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Title: A comparison of the attitudes of the American and European scholars towards the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and SFR Yugoslavia  
(*research paper*)

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Abstract:

The end of the Cold War has been marked by the dissolutions of three European federations: the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and SFR Yugoslavia. As a part of the larger project, we have tried to compare the differences in the perceptions of the factors that contributed to these dissolutions, between the American and the European scholars, who have been professionally engaged with this topic. To accomplish this, we designed and distributed a survey, composed of the numerous Likert's type of attitudes scales, as well as the set of the open-ended questions, to the numerous scholars in the United States and Europe. A comparison between two samples (50 American scholars and 53 European scholars) has shown the significant differences in their perceptions of the main factors that contributed to the dissolution of all three federations. The interviewed American scholars tend to perceive the role of the particular political leaders in the process of dissolution of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and SFR Yugoslavia significantly more important than the European scholars. The European scholars tend to attribute the greater importance to the structural causes than to the individual actors. The European scholars perceived the impact of the breakdown of the Soviet Union as significantly more important to the dissolution of other two federations than the American scholars. Comparing the role of nationalism in all three federations, both samples of scholars agree that it played more important role in the dissolution of SFR Yugoslavia than in the other two federations. An economic crisis as a cause of the dissolution of the former communist federations has been significantly more attributed to the breakdown of the Soviet Union than to other two federal states. Finally, self-determination as a cause of dissolution was mainly attributed to the Czech Republic and SFR Yugoslavia, and significantly less to the breakdown of the Soviet Union. This paper offers the further discussion of these differences, comparing the findings with the data from the literature. A presentation is illustrated

with the appropriate charts and statistical analysis.