

Der Raum als Wille und Vorstellung Erkundungen über den Osten Europas

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A b s t r a c t s

Karl Schlögel

The return of space, in East European studies and elsewhere

Over a period of decades, spatial relations were a blind spot in the social sciences and history. The study of space was regarded as suspicious, and in Germany the subject had been contaminated by fascist discourse. It is only since the upheavals of 1989 and the onset of globalization that space has been attracting more attention as a central dimension of historical experience. What is involved here is not the revival of a branch of thought which propagated geographical determinism and essentialized the spatial, but the use of a spatially sharpened way of looking at the world. Only by doing this can we grasp the inherent complexity of places and spaces. Problems of social and structural history, and phenomena such as rule and the formation and exercise of power, can only be explained when the spatial dimension is taken into account. Seen in these terms, the apparent bon mot "Russia is a big place" can become a way of setting out on a new epistemological course, not just for East European history but for all disciplines concerned with Eastern Europe.

Andreas Helmedach

Rule in the Habsburg Empire: integration via the transport system

The development of the transport system and of communications in the 19th century was part of the Habsburg Empire's modernization policy. During the 18th century, the monarchy had concentrated on improving the road network as a way of integrating its territories politically and economically. At the beginning of the 19th century, transport planners became aware of the start of the railway age in Britain. Large-scale railway construction projects deepened the economic integration of the Habsburg Empire, and these projects boosted the economy. The construction industry, iron and steel, engineering, and coalmining all benefited. A "common market" in coal and agricultural products linking the whole empire came into being. Before long, Habsburg engineers were building locomotives which were the equals of any in the world. By the end of the century, a finely-meshed network of telegraph and telephone connections covered the empire. This accelerated the flow of information. However, these achievements of the modern period also contained the seeds of the destruction of the multinational state.

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Frithjof Benjamin Schenk

The opening up of space as an imperial problem:
Dominion over Russia's expanses

The construction of modern communication networks in the 19th century was of great political significance for the Russian Empire. The railway system and telegraphy made it easier to exercise imperial power over the largest continental empire on earth, and welded the country together into one communication space. However, this development also helped to destabilize imperial rule. The blue-collar and white-collar employees of the railways and the state telegraph system were, in quantitative terms, a powerful social group. They also controlled the empire's arteries of communication. Their participation in the 1905 general strike was one of the factors that led to the partial success of the first Russian revolution to affect the whole of the country.

Klaus Gestwa

Space – power – history:
Making sense of Soviet space

The history of large-scale technological projects in the Stalinist period provides good arguments for the interpretation of Stalinism as modernity freed of all inhibitions. These projects were designed to create real and imaginary spaces and so to produce myths which the party-state could use to build up its power. Maps, exhibitions, and narrative abbreviations served as important ways of convincing Soviet man of the new dimensions of the social world and of relocating collective memory. This aestheticization of space and technology concealed the incompleteness of Stalinist modernity. Forms of social appropriation of space stood in opposition to the superior might of space shaped in this way. Thus imperial space remained an artificial surface rather than a firmly rooted, deep structure.

Jörg Stadelbauer

Categories of space:

Alexander von Humboldt's journey to Russia

Humboldt's journey to Russia in 1829 has never received as much attention as his South American expedition, partly because the written record of the Russian trip is sketchy. However, it deserves to be examined more closely as a prelude to Humboldt's late work *Kosmos*, because we can see him here as a political thinker as well as a natural scientist. These two aspects of Humboldt's work exist side by side in his perception of spatial phenomena such as distance, the altitude of mountains, the orientation of the economy towards available resources, ethnic differentiation, and socioeconomic disparities. As we read this material, we can see Humboldt as one of the thinkers who helped to create the field of political geography.

Gerd Koenen

An "India wreathed in mist":

Alfons Paquet and revolutionary Russia

The biography of the Frankfurt journalist and author Alfons Paquet reveals him to have been a typical representative of the virulent undercurrent of strong orientation towards the East, which was the other side of Germany's alienation from the West during World War I. Germany's "Russia complex" was by no means simply a matter of fears and phobias, but was determined to at least the same degree by mutual attraction and involvement. This was equally true, and indeed more true, of the period after the 1917 revolution.

