## **Conspiracy Theories in Eastern Europe**

**Tropes and Trends** 

Edited by Anastasiya Astapova, Onoriu Colăcel, Corneliu Pintilescu, and Tamás Scheibner



## **Contents**

	List of figures	viii
	List of tables	ix
	Acknowledgments	X
	List of abbreviations	xi
	List of contributors	xiv
	Introduction: Eastern Europe in the global traffic	
	of conspiracy theories	1
	ANASTASIYA ASTAPOVA. ONORIU COLĀCEL, CORNELIU	
	PINTILESCU, AND TAMÁS SCHEIBNER	
Co	RT I Inspiracy culture under Socialism and its afterlife Eastern Europe	27
1	Chernobyl conspiracy theories: from American sabotage	
	to the biggest hoax of the century	29
	ANASTASIYA ASTAPOVA	
2	Stalinist conspiracy theories in France and Italy: the limits	
	of postwar Communist conspiracy culture	48
	PASCAL GIRARD	
3	"By the order of their foreign masters": Soviet dissidents,	
	anti-Western conspiracy, and the deprivation of agency	67
	ANNA KIRZIUK	

PART II "The enemy within": Jews and Freemasons  87		
4	The myth of a Judeo-Bolshevik conspiracy in Hungary, within and beyond the far right péter CSUNDERLIK AND TAMÁS SCHEIBNER	89
5	An open secret: Freemasonry and justice in post-socialist Bulgaria todor hristov and ivelina ivanova	110
6	From Judeo-Polonia to Act 447: how and why did the Jewish conspiracy myth become a central issue in Polish political discourse?  DOMINIKA BULSKA, AGNIESZKA HASKA, MIKOŁAJ WINIEWSKI, AND MICHAŁ BILEWICZ	125
Af	RT III ter independence: nation-building and victimhood rratives	145
7	Dissolution of Yugoslavia as a conspiracy and its haunting returns: narratives of internal and external othering NEBOJŠA BLANUŠA	147
8	The dangerous Russian other in Ukrainian conspiratorial discourse: media representations of the Odessa tragedy OLGA BAYSHA	167
9	The victims, the guilty, and "us": notions of victimhood in Slovakian conspiracy theories ZUZANA PANCZOVÁ	186
	RT IV stern Europe goes global: conspiracy theories and the	
	e of populism	205
10	Soros conspiracy theories and the rise of populism in post-socialist Hungary and Romania CORNELIU PINTILESCU AND ATTILA KUSTÁN MAGYARI	207

	Contents	vi
11	Conspiracy theories on Moldovan commercial TV ONORIU COLĂCEL	232
12	North Macedonia goes global: pro-EU aspiration and anti-EU sentiment as a basis for EU-related conspiracy theories	250
	BILJANA GJONESKA, KRISTIJAN FIDANOVSKI, AND ANDRÉ	
	KROUWEL	
13	Conspiracy theory, epistemology, and Eastern Europe	268
	M.R. X. DENTITH	
	Indov	200