



NATO and Western Perceptions of the Soviet Bloc: Alliance Analysis and Reporting, 1951-69 (Cold War History)

By Evanthis Hatzivassiliou

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This book examines the NATO reports on the Soviet bloc's political and economic system, from 1951 to the aftermath of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia and the beginning of detente.

As part of the wider history of Cold War Alliances, the detailed assessments of the NATO experts regarding the non-military aspects of Soviet power are a crucial indicator of Western/allied perceptions of the adversary. Their study allows us to widen the discussion on the Western alliance, the accuracy of its information or perceptions, and the nature of the Cold War.

Hatzivassiliou argues that the Cold War was not only a strategic dilemma (although it certainly was that, as well), but also the latest stage of the crisis of legitimization which had been raging since the dawn of modernity. NATO/Western analysis is examined in this context. At the same time, the book discusses the relative influence of the major NATO members – US and British influence was strong while French, West German and Italian influence was also significant – in the drafting of the reports, and thus in shaping the alliance's perceptions during the Cold War.

This book will be of much interest to students of NATO, Cold War Studies, international history, foreign policy and IR in general.

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- Sales Rank: #4866244 in Books
- Published on: 2014-05-13
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x 6.25" w x .75" l, 1.05 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 242 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"Hatzivassiliou (Univ. of Athens) has written a solid monograph of the West and NATO's assessment of the Soviet Bloc, 1951-69. The book is based mainly on archives and published documents at NATO headquarters in Brussels as well as in the US and UK. Well written, it ultimately praises the US for its helpful willingness through the Marshall Plan and NATO to rebuild and protect Europe and allow Western Europeans to reconnect with the values that made and make them Western." D.J.Dunn, Texas State University--San Marcos

Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above. CHOICE

About the Author

Evanthis Hatzivassiliou is Associate Professor at the Department of History at the University of Athens, Greece. He is author of *Greece and the Cold War* (Routledge 2006).

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