Markus Krzoska

Slavic return to the West:

Poland's borders in the work of Zygmunt Wojciechowski

The Polish historian Zygmunt Wojciechowski was one of the most important geopolitical thinkers on the nationalist right before 1945. His conception of a Polish state within secure borders, which took up and developed some of Roman Dmowski's ideas, was primarily focused on the former Piast regions in the West. After the defeat of Germany in 1945, Wojciechowski thought there was a good prospect of turning this vision into reality with the help of Moscow and the Polish communists, and decided to support these political forces. As the founding director of the Instytut Zachodni in Poznan, he tried to bring his ideas about the "regained territories" to the attention of Polish society. Wojciechowski was persecuted and surrounded by in-

formers, but he was in a paradoxical way useful to the new system as a kind of transmission belt for contact with the middle classes.

Błażej Białkowski

**The sovereignty of the Polish state:
The German-Polish historians' dialogue**

The dialogue between German and Polish historians has been politically controversial ever since the Enlightenment. The interwar years of the 20th century were one of the most radical periods. Typical of the controversies that arose during these years was the debate about the origins and sovereignty of the medieval Polish state. The topos of Greater Poland's territorial dependence on the German Empire during the 10th century was of instrumental significance for the acceptance or rejection of a sovereign Poland's right to exist in the 20th.

Hans-Christian Petersen

**Ostforschung and territorial claims:
The legitimation of territorial expansion
in the work of Peter-Heinz Seraphim**

Peter-Heinz Seraphim was one of the leading representatives of German Ostforschung. The reader can find in his work both treatments of the geographical areas claimed by Germany and the legitimation of these claims. One must therefore pose the questions of Seraphim's understanding of himself as a scholar, and of the claims of Ostforschung to be a serious academic field. Seraphim's work is characterized by a high degree of continuity in its methods, its categories, and its content, even though he too saw the destruction of the Third Reich as a historical break.

Anna Ananieva

**The garden in Tsarist Russia:
Interplay of space and text**

A garden is a space between nature and culture. By looking at the gardens laid out in Tsarist Russia in the 17th and 18th centuries, we can examine the interplay between the shaping of space and the poetic treatment of material. Among the examples investigated here are the ornamental-decorative gardens in Moscow, the architecturally laid-out gardens in St. Petersburg, the use of gardens to represent the

court, and the symbolic construction of gardens in poetry. The spread of landscape gardens was associated with the creation of a new conception of space.

Katharina Kucher

Strata of space: Gorky Park in early Stalinism

Moscow's Central Park for Culture and Relaxation was an important societal space for Stalinism in the 1930s. The status of the park can be reconstructed by looking at the various stages of the plans for the layout of the site. The significance of the park, in terms of its content, changed along with the country, in terms of policies of rule and policies for the development of society. As this happened, the space itself was redefined. The park was made into a model for the whole of the Soviet Union, and one can see here the spatial and social policy of the Soviet regime with its orientation towards homogeneity and uniformity.

Vladislava Zhdanova

The linguistic metaphysics of space in the new Russia

The shifting of borders after the dissolution of the USSR and the effects of these changes are finding expression in the consciousness of "ordinary people". Linguistic field research shows that the metaphysical perception of space is changing. Basic concepts used to express spatial identity such as homeland (rodina, malaya rodina), abroad (zagranitsa), and foreign country (chuzhbina), and those used to express ethnic and cultural senses of the idea of being Russian (russkii, rossiiskii), are being given new contexts and associations. Spatial boundaries were treated as part of the horizontal plane in Soviet discourse, for example in terms of geographical or political-administrative units, but the mental construction of borders is now shifting towards the vertical plane. Borders are now being determined by a hierarchical arrangement of dimensions to which values are attached: linguistic, social, political, and ethnic affiliations.