

## **A Disruption of Soviet Studies in the United States: The Cold War and the Center for International Studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

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This article will trace historical processes and examine why Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) gradually changed its research interests from Soviet Studies to Modernization Theory in the early Cold War era.

In early 1951, MIT planned to establish a “center” in order to continue Soviet Studies which they had dealt with under the requirements of the State Department in late 1950 (called the “Project Troy”). At this time, MIT appointed Walt W. Rostow, its economics professor, to organize researchers and conduct Soviet Studies, while planning to establish the “center”. This project was named the “Second Phase of Troy”.

The Center for International Studies was established at MIT in February 1952. (Hereafter I call this center MITCIS). The MITCIS, however, emerged as completely different institution from what was originally planned, since the political situation surrounding MIT had changed from early 1951 to 1953. In particular, we can focus on the following four events; the first was Joseph McCarthy beginning to attack the State Department in 1950. The second was the Korean War that came to a standoff in around early 1951. The third was that the Ford foundation, which the MITCIS approached in order to pull receive financial support, requested the MITCIS to research how to keep developing countries from accepting a communistic political order after February 1952. The last event occurred after 1953; when Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected to the Presidency, policymakers turned their political interests from the movements of the Soviet Union to how to make the developing countries develop economically.

Finally, *The Dynamics of Soviet Society*, published in 1953 as the outcome of Rostow’s Soviet Studies, was not regarded as an important academic study, since the political situation had changed completely and Rostow was not a specialist of Soviet Studies. The processes and reasons stated above led the MITCIS to pursue Modernization Theory instead of Soviet Studies.