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Universität Augsburg











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Digital Archive, Oral History Collection, and Research Project













Nuclear Crisis

Transatlantic Peace Politics, Rearmament, and the Second Cold War

This international research project analyzes the domestic and international conflicts surrounding the NATO-Double-Track Decision and nuclear armament during the 1970s and 1980s in their European, transatlantic, and global contexts.

To write a transnational history of this major debate in the last phase of the Cold War, the project explores the debate about nuclear weapons from three distinct but interrelated angles:

(1) It looks at the diplomatic, political, and strategic discourses surrounding the nuclear armament issue. "Traditional" actors such as political, diplomatic, and military elites carried out this debate, as did "anti-establishment" forces and activists.

(2) By merging an "establishment" perspective with an analysis of protest cultures, this project brings non-state actors, intellectual discourses, and culture back into international history. It also investigates manifestations of "nuclear death" in popular culture (music, film, novels) as well as in "high art." (3) Finally, the project seeks to transcend the traditional East/West divide in postwar European history: it examines both sides of the Iron Curtain; it connects establishment and anti-establishment forces across national borders; it places them in a transatlantic and pan-European setting; and it asks to what extent people envisioned themselves as part of larger transnational communities.

To complement the project, a digital archive will gather and preserve materials on this important chapter of transatlantic history online, making them freely available for a growing community of scholars and students engaged in teaching and learning about the nuclear crisis of the 1970s and 1980s.

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