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Media and the Cold War in the 1980s

Between Star Wars and Glasnost

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Volda, Norway
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Volda, Norway
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Henrik G. Bastiansen
Martin Klimke
Rolf Werenskjold

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ABSTRACT

The major economic, political, and cultural changes in societies during the last two decades of the Cold War have in recent years provoked increased scholarly attention. This volume examines the role of the media during the period from the Helsinki Conference in 1975 until the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989–1991. It explores how various forms of media engaged with the Cold War within Europe and beyond, including popular culture, audiovisual representations, photography, as well as artistic performances.

The volume analyzes media actors and networks, as well as narrative and visual frames on a local and (trans-)national level. It investigates the complex interrelations between the media—both as a dependent and independent variable—and competing political, economic, and cultural elites, and seeks to explain the role of grassroots politics in the formation of public opinion.