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978-1-107-00105-3 - Human Rights Activism and the End of the Cold War: A Transnational History of the Helsinki Network

Sarah B. Snyder

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Human Rights Activism and the End of the Cold War

Two of the most pressing questions facing international historians today are how and why the Cold War ended. *Human Rights Activism and the End of the Cold War* explores how, in the aftermath of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in 1975, a transnational network of activists committed to human rights in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe made the topic a central element in East–West diplomacy. As a result, human rights eventually became an important element of Cold War diplomacy and a central component of détente. Sarah B. Snyder demonstrates how this network influenced both Western and Eastern governments to pursue policies that fostered the rise of organized dissent in Eastern Europe, freedom of movement for East Germans, and improved human rights practices in the Soviet Union – all factors in the end of the Cold War.

Sarah B. Snyder is a Lecturer in International History at University College London. She has published a number of scholarly articles in journals such as *Cold War History*, *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, *Journal of Transatlantic Studies*, and *Journal of American Studies*, as well as multiple book chapters. Dr. Snyder specializes in transnational, international, and diplomatic history.

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Human Rights in History

Edited by

Stefan-Ludwig Hoffmann, *Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung*
Samuel Moyn, *Columbia University*

This series showcases new scholarship exploring the backgrounds of human rights today. With an open-ended chronology and international perspective, the series seeks works attentive to the surprises and contingencies in the historical origins and legacies of human rights ideals and interventions. Books in the series will focus not only on the intellectual antecedents and foundations of human rights, but also on the incorporation of the concept by movements, nation-states, international governance, and transnational law.

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SARAH B. SNYDER

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