

larry wolff inventing eastern europe

Larry Wolff Inventing Eastern Europe: Rethinking the Region's Historical Narrative

larry wolff inventing eastern europe is a phrase that captures a groundbreaking shift in how historians and scholars understand the concept of Eastern Europe. Far from being a fixed or ancient geographical reality, the idea of Eastern Europe as a distinct region is, in many ways, a constructed notion—one that Larry Wolff explores with remarkable depth and nuance. His work challenges long-held assumptions, revealing how political, cultural, and intellectual forces shaped the very idea of Eastern Europe over time.

If you've ever wondered how historical regions come to be defined, or why "Eastern Europe" carries certain connotations that might not fully capture its complexity, Larry Wolff's insights provide a fascinating lens. Let's dive into his influential scholarship and explore how the invention of Eastern Europe reshaped historical narratives and modern perceptions.

Who Is Larry Wolff and Why Does His Work Matter?

Larry Wolff is a distinguished historian and professor, well-known for his expertise in European intellectual history, particularly relating to the Habsburg Empire and the cultural dynamics of Central and Eastern Europe. His scholarship breaks new ground by examining how ideas about geography and identity are not simply reflections of reality but are often products of political agendas and cultural discourse.

His influential book, **Inventing Eastern Europe: The Map of Civilization on the Mind of the Enlightenment**, published in 1994, is a seminal work that dismantles the notion of Eastern Europe as a naturally defined region. Instead, Wolff argues, the concept was actively shaped during the Enlightenment era by Western European thinkers, cartographers, and diplomats who sought to categorize and often marginalize the territories east of the Rhine.

Understanding the Conceptual Invention of Eastern Europe

The Enlightenment and the Birth of a Regional Idea

One of the most compelling aspects of Larry Wolff inventing Eastern Europe is his demonstration that the very idea of Eastern Europe is a product of Enlightenment thinking. In the 18th century, Western European intellectuals began to draw mental maps dividing Europe into "civilized" Western parts and "backward" Eastern parts. This division was not only geographical but deeply cultural and political.

Wolff traces how thinkers like Voltaire and Montesquieu contributed to these categorizations, often portraying Eastern Europe as a place of despotism, stagnation, and foreign influence—especially from the Ottoman Empire and Russia. These portrayals served the interests of Western Europe by creating a contrast that justified political and economic dominance.

Maps, Travelogues, and Literature as Tools of Invention

Maps and travel literature played a crucial role in shaping the idea of Eastern Europe. Wolff emphasizes how cartographers and travelers, many of whom never ventured deep into these territories, relied on hearsay and stereotypes to depict Eastern Europe as a vague and exotic “other.” These depictions helped cement the region’s image as a peripheral and backward zone on the European map.

This process of invention shows how geography is not just about physical space but also about power and perception. By controlling the narrative, Western Europe could define Eastern Europe as a place to be civilized, governed, or exploited.

Implications of the Eastern Europe Invention on Historical and Modern Views

Challenging Stereotypes and Misconceptions

Larry Wolff inventing Eastern Europe invites readers to reconsider many stereotypes that persist today. The assumption that Eastern Europe is inherently different or less developed than Western Europe can often be traced back to these Enlightenment-era constructions. Understanding this helps break down simplistic East-West binaries that dominate media and political discourse.

By acknowledging that Eastern Europe’s identity was shaped through external perspectives, we can better appreciate the region’s diverse cultures, histories, and contributions without the shadow of imposed inferiority.

The Role of Nationalism and Identity Formation

The invention of Eastern Europe also influenced the rise of nationalism in the 19th and 20th centuries. As empires dissolved and new nation-states emerged, the boundaries and identities of Eastern European countries were often negotiated against the backdrop of these inherited ideas.

Wolff’s analysis shows how the concept of Eastern Europe was both a tool of Western European dominance and a framework within which Eastern European peoples forged their own identities—sometimes embracing, sometimes resisting the labels imposed upon them.

