to or from Eastern Europe. After Churchill's speech, prohibitions and restrictions were further strengthened, because of the satellite states of the USSR began to wrap in a protective shell. As a result, after this speech, the Soviets faced more and more political problems in the implementation of their foreign policy. They were accused of violating international agreements, human rights and acting undemocratically. In addition, NATO was formed, and its member states began the process of militarization under the pretext of protection from the USSR. In response, the party tightened its control over the mass media and other ideological information structures. Zhdanov, head of the propaganda and propaganda department of the MK, warned that "if we do not pay attention to the American and British newspapers, protests will rise in the USSR in the future" and ordered all publications, TV and radio broadcasts. The main aim was to distribute and broadcast anti-Anglo-American content and Soviet-friendly TV programs initiated by Stalin. In addition, Soviet propagandists tried to revive the idea of the "Iron Curtain" as a good thing in the public mind and partially succeeded. In the concept of the "Iron Curtain" during the Soviet era, the public could believe that "We live behind the Iron Curtain", which means that "the Communist Party protects us." The Iron Curtain was perceived as a castle rather than a prison. The people were not indifferent to this incessant bombardment of ideological propaganda. Maintaining ideological unity was the main theme of the political scene. As a result, the Soviet mass media discussed the Iron Curtain, and Soviet newspapers covered it, saying, "We have to strengthen it, we are happy, there are no other countries in it, and we are proud of it." You can contribute to it. Most of the Soviet population living behind the front in 1941-1945 heard and believed the messages of the Communist Party without any resistance. This situation persisted after the war, and the party's dominance in information dissemination confirmed the effectiveness of Soviet policy. So, Soviet propaganda turned the Iron Curtain from a prison into a symbol of goodness and happiness, security against Western aggression.

But as a multi-ethnic country, it was not easy to spread this propaganda. It was a difficult task to ensure that certain concepts were uniformly distributed throughout the Union. It is here that we see the growth of KGB operations.

By the 1950s, ideological opposition was again severely punished. This strengthened the communist ideological mechanisms in the multi-ethnic area and in the entire Union. Ignored during the war, the Gulags (Russian: Glavnoye upravleniye lagerii, - General Directorate of Camps, 1933-1953) were built en masse, and its basic concepts are widespread. As a result, Gulag camps turned into penal colonies for lawbreakers, especially those convicted under

¹ Speech of Winston Churchill on March 5, 1946 at Westminster College, in Fulton, Missouri. (<https://winstonchurchill.org> 1945 year March 5)

Article 70 of the Criminal Code. With the increase of gulags, the number of prisoners under Article 70 also increased dramatically. This trend was positively discussed and covered in the mass media of the USSR. The Gulag system did not ignore Central and Eastern Europe. As Western efforts to systematically influence Eastern Europeans through the mass media intensified, and more and more publications spread throughout the Soviet Union, increased KGB activity and intense public scrutiny of the article's local distribution detention was observed to increase based on 70 articles. In such cases, as a result of Stalin's totalitarian policy, people fled to Western Europe and began to seek asylum.

The Gulag system, in particular, coincided with a significant increase in the number of refugees leaving the GDR. The freedom and convenience of West Germany attracted permanent employees of the GDR to a new way of life and work, and West Germany in general attracted the attention of many people. Because of East Germany's interest in Western lifestyles and quality products, the Western concept of human rights found a greater following than in any other Eastern Bloc country. For many East Germans, the Gulag was an undeniable example of a brutal political system. The result was a "brain drain" in East Germany that continued until the Berlin Wall was built. Therefore, the KGB, in turn, made it difficult to distribute press materials and over the mass media took additional measures to strengthen control. On the advice of the KGB, the Communist Party over the years passed even stricter laws restricting freedom of the press. This is expressed by the acceleration of the process that has been developing over the years.

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