

Workshop

The “Cossack Myth” in Eastern Europe in the Nineteenth, Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries

Venue: Forum Transregionale Studien, Wallotstr. 14, 14193 Berlin

Thursday, December 12th, 2019

10:00-10:15 **Introduction**
Andrii Portnov
Denys Shatalov

10:15-11:45 **Keynote Lecture**

Volodymyr Kravchenko

The Ambivalence of the Cossack Mythology

Moderator: Jan C. Behrends

11:45-12:00 Break

12:00-14:00 **Panel 1**

Dimensions of the “Cossack Myth” in the Nineteenth Century

Moderator: Ewa Dąbrowska

Andrii Posun’ko

Competing Understandings of Cossackdom in Official Use and Popular Imagination at the Turn of the XVIII-XIX c.

Denys Shatalov

Import of the “Cossack Myth” to Galicia in the mid of XIX c.

Tomasz Hen-Konarski

Men Who Won't Fit In: Cossacks and Gauchos as Modernity's Others in the Writings of M. Czajkowski and D. Sarmiento

14:00-15:00 Lunch

15:00-16:30 **Panel 2**

The Different Operators of the “Cossack Myth” in the Beginning of the Twentieth Century

Moderator: Bozhena Kozakevych

Igor Vradii

“Descendants of the Glorious Zaporozhians”: The Cossack Myth in the Political Practice of Anarchists of the Russian Empire of the Early XX c.

Klimentiy Fedevich

The “Cossack Myth” at the Monarchists Service at the Beginning of the XX c.: Volhynian and Ekaterinoslavs Cases

16:30-16:45 Break

16:45-18:15 **Keynote Lecture**

Oleksandr Osipian

Uses of the “Cossack Myth” in Ukrainian Politics and its Implications in the Crimea and Donbas

Moderator: Annette Werberger

18:15-19:00 **Concluding Discussion**

19:30 Dinner

Friday, December 13th, 2019

10:00-11:30 **Panel 3**

The “Cossack Myth” and the Invention of Traditions in the First Half of the Twentieth Century

Moderator: Susanne Frank

Artem Papakin

“Historical Zhupan, Cossack Sharovary”: The “Cossack” Components of Ukrainian Military Dress in 1917–1921

Aleksandr Dmitriev

Russian Interpretations of the “Cossack Myth” as Invention of Traditions (from Scherbina to Sholokhov)

11:30-11:45 Break

11:45-13:15 **Panel 4**

Using the “Cossack Myth” in the Twenty-First Century

Moderator: Ursula Woolley

Wilfried Jilge

Novorossiia – Russian Politics of History and Identity towards Ukraine before, during and after the “Russian Spring”

Elżbieta Olzacka

The Cossack Theme as a Tool for Patriotic Mobilization in Wartime Ukraine

13:15-14:30 Lunch

14:30-15:30 **Final Discussion**

The Cossack Myth is probably one of the most powerful national myths in Central and Eastern Europe. The Ukrainian national activists promoted the key place of the Cossacks in the Ukrainian past and their permanent role as a model for the present since the middle of the nineteenth century. The Cossack Myth became the basis of modern Ukrainian identity. The power and versatility of the Cossack Myth made it prone to be actively used by Ukrainian progressionists and radical nationalists, and it also responded to the ideological needs of the Black Hundreds and the Bolsheviks. A new stage of the myth's actualization took place in the twenty-first century during the events of the Maidan and the war in the east of Ukraine.

Considering its versatility and longevity, the Cossack Myth is an excellent example for exploring similar phenomena in a comparative perspective. Our workshop aims to discuss the wide chronological perspective of the development, transformation and use of the Cossack myth in the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries. We will focus on the following questions:

- What is the place of the Cossack myth among other Romantic myths of Central and Eastern Europe?
- Were there alternatives to the myth for the Ukrainian national movement?
- How was the myth accepted in the regions of Ukraine where there had been no Cossack tradition?
- How did non-Ukrainian forces use the Cossack theme in their propaganda?
- What was the influence of the Cossack myth on the Ukrainian armies during the Revolution of 1917-1921?
- How was the myth used for patriotic mobilization on the Maidan and during the war in Donbas?
- Which place does the myth have in the politics of memory of the modern Ukrainian state?

The presentations and discussions will help the participants to understand better the essence of one of the key components of the Ukrainian national myth as well as the general mechanisms of the development and the use of such historical myths.

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