How Larry Wolff's Work Informs Contemporary Scholarship

Larry Wolff's approach underscores the importance of examining historical narratives critically. His work encourages scholars across disciplines—history, political science, cultural studies—to question how categories like “Eastern Europe” are constructed and what purposes they serve.

In today's globalized world, where regional identities continue to evolve, Wolff's insights remind us that such identities are fluid and shaped by discourse as much as by geography. This perspective is invaluable for understanding everything from EU enlargement debates to cultural exchanges within Europe.

Applying These Ideas Beyond Academia

The implications of Larry Wolff inventing Eastern Europe extend beyond scholarly circles. For travelers, policymakers, educators, and anyone interested in European affairs, recognizing the historical contingency of “Eastern Europe” can foster greater empathy and nuanced understanding.

Instead of viewing Eastern Europe through a prism of stereotypes, people can appreciate the region's complexity—its multilingual cities, rich traditions, and vibrant modern cultures that defy simplistic categorization.

Lessons from the Invention of Eastern Europe

Reflecting on Larry Wolff's work offers several valuable lessons:

- **Geographical labels are often political:** What we call a region can reveal more about power relations than about physical realities.
- **Historical narratives shape modern perceptions:** Ideas formed centuries ago continue to influence how we see places and peoples today.
- **Critical thinking is essential:** Questioning established categories helps uncover hidden assumptions and biases.
- **Regions are diverse and dynamic:** No label can capture the full complexity of a place with multiple identities and histories.

These insights encourage a more thoughtful approach to studying or engaging with Eastern Europe, moving beyond clichés toward a richer understanding.

Larry Wolff inventing Eastern Europe isn't just about history; it's about how we frame the world and the stories we tell ourselves. This awareness can open doors to more inclusive conversations and a deeper appreciation of Europe's multifaceted past and present.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main argument of Larry Wolff's book 'Inventing Eastern Europe'?

Larry Wolff argues that Eastern Europe as a distinct region was largely a Western European construct, shaped by cultural and political perceptions rather than clear historical or geographical boundaries.

When was 'Inventing Eastern Europe' by Larry Wolff published?

The book was first published in 1994.

How does Larry Wolff define Eastern Europe in his book?

Wolff suggests that Eastern Europe is an imagined space created through Western European discourse, rather than a fixed or naturally defined geographical area.

Why is Larry Wolff's 'Inventing Eastern Europe' considered influential in historical studies?

It challenged traditional views by revealing how Eastern Europe was constructed through Western narratives, influencing the way historians understand regional identities and cultural politics.

What sources does Larry Wolff use in 'Inventing Eastern Europe'?

Wolff uses a wide range of sources including travel literature, diplomatic correspondence, and cultural texts from the 18th and 19th centuries to illustrate how Eastern Europe was perceived and represented.

How does 'Inventing Eastern Europe' contribute to the study of nationalism?

The book shows how Western European ideas about Eastern Europe helped shape nationalist movements and identities within the region by framing it as 'other' or backward.

Does Larry Wolff discuss the role of the Habsburg Empire in 'Inventing Eastern Europe'?

Yes, Wolff examines how imperial powers like the Habsburg Empire played a role in defining and managing Eastern European identities.

What impact did 'Inventing Eastern Europe' have on

post-Cold War scholarship?

It encouraged scholars to rethink regional categorizations and the legacy of Western portrayals in the post-Cold War context, influencing studies on identity, geopolitics, and cultural history.

Is 'Inventing Eastern Europe' used in academic courses?

Yes, it is widely used in university courses on European history, cultural studies, and political science as a key text on regional identity and historical discourse.

What criticisms have been raised about Larry Wolff's 'Inventing Eastern Europe'?

Some critics argue that Wolff underestimates the agency of Eastern Europeans themselves in shaping their identities and overemphasizes Western construction of the region.

