

'West Coast Seminars'

on

**Economic and Social Change in Russia and Eastern Europe
(Glasgow, West of Scotland [Paisley campus] and Strathclyde Universities)****Seventeenth Annual Series 2010-2011****Wednesday 12 January 2011, 5.30 pm**

CEES Seminar Room, 8 Lilybank Gardens

Dr Keiji SatoVisiting Fellow in Central and East European Studies, University of Glasgow
and Slavic Centre, University of Hokkaido***"Acknowledgement of the Secret Protocol of the German-Soviet
Nonaggression Pact and the Declaration of the State Sovereignty by the
Union Republics of the USSR"***

Tea and Coffee from 17.00

All Welcome

ABSTRACT

The "Commission of the Congress of USSR People's Deputies for Political and Legal Estimation the Soviet-German Nonaggression Pact of 1939" was an important landmark in the collapse of the Soviet Union. On June 8, 1989, pressed by the Baltic republics, the first Congress of USSR People's Deputies decided to introduce the Commission. The Commission members argued heatedly whether the Soviet authority should officially acknowledge the existence of the Secret Protocol and invalidate it. On December 24, 1989, having listened to the report submitted by the Commission, the second Congress of USSR People's Deputies declared null and void the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and the secret protocol from the time of their signature. The aftermath of this decision facilitated the overwhelming victory of national democrats in the Baltic republics in the republican Soviet elections held in February-March 1990. This paper exploits archival documents of the Commission, preserved at the State Archive of the Russian Federation and the New National Archive of Lithuania, to examine how, through the heated dispute over the nullification of the secret protocol, the Commission members - most of whom would be political key figures of future independent states - gradually came to recognize "national interest" as an independent subject from the Soviet structure.

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