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Foreign Radio – Guest in the Soviet Home. Western Radio Broadcasts to the Soviet Union

Western radio broadcasts influenced the inner development of Soviet population when they encountered a certain number of people who were marginalized by the regime. The major audience of Western radio were people who had negative experience with the Soviet regime: deportees, political prisoners, people of a “wrong” social origin, etc. Western radio programs offering alternative ideas and values to the Soviet dogma encouraged and reinforced this segment of population. Paper examines the way Western radio broadcasts influenced the Soviet society. The research is based on the phenomenon of closed society – the more the regime closes alternative information sources, the more people strive to get it, and during the Cold War era radio was one of the most accessible information sources in the Soviet Union. Analysis of the Soviet audiences of foreign radio broadcasts in the USSR provides new insights into the development of a Soviet society, its relationship with the regime and the potential influence of external forces on internal development. The paper analyses a model of information dissemination in closed societies and the influence on the part of the society marginalized by the regime. The model helps to evaluate the impact of information from outside on the prevailing views inside society, even if it is publicly invisible. The relevance of the research is particularly important in the context of current geopolitical events. Former Soviet states are an important target of the Kremlin’s current information war. These audiences appear to be vulnerable and receptive to this kind of information.