Additional Resources

Larry Wolff *Inventing Eastern Europe: A Critical Examination of Historical Narratives*

larry wolff inventing eastern europe emerges as a pivotal phrase in understanding the complex evolution of the concept of Eastern Europe. Larry Wolff, a noted historian and scholar, has profoundly influenced the discourse about how Eastern Europe has been framed, perceived, and constructed in Western historical narratives. His seminal work, particularly the book titled **Inventing Eastern Europe: The Map of Civilization on the Mind of the Enlightenment**, challenges conventional views and invites readers to reconsider the very foundations of this geographic and cultural categorization.

Reassessing the Origins of Eastern Europe

Larry Wolff's thesis revolves around the idea that Eastern Europe, as a distinct entity, was not a naturally occurring or ancient geographical reality but rather a conceptual invention shaped significantly by Western European intellectuals during the Enlightenment era. This notion questions the assumption that Eastern Europe has a fixed identity grounded in history, emphasizing instead the role of political, cultural, and ideological factors in its construction.

By analyzing travel literature, diplomatic correspondence, and philosophical treatises from the 18th century, Wolff demonstrates how Western European thinkers began to delineate a boundary between 'civilized' Western Europe and the 'backward' East. The term "Eastern Europe" was often laden with stereotypes and served ideological purposes, such as justifying colonial attitudes or delineating spheres of influence.

The Enlightenment and the Cartography of Civilization

The Enlightenment, a period celebrated for reason and progress, paradoxically contributed to a rigid division of Europe into East and West. Wolff's research highlights how mapping and categorization became tools for intellectual domination. Scholars, travelers, and cartographers of the time projected their biases onto Eastern Europe, often portraying it as a land of despotism, religious fanaticism, and cultural inferiority.

This framing was not merely academic but had tangible effects on diplomacy and policy. The concept of Eastern Europe became a lens through which Western powers justified interventions and controlled narratives about progress and modernity. Understanding this process is key to grasping how historically contingent and constructed the idea of Eastern Europe truly is.

Impact on Contemporary Understandings of Eastern Europe

Larry Wolff's work has significant implications for how historians, political analysts, and cultural commentators approach Eastern Europe today. Recognizing that the concept has been "invented" rather than discovered encourages a critical stance toward persistent stereotypes and geopolitical assumptions.

The legacy of this invention is evident in contemporary politics, where Eastern Europe is sometimes seen through reductive binaries—either as a bridge between East and West or as a periphery to Western Europe. Wolff's analysis urges scholars and policymakers to move beyond simplistic frameworks and appreciate the region's diverse histories and identities.

Comparative Perspectives: Eastern Europe vs. Western Europe

Wolff's investigation naturally invites comparisons between how Eastern and Western Europe have been historically portrayed. While Western Europe was often idealized as the cradle of enlightenment and progress, Eastern Europe was cast as its 'other,' a place stuck in tradition and despotism. This dichotomy feeds into broader discourses of modernity and backwardness.

- **Cultural Representation:** Western Europe's narrative emphasized rationality and secularism, whereas Eastern Europe was often depicted as dominated by religious orthodoxy and superstition.
- **Political Implications:** The invented distinctions justified political domination and interventions by Western empires in Eastern European affairs.
- **Economic Perspectives:** Eastern Europe was frequently portrayed as economically underdeveloped or stagnant, reinforcing ideas of its inferiority.

These contrasts are not merely historical curiosities but continue to influence how the region is treated in the global arena, including in EU integration policies and international media.

The Pros and Cons of Wolff's Interpretive Framework

Larry Wolff's approach to the invention of Eastern Europe provides a groundbreaking lens but also invites critical scrutiny.

Advantages

1. **Deconstructs Essentialism:** By revealing the constructed nature of Eastern Europe, Wolff helps dismantle essentialist and deterministic views of the region.
2. **Encourages Nuanced Scholarship:** His work fosters a more sophisticated understanding that accounts for the fluidity and diversity of identities within Eastern Europe.
3. **Interdisciplinary Insight:** Combining history, literature, and cartography, Wolff's methodology exemplifies an integrative approach to cultural studies.

