

### Alexander Dallin, 1924–2000

Alexander Dallin died on 22 July 2000, on the eve of his departure for the Sixth World Congress for Central and East European Studies in Tampere, Finland; there he was scheduled to take part in two panels, one of them a blue-ribbon concluding plenary session, "The Path of Russia." The Congress opened with a moment of silence in Alex's honor; Alex was past president of the host organization, earlier known as the International Council for Soviet and East European Studies (ICSEES, 1985–90), and he presided over the Third Congress, which convened in Washington, D.C., in October–November 1985.

Alex Dallin's involvement with the ICSEES was characteristic of his active engagement in several important institutions, an engagement that grew out of his sense of public and professional service and his remarkably sustained commitment to the common interests of the American and international scholarly communities. Perhaps because of his own cosmopolitan biography (he was born in 1924 in Berlin, Germany, to parents who had emigrated from Russia because of their prominence in the Menshevik politics of the revolutionary movement and who next had to flee Hitler's Germany; Alex was educated in exile in New York City in the 1940s and 1950s), Alex's career was marked by a commitment to international intellectual exchange, a commitment that did not wane when the once familiar Soviet world began transforming into the post-Soviet one.

During a difficult period in U.S.–Soviet relations (1983–84), Alex co-chaired the Fifth Soviet-American Historical Colloquium, jointly sponsored by the American Historical Association and the Academy of Science of the USSR. After the end of the Soviet Union, Alex joined the organizing committee for the European University in St. Petersburg and oversaw the New Democracy Fellows Program, which offered students from the post-Soviet states the opportunity to pursue graduate education in the social sciences at Stanford.

Alex's career was also distinguished by a long-standing, deep, and passionate commitment to the institutions and practices of area studies, not only in the United States, but also in those countries (especially Britain and Germany) that developed their own versions of area studies in the post–World War II academic setting. Alex practiced the form of interdisciplinary dialog that focuses on the region we study, Eurasia and eastern Europe. He was trained broadly as an area specialist, with a focus on history, politics, and international relations, but he was also conversant with the latest debates in economics, literature, and sociology. He directed the Russian Institute at Columbia (1962–67; now the Harriman Institute) and later the Stanford University Center for Russian and East European Studies (1985–89; 1992–94). He was a member of all the major research funding committees in the field (including the International Research and Exchanges Board, when it was still known as the Inter-University Committee on Travel Grants, 1960–66), and he served as the first chairman of the board (1978–80) of the National Council for Soviet and East European Research (today's NCEEER). He was elected president of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS, 1984–85), after having earlier served as president of the Western Slavic Association (1978–80) and as program chairman for the AAASS National Convention in Asilomar, California (1981).

The scholarly principles that informed Alex's involvement in the organizations of Russian, Soviet, and east European studies also found clear reflection in his prolific scholarship. Trained as a historian (Ph.D., 1953, Columbia University), he contributed to scholarship across a broadly ranging cross-disciplinary field. He was passionately engaged in contemporary history as well as international history from the beginning of his career. Throughout that career, Alex's writing and teaching were known for their balance, fair-mindedness, scrupulous attention to evidence, and they reflected his intolerance for conventional wisdom.

As a research associate at Harvard in 1950–51, he participated in the Project on the Soviet Social System, a pioneering effort in social science research among refugees of the Soviet system (Harvard Interview Project). This was one of several projects that helped

define the new interdisciplinary organization of knowledge known as area studies. He later served as director of research for the War Documentation Project (Captured German Records), out of which emerged his award-winning (Wolfson Prize in History) classic study, *German Rule in Russia, 1941–1945* (1957, republished in 1981).

Alex sought to bring his careful scholarly training to contemporary problems of American foreign policy; among his most frequent topics were Soviet international behavior, international communism, and U.S.–Soviet relations: *The Soviet Union at the United Nations* (1962), *Diversity in International Communism* (1963), *The Soviet Union and Disarmament* (1964), and *Black Box: KAL 007 and the Superpowers* (1985). In these books and in many important edited works and conference papers, Alex was constantly engaged in the foreign policy debates of his day, as he was through his membership in the Council on Foreign Relations and Amnesty International.

Most of the volumes he edited were the results of conferences he had helped organize. His extensive international contacts and insistence on hearing all sides of the question meant that these conferences more often than not brought American scholars into contact with their European and Soviet/Russian counterparts. And he eagerly sought out collaborative authorship and editorship because he welcomed the challenge of learning something new. Together with Gail Lapidus and Dorothy Atkinson, he co-edited one of the first important collections on *Women in Russia* (1977); with Condoleezza Rice, he co-edited *The Gorbachev Era* (1986). Last year, the Yale University Press Annals of Communism series published *Dimitrov and Stalin, 1934–43: Letters from the Soviet Archives*, which he co-edited with the Russian scholar F. I. Firsov; just months before his death, series editor Jonathan Brent persuaded Alex to edit a companion volume to the Annals series, “A Guide to Soviet History.” Characteristically, Alex’s partner in this venture was Aleksandr Chubarian, director of the Institute of World History (Russian Academy of Science).

Alex’s contribution to scholarship can be seen in many of his other activities as well. He served on several editorial boards, helped select participants for student and faculty exchange programs, waged battles to assure adequate support for area studies in major university libraries, and oversaw the *Current Digest of the Soviet Press*, an invaluable resource for scholars of contemporary Soviet affairs.

Finally, Alex’s scholarly legacy lives on in the generations of students he taught at Columbia and Stanford (and elsewhere) in the history and political science departments. His commitment to public service in the field engaged him in numerous departmental and university committees, and he did so with a sense of obligation that has earned him the title of a true citizen of the international scholarly community.

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## Stephen Lessing Baehr, 1946–2000

Stephen Lessing Baehr’s many friends and colleagues were shocked to learn of his death from a heart attack, 28 June 2000, at the age of only fifty-four years. Steve had experienced problems with arrhythmia during the past year, but had received treatment for it, and in recent letters suggested that it was under control. Tragically this was not the case, and Steve was characteristically making the best of a difficult situation.

The Slavic field knew Steve Baehr as one of its leading specialists in early modern Russian culture and as the editor of the *Slavic and East European Journal*. These highly visible positions only begin to suggest the extent of his learning and service to the field. Steve began his lifelong commitment to Russian studies at Clark University, where he studied economics and Russian (B.A., 1967), and at Princeton University, where he spent a year in the Critical Languages program (1966–67). He earned his Ph.D. at Columbia University (1973) with unusual rapidity but nevertheless managed to strengthen his historical understanding of Russia while completing a minor in comparative literature and taking full