

**'West Coast Seminars'**  
on  
**Economic and Social Change in Russia and Eastern Europe**  
**(Glasgow, West of Scotland [Paisley campus] and Strathclyde Universities)**  
**Sixteenth Annual Series 2009-2010**

***'The Baltic States and the Paris Peace Conference of  
1919'***

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**Wednesday 21 October 2009  
at 5.30 pm**

**University of Glasgow, CEES Seminar Room, 8-9 Lilybank Gardens**

**Tea and coffee will be available from 5.00**

**All Welcome**

The Paris Peace Conference provided a forum in which emerging governments in Eastern Europe could internationalise their cause, and during the course of 1919 delegations from national groups across the borders of the former Russian Empire were present in Paris. This paper explores the interaction of Allied diplomats with the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian delegations, and looks at the development of Baltic policy at the conference, and its relationship to the changing fortunes of the anti-Bolshevik forces in the Russian Civil War. Baltic affairs were much discussed in Paris, but few decisions were taken. Nevertheless the deliberations of the Commission for Baltic Affairs, set up in May 1919, shed some light on the Allies' incoherent Russian policy, on western attitudes to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as independent entities and as a regional bloc, and on the often conflicting positions of the individual Allied delegations.

Charlotte Alston is Senior Lecturer in History in the School of Arts and Social Sciences at Northumbria University. Her research interests are in international history between 1890 and 1945, media history and the history of Russia and Eastern Europe. Recent projects have included work on Russia and the border states at the Paris Peace Conference, Russian émigré organisations in the West, the British press and the Russian civil war, and a biography of the New Zealand journalist and linguist Harold Williams, who reported and advised on the Russian Revolutions. She is currently working on a study of the international Tolstoyan movement.

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