Limitations

1. **Potential Overemphasis on Intellectual History:** Some critics argue that focusing heavily on Enlightenment discourse might underplay local agency and indigenous perspectives in Eastern Europe.
2. **Risk of Relativism:** By stressing invention, there is a risk of minimizing real historical experiences and cultural continuities in the region.
3. **Geopolitical Complexity:** The framework may oversimplify the multifaceted political realities that shaped Eastern Europe beyond Western intellectual projections.

These considerations highlight the importance of balancing Wolff's insightful critique with a recognition of the region's own historical dynamics.

Legacy and Influence in Modern Scholarship

The impact of Larry Wolff inventing Eastern Europe resonates deeply within academic circles. His scholarship has catalyzed a wave of studies exploring the politics of knowledge, identity formation, and the power of discourse in

shaping geopolitical realities. Universities and research institutions have increasingly incorporated his insights into curricula on European history, cultural studies, and international relations.

Moreover, Wolff's work serves as a vital reference point for debates on nationalism, postcolonial theory, and regional integration. By tracing the genealogy of Eastern Europe's image, scholars can better understand contemporary tensions and the persistence of orientalist attitudes within Europe.

Implications for Cultural and Political Dialogue

Beyond academia, the invention of Eastern Europe influences how cultures within the region interact with one another and with the West. It affects everything from identity politics to economic development strategies and international cooperation. Recognizing the constructed nature of Eastern Europe opens space for dialogue that challenges stereotypes and fosters mutual understanding.

In this regard, Larry Wolff's contribution extends into the realm of cultural diplomacy and policy-making, where historical awareness can promote more equitable and informed engagements with Eastern European countries.

Larry Wolff inventing Eastern Europe is not merely a matter of historical curiosity but a profound intervention into how we perceive one of the continent's most complex regions. His work compels a reconsideration of the narratives that have long shaped Western attitudes toward Eastern Europe, encouraging a more nuanced, critical, and empathetic understanding that continues to influence scholarly discourse and public consciousness alike.

[Larry Wolff Inventing Eastern Europe](#)

larry wolff inventing eastern europe: Inventing Eastern Europe Larry Wolff, 1994 Wolff explores how Western thinkers contributed to defining and characterizing Eastern Europe as half-civilized and barbaric.

larry wolff inventing eastern europe: *Inventing Eastern Europe* Larry Wolff, 1994

larry wolff inventing eastern europe: *Reinventing Eastern Europe: Imaginaries, Identities and Transformations* Evinç Doğan, 2019-01-22 This edited collection brings together a wide range of topics that shed light on the social, cultural, economic, political and spatio-temporal changes influencing post-socialist cities of Eastern Europe. Different case studies are presented through papers that were presented at the Euroacademia International Conference series. Imaginaries, identities and transformations represent three blocks for understanding the ways in which visual narratives, memory and identity, and processes of alterity shape the symbolic meanings articulated and inscribed upon post-socialist cities. As such, this book stimulates a debate in order to provide alternative views on the dynamics, persistence and change broadly shaping mental mappings of Eastern Europe. The volume offers an opportunity for scholars, activists and practitioners to identify, discuss, and debate the multiple dimensions in which specific narratives of alterity making towards Eastern Europe preserve their salience today in re-furbished and re-fashioned manners.

larry wolff inventing eastern europe: *Tracing German Visions of Eastern Europe in the*

