

Call for Papers

The Role of the Neutrals and Non-Aligned in the Global Cold War, 1949-1989

13-15 March 2014

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This international conference aims at shedding new light on the role Neutrals and the countries of the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) played in the East-West conflict in the Third World, from the establishment of the People's Republic in China to the fall of the Berlin Wall. The aim is to study and compare foreign policy choices made by the five neutral European countries and the NAM in the context of the Cold War and the decolonization process in the Southern hemisphere, as well as the ensuing national and international consequences.

The countries that had chosen neutrality or neutralism during the four decades of East-West rivalry and those that refused to join either bloc were nevertheless directly affected by the numerous US and Soviet interventions and machinations. From the beginning of the Cold War, the Third World was a privileged field of confrontation and these political tensions and wars often had fierce consequences for local societies and brought crucial economic, social and cultural changes. However, it is important to keep in mind that the interventionist policies of the two superpowers and their allies also provoked resistance and sometimes failed, as illustrated by the Soviet-Chinese split at the beginning of the 1960s or the division between Washington and Tehran after the Iranian revolution of 1979.

The analysis of the causes, dynamics and consequences of the implication of Neutrals and NAM countries in these Cold War conflicts and crises in the Middle East, South-East Asia, Africa and Latin America will be at the heart of our conference. We will question not only the positioning of these countries towards the main players of the Cold War, but also consider the bilateral relations these countries had with the Third World countries involved and the transnational dynamics that shaped those armed conflicts and political crises.

Possible paper topics include:

- Neutrals/NAM's diplomatic role in these conflicts and crises
- political, economic and security ties
- cultural exchanges between Neutrals/NAM and Third World countries
- role played by arms transfers, natural resources, trade, etc.
- Neutrals/NAM's and international institutions during the Cold War (e.g. in the context of peacekeeping)
- Development, the Cold War and NAM

Brief proposals (350 words max.), accompanied by a short CV, should be sent to Sandra Bott (sandra.bott@unil.ch) by 1 June 2013. Conference language: English and French. The selected participants will be informed by 1 July 2013. Papers will be considered for a peer-reviewed publication.