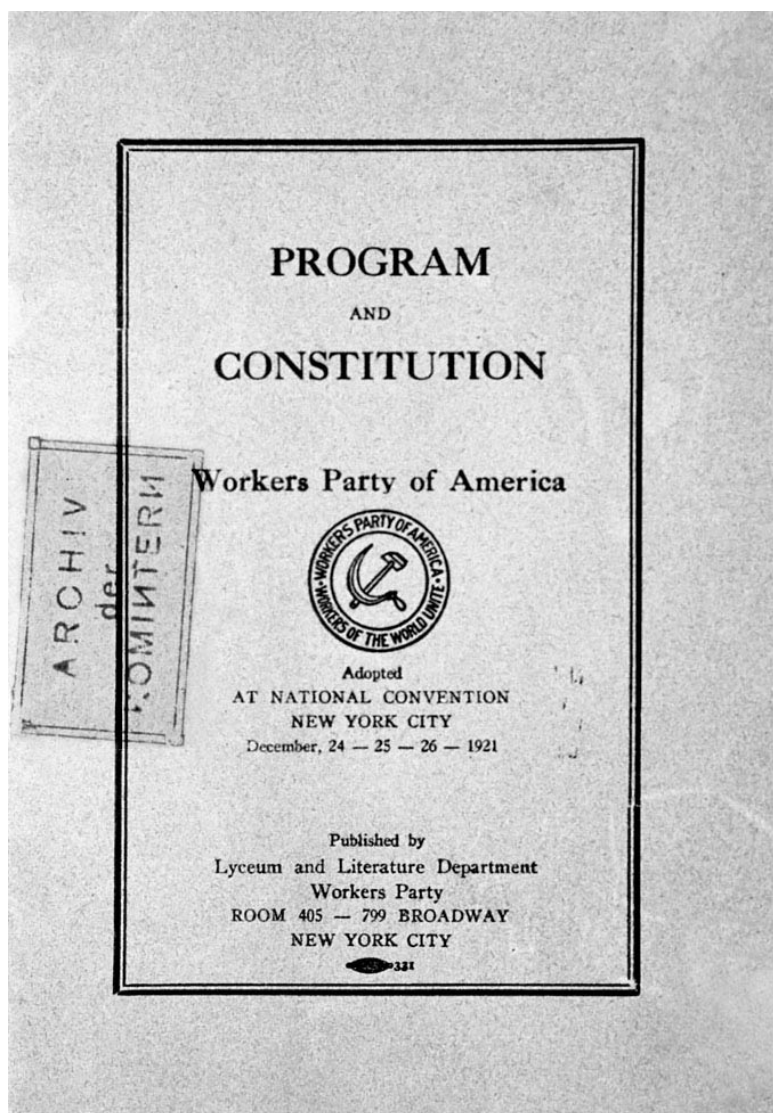


Files of the Communist Party of the USA in the Comintern Archives



- The original headquarter records of the CPUSA (1912-1944)
- Reports from regional and local organizers
- Unique, detailed records regarding the history of the CPUSA

Editor: Dr. John Earl Haynes, Library of Congress, Washington, USA

Files of the Communist Party of the USA (CPUSA)

Following the successful release of the collection “Comintern Archives: Materials of Congresses and Plenums of the ECCI”, IDC Publishers is pleased to announce it is expanding its offering of source materials from the Comintern Archives in Moscow. The Library of Congress obtained the records of the CPUSA on microfilm for research use and preservation with no right of additional reproduction. However, in recognition of the importance of these materials to the scholarly community, the Russian State Archive of Social and Political History (RGASPI) granted IDC Publishers the exclusive worldwide right to distribute these microfilms.

‘General staff of the world revolution’

Formally, the Communist International, (Comintern), which was founded in March 1919, was an independent international organization of communists from various countries in Europe, Asia, and America. In practice, it was a Soviet-sponsored agency responsible for coordinating the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism worldwide. Even today, traces of this organization can still be found in countries throughout the world. As with all such semi-secretive organizations, the Comintern became surrounded by rumor, conjecture, and myth. In the past, being unable to reliably distinguish between fact and fantasy, historians had to resort to guesswork. This was because the archives of the Comintern were hidden away in the inaccessible repositories of the central archive of the Central Committee of the USSR.

Comintern archives

The Comintern archive consists of all the records created under the authority of the Executive Committee (ECCI) of the Third Communist International. It contains original documents in more than thirty languages from seven Congresses and thirteen ECCI Plenums, drawn up by more than seventy Communist and Left Socialist parties, together with different international organizations, often with personal corrections by famous figures in the Communist movement. They cover the whole period of the activity of the Third International, that is, from 1919 to 1943. In 1943, after the disbanding of the Comintern, its archives were transferred for storage to the Central Party Archive of the Institute of Marxism-Leninism. Today, the Comintern archives are held by the Russian State Archive of Social and Political History (RGASPI) in Moscow.

‘Hidden’ files

The Communist Party of the USA (CPUSA) has always been a secretive organization. While occasional government raids, subpoenas, search warrants, and congressional investigations made some documentation part of the public record, the quantity was never large because of the party’s practice of hiding or destroying records.

Until 1992, the archives of the Soviet Union dealing with Communist activity in America were closed to everyone except a few Soviet Communist party researchers. However, the dissolution of the Soviet Union has led to the opening of some of these archives. In 1992, Dr. John Haynes from the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress learned of their existence, and in 1993 he became the first American scholar to examine them.

On December 17, 1998, the Library of Congress and the Russian Center for the Preservation and Study of Documents of Recent History (RTsKhIDNI) signed an agreement for the microfilming of *fond* 515, the records of the CPUSA, held by RTsKhIDNI. The archive was subsequently reorganized and is now entitled the Russian State Archive of Social and Political History (RGASPI).

The CPUSA collection

The CPUSA collection in the Comintern Archives (*fond* 515) includes 4,313 numbered files (*dela*). The material in the collection, largely the original headquarters records of the CPUSA shipped to Moscow many decades ago, spans the period from 1912 to 1944 with the bulk in the period from 1922 to 1936. The files contain the original incoming mail, carbons of outgoing correspondence, reports from regional and local organizers, and internal memoranda produced by officials and offices of the national

headquarters. For the first time, it is possible to document the functioning of the local party, its relationship to the international, and the importance of individual members in shaping the party’s program. These materials also provide information about the ways in which ordinary people experienced communism. In addition to CPUSA records produced in America, these files contain documents created or gathered in Moscow by CPUSA representatives to the Comintern.

History of the CPUSA

Many of the documents in this collection are unique; the records are very detailed regarding the history of the CPUSA, particularly its origins in the 1920s and the early and middle 1930s. IDC Publishers makes this very important resource available for research. This collection provides a strong basis for reconstructing an accurate picture of American communism and anticommunism.

Among the items in the CPUSA are:

- An application for admission to the Comintern from the newly organized Communist Party of America (November 1919).
- 1926 memo regarding Soviet subsidies to the American communist movement
- Documents that illustrate the emphasis the CPUSA placed on organizing African Americans
- Personal papers of two early CPUSA leaders – John Reed and William Haywood – that were in their possession at the time of their death in Russia.

General information

Scope	4313 files (<i>del</i>) from <i>fond</i> 515
Number of reels	326 microfilm reels containing 435,165 frames
Size of microfilm	35 mm.
Film type	Positive silver halide
Reduction ratio	Varies depending on the size of the original
Internal finding aids	Title frames on every reel
External finding aids	One line and Printed guide in English by Dr. John Earl Haynes, Library of Congress
Language	Most of the material in the CPUSA records is in English, although in key documents are accompanied by Russian, German, or French translations. In some cases, the English original is not present and only the Russian translation is extant.

EVERY PARTY MEMBER MUST FILL OUT ONE OF THESE CARDS!

REGISTRATION CARD

Branch _____ City Cleveland State OH

Name Bernest Haufner

Address 392 E. 181 St

Occupation Labor

Union? Yes No Give Name of Union D. H. C. & B. L. Local No. 110

Official Position in Union _____

Delegate To (From Your Union) _____

Are You a Member of the T. U. E. L.? Yes No

Age? 34 Citizen? Yes No Languages Spoken Slovenian

What Papers or Magazines do You Subscribe to or Take Bundles of?
Worker, Delavacka Slovenca

2980/2/CA/КУПИСКО

Чикаго, 2 янв. 1926

АМЕРИКАНСКАЯ УОРКЕРС
ПАРТИ.
Центральний Комитет.
№ 4-26

В ОРИГОНАЛ КОММУНИСТИЧЕСКОГО ИНТЕРНАЦИОНАЛА.

Уважаемые товарищи.

При сем препровождаем письмо члена нашей партии тов. Голикова из Кливленда (Огайо), ходатайствующего, чтобы русская партия предприняла что-либо в интересах положения его детей, находящихся в СССР.

Просим переслать это письмо организации РКП там же где проживают дети тов. Голикова и принять меры к тому, чтобы эта организация сообщила нам, что ей предпринято.

С братским приветом
Генеральный Секретарь
Ч.И. Рутенберг.

WORKERS PARTY OF AMERICA

HARLEM

RED NIGHT

Saturday, October 30, 1926

We will hold eleven meetings with fifty-eight speakers (see other side) all adjourning to the

GRAND WIND-UP MEETING
on 110th Street and Fifth Ave.
at 10.30 p. m.

SPEAKERS:

WM. W. WEINSTONE	HARRY M. WINITSKY
JULIET S. POYNTZ	CHAS. KRUMBEIN
ABRAHAM MARKOFF	B. D. WOLFE
JULIUS CODKIND	JACK STACHEL



Vote Communist

READ THE DAILY WORKER

Delo 869: District 2 material, 1926 (reel 63).

Delo 4140: Biographies of party membership transfers, 1926 (reel 311).

READ OUR PROGRAM ON OTHER SIDE

VOTERS

66TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

VOTE FOR
ASSEMBLYMAN
MORRIS BIELL
INDEPENDENT
Member 30 years of Organized Labor
Business Manager Ladies Garment Workers Union, Local No. 52

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Foster & Gitlow

WRITE IN under the Presidential Election Column

NESTOR MATTSO

Use Stamp and stamp (N) with Rubber Stamp in Election Booth

WORKERS (COMMUNIST) PARTY OF AMERICA
LOCAL LOS ANGELES
HEADQUARTERS, 224 S. SPRING ST., ROOM 200
and BROOKLYN HALL, 5th and Brooklyn

Read THE DAILY WORKER
The Workers only daily Paper in the English Language in America

Delo 379: 2nd district materials, 1924 (reel 25).

Delo 4140: Biographies of party membership transfers, 1926 (reel 311).

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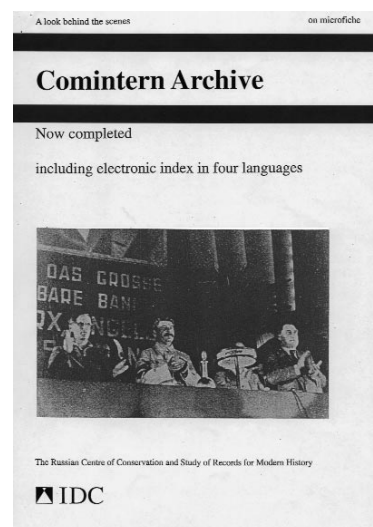
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COMINTERN ARCHIVE

Russian State Archive of Social and Political History (RGASPI), Moscow

The Comintern archive collection comprises the thousands of documents of the seven congresses of the Comintern and the thirteen plenums of the Executive Committee of the Comintern (ECCI), together with materials from the associated preparatory and working commissions. They include transcripts and minutes of meetings, with individual presentations and general discussions and debate, materials presented by the leadership and those arising from the floor, theses, lists of delegates, mandates (credentials), questionnaires filled out by delegates, appeals, open letters, and a wealth of other documents.

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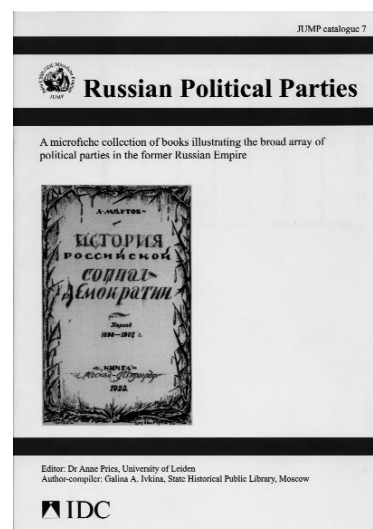
RUSSIAN POLITICAL PARTIES

A collection of books illustrating the broad array of political parties in the former Russian Empire

Editor: Anne Pries; author-compiler Galina A. Ivkina.

Collection based on the catalogue of an exhibition on the subject, held in 1990 at the State Historical Library in Moscow, illustrating the broad array of political parties in the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. The general literature concerns political life in the Russian empire and the activity of the Russian parliament (Duma). Also included are documents of different political parties ranging from the extreme right (monarchists) to anarchist, social democrats and social-revolutionaries.

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Cover illustration from: *Delo 77*: 1st congress Workers Party 1921 (reel 5).

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