Twentieth Century Jenny Watson, Michel Mallet, Hanna Schumacher, 2022 Reconsidering the German tendency to define itself vis-à-vis an eastern Other in light of fresh debate regarding the Second World War, this volume and the cultural products it considers expose and question Germany's relationship with its imagined East. Germany has long defined itself in opposition to its eastern neighbors: its ideas around cultural prestige and its expressions of xenophobia seem inevitably to return to an imagined eastern Other. Central to the consideration of such projections is the legacy of the Second World War, the subject of fresh debate since 1989: after four decades of political antagonism and cultural disjuncture, the events of the war on the Eastern Front have been rediscovered by Western audiences and have come to occupy complex, shifting positions in the memory culture of the postsocialist states. However, German ignorance of Eastern European experiences of war and genocide, enduring stereotypes, and prescriptive ideas about remembrance have been major stumbling blocks to the emergence of a transnational memory culture considered just by all parties. Despite mass immigration to Germany from the east and intensive contact between German speakers and its cultures, German-language cultural production continues largely to represent Eastern Europe as unknown, wild, and inaccessible. By contrast, the writers and filmmakers under discussion in the present volume have worked with and against such tropes to put forward alternative perspectives. Like their works, the contributions to this volume place the conflicts and prejudices of the twentieth century into a wider historical perspective, exposing and questioning the nature of Germany's relationship with its imagined East. Contributors: Deirdre Byrnes, Raluca Cernahoschi, Shivani Chauhan, Enikő Dácz, Olha Flachs, Daniel Harvey, Jakub Kazecki, Amy Leech, Paul Peters, Ernest Schonfield, Karolina Watroba.

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larry wolff inventing eastern europe: European Integration Beyond Brussels Matthew Broad, Suvi Kansikas, 2020-08-14 Europe is a continent whose history has, in one form or another, long been dominated by integration. And yet the European integration process is often treated as synonymous with the evolution of just one particular, and until recently geographically quite limited, Western-centred organisation: the European Union (EU). This trend obscures the multitude of ways European states have acted collectively on both sides of the Iron Curtain – and continue to do so throughout the continent today. With contributors drawn from history and political science, this book explores some of these diverse integration efforts ‘beyond Brussels’. We shine a light on international organisations, trade frameworks, and various political, social, scientific and cultural forms of unity in both Eastern and Western Europe. In so doing, the book seeks to redefine the history of the European integration process not only as a less purely EU-centric phenomenon but as a less strictly Western European one too.

larry wolff inventing eastern europe: Orthodox Christianity and Contemporary Europe Jonathan Sutton, William Peter van den Bercken, 2003 This volume contains selected papers presented at a conference on Orthodox Christianity and its contemporary European setting. The conference was held in England, at the University of Leeds, in June 2001 and drew together historians, theologians, philosophers, specialists in theological education and political scientists. Countries with an Orthodox Christian history were well represented, as well as Orthodoxy in the diaspora and other Christian confessions by representatives from Western Europe and the United States and Canada. The coherence of Orthodox Christianity and contemporary threats to its coherence formed one main strand for reflection, but discussion also broadened out to consider the nature of religious tradition as such. Part I of the collection brings together papers on such matters as identity, nationalism, globalization, human rights discourse, ecumenical dialogue and competing interpretations of what it means to be European. Part II focuses on Orthodox Christianity in Russia and Part III on the traditionally Orthodox countries of Armenia, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. The present collection is meant as a contribution to further reflection on Orthodox identity, and relationship between Christianity and culture in Europe at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

larry wolff inventing eastern europe: Democracy and Myth in Russia and Eastern Europe Alexander Wöll, Harald Wydra, 2007-10-18 This book explores democracy and democratization in Eastern Europe, focusing on the influence of politically important literary and historical myths in pre-communist and communist Eastern Europe and Russia.

