

[CENFAD Welcomes Dr. Alessandro Iandolo](#)

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Please join the Center for the Study of Force and Diplomacy for a lecture from Alessandro Iandolo, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at Harvard University's Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, titled "Arrested Development: The Soviet Union in Ghana, Guinea, and Mali, 1955-1968."

Arrested Development examines the USSR's involvement in West Africa during the 1950s and 1960s as aid donor, trade partner, and political inspiration for the first post-independence governments in Ghana, Guinea, and Mali. Buoyed by solid economic performance in the 1950s, the USSR opened itself up to the world and launched a series of programs aimed at supporting the search for economic development in newly independent countries in Africa and Asia. Based on extensive research in Russian and West African archives, Dr. Iandolo explores the ideas that guided Soviet engagement in West Africa, investigates the projects that the USSR sponsored "on the ground," and analyzes their implementation and legacy. The Soviet specialists who worked in Ghana, Guinea, and Mali collaborated with West African colleagues in drawing ambitious development plans, supervised the construction of new transport infrastructure, organized collective farms and fishing cooperatives, conducted geological surveys and mineral prospecting, set up banking systems, managed international trade, and staffed repairs workshops and ministerial bureaucracies alike. The exchanges and clashes born out of the encounter between Soviet and West African ideas, ambitions, and hopes about development reveal the USSR as a central actor in the history of economic development in the twentieth century.

The talk will be held in-person and online over Zoom. In-person attendees can join us on October 3, 2022 at 4:30 PM in the Weigley Room, 914 Gladfelter Hall, Temple University, Philadelphia.

Online attendees can register to attend for free here: https://temple.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_u0iZhFjsQxmd9jZj1zybjQ