

*Personnel Exchanges Between China and the Socialist Countries During the Cold War: Introduction**

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Since the early 1990s, transnational history has become a globally important methodological approach. Transnational historians question the study of history based on national borders and reject the national framework as a means for understanding the past. As U.S. historian Thomas Borstelmann notes, “They focused on migrations, trade, communications, cultural exchanges, political and religious identities”, human rights issues, international sports, and other forms of movement across and beyond national borders.¹ In the past 30 years, transnational history has greatly influenced the writing of U.S. foreign relations history and Cold War history.

Even before the concept of transnational history arrived in China, some Chinese historians had already attempted a transnational history approach. In terms of China’s relations with the socialist bloc countries, the transnational history approach is most evident in East China Normal University Professor Shen Zhihua’s (沈志華) book on Soviet experts in China from 1948 to 1960.² In the last ten years, Chinese Cold War

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