

Liverpool John Moores University

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Title: Revolutionaries: International Communism in the Era of Lenin and Stalin
Status: Definitive
Code: **6102HIST** (122233)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Thomas Beaumont	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 20
Total Delivered Hours: 35
Total Learning Hours: 200
Private Study: 165

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Online	2
Seminar	33

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	The essay is a 3,000 word essay	60	
Portfolio	AS2	Source analysis portfolio 2,000 word portfolio (2x1,000 word Primary source analysis)	40	

Aims

This module introduces students to the political, social and cultural history of international communism during the period of the Communist International

(Comintern) (1919-43). The world's first global political party created with no lesser a goal than the promotion of Bolshevik-style revolution world-wide, the Comintern singularly failed to live up to the high ambitions which its creators had envisaged. But why did it fail? What sort of organisation was it? And what attracted thousands of ordinary men and women across the world to join communist parties in the era of the two world wars? Students will examine key debates in the history of international communism, such as the origins of the idea of communism and of revolutionary internationalism; the role of Lenin and the Bolsheviks in the Comintern; the influence of Stalin and the Soviet Union and the place of individual communist parties in their national political contexts.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate a firm grasp of the historiography of the period.
- 2 Engage in historical debate on a range of topics in the Communist International
- 3 Demonstrate high level competence in analysing and evaluating primary source materials.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Essay	1	2	
Portfolio	1	2	3

Outline Syllabus

This module will explore the history of international communism in the period c.1917-c.1945 through a series of inter-related case studies. We will examine the life of Comintern officials in Moscow and their relationship with the Soviet government, but we will also move well beyond Russia to explore life in Communist parties around the world – though with a particularly focuss upon Europe. In particular we will examine what it meant to be a communist in three political parties, the British Communist Party (CPGB), the French Communist Party (PCF) and the German Communist Party (KPD). In addition the module may examine the role played by Communists in the colonial environment and in China.

Learning Activities

Lectures, Seminars.

Notes

The course will go beyond politics to examine communism as a social and cultural

experience. Students will examine diaries, autobiographies and related sources to explore who the communists were and how they made sense of their ideological commitment.