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Florida International University

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Doctoral Dissertation Defense

Abstract

The doctrine of the People's Republic and the development of the archetype of the Eastern European leader: A study of the relationship between Georgi Dimitrov and Joseph Stalin

by

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The purpose of the dissertation is to explain the influence of Georgi Dimitrov's doctrine of the People's Republic and his propagandized image on the developed cult of personality of the Eastern European leader in the decades, starting with the 1940s. The use of visual and textual propaganda materials and the comparative analysis of the popular representations of the two leaders are the main methods of analysis.

The doctrine of the People's Republic is analyzed in detail, as it was influential in the region of Eastern Europe since the 1940s. The image and representation of the masculine leader as a revolutionary, military victor and a father of the nation, is analyzed in a comparative framework, to produce general inferences about the archetype of the Eastern European leader of the period around and immediately following World War II.

The dissertation finds that the influence of the ideas of Georgi Dimitrov on Joseph Stalin are highly understudied by historians, as they are much greater than what has been proposed in the literature. The ideas of Dimitrov regarding the combination of socialist internationalism and republicanism became crucial in the adoption of a pattern of action towards Eastern European populations by the communist authorities. Furthermore, the image and representation of the leader follows a similar linear trajectory, in line of the ideals, which are embodied in the People's Republic and the post-1940s approach to dealing with nationalism.

The implications of the study suggest the possibility of a larger comparative study of the archetype of the propagandized leader in the region during, and after the 1940s.

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Place: online, via Zoom

Department: History

Major Professor: Dr. Rebecca Friedman