larry wolff inventing eastern europe: The Alien Jew in the British Imagination, 1881-1905 Hannah Ewence, 2019-09-27 This book explores how fin de siècle Britain and Britons displaced spatially-charged apprehensions about imperial decline, urban decay and unpoliced borders onto Jews from Eastern Europe migrating westwards. The myriad of representations of the ‘alien Jew’ that emerged were the product of, but also a catalyst for, a decisive moment in Britain’s legal history: the fight for the 1905 Aliens Act. Drawing upon a richly diverse collection of social and political commentary, including fiction, political testimony, ethnography, travel writing, journalism and cartography, this volume traces the shifting rhetoric around alien Jews as they journeyed from the Russian Pale of Settlement to London’s East End. By employing a unique and innovative reading of both the aliens debate and racialized discourse concerned with ‘the Jew’, Hannah Ewence demonstrates that ideas about ‘space’ and ‘place’ critically informed how migrants were viewed; an argument which remains valid in today’s world.

larry wolff inventing eastern europe: Eastern Europe and the Challenges of Modernity.

1800-2000 Stefano Bianchini, 2015-03-02 This book presents a concise and comprehensive overview of the mainstream flows of ideas, politics and itineraries towards modernity in Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans over two centuries from the beginning of the nineteenth century to the end of the Gorbachev administration. Unlike other books on the subject which view modernity based on the idea of Western European supremacy, this book outlines the various different pathways of development, and of growing industrialisation, urbanisation and secularisation which took place across the region. It provides rich insights on the complex networks whereby very varied ideas, aspirations and policies interacted to bring about a varied pattern of progress, and of integration and isolation, with different areas moving in different ways and at different paces. Overall the book presents something very different from the traditional picture of the two Europes. Particular examples covered include agrarian reform movements, in various phases, different models of socialism, and different models of socialist reform.

larry wolff inventing eastern europe: Hungarian Dances and Musical Life in Eighteenth-Century Vienna Catherine Mayes, 2025 Eighteenth-century accounts of Vienna portray the city as one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse in Europe, yet most scholarship about Viennese music at that time focuses on Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven, painting a disproportionately Austro-German picture of the Habsburg capital's musical life. *Hungarian Dances and Musical Life in Eighteenth-Century Vienna* is a social history of a unique facet of the city's diversity, illuminating how it shaped everyday experiences, individual and collective identities, and boundaries of belonging from approximately 1750 to 1810. Each chapter presents a case study of Hungarian dances and their music in a particular setting, with close attention to the mediating and intersecting effects of gender and class on personal and communal experiences. Engagement with music and dance--especially by reading, playing keyboard instruments, and taking part in social dancing--made cross-cultural encounters possible for relatively socio-economically privileged Viennese women, even when their participation in public life and their ability to travel were limited. These cross-cultural encounters were critical to women's imaginative exploration of new identities, some of which pushed against socio-cultural boundaries, without risk to their position or reputation. Moving deftly from the Habsburg court and its theaters to public sites of sociability and domestic contexts, Catherine Mayes offers new perspectives on the wide range and impact of social and musical experiences that were integral to daily life in the capital city of a multinational monarchy.

larry wolff inventing eastern europe: *Turizm* Anne E. Gorsuch, Diane P. Koenker, 2018-09-05 In the Soviet Union and the eastern bloc, the idea of vacation was never as uncomplicated as throwing some suitcases in the car and heading for the beach. The emphasis was on individual self-improvement within the framework of the collective, an approach manifest in everything from the scheduling of physical exercise to the group tours organized for factory workers, Party cadres, and other segments of society. Like other Soviet-style utopian projects, socialist tourism, which was often heavily laden with rules and prescriptions, was a consciousness-raising project, part of the vast effort to forge new socialist men and women. *Turizm* is the first book to examine the history of tourism in Russia and eastern Europe from the tsarist period to the age of Soviet and east European mass tourism in the 1960s and 1970s. The contributors to this volume address topics including the roots of socialist tourism, the role of tourism in the making of nations and maintenance of empire, and ways in which the men and women of the margins of Europe understood themselves in relation to Europe. Especially interesting are chapters that show how individuals pursued their own consumerist goals within the framework of collective tourism, obliging the regimes to adapt. Illustrated with period photographs and promotional materials, *Turizm* will appeal not only to historians of the region but also to anyone with an interest in consumer culture, travel, leisure, and nation-building.

