

Cold War Technopolitics: Czechoslovak Hydroexpertise in Africa

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**Organizers: Department of History and Centre for
Economic and Social History**

In Ghana, Guinea, Egypt, Algeria, Zambia, Ethiopia, and many other African countries you may find the footprints of Czechoslovak hydroexperts: great water works, machines, hydrological maps and plans.

How this was possible in connection with a landlocked, central European country without a colonial history?

This presentation will investigate the hydropolitics and developmentalist efforts of socialist Czechoslovakia. The main argument of the presentation is that Czechoslovakia, especially starting from the 1960s, has participated extensively in the development of water resources in African countries. Czechoslovakia similarly to the United States and the Soviet Union, it developed its own hydropolitics, which was used to pursue its foreign policy objectives to strengthen its own, and its partners' positions.

Dr Jakub Mazanec is a post-doctoral scholar at the Institute of Contemporary History, Czech Academy of Sciences. Dr Mazanec's research interests are the Cold War in the Global South (Africa), History of Infrastructure, Environmental and Global History, and Water History.

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