

The object of this study is to discuss the significance of Eurocommunism in East-West relations. It will be dealt with principally from three aspects: Eurocommunism as a possible destabilizing factor in Eastern Europe and Western Europe, and its effects on the Western alliance. In the latter case special attention will be given to the reaction of the United States on the eventuality of Communist participation in governments in NATO countries.

Different definitions of Eurocommunism are discussed in the introductory chapter. This is followed in chapter two by a survey of the historic basis for the development of Eurocommunism especially in Italy and France. In the third chapter the relationship of Western Communist parties with Moscow and Eastern Europe is discussed, and chapter four takes up their respective attitudes to the Atlantic alliance and to the question of European integration.

Chapter five contains a review of the United States position on a possible Communist representation in NATO-allied governments during the administrations of Presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter. The concluding chapter sums up the discussion on the significance of Eurocommunism to the East-West relations.

Its destabilizing effects in Western Europe at the present time are found to be marginal whereas in Eastern Europe the situation appears to be different: the discussion is focussed on the development in Poland in the first place. In conclusion the study touches upon the hypothesis of Eurocommunism as a bridge builder between East and West.

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