larry wolff inventing eastern europe: Remembering Utopia Breda Luthar, Maruša Pušnik, 2010-01-30 Essays and photos that reveal and reflect on everyday life in socialist Yugoslavia, from tourism to television. Research about socialism and communism tends to focus on official aspects of power and dissent and on state politics, and presuppose a powerful state and a party with its official

ideology on one side and repressed, manipulated, or collaborating citizens on the other side. This collection of essays instead helps uncover various aspects of everyday life during the time of socialism in Yugoslavia, such as leisure, popular culture, consumption, sociability and power, from 1945 until 1980, when Tito died. "A highly original project, which will cover a much neglected area, helping those who either did not make it to Yugoslavia in Tito's time or were born too late to understand what life then and there was all about." —Sabrina P. Ramet, Professor of Political Science at The Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, Norway "This collection represents an original and highly useful work that helps fill a gap in the existing literature on socialist Yugoslavia and East-Central Europe in the Cold War. It also makes an important contribution to cultural history of the region in the second half of the twentieth century." —Dejan Djokic, Lecturer in Serbian and Croatian Studies, The University of Nottingham "This book focuses on a cultural and social history of socialist Yugoslavia from the perspective of 'ordinary' people and by reconstructing their memories. The contributors, many of them belonging to a new generation of scholars from the former Yugoslavia, employ new approaches in order to make sense of the complicated past of this country." —Ulf Brunnbauer, Department of History, Freie Universität Berlin

larry wolff inventing eastern europe: Russian Music at Home and Abroad Richard Taruskin, 2016-09-06 This new collection views Russian music through the Greek triad of "the Good, the True, and the Beautiful" to investigate how the idea of nation embeds itself in the public discourse about music and other arts with results at times invigorating, at times corrupting. In our divided, post-Cold War, and now post-9/11 world, Russian music, formerly a quiet corner on the margins of musicology, has become a site of noisy contention. Richard Taruskin assesses the political and cultural stakes that attach to it in the era of Pussy Riot and renewed international tensions, before turning to individual cases from the nineteenth century to the present. Much of the volume is devoted to the resolutely cosmopolitan but inveterately Russian Igor Stravinsky, one of the major forces in the music of the twentieth century and subject of particular interest to composers and music theorists all over the world. Taruskin here revisits him for the first time since the 1990s, when everything changed for Russia and its cultural products. Other essays are devoted to the cultural and social policies of the Soviet Union and their effect on the music produced there as those policies swung away from Communist internationalism to traditional Russian nationalism; to the musicians of the Russian postrevolutionary diaspora; and to the tension between the compelling artistic quality of works such as Stravinsky's *Sacre du Printemps* or Prokofieff's *Zdravitsa* and the antihumanistic or totalitarian messages they convey. *Russian Music at Home and Abroad* addresses these concerns in a personal and critical way, characteristically demonstrating Taruskin's authority and ability to bring living history out of the shadows.

larry wolff inventing eastern europe: Victimhood and Acknowledgement Petra Terhoeven, 2018-10-22 The history of terrorism has been largely a history of perpetrators, their motives and actions. The history of their victims has always seemed to be of secondary importance. But terrorism is communication by violence, and its efficiency depends significantly on the selection and the treatment of the victims by the perpetrators, on the one hand, and the perception and acknowledgement of victimhood by the public, on the other. How does it affect our picture of the history of terrorism then, if the victims are moved centre stage? If the focus is put on their suffering, their agency, their helplessness, or on how they are acknowledged or exploited by society, politics and media? If the central role is taken into account which they play in terrorist propaganda as well as in the emotional response of the public? The contributions to this edition of the *European History Yearbook* will examine such questions in a broad range of historical case studies and methods, including visual history. Not least, they aim at historicizing the roles of survivors and relatives in the social process of coming to terms with terrorist violence, a question highly relevant up to the present day.

larry wolff inventing eastern europe: *TIME OF ENLIGHTENMENT;THE TIME OF ENLIGHTENMENT*, 2020

larry wolff inventing eastern europe: Discourses on Nations and Identities Daniel Syrový,

2021-01-18 The third volume of the collected papers of the ICLA congress *The Many Languages of Comparative Literature* includes contributions that focus on the interplay between concepts of nation, national languages, and individual as well as collective identities. Because all literary communication happens within different kinds of power structures - linguistic, economic, political -, it often results in fascinating forms of hybridity. In the first of four thematic chapters, the papers investigate some of the ways in which discourses can establish modes of thinking, or how discourses are in turn controlled by active linguistic interventions, whether in the context of the patriarchy, war, colonialism, or political factions. The second thematic block is predominantly concerned with hybridity as an aspect of modern cultural identity, and the cultural and linguistic dimensions of domestic life and in society at large. Closely related, a third series of papers focuses on writers and texts analysed from the vantage points of exile and exophony, as well as theoretical contributions to issues of terminology and what it means to talk about transcultural phenomena. Finally, a group of papers sheds light on more overtly violent power structures, mechanisms of exclusion, Totalitarianism, torture, and censorship, but also resistance to these forms of oppression. In addition to these chapters, the volume also collects a number of thematically related group sections from the ICLA congress, preserving their original context.

larry wolff inventing eastern europe: To Help or Not to Help - Humanitarianism in the 20th Century Sarah Knoll, Katharina Seibert, 2024-11-18 Today, humanitarianism, as a moral imperative to help, is prevalent, especially in the so-called Western world. The public reacts to natural disasters, war, or medical emergencies with a desire to alleviate suffering. But in recent decades historians have begun to critically assess this moral perspective and examine humanitarian organizations, politics, and the motives of humanitarian actors. They highlight how helping people relieve their suffering is just one side to every humanitarian story. Humanitarian actors themselves have their own reasons for helping. Humanitarian aid evolves in a tense dialectic between people in need and the individual agendas of the 'benevolent saviors.' This special issue approaches humanitarianism and humanitarian aid from the perspective of such 'benevolent saviors' and their agendas and covers different moments in history and geographical regions in the 20th century. The papers analyze humanitarianism as a reconstruction mission according to civilizing desires, as an enabling factor for individual professionalization, as a power struggle, and as a tool for domestic and international policymaking.

larry wolff inventing eastern europe: Religion, Modernity, and the Global Afterlives of Colonialism Atalia Omer, Joshua Lupo, 2024-09-15 Religion, Modernity, and the Global Afterlives of Colonialism examines the tenacious, lingering impact of European colonial ideology on religion and politics around the world. Even though the formal structures of colonialism have crumbled, with a few notable exceptions, European colonial ideology continues to operate across the globe, resulting in limited, nationalistic conceptualizations of religion and politics. Religion, Modernity, and the Global Afterlives of Colonialism shows convincingly that not only has colonialism had a devastating impact on the colonized, but its reach has turned inward to erode the colonizer's own social and political systems. By examining the colonial violence constitutive of liberal political ideology, the continued oppression of Muslims in Europe in the name of security, and the way neoliberal economics bends religious hermeneutics to its will, the authors of Religion, Modernity, and the Global Afterlives of Colonialism call attention to the threats that face our world today. They also point to potential sites of hope—for example, the work of a priest in the Balkans who seeks to build solidarity across religious differences; groups in Africa who are constructing decolonial religious imaginaries; and the Islamo-futurism of Dune, which haltingly imagines a form of modernity beyond the West. Contributors: Atalia Omer, Joshua Lupo, Santiago Slabodsky, Nadia Fadil, S. Sayyid, Luca Mavelli, Edmund Frettingham, Cecelia Lynch, Slavica Jakelić, and Gil Anidjar

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