

## The CRCE Newsletter

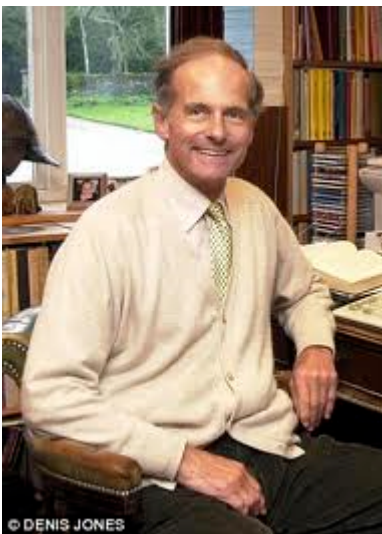
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### **New Book**

*Close Designs and Crooked Purposes  
Forced Repatriations of Cossacks and Yugoslav  
Nationals in 1945* by Nikolai Tolstoy  
Introduction: Charles Crawford CMG  
Occasional Paper 16 £10 (Special offer: £7.50)



Count Nikolai Tolstoy

Charles Crawford writes:

“One of the most startling examples happened as World War Two ended, when under the Yalta agreement But what of the small number of cases when various Allied commanders returned to the USSR – and almost inevitable persecution if not death – many different categories of Soviet prisoners and especially Cossacks. Up to five million people were sent back, and some 20 percent either were executed or sent to long-term imprisonment in labour camps.

Those appalling transfers were (more or less) accepted by the Allies as something needing to be done to appease Stalin. But what of the way in 1945 the British sent back thousands of Yugoslavs to be massacred by Tito’s forces? Why did they do it? There was no doubt at the time as to what was happening. Wretched Yugoslavs including women and children had to be forced on to the trains as they struggled frantically to avoid their doom.

Nikolai Tolstoy has laboured long and hard in the British and Soviet archives to uncover the precise sequence of military orders and the accompanying lies...

There is no basis for the argument that they ‘made a mistake’ in the ‘chaotic fog of war’: Nikolai Tolstoy has produced a mass of evidence showing that it was clear what was happening, and that many British soldiers there were revolted by what was being done. Grenadier Guards Captain Nigel Nicholson (later a Conservative MP) who was part of the operation described it as “*one of the most disgraceful operations British soldiers have ever been ordered to undertake*”.

This was one of the British Army's darkest moments. Dead history? Not so dead yet. Some of the Yugoslavs who somehow escaped this disaster are still alive. And mass graves of Tito’s victims are still being uncovered in EU member Slovenia. Worse, far worse, the ideological and family descendants of Tito’s communists in Slovenia still slyly try to puff up communist iconography (to the extent of sneaking it on to Euro coins, and sneer at those who want more to be done to uncover those graves and do some modest honour to the victims and their families.

If you are interested in these issues, buy a copy of a pamphlet, *Close Designs and Crooked Purposes*, put out by the Centre for Research into *Post-Communist Economies* who keep alive the flame of historical truth. It contains the transcript of a fascinating meeting they hosted last year at which Nikolai Tolstoy talked frankly about these matters and his ensuing epic battles in the English courts”.

[http://www.thecommentator.com/article/1262/when conservatives help communists commit atrocities](http://www.thecommentator.com/article/1262/when_conservatives_help_communists_commit_atrocities)

### **New Briefing Paper**

*On the Political Economy of Policy Reform*  
By László Csaba - based on his presentation at the CRCE 2011 conference. April 2012. £10.  
Also available on the website  
<http://www.crce.org.uk/briefings/brief14.shtml>

## ***Post-Communist Economies***

The CRCE's distinguished journal marks its 24<sup>th</sup> year in 2012. The June issue contains a special section on Labour Problems in Post-Communist Economies. Guest editors: Marcello Signorelli and Tomasz Mickiewicz. Available online at: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/carfax/14631377.html>.

## ***CRCE Meeting***

Edward Lucas gave a talk at the CRCE to mark the launch of his new book, *Deception: Spies, Lies and How Russia Dupes the West*.

“When Lucas was Moscow bureau chief of the Economist in the first years of Vladimir Putin’s rule he was almost alone among foreign commentators in insisting that a “spookocracy”, fundamentally inimical to the West, was taking shape in the Kremlin. In certain respects, under Putin, the security services have become more politically powerful now than they were in Soviet times. Secret policemen and their cronies style themselves as a “new aristocracy”, living about the law. They are among the richest men in the world. Without any sense of contradiction, Russia’s rulers simultaneously serve their own financial interests (which, in large part, derive from control of its oil and gas) and the cause of restoring Russia’s status as a great power. In Putin’s neo-feudal system, power and money are one; lying and stealing can be made to look like forms of patriotism”.

From Rachel Polonsky's review, *The Evening Standard* 19 April 2012:

## ***News***

From Riejka, April 6, 2012:

As Bosnia-Herzegovina marks the anniversary of the beginning of its war, Natasha Srdoc, Chairman, Adriatic Institute for Public Policy in Croatia comments on "the significance of economic freedom - a precondition to political freedom" with an emphasis on the findings of the 2012 Index of Economic Freedom.

“As 20 years have passed, citizens in the region have come to realize that the break-up of Yugoslavia was triggered by economic realities on the ground, rampant corruption and communist cronies eager to seize the respective republics' assets and gain illicit wealth by fueling ethnic and religious strife. Tragically, these "ex-communist" rulers succeeded - resulting in over 100,000 lives lost. After two decades of crony communism, the vast majority of the citizens of the region have been left to face economic decline, high-unemployment rates and high debts.

Investigative journalists in the region have unearthed documents and evidences of how the region's ex-communist rulers planned to divide Bosnia and the rest of the region for their personal gain. Revelations of military personnel gaining illicit wealth including Croatia's General Ivan Cermak selling arms and oil to Serbia's military and claiming to fight for independence is utterly deplorable. It is time to hold these individuals to account.

The citizens in the region must begin a new revolution - demanding economic freedom and ousting corrupt politicians who have pillaged the national treasuries of the Balkans. Dr. Milton Friedman who visited the former Yugoslavia was right - when he stated that economic freedom is a precondition to political freedom.”

## ***And finally...***

From Sebastian Gorka on 10 May:

“Monday I was lecturing in Tampa on the first day of the Combatting Terrorism course I have taught for Special Operations Command since 2006. This time the hosts asked me to wind up 15minutes earlier than usual and didn't say why. At the appointed time I closed the briefing only to see the President of the School troop in with an entourage trailing an official photographer. Then the trap was sprung. The result was my receiving, out of the blue, the DoD Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award from SOCOM for having supported their programs over the years”.



Sebastian and Katie Gorka  
Congratulations to Sebastian on his award and for receiving his US citizenship soon after!

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