

Course details

Course title

History: Behind the Iron Curtain

Course code

Q00013185

Course date

Start: 21/01/25

End: 18/03/25

Number of classes

9 sessions

Timetable

Mon 20th Jan, 11:00 to 12:30

Mon 27th Jan, 11:00 to 12:30

Mon 3rd Feb, 11:00 to 12:30

Mon 10th Feb, 11:00 to 12:30

Mon 17th Feb, 11:00 to 12:30

Mon 24th Feb, 11:00 to 12:30

Mon 3rd Mar, 11:00 to 12:30

Mon 10th Mar, 11:00 to 12:30

Mon 17th Mar, 11:00 to 12:30

Tutor

David Price

Fee range

Free to £56.70

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes at the venue indicated. Some materials may be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

In venue

Venue

Rearsby Village Hall (Rearsby)
1851 Melton Road
Rearsby
LE7 4YS

Level of study

Intermediate

Course overview

On this nine week course held in Rearsby, we will look at life in the six countries of Eastern Europe under Soviet control from the late 1940s until 1989. This is mostly a social history course, and only peripherally covers East-West tensions, often referred to as the Cold War. We'll see how the Soviet Union and its proxies, the communist parties of the six countries, endeavoured to impose a new way of life on people, sometimes subtly through the media and propaganda and at other times using methods of coercive control. How it was to live there – the realities of being in a bureaucratic state with central planning and surveillance; why youth groups were considered so important; rebellions against the state; the Berlin Wall. If you are interested in history and culture, this course will be suitable for you.

Course description

How particular characteristics, cultures and even different political systems in the six countries of Eastern Europe under Soviet control combined to undermine what was the USSR's protective barrier against the West. We will examine why the Soviet leadership under Josef Stalin believed it was so necessary to control these countries in the first place. Then we will cover the various features of socialism applied here, particularly Marxist-Leninist ideology on the Soviet model, and how this was inculcated into the citizens by various methods, including propaganda and the media and through youth groups and clubs and societies, but also by coercion from secret police organisations. But we'll see how nationalism and ethnic diversity, cultural differences, economic difficulties, and, in the case of Poland, a more dominant ideology, the Catholic Church, undermined the imposition of the new system, and how dissatisfaction led to rebellions and uprisings and finally the events of 1989. We'll also look at the different conditions in East Germany and the reasons for the building of the Berlin Wall. We will also consider why Poland was allowed to introduce reforms in 1956, while Hungary's attempts to bring about change through revolution failed. We will also look at why individual Soviet leaders were so significant

over the period.

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

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