



EMAR - EFLR
Emek Arařtırmaları Vakfı
Easdale Foundation for Labour Research

Emar Seminars

PROFINTERN

THE RED INTERNATIONAL OF LABOUR UNIONS

An Exploration of Some of the Issues

By Ben Fowkes, Hon. Visiting Professor, Univ. North London



Why was RILU set up? Need for international contact between revolutionary trade unions; rivalry with 'Amsterdam'. What forces did it represent? The temporary association between Syndicalism and Communism; the loss of much syndicalist support after the first few years. What issues divided it in the 1920s? The relation between political parties and trade unions; the relation of trade unions to political action; the argument over the united front. How far did it play an independent part, and what were its main activities? Its attempt to achieve international coverage, its part in organising solidarity strikes. What was the impact of wider Comintern and Bolshevik policies on RILU? The left turn of 1928 works to its advantage. The move to the Popular Front after 1933 leads to its eventual dissolution in 1937. Did the RILU ever achieve anything?

Ben Fowkes worked twenty-five years in the Faculty of Humanities at the University of North London, teaching modern history. He has carried out archival research in Vienna, Munich, Bonn, Prague and Moscow. He is the author of several works on communist and post-communist history and politics, including *The Rise and Fall of Communism in Eastern Europe*, *The Disintegration of the Soviet Union*, *Eastern Europe from Stalinism to Stagnation*, and *The Post-Communist Era*.

Discussant Prof Bulent Gokay, Keele University

ALL WELCOME!

SEMINAR SERIES
No 12

Friday, 30 June 2017
6:30pm - 8:30pm

VENUE:
Meeting Room 3,
Finsbury Park Trust FinSpace
225-229 Seven Sisters Rd,
Finsbury Park, London,
N4 2DA

Easdale Foundation for Labour Research
Correspondence Address: 152 Fairfax Road, London, N8 0NL, UK
bilgi@emarakfi.org | www.emarakfi.org