

RISE OF ASIA CONFERENCE SERIES

“60 Years after Belgrade, what non-alignment in a multipolar world and for a global future?” –
February 10-12, 2021

Call for paper to the Panel/Session:

“NAM 60 years on from the Central-Eastern European perspective”

Panel coordinator: Ms Annamaria ARTNER, Hungary (Professor, Doctor, Economics, Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Institute of World Economics, ELKH, Budapest, Hungary)

In 1955 the 10-points declaration accepted by the participants of the Bandung Conference were built around the right and the guarantee for national independence and indigenous socio-economic development. The coming decades resulted many experiments in the Third World to reach these goals. The experiments have been very different in nature. Samir Amin categorized them as follows: capitalist (often with modernist state intervention), populist (statist), Marxist (“self-styled”) and those that could not go beyond the neo-colonial framework. The Eastern-European countries have established their relative independence from the imperialist world after the Second World War and formed their own political and economic alliance with the leadership of the Soviet Union.

Due to the resistance of neo-colonial forces within and outside the countries, most of the above-mentioned experiments have been exhausted by the 1970s. The crisis of the capitalism in that decade put an end not only to the import substituting policies and independency-seeking policies of the developing countries and, although on the longer run, has also shaken the socialism-oriented systems in Eastern Europe and elsewhere. The Bandung project has failed, and a decade later the Eastern European Soviet-type socialism has failed too. Both the Third and Second World have witnessed a new wave of compradorization.

The following decades of neoliberalism have shown the inability of capitalism to change its nature. So, the need for fundamental socio-economic change is still needed, which must begin with gaining independence, as Amin called: delinking from the imperialist centre.

However, the paradox of our time is that while there is a renewal of the national politics, our problems are increasingly and apparently borderless: pandemic, environment, inequalities, global economic and financial crises, migration, and refugee crises etc. The situation of Eastern Europe, being at the border of two world, is even more complicated. This region has historically been the territory of the rivalry of empires, as Mackinder claimed already a century ago. The situation has not changed since then as the case of Ukraine or Belarus show. In Eastern Europe to reach a genuine independence seems impossible.

This panel aims at discussing issues relating the lessons from the past and present experiences of Eastern Europe. The problems we are interested in are related but by no means limited to the following issues:

- What has been common in Bandung and Eastern Europe and what is common in them now?
- Are the endeavours of the Third World and the history of the Soviet-type socialism part of a long transition from capitalism to socialism?
- What national independence mean and how can be reached in our increasingly interwoven, multipolar, and rapidly changing world?
- What was the position of Eastern Europe in the world system before the systemic change and what is its place now?
- How (in)dependent have Eastern European been in the past seven decades?
- What role can the independent national governance play in a world so awfully burned with global problems?

We are waiting paper proposals regarding these and other related issues. Deadline of abstract submission: December